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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 281

Santa Monica Daily Press

HERE WE GO AGAIN
SEE PAGE 10

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SHOESTRING BUDGET ISSUE



OPENING DAY

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Dancers from Virginia Avenue Park on Saturday celebrate the grand opening of the new Pico Youth and Family Center, which relocated to a bigger building adjacent to Santa Monica High School. The center, which was created in 2002 in response to an increase in gang violence, provides kids with a place to do homework, surf the Internet, and record music in a studio with two turntables and a beat machine. "We like being here and helping out. It's a place where we are always comfortable," Samohi senior Jasmine Mier said of the center.

Taxing drivers to ease traffic

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Curing traffic ills in one of the nation's most congested regions could be a matter of hitting drivers where it hurts — the wallet.

Creating toll lanes on existing freeways, imposing a local tax on gasoline and adopting curbside parking fees in commercial districts are just some of the suggestions outlined in a RAND Corp. study on improving transportation in Los Angeles County.

The Santa Monica-based think tank recently released a lengthy report that takes a comprehensive look at the area's long-standing traffic circus that has seemingly grown worse over the past few decades.

"Moving Los Angeles: Short-Term Transportation Policy Options for Improving Transportation" identifies various reasons in which congestion has become so bad in the county and offers 13 different options — from creating bus-only lanes on busy corridors to developing a regional bike network — to achieve results within five years.

The study comes at a time when traffic has been a hot topic among residents who are preparing to make their decisions on a controversial ballot measure that would place an annual 75,000 square foot cap on commercial development. Measure T, which was authored by Santa Monica Coalition for Livable City, is on the ballot next month.

Voters will also be asked to increase the county sales tax by a half cent to pay for transit projects.

The source of traffic problems can be pinned on the population density in the metropolitan area combined with the fact

SEE STUDY PAGE 8

UCLA Medical Group among the best

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY When seeking healthcare, the UCLA Medical Group continues to provide some of the best services around.

One of the largest networks of medical professionals in the Los Angeles area was recently named in the top 20 percent of physician organizations in the state, receiving the honor for the fourth consecutive year.

The UCLA Medical Group operates more than 60 offices in the L.A. region, the majority of which are concentrated in Westwood. About a dozen primary care offices and 10 specialty centers are located in the city, which is also home of the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital.

The Integrated Healthcare Association, a nonprofit statewide organization of physician groups and healthcare systems, announced the top performing centers last week, basing its recognitions on results from the Pay for Performance (P4P) program in which health plans offer incentive payments to groups for excellent care.

UCLA was among 46 medical groups recognized from the state and one of 10 from the Los Angeles area. More than 230 physician groups participate in the program.

The P4P program was instituted in 2003 to create a standardized way of measuring the performance of all healthcare providers, offering payments for those who excel

SEE UCLA PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

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 Santa Monica 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. 8, 2008

Heal your body

1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Come for free energy Pranic Healing for asthma, arthritis, cancer, addictions, depression, and phobias with Master Choa Kok Sui at the Kathmandu Boutique. The no-touch, painless, and effective healing art helps the body to repair itself. This healing treatment is offered as a service to the community, and all are welcome with no appointments necessary. For more information, call (310) 396-4036.

Get lost in thought

1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.
Stressed out at work? Then take an hour to revitalize by walking and meditating at the First United Methodist Church's new permanent labyrinth in Simkins Hall. The labyrinth is open every Wednesday until Sept. 10, 2008. For more information contact Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258, ext. 106 or via e-mail at mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org.

Healing power

Emperor's College, 1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200
For those not yet ready to commit to a career in oriental medicine can get a taste for what it's like at the Emperor's College, which offers introductory classes. Courses are fully transferable into the college's master's degree program. For more information contact the college at (310) 453-8300, or admissions@emperors.edu.

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.

ELECTION 2008

With 13 candidates running for four open seats on the City Council, it can be difficult for voters to determine who will represent them best. To make it easier, the Daily Press sent out questionnaires to each candidate, giving them 1,000 words to explain their positions on a host of issues important to residents and business owners, as well as shed light on their personalities. These two questionnaires are the last of the bunch. School board candidates to come soon.



Jon Louis Mann

- Age: 63
- Occupation: Flight attendant
- Marital status/children: Single/divorced/widowed. Two sons, age 6 and 36.
- Own or rent: Renting (and being gouged).
- Your neighborhood? How long have you lived there? Ocean Park, Sunset Park and Pico Neighborhood; 30 years.

YOUR MODE OF TRANSPORTATION/MODEL, MAKE AND YEAR OF YOUR RIDE?
Automobile, bus and bicycle.

YOUR PASSION?
Internet democracy, travel, body surfing and reading.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?
"Matter," by Iain Banks.

THE WATER AROUND THE SANTA MONICA PIER IS SOME OF THE MOST POLLUTED IN THE STATE AND POSES A SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISK TO SWIMMERS. HOW DO WE CLEAN UP THE BEACH? HOW WOULD YOU SPEND MEASURE V FUNDS?
The polluted water around Santa Monica Pier is scandalous, especially as we are one of the wealthiest small cities in the world, that is supposed to be a model for environmental sustainability. I blame the City Council and staff. Before I would spend any Measure V funds I would audit and streamline the budget already targeted for beach cleanup. I would hold accountable the people responsible for our disgraceful rating. I would increase the number of toilets and shower facilities and assign more staff to monitor, and keep them clean around the clock. I would recruit and hire qualified homeless, and reduce the salary of local supervisors and administrators.

WHAT'S A HIDDEN GEM IN THE CITY?
Our beaches used to be a hidden gem in the city. We need to impose extremely heavy fines for littering, and provide designated smoking areas with large sand ashtrays. The problem of urine and feces in the city needs to be addressed. Large parts of the city are filthy and smell like a sewer.

HOMELESSNESS IS FAR AND AWAY OUR CITY'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE, ACCORDING TO DAILY PRESS READERS. WHAT NEW IDEAS DO YOU BRING TO THE TABLE? DO YOU BELIEVE CITY HALL IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK WITH ITS PLAN TO HOUSE THE MOST VULNERABLE WHILE STILL PROVIDING GRANTS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS?
Homelessness in Santa Monica is a disgrace. Our City Council fosters dependency and attracts more indigents in order to provide contracts for their cronies in the homeless industry, many of whom support incumbents and/or are members of the SMRR board. What should be done is to provide jobs for those homeless who are qualified and stop providing grants to service providers, stop being a magnet for the mentally ill, and stop coddling substance abusers, vagrants and bums.

FAVORITE FILM AND RECORDING ARTIST?

