



Santa Monica Daily Press

BLESSED ARE THE ANIMALS
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE CAT NAP ISSUE

CITY GOVERNMENT

NO FLY ZONE

Proposal would ban some jets from using the airport

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 9



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Staying with the flow

Locals give city leaders
tips on keeping traffic
moving smoothly

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

JAMS As they leaned over a large white map of the city, residents from all corners of Santa Monica acted like plastic surgeons and used red, green and blue markers to show urban planners where the city's problem areas are and what needs to be done to make moving through those neighborhoods easier and more enjoyable.

Some used the red marker to highlight congested streets like Santa Monica and Pico

boulevards, while others grabbed the green one to draw lines between sections of the city that need to be better connected, like the Santa Monica Pier to the Civic Center and on through Santa Monica High School.

The exercise was part of a citywide effort to create a new Land Use and Circulation Element, or LUCE, which will drive development in Santa Monica for the next 20 years or more.

The workshop, which was held last Saturday at John Adams Middle School, was one of a half-dozen hosted by the Planning Commission and City Hall's Planning Department. Others have dealt with development in the light-manufacturing district, making better connections between neighborhoods, housing and economic development.

SEE TRAFFIC PAGE 11

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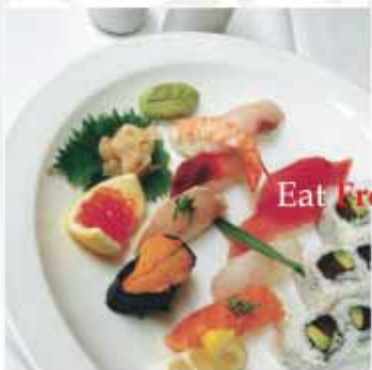
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



From Reel to Real — We All Have Issues: 'Letters from Iwo Jima'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Santa Monica Public Library presents a free monthly screening and discussion series, built around issue-based movies. Discussion, led by presenter Gregg Heacock, will precede the film at 6 p.m., with the screening starting at 6:30 p.m. First up: "Letters from Iwo Jima," directed by Clint Eastwood. Seating is first come, first served. Main Library Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Toddler Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

This program is a weekly series of stories, songs and other activities for 2 and 3-year-old children. This program is free, but registration is required. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

Floral design and sales course

601 Pico Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

The Regional Occupational Program is offering a semester course on floral design. Instruction includes principles of floral design, basic sales, customer relations and basic business practices. The registration fee is \$50. Pre-registration is required. Call (310) 395-9493, ext. 457 or 456 for more information.

Gwen Davis on Gwen Davis

2601 Main St., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Gwen Davis, an author of 17 novels and favorite guest on Johnny Carson, will speak about her life during her presentation, "Gwen Davis: A Retrospective on, of and by Herself" at the Ocean Park Library.

Pagan Paris and Sacred Feminine Artifacts of the Louvre Museum

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Karen Tate, author of "Sacred Places of Goddess," will conduct a tour of Paris and the Louvre. Spirituality and traditional practices of Goddess worship from ancient times come alive in this visual journey. For more information on this free event, call (310) 450-0443.

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007

Catch the Art Train at Bergamot Station

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

The Senior Arts Foundation presents an active dialogue on Bergamot Station. The participants will include many panelists such as William Turner of Turner Gallery, Asuka Hira from the Santa Monica Museum of Art, Jeff O'Connell from Santa Monica College's Art Faculty and more. This free event will be held in the Martin Luther King Auditorium of the Main Library.

Mystery book group

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.

Montana Branch is holding their first meeting to discuss Alan Furst's "The Foreign Correspondent."

inCYST program

4720 Lincoln Blvd., Marina del Rey, 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

A monthly series of classes discussing aspects of polycystic ovary syndrome and infertility that can be managed with lifestyle changes. October's theme is "Stress Management and Emotional Eating." Cost is \$15 if registered in advance: \$20 the night of the meeting. RSVP requested.

Kultural Columbus

1700 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

"Columbus" is split between Kulturas' two locations — on Fourth Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. The Fourth Street display exhibits two large and striking panels of pastel on paper, while the Ocean Park location exhibits the smaller oil on wood panels.