SEE **MANN** PAGE 6



Bobby Shriver

- Age: 54
- Occupation: Activist, attorney
- Marital status/children: Married, one daughter
- Your neighborhood? How long have you lived there? Near the "steps" for 10 years.
- Own or rent? Own

YOUR MODE OF TRANSPORTATION/MODEL, MAKE AND YEAR OF YOUR RIDE?
1992 Mercedes

YOUR PASSION?
Newspapers and (RED) Campaign

WHAT ARE YOU READING?
"Talleyrand," by Duff Cooper.

THE WATER AROUND THE SANTA MONICA PIER IS SOME OF THE MOST POLLUTED IN THE STATE AND POSES A SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISK TO SWIMMERS. HOW DO WE CLEAN UP THE BEACH? HOW WOULD YOU SPEND MEASURE V FUNDS?
Last spring at a council meeting, I was horrified to learn that the city collected $2.5 million from the Measure V parcel tax but had no urgent plan in place to start the most pressing component of the project, which is to repair the pier storm drain. The schedule has the project starting in the dry season of 2009. This means we will have one more summer with highly polluted water, which is not acceptable. I am trying to move the construction time so the water is clean for this coming summer.

WHAT'S A HIDDEN GEM IN THE CITY?
Father's Office

HOMELESSNESS IS FAR AND AWAY OUR CITY'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE, ACCORDING TO DAILY PRESS READERS. WHAT NEW IDEAS DO YOU BRING TO THE TABLE? DO YOU BELIEVE CITY HALL IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK TO HOUSE THE MOST VULNERABLE WHILE STILL PROVIDING GRANTS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS?
I brought new ideas to the table in the four years since I was elected. Some are working, some need work.

Over the next four years, we don't necessarily need more new ideas; we need to make sure the ones we just adopted work. In particular, housing homeless veterans needs to be a priority. When I took office, no programs were moving Santa Monica's chronically homeless people off the streets into housing. The city now measures the success of its homeless efforts not by how many people are helped in a year, but by how many people are housed. This new focus will result in a reduction of the number of people living on our streets. So yes, we are on the right track. Most of the service providers who receive city grants are involved in this new effort as well as their traditional continuous work. The services they provide to newly homeless people are also valuable, because early intervention can prevent them from becoming chronically homeless.

For a complete treatise on Santa Monica's new initiatives to reduce homelessness,

SEE **SHRIVER** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Traffic is a normal part of success

Editor:

This letter is in response to Kevin McKeown's [opinion piece] ("Why Santa Monica needs Proposition T," page 4, Oct. 2). I must publicly take issue with his negative view of LUCE [Land Use and Circulation Element] and his support of Prop T. The voters of Santa Monica are entitled to an opinion other then that of our Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights [SMRR] selected officials and I am here to give it to them. As chairman of the Pico Improvement Organization, my direction is clear. We are ready to step up. We want to improve our lives and development is a key step for us. Our residents and merchants deserve the best I can deliver. To that end, Pico is our main boulevard to SMC [Santa Monica College], SAMO [Santa Monica High School], the ocean and Interstate 10. We plan to offer new and exciting mixed-use retail services, restaurants, hotels, workforce housing, art galleries and the new Waxman Communication center: a ground-up, mixed-use, state-of-the-art U.S. Post Office facility with underground parking, retail services, housing and restaurants. I am talking about a rebirth.

Our stated position is clear, everyone is welcomed on Pico. I am against T and all it stands for. First, it is isolationism at its most obvious, "we have ours, stay out." Second, T cripples the wisdom and thoughtful LUCE plans that our elected officials and staff have developed with us for years. I, like many of you, have worked hard and been smart to achieve the life we have for ourselves and our families. My friends, Santa Monica is home, our children have attend one of the finest public school systems in our county, the cities forward thinking policies have been duplicated nationally and our community has become world famous.

Nobody likes traffic, but we will all suffer a slow decay mixed with an out of control bureaucratic system and closed door deals if T passes.

I assure our planning department and City Council are difficult enough for any developer.

Please vote no on T.

Robert Kronovet
Chairman, Pico Improvement Organization

Trying to make sense of it all

Editor:

As I sit amongst friends on a daily basis at my unmentionable coffee spot, I sometimes take moments to re-live the old days when I was growing up in the south west corner of Santa Monica, walking to the beach and discussing what Santa Monica and Venice was really all about. I am a 39-year-old native of Santa Monica who is now a disabled veteran of the Marine Corps. I was a machine-gunner with ... "America's Battalion," and was one of the first ground troops to invade Iraq in 2003; was part of the combat operations Task Force Tarawa and rescue effort for Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch ... . Now that I am home, I am repeatedly bombarded with homeless people, people who cannot drive, people with no manners, people with a loss of sense of where they are. Santa Monica has been overrun with a population from lord knows where, and they've brought their bad habits with them. I'm trying to wind down from combat tours, but these issues seem to trigger PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) within me, so that I have to limit the amount of time I can go down to my neighborhood. What happened? Where did these people come from? Just trying to make sense of it all and enjoy the rest of my life back home.

Jeffrey M. Hopson
Santa Monica



Bursting the Car Bubble

Carol Hastings — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why to ride and write

WHEN THE THIRD STREET PROMENADE was young and not the popular tourist destination that it is today, it was quick and easy to get there and park. I could pick up the newspaper at 3:55 p.m. and see that a movie would begin at 4 p.m. at one of the theaters and I could drive there, park and be seated as opening credits began to roll.

Those days are long gone, but I learned that if I ride my bike to the theater, I can be there in five or six minutes, with no parking hassles, and park my bike right in front of the theater. Since then, I have found that it is often easier and more pleasant to do more errands by bike.

About a year ago I made a deal with myself not to use my car at least one day per week. With increased traffic and fuel costs, it seemed the least I could do to be a better citizen. As I spend so much time in my car for my work, I thought it would also help to balance my psyche.

My days without a car became mini adventures and I found that I saw the world from a different point of view and I liked what I saw.

Several months ago, I approached Kevin Herrera, the editor of this paper, with the idea of running a series of articles about my little ventures of getting around town without a car. Kevin liked the first three articles that I submitted.

He said he would be interested in running them, but that he wanted me to write an introductory article about myself and how I got started in this effort.

Then I was stuck. I have no trouble writing my stories, but that assignment stumped me for weeks.

When I reflected on my inspiration for using other modes of transport than my car, I realized that my inspiration was beyond avoiding traffic and saving some cash on gas. I found that creating small, daily adventures outside the bubble of my car was just fun, and I needed some of that. Who doesn't?

I've lived in Santa Monica for 23 years, I'm old enough to be a grandmother and I am a corporate training professional. As I look back, I see that the focus of my younger years was often about striving to build my future — career challenges, self-improvement, and to reach that seemingly unobtainable perfect weight.

I would often ride my bike around Santa Monica and on the beach bike path, but it was mostly on the quest for calorie burning and the endorphins high.

Now in my middle years I am no longer an up-and-coming young professional, I just may continue to be personally flawed and I'm still wearing those extra pounds. I decided that enjoying the here and now was a great idea. And I've noted that I'm not alone; there are plenty of us not-so-youngsters are out there getting around on foot pedal rather than gas pedal.

I have found that getting things done around town on my bike is a joy that I recall as kid when I'd cruise out on my banana seat bike and head to my favorite hobby store. I have a destination and I'm not racing there with purposeful determination, but I'm enjoying what is around me and actually meander.

I HAVE FOUND THAT GETTING THINGS DONE AROUND TOWN ON MY BIKE IS A JOY THAT I RECALL AS KID WHEN I'D CRUISE OUT ON MY BANANA SEAT BIKE AND HEAD TO MY FAVORITE HOBBY STORE. I HAVE A DESTINATION AND I'M NOT RACING THERE WITH PURPOSEFUL DETERMINATION, BUT I'M ENJOYING WHAT IS AROUND ME AND ACTUALLY MEANDER.

I enjoy the luxurious flower gardens in Santa Monica and little local detail that I just wouldn't see from my car.

As for my bus adventures, why would I ever take a bus if I had a car? That's the natural question people ask. Now that I've incorporated the bus into some of my adventures, I love to avoid seeking a parking space and letting someone else do the driving.

I hope you enjoy the stories to follow that chronicle some of my experiences while bursting my car bubble, and perhaps you will do the same.

CAROL HASTINGS is a corporate training professional and human resources consultant. Her company, Corte Hispana, provides translations to Spanish of human resources-related documents and she trains in English and Spanish. Every day she appreciates living in Santa Monica, especially when riding her bike. She can be reached at editor@smdp.com, for now.

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The Rand Stand

Amit Ghate
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Defense of speculators and those short-sellers

Editor's note: David Pisarra, author of "What's the Point?" is on vacation.

EVERYWHERE TODAY GOVERNMENT bureaucrats and media pundits blame unwanted price movements on speculators and short-sellers. If prices are "too high" — it's the fault of greedy speculators; if prices are "too low" — it's the work of evil short-sellers. To hear these critics tell it, speculators have the ability to create artificially high prices, while short-sellers can only destroy sound companies. Ignore for now the obvious question: "Where are the short-sellers in markets that are 'too high' and the speculators in markets that are 'too low'?"

The critics then claim that since neither speculators nor short-sellers perform any positive economic function, barring them from the marketplace is an appropriate remedy, one that's long past due (recently the United States did just this by making some shorting illegal).

So to begin, let's ask what the critics consider a "correct" price? Clearly it's not the price which one obtains when all market participants are free to engage in trade based on their best judgment, because this is precisely the free-market price — a price which they so vociferously condemn. But if "too low" and "too high" aren't judged relative to the free market, what is the standard? Stripped of euphemism: their wishes.

For example, they wish — contrary to all relevant facts — that oil be priced at $20/barrel and that Lehman's stock trade at $80/share. Never mind that environmental policy has prevented the drilling of oil and the development of nuclear power for decades now, or that Chinese and Indian oil consumption is growing relentlessly; forget too that Lehman chose to leverage itself at 35:1 and made riskier trades year after year — if these critics wish for a price, then that should be the price, facts be damned!

But of course, attempting to set prices by wishing doesn't — and can't — work, not for Lenin, Stalin or Brezhnev; or for Paulson, Bernanke and Bush. If prices are to reflect reality, they must be the result of an objective process of discovery and judgment performed by interested actors.

So just as doctors specialize in identifying and evaluating the facts affecting health and disease, speculators and short-sellers specialize in identifying and evaluating the facts pertinent to market prices. They make it their business to understand economic facts like supply and demand, and then risk their capital on their judgment, properly profiting if they're right and losing if they're wrong. Thus in a free market, rather than prices being set by wish or decree, they are set by a rational process, one which benefits from the knowledge of all who participate.

For instance, if speculators believe that future oil supplies won't match demand, they buy oil, increasing its price. If they're right, and oil prices continue to increase, they sell their positions, profiting from their insight but also capping prices as their supply comes to market; furthermore, their initial effect on prices signals to the market that greater oil supplies are needed and reduced oil consumption is appropriate — efficiently allowing market participants to adjust their actions to the facts.

So too for short-sellers. If they judge that Enron is cooking the books, or that Lehman is insolvent, they can seek to profit from their insight by short-sales. These lower stock prices in the present and convey to the market that there are potential problems with the companies, helping others avoid losses in the stocks. And if shorts are proved correct, rather than exacerbating any price slide, they actually mitigate price declines when they buy their positions back. Of course, short-sellers, like speculators, only profit if their judgment is correct. If they short a productive, undervalued firm, say, e.g., Wal-Mart or Apple, they lose when the actual facts belie their predictions.

Consider the recent failure of Lehman, where critics claim that short-sellers caused the decline by obscuring and distorting the company's true value. The facts say otherwise. When the government shopped Lehman to potential buyers, opening the books to them, not a single buyer emerged, not at any price! Everyone who examined the company concluded it was worthless. This was the fact that short-sellers grasped earlier than others — it wasn't a fact they created.

Speculators and short-sellers don't create facts, they seek to identify and respond to them; and in the process they help adjust prices to economic conditions and establish smooth and liquid markets. As a result, instead of being scapegoated and banished, they should be respected and welcomed for the productive role they play in our markets.

AMIT GHATE is a guest writer for the Ayn Rand Center for Individual Rights, a division of the Ayn Rand Institute. He is a full-time trader who often speculates and shorts.

The Q Line

Paying the taxman

There are three issues on the November ballot that deal with taxes. Santa Monica College is attempting to pass a bond, the county is trying to increase sales taxes by half a cent to pay for transit projects, and the city wants to expand the Utility Users Tax. Times are tough and more taxes would be hard to swallow for many residents.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

If you could pick just one, which of these issues would you vote for, and why?

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

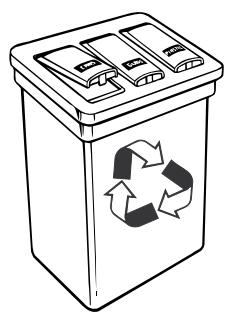
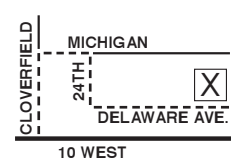

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FROM **MANN** PAGE 3

Favorite film is "Johnny Got his Gun." Recording artist is Charlie Parker.