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.



Painting the beach with green

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas.

BY JARED MORGAN

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL The City Council is expected to throw a half million dollars tonight at a lawn by the beach, but the green lot isn't your typical picnic spot.

More than \$500,000 in grant money from the State Water Resources Control Board will be earmarked for a greening project that aims to reduce the amount of pollutants entering stormdrains, and eventually the Santa Monica Bay, providing a greener alternative to asphalt and concrete.

Some 30,000 square feet of land at 2030 Ocean Ave. — South Beach Parking Lot 4 — will be renovated to include irrigated turf that will be used to help capture and filter rainwater.

The green lot will be open to the public for recreational use for the better part of any given year. During the summer peak season, the expanse will be used as a parking lot, accommodating 1,319 cars.

To help protect the turf from damage inflicted by vehicles, the soil will be mixed with a product called Netlawn. Plastic and polymer fibers interlock with the soil to form a mesh base that can withstand the weight of vehicles on top.

The product is already in place at Virginia Avenue Park. The ground's durability is constantly being tested by Farmers' Market traffic.

Some wear can be seen "in the areas of vehicle traffic," said Bret Horner, senior analyst of Parks & Community Facility Planning. "But it works really well in the parking area."

To help monitor the success of the turf's filtration, a monitoring system will be put in place to measure pollutants above and below the surface.

The system will essentially collect water from the parking lot in a catch basin above ground and in a subsurface monitoring well.

SEE CONSENT PAGE 11



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

GOOD INTENTIONS: Fifth graders Dylan Yohe (left) helps his classmate Christopher Monterrosa carry his 4-year-old iguana back to class after it was blessed by Father Mike Gutierrez on Thursday during the St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals at St. Anne's Catholic Church.

Blessed are the beloved pets

Clergy preside over St. Francis of Assisi's feast day celebrations

BY THEA CHARD

Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Pet owners and their critter compadres are in good graces this week, after three local churches staged animal blessing ceremonies over the weekend, honoring pets and praying for their well-being.

The celebrations took place on and around Oct. 4 — the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology.

While not a Catholic congregation, the event theme paralleled St. Francis's teachings for those at First United Methodist Church on the 1000 block of 11th Street.

"St. Francis was the inspiration for having the event," said Nancy Perov, office manager for First United Methodist, of the congregation's first annual animal blessing, held on Saturday. "Our senior pastor, Patricia Harris, has wanted to do it for a long time."

"She loves animals and I love animals, so it seemed like a big fit."

In Mid-City, St. Anne's Church and Shrine staged their ceremony on Thursday, the congregation's eighth annual animal blessing.

"We have a school here, so we do it every year with them," said Father Mike Gutierrez. "The kids love it and it teaches them about patrons."

At St. Monica Parish, on the 700 block of California Avenue, more than 200 pet lovers turned out on Sunday afternoon for that community's second annual St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals celebration.

Dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits and guinea pigs filled adjacent Reed Park, as owners swapped stories about their pets, sang tradi-

tional Franciscan songs and waited in line to be blessed by Father Phillip Garcia, an ardent animal lover from the Serra Retreat House in Malibu.

"It relates to peoples' consciousness and the goodness of God and creation," said Garcia, glancing affectionately at a picture a black and white cat he had pinned to his robes. "It heightens peoples' awareness of the holiness of life."

St. Francis of Assisi believed that all living creatures should be treated with respect and appreciation, a message each of the churches hoped would be reiterated in their blessing ceremonies.

"It's about an 800-year-old tradition," explained Eric Gabster, a parishioner and coordinator for the event at St. Monica. Gabster recently lost his pet, inspiring him to create a book dedicated to deceased pets.