HOW DO YOU SPEND A DAY OFF IN SANTA MONICA?
I spend days off in Santa Monica doing whatever strikes my fancy.

DEVELOPMENT IS A TOPIC THAT HAS GAINED MORE ATTENTION IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WITH MANY RESIDENTS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL AND CONDO DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN DOWNTOWN. DO YOU BELIEVE THE NEW LAND USE AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT PROPERLY ADDRESSES CONCERNS? DOES IT GO FAR ENOUGH TO PROTECT NEIGHBORHOODS OR DOES IT ALLOW DENSE DEVELOPMENT WITH BUILDING HEIGHTS THAT ARE TOO INTRUSIVE? WHAT IS YOUR STANCE ON PROP. T? DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS A PROPER RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC WOES?
Development is out of control. The entire City Council is to blame and should be recalled. Their use of "smart growth" is a PR tactic and the new Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) is a transparent ploy to disguise special interest domination in determining policy. I support the citizens initiative RIFT [Prop. T], which addresses traffic and parking concerns. I also support termination or reduction in pay for all appointed city officials who support LUCE.

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANY THREE PEOPLE IN HISTORY, WHO WOULD THEY BE (FAMILY EXCLUDED)?
If I could have lunch with any three people in history, I would not choose a dead person. I would pick George Bush, Dick Cheney, and John McCain (Sarah Palin is a joke) so I could give them all a piece of my mind.

LOCAL BUSINESSES PROVIDE THE MAJORITY OF THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND REVENUES, YET SANTA MONICA HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A DIFFICULT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. HOW WOULD YOU ENTICE MORE BUSINESSES, DIFFERENT BUSINESSES, TO OPEN UP SHOP?
Local businesses may provide the majority of the city's general fund revenues, and as a result have way too much influence over who gets elected. Santa Monica has a reputation for being a difficult place for small business owners to operate because of the high rents, and because they can not compete with the large franchises. Santa Monica has become a business that attracts the wrong kind of businesses.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST THREAT FACING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SANTA MONICA?
The biggest threat facing the quality of life in Santa Monica is our City Council's emphasis on increasing revenues, catering to tourists, etc., rather than giving priority to the residents of this city.

IZZY'S CORN BEEF SANDWICH OR A TOFU TURKEY SANDWICH FROM CO-OPPORTUNITY?
Favorite sandwich is roast beef at Bay Cities Deli & Bakery. I never eat corn beef sandwiches or tofu turkey sandwiches!

DOES THE CITY NEED MORE PARKING SPACES, OR WILL THAT JUST ATTRACT MORE DRIVERS? WHAT INCENTIVES SHOULD THE CITY OFFER TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS?
Santa Monica already has far too many parking spaces. I believe every family of two or more should have two decals for free parking and non locals should pay for parking. The city already provides free bus passes for SMC and UCLA students and staff, but I believe in free buses for all. That would reduce traffic, and alleviate parking!

FREE FORM. WHAT'S PUTTING A BURR UNDER YOUR SADDLE?
I am running for council because I am fed up with how our City Council perennially represents developers, car dealers, realtors, hotels, tourism, the social service industry, city employees, public agencies, the airport, Santa Monica College, over and above residents' priorities.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR OFFICE?
Most candidates for City Council, especially incumbents, will say and do anything to receive campaign contributions and endorsements from special interests who use their considerable influence to help elect officials in exchange for getting their slice of city revenues. I will only represent city residents.

My vision is to create a virtual village where residents can electronically monitor and participate in city government. I would have the city provide free wireless broadband interactive access linked to public forums on the city Web site so we can hold our public officials accountable, expose corruption, incompetence, conflict of interest, audit the budget online, and troubleshoot our own solutions to the problems of homelessness, traffic, crime, etc.

More and more candidates today use Web sites to raise money and promote themselves. I am the first candidate in the history of elections to see the electronic interface as a tool to give voters a direct voice in government. In our increasingly transparent society, information is power. I would no longer permit city staff, community organizations, business, media, tourism or developers continue to determine policy and dominate city government.
If elected I will be an independent voice accessible to all residents, without contributions or endorsements from any special interests.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL PLAY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION? DID THE COUNCIL OVERSTEP ITS BOUNDARIES BY DEMANDING CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATION BEFORE RELEASING ROUGHLY $500,00 TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT? IF ELECTED, WOULD YOU DEDICATE MORE FUNDS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR WOULD YOU REDUCE THE CONTRIBUTION? IF SO, BY HOW MUCH?
The role the City Council plays in public education should be to monitor, audit and oversee public education so it is relevant and effective. Teachers and administrators need to be held accountable and fired for mismanagement, incompetence and conflict of interest. Instead of focusing on money, education and efficiency should be the goals, rather than bringing in more outside students, etc. SMC is a university-sized business that has far too many foreign students to add to the congestion and traffic problems. Students who attended high school in Santa Monica should have priority in registration, followed by U.S. citizens who live in Los Angeles County.

Special education programs are national scandals and failures due to a lack of transparency and accountability. For too long schools have dumbed down education and tolerated student misbehavior, teacher incompetence, administrative mismanagement and parental interference. I would definitely not dedicate more funds to the school district.

FROM **SHRIVER** PAGE 3

please go to www.bobbyshriver2008.com and click on "Ending homelessness."

FAVORITE FILM AND RECORDING ARTIST?
"Finding Nemo," and recording artist, The Beatles.

HOW DO YOU SPEND A DAY OFF IN SANTA MONICA?
Surfing.

DEVELOPMENT IS A TOPIC THAT HAS GAINED MORE ATTENTION IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WITH MANY RESIDENTS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL AND CONDO DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN DOWNTOWN. DO YOU BELIEVE THE NEW LAND USE AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT PROPERLY ADDRESSES CONCERNS? DOES IT GO FAR ENOUGH TO PROTECT NEIGHBORHOODS OR DOES IT ALLOW DENSE DEVELOPMENT WITH BUILDINGS HEIGHTS THAT ARE TOO INTRUSIVE? WHAT IS YOUR STANCE ON PROP. T? DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS A PROPER RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC WOES?
My canvassing tells me that Santa Monica residents are mad because City Hall keeps ignoring their pleas to preserve what's left of the low-scale, open feeling that keeps us connected to the ocean, mountains, and sky. Many residents have told me that these pleas were ignored at the public workshops held to develop the LUCE. The council was just as unresponsive when it approved 90-foot-high buildings in the Civic Center and agreed to study tall buildings all over town in the LUCE. I voted against both. Councilmembers should not override the people's will on an issue so basic to life in our city.

Santa Monica can't handle any new car trips, and we are looking at many ways to reduce them. But if we don't also control a major source of new traffic, we're just spinning our wheels (hilarious pun intended). If T passes, and any unintended consequence starts to happen, we can fine-tune the law by placing an amendment on the ballot in two years.

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANY THREE PEOPLE IN HISTORY, WHO WOULD THEY BE (FAMILY EXCLUDED)?
Larry, Curly and Moe.

LOCAL BUSINESSES PROVIDE THE MAJORITY OF THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND REVENUES, YET SANTA MONICA HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A DIFFICULT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. HOW WOULD YOU ENTICE MORE BUSINESSES, DIFFERENT BUSINESSES, TO OPEN UP SHOP?
If we make sure Santa Monica keeps its scaled-back, closer-to-nature, creative vibe, businesses will keep doing whatever is necessary to open up shop here.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST THREAT FACING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SANTA MONICA?
Traffic and too much development.

IZZY'S CORN BEEF SANDWICH OR A TOFU TURKEY SANDWICH FROM CO-OPPORTUNITY?
I'm going to ignore this question and speak directly to the people of Santa Monica: Vote for me. My opponents will raise your taxes (I learned this from that maverick Sarah Palin).

DOES THE CITY NEED MORE PARKING SPACES, OR WILL THAT JUST ATTRACT MORE DRIVERS? WHAT INCENTIVES SHOULD THE CITY OFFER TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS?
Until we have safer bicycle routes and a mass transit system that works for more people, the city will have to provide for cars, and that means more parking. Lack of parking generates additional traffic, as people drive around trying to find a space. The parking shortage that concerns me most is in multi-family neighborhoods, where people who come home late at night are forced to park far from their homes. We have to fix that.

FREE FORM. WHAT'S PUTTING A BURR UNDER YOUR SADDLE?
Councilmembers who drone on and on — just because they can — during Council meetings. This wastes the public's time and discourages capable, busy people from running for council. We need a system that limits council member discussions. The public needs to know when they will be heard. And long-winded staff reports need to be shortened too.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR OFFICE?
I am effective. I either initiated or supported six programs that have moved hundreds of chronically homeless people off the streets into housing, a project to house hundreds of homeless vets on the West L.A. VA campus, and a plan with long-term funding to keep bacteria and other toxins out of Santa Monica Bay. I stay focused on what residents want.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL PLAY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION? DID THE COUNCIL OVERSTEP ITS BOUNDARIES BY DEMANDING CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATION BEFORE RELEASING ROUGHLY $500,000 TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT? IF ELECTED, WOULD YOU DEDICATE MORE FUNDS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR WOULD YOU REDUCE THE CONTRIBUTION? IF SO, BY HOW MUCH?
A strong public education system is a civil right. For that reason, the council should be the strongest possible advocate and supporter of our public schools. The whole community benefits from strong public schools too, in ways that go far beyond property values.

I was one of the three councilmembers who held up the $530,000 extra payment to the district, so obviously I do not think the council overstepped its boundaries. We need to guard the public money. We are fiduciaries! The district culture of intimidation in the special ed program needed to change. But change has its enemies.

Each year I have voted to give $7 million of the city's money to the district's general fund. If the city budget allows it, I would give more. Another way to help would be to use Redevelopment Agency funds to partner in Santa Monica High School's redesign, to connect it to our re-designed Civic Center across the street. Both Samohi and the community would benefit from that collaboration.

For a more complete discussion of local educational issues, please go to www.bobbyshriver2008.com and click on "Supporting our public schools."

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RAND study suggests pricing out of driving

FROM STUDY PAGE 1

that parking is relatively cheap and plentiful. The fact that Los Angeles is a polycentric area — there is more than one center with high population density — also adds to the effect, spreading traffic out and making it difficult to institute efficient transit networks. While rail transit has been constructed in the county, there is still a disconnect between Downtown Los Angeles and the Westside and the San Fernando Valley.

But the congestion of today could've been worse, according to Paul Sorenson, a transportation planning and policy researcher and one of the study's lead authors.

Sorenson said transportation agencies in the county have done a good job of putting together strategies that haven't been too controversial, such as freeway ramp metering and signal timing and control.

"All of these things have significant positive effect for a reason," Sorenson said. "If we weren't doing what we've already done with traffic congestion, it's quite possible that traffic could be much worse than it is already."

The study looked at transportation policies in cities around the globe, observing traffic patterns in places like London, Singapore, Stockholm, New York City and Seattle.

The set of recommendations seek to achieve at least one of four different objectives — managing peak-hour travel; raising transportation revenue; improving alternative transportation options; and using existing road capacity more efficiently.

The researchers found that one of the challenges in adopting traffic-reduction strategies is a phenomenon they call "triple convergence," which occurs after congestion on a given road improves and drivers who once traveled on the street come back. The drivers "converge" back on the road during peak hours after they had previously altered their times of travel, sought other routes or different modes.

As a result, researchers state that the only way to effectively reach solutions in the long-term is through pricing strategies, which may prove unpopular among low-income drivers who feel they are disproportionately being punished. The revenue would be used to improve traffic conditions.

To address concerns of the impact on low-income drivers, policymakers will have to offer better transit options, researchers said.

One of those options could be to develop deeply discounted transit fares that employers can offer to their workers.

"It could be set up in a way where everyone would come out ahead," Sorenson said.

While all the recommendations were designed to achieve results within five years, among those that would make the most immediate impact are to increase bus rapid transit in urban areas and create dedicated lanes on major boulevards.

The strategy would improve not only the speed of public transit in the county, but reliability. The study points out that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Rapid bus lines share the streets with cars and experience the same congestion and traffic. One place to start would be on Wilshire Boulevard, the study states.

When the MTA created the Rapid program, it decreased travel time by 20-25 percent and increased ridership by about an equal amount, Sorenson said.

> **IT'S NOT THAT SANTA MONICA HAS THE WORST TRAFFIC IN THE COUNTY, IT'S LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOES."**
>
> **Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom**

"If you can take this next step, that would have a dramatic effect on bus speed and likely see proportional rise in ridership again," he said. "That's especially true now with higher gas prices and higher forces making people … look for better transit."

A recommendation to adopt curb parking fees in commercial districts that would vary by time and location would also have an immediate impact, minimizing drivers who circle around the block continuously for a cheap and open space, Sorenson said.

A share of the revenue from parking fees would go back to pay for public amenities.

"It could be implemented relatively quickly and have quick effects," Sorenson said.

The study did not focus on land-use policies related to zoning, parking and transit-oriented development, all of which are aspects of the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) that is currently being drafted by City Hall.

The LUCE has been a figure in debates over the upcoming ballot measure with the proponents arguing that the document doesn't go far enough in addressing development issues in the city.

Supporters of Measure T argue that the initiative is needed to tackle congestion.

Ted Winterer, a City Council candidate and one of the lead sponsors of the measure, said the RAND study didn't address the actual reason for traffic congestion — poor land use decisions.

"The study emphasizes expensive band-aid solutions such as toll lanes, higher priced parking, and congestion access fees like those in London," Winterer said. "Santa Monica has a worsening imbalance between jobs and housing with almost twice as many people working here as we have living here — all of those tens of thousands of commuters clog our streets."

Sorenson said that generally speaking, adding density does increase traffic because there are more trips taking place in and around the area.

One of the challenges in tackling the issue on a regional level is the size of the county, which has 88 cities, making coordination between all the agencies difficult.

"It's not that Santa Monica has the worst traffic in the county, it's Los Angeles County does," Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, who is running for re-election, said.

Bloom, who opposes Measure T, pointed out that City Hall has already instituted at least one of the strategies in the study — upgrading signalized timing.

"We need to keep our focus on both local and regional solutions to traffic and our best hope is to finalize our planning in the LUCE process, which includes a very forward thinking traffic management plan that incorporates a lot of the types of provisionary concepts that are in the RAND report."

melodyh@smdp.com



FUN IN THE SUN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Jackson Miller, 6, a first grader from the Canyon Charter School, hula hoops with other students at the fifth annual Jammin' in the Canyon benefit concert on Sunday. Singer/songwriter Jackson Browne performed. Money raised at the event helps pay for programs and supplies at the school.

UCLA Medical Group named among top in the state for fourth straight year

FROM **UCLA** PAGE 1

beyond others in the areas of clinical quality, patient satisfaction and the use of health information technology, according to Dolores Yanagi Hara, the program director for Pay for Performance.

The result of the program was uniformity in the measures used by different health plans.

"For a same type of measure like breast cancer screening, sometimes a group could look good on one plan but not good on another," Yanagi Hara said.

Seven health plans, including Blue Shield of California and United Healthcare, participate in the program, each of which come up with their own formula to determine payments based on performance. These health plans dished out more than $212 million to physician groups from 2003-2006 for meeting performance targets.

Dr. Samuel Skootsky, the medical director of the UCLA Medical Group and Faculty Practice Group, said the program has allowed his physicians to improve on the services they provide.

"Even before (the program) we were above average," Skootsky said. "Now we're better."

The program has also opened up channels of information for the practice.

"There is an intense national effort to begin providing and acting on the kind of care measures in which the UCLA Medical Group already excels," Dr. Thomas E. Sibert, the president of the UCLA Faculty Practice and Medical Group, said. "We are proud to continue to do as well for our patients as we have, and we continue to commit to be at the vanguard of this kind of activity."

The UCLA Medical Group stands out for its leadership and foresight to make investments early on that will support quality care, Yanagi Hara said.

Physician organizations like UCLA have also excelled because of its willingness to incorporate technology into their systems, she added.

"I think it is important to have a culture of quality and focus on providing excellent care," she said.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

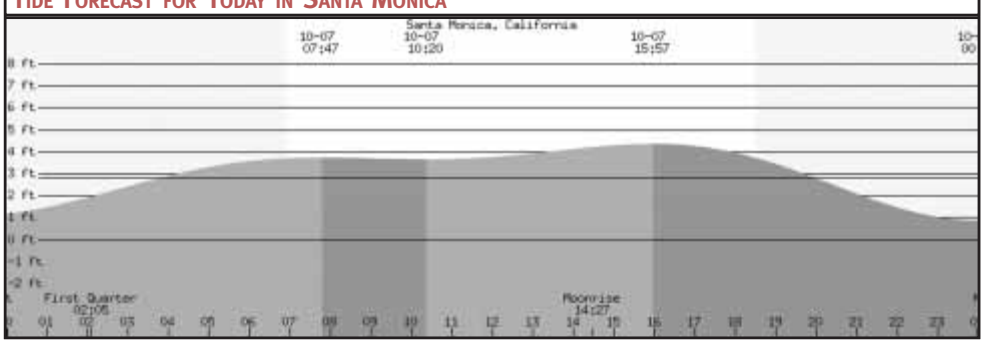
Swell Forecast (2-3 FT)

The WNW should decline to chest high as the SW gives one last push with chest high waves for south facing breaks. Winds on Tuesday should be lightly offshore in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon to 15 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 8th swell backs off further.

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 30, 2008**

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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 -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Aliso 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	D	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	C	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	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	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	C	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	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	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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

Here we go again

BY JOE RESNICK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Back in the era of cookie-cutter stadiums, polyester pullovers and artificial turf, baseball had another familiar sight: Phillies vs. Dodgers for the NL pennant.

"It seemed like every time we turned around, there were the Phillies," former Los Angeles center fielder Rick Monday recalled.

They played in the 1977 NL championship series and the next year, too. Both times, Tom Lasorda and the Dodgers won the best-of-five matchup in four games.

Decked out in powder-blue uniforms, Philadelphia did better in the 1983 NLCS and beat the Dodgers in four.

They're set to meet again in the NLCS, starting Thursday in Philadelphia.

"Obviously, this series brings back a lot of memories and just rekindles those games we had with them," said former Phillies shortstop Larry Bowa, now the Dodgers' third-base coach. "We couldn't beat them those two years that I played, but they were good, competitive series and we just came up short."

Bowa will see a familiar face across the field. Former Dodgers second baseman Davey Lopes is the Phillies' first-base coach.

Eight players appeared in all three series between the teams, including Phillies star third baseman Mike Schmidt, pitchers Steve Carlton and Ron Reed and center fielder Garry Maddox.

Four Dodgers played in each one: shortstop Bill Russell, catcher Steve Yeager, left fielder Dusty Baker and Monday, in his 15th full season as one of the team's broadcasters.

"To this day, Larry Bowa and I talk about some of the games we played against one another," Monday said. "There was such a respect that I had for Larry and some of the other Phillies, because it was the truest sense of competition on one of the biggest stages that you can play on — the postseason. Now we have a chance to reflect on it a little bit more."

Led by Carlton, the Phillies brought plenty of pitching. Their arms were not the only thing that made an impression on Monday.

"We also knew they had a pitching staff that, if they were in street clothes, would look like an NBA team traveling through the airport," he said.

Ron Reed, who played two seasons with the Detroit Pistons, was the tallest member of manager Danny Ozark's 1977 staff at 6-foot-6. Jim Kaat, Jim Lonborg and Carlton all were 6-5. Larry Christenson was 6-4, an inch taller than Randy Lerch and Warren Brusstar.

Carlton and Tommy John matched up in Games 1 and 4 that year. The series clincher was played in a steady rain, and John outdueled the Phillies' ace 4-1 at Veterans Stadium to give Lasorda a pennant in his first season after replacing Walter Alston as manager.

"Tommy went nuts and let a lot of emotion out after that game," Monday said. "You have to realize, there was a great deal of attention focused upon Tommy since day one of spring training on how he was going to fill the shoes of a Hall of Fame manager. Well, he filled then very well. He filled them with a Hall of Fame career of his own."

Lasorda and his players were soaked way before they got their hands on the champagne bottles in the clubhouse.

A number of Phillies players felt the game should have been postponed because of the elements.

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Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
7:10, 9:45

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35

An American Carol (PG-13) 1hr 23min
2:20, 4:35, 7:00, 9:00

Igor (PG) 1hr 26min
2:40, 4:40

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Lakeview Terrace (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG) 1hr 25min Digital Presentation
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG) 1hr 25min
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45

Miracle at St. Anna (R) 2hrs 46min
2:45, 6:15, 9:35

Appaloosa (R) 1hr 48min
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

Ghost Town (PG-13) 1hr 42min
2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55

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2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00

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1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15

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1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45

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Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG-13) 1hr 30min
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Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) 1hr 37min
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

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

Be where the people are, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be pushing too hard, and others react. Give everyone space to make important key decisions. Investigate possibilities with a smile and enthusiasm. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Read between the lines. You could be shocked by what comes up from out of the blue. The issue is sorting through the viable options. Do not push or go in a direction that could cause you a problem. Tonight: Find people in the know while debating an issue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might want to slow down a bit. The possibility remains that, as good as everything looks, you still might hit a snafu now or down the line. Give yourself the gift of time. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to others, as you have little to no choice. In the long run, try making this seesaw effect positive. What might you ultimately gain if you let go and allow others to see the end results of their actions? Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Slow down, and realize how confused someone might be. You might want to not push quite so hard with someone you value. Your creativity surges, but a risk could be a bad problem. Listen to others' money ideas. Tonight: Pull your body and your mind away from "work."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision and not cause yourself a problem. Sometimes your imagination can take you down a very wild and different path. The unexpected action of a friend, loved one or associate might cause a jolt out of the blue. If you maintain a sense of humor, you will do just fine. Tonight: Let the child in you out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Be careful to understand your limits. Just as you are ready to go with a project, a surprising or more innovative concept or method heads in your direction. The question lies in how to incorporate these ideas or make room for both. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing, yet be able to defer conversations that might not be pertinent to the issue at hand. A meeting might be stiff. Why are others holding back? Help loosen up this group. Tonight: You know what works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Generally wise with money, you could trip up with a decision involving home and security. Do more checking in the next few weeks. The end results will please you to no end if "careful" becomes your mantra. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You do, and others seem to watch. As a result, you could be erratic or very unpredictable. If you resent holding the bag, calm down and say so. Open the door to more expressiveness. Tonight: What would make you smile? Go for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ If you feel funky or not up to a task, don't do it. There is a strong likelihood that you will have to redo what you will or think you will accomplish. Though you might not always be sure of yourself, let others see your vulnerabilities. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your innate unpredictability points you down a new path. Investigate news with a positive eye, and be willing to join in. Though you are independent and have your own ideas, an element of teamwork is important. Tonight: Where there are people.

Happy birthday

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

You drive a hard bargain once you decide that you must have what you want. Focus on security, investments and family this year. Confusion runs rampant more often than not. Learn to confirm meetings and clarify what you hear. By taking greater responsibility, you'll feel much more in control. Understanding takes you to a new level in a partnership, if attached. If single, you will want to find someone you feel comfortable with during the next year. CAPRICORN could rain on your parade.

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Difficulty Level ★★

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

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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

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

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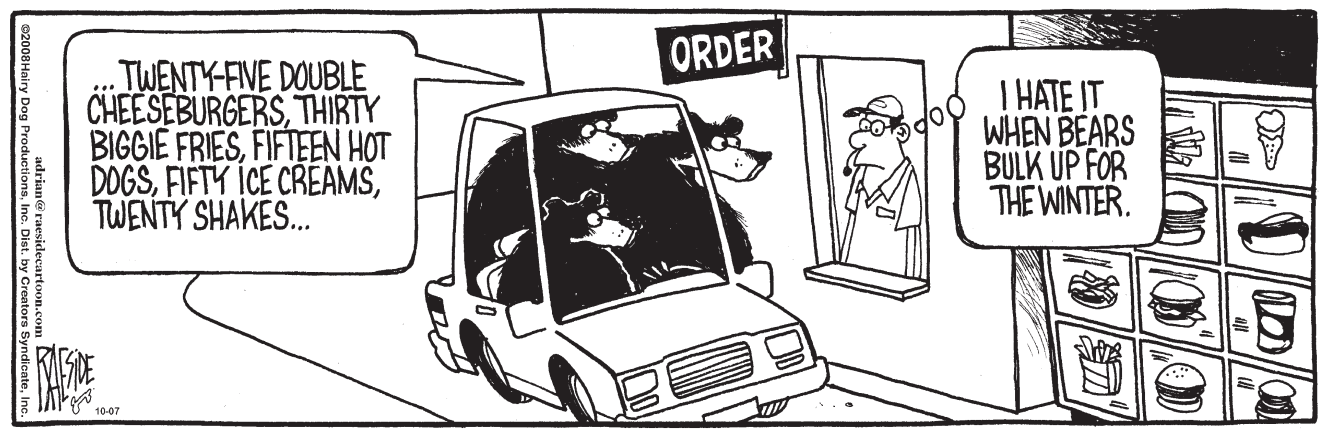
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By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

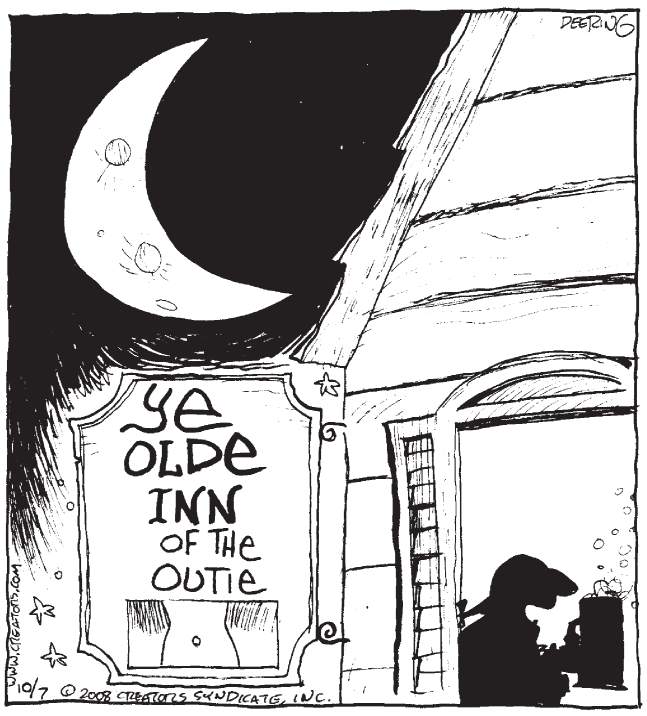


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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Rang out
7 Vacation spot
11 Show up
12 Coward of the theater
13 Spanish tennis star
15 Short
16 Depend
18 Aspiration
21 Apple center
22 Pinup subject
24 Lawyers' org.
25 Knight's title
26 Need to pay
27 Car engine part
29 Onion layer
30 German denial
31 Captain Hook's helper
32 — Lama
34 American tennis star
40 Boyfriend
41 "My thoughts entirely"
42 Provide free of charge
43 Rock's — Dan

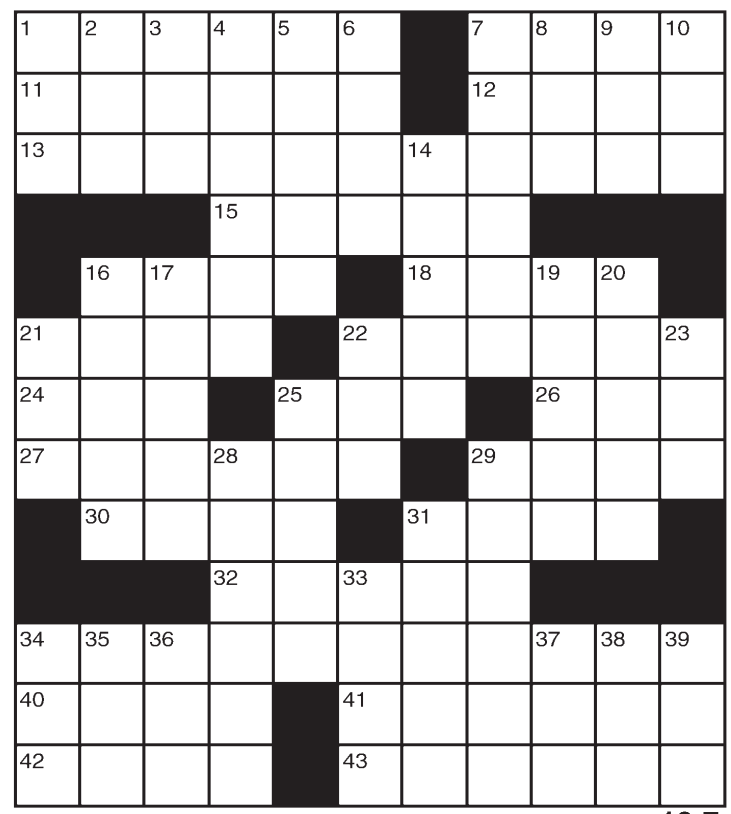
DOWN

1 Golf goal
2 Historic time
3 Dog sound
4 Prone
5 Each
6 Sandwich shop
7 Facing trouble
8 Lawn material
9 Grazing spot
10 Angled pipe
14 More original
16 Sign of spring
17 Wipe clear
19 Wagon wheel part
20 Mandell of "Deal or No Deal"
21 Beanie or beret
22 Naughty act
23 Finger count
25 Sub system
28 Neaten the room
29 Wee amount
31 Egypt's Anwar
33 Clark's co-worker
34 "Lost" network
35 "The Matrix" hero
36 River blocker
37 Anger
38 Animator's frame
39 Crucial

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

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

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Toward a More Accessible Anglican Church: (1) In August, Birmingham Cathedral announced plans to open a series of wine bars in London, as (according to an official) one of the "alternative ways" of engaging non-churchgoers. (2) The new church curate in Dursley, Gloustershire, is Rev. Skye Denno, 29, a married mother of two, whose down time is spent in biker boots, hot pants, a dog collar and her six piercings, listening to the Sex Pistols. Said she, "I don't do it to be difficult. (I) think it makes me more approachable."

■ In July, Abbie Hawkins, 19, a hotel receptionist in Norwich, England, said she found a baby bat nestled inside the padded bra she had been wearing for several hours. "When I was driving to work, I felt a slight vibration but I thought it was just my mobile phone in my jacket pocket," she told the Daily Telegraph. Hawkins had fetched the bra off of a clothesline that morning, where it had been hanging overnight. First reaction: "I thought how mean I was for disturbing it."

■ Joey Bergamine, 19, who is preparing for a re-trial in Fayetteville, N.C., on a DUI charge stemming from a July 2007 incident, will argue that he should have been advised of his right to have a lawyer present when his father kicked open his bedroom door hours after the incident to help police officers who had come to question him. Joey's father is the police chief of Fayetteville, and Joey's lawyer said entering a locked room, as well as the subsequent interrogation, constituted "police" action and not "parental" action, and since his dad failed to "Mirandize" him, the charge should be dismissed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1777 the second Battle of Saratoga began during the American Revolution.

1858 the fifth debate between Illinois senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place in Galesburg.

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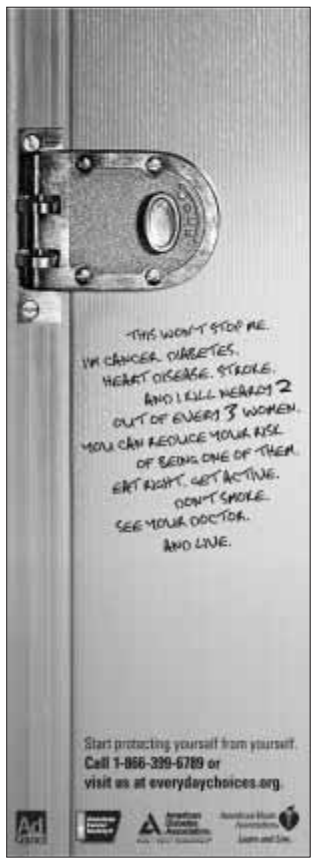
Santa Monica/ West LA $1100.00 & up Single, 1Bdrm, 2Bdrms W/ Lofts . See manager at 1935 Cloverfield Blvd, Apt. #19 for list of vacancies

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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	$ 5,247,500
North of Montana	$ 3,798,120	$ 1,928,515
Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 3,187,818	$ 946,250
South of Wilshire	$ 1,413,800	$ 743,426
Sunset Park	$ 1,366,143	$ 612,908

Statistics Updated Every Monday



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