"This year, we have a pet book of memory so that people can inscribe their pet and

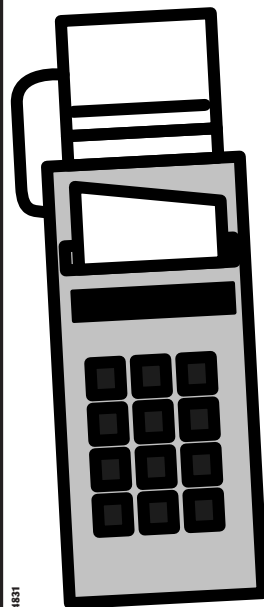
SEE BLESSINGS PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Media makes a difference

Editor:
Thanks to the media's involvement, the community has intervened before the removal of ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets. Seven years ago when the city cut down and replaced every tree on Pico Boulevard for no reason (except that they didn't match?), nobody found out about it in time to protest.

Phyllis Elliott
Santa Monica

Time for city manager to think again

Editor:
It seems like every new city manager is worse than the last ... Our latest is implying that the movement to Save The Trees is representative of a few misguided, misinformed and misleading malcontents.
If anyone is misleading the public, it is you, (Lamont) Ewell. Surely, with an \$8 million federal grant you can rescue any so called "damaged" trees and use rubber side-walks to contain root systems. Don't make the same mistake your predecessors made when they committed arborcide against the beautiful tree canopy that used to shade Pico Boulevard. The sorry trees that replaced them is further evidence of misdirection and municipal incompetence.
Get a clue and listen to the vast majority of those who live, work, go to school or own businesses in this city. Santa Monica may be a city of diverse views, but we are united on this issue.

Don't murder the trees. How does that improve the pedestrian environment? The obvious solution is ... move the location of the lights. It doesn't take rocket science.
We don't need no stinko ginko!

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

A slice of Westside life

Editor:
There was an "only in Santa Monica" moment I witnessed Sunday night at the performance of our local (free, wonderful) symphony at the Civic Center. At the conclusion of Edward Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85, which featured the dynamic Cecelia Tsan as soloist, a good-looking couple in their 30s headed up the aisle in animated conversation:
Man: I thought the cellist showed a lot of style.
Woman: Fresh, and really energetic. Like she was fresh off winning the "American Idol of Cello." Like "America's Best Cellists" or something.
Man: Let's pitch it!
Woman: Where?
Man: PBS?

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

That's no way to spell relief

Editor:
After reading Bill Bauer's (opinion piece) on changing Ocean Park Boulevard from Lincoln Boulevard to 25th street ("What's happening on Bauer's radar," Oct. 8), I have decided that no one in Transportation Management actually drives anywhere in Santa Monica.
They are planning on taking a street that is jammed up every morning and afternoon, both east and west, from Bundy (Drive) to Lincoln Boulevard, with two lanes in each direction and then funneling traffic down to one lane at 25th Street. The intersection of Ocean Park (Boulevard) and 23rd (Street) is one of the heaviest traveled in this city. The short one block over to Cloverfield Boulevard on Ocean Boulevard going east is also backed up with those that need to turn north on Cloverfield. The left turn light going west on Ocean Park onto 23rd Street seems to only work when it feels like it, rather than with each signal cycle
Ocean Park is a main street for the business park, for Santa Monica College and for access to the south area beaches. The one-lane system has worked so well on Santa Monica Boulevard west of Lincoln - with traffic backed up from stop light to stop light, from Seventh Street west all day long - that the city, instead of looking at relieving the gridlock, wants to create it again on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Carla Barrett
Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to lay sexuality cards down for good

THURSDAY IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY (NCOD). It is a day set aside to publicize awareness, promote acceptance and put a human face on the vast spectrum of human sexuality. Its genesis was in the first March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, held on Oct. 11, 1987, where the Names Project — the Aids Memorial Quilt — was displayed for the first time on The Mall in Washington. In 1988, the first NCOD was held to commemorate the anniversary.

Since that time, the world has changed radically.

As humans, we like to feel a part of; the primary source of our fear of others, whether it be racial, religious or geographic. We are wired to automatically fear that which we know little about. Historically, this has been a good thing, in that it allowed man to evolve from a cave, and survive many of the great threats to his existence.

But as man evolved, it has become less necessary for us to fear other humans. Yet, the old wiring is still there. It still manifests itself in many ways today.

One of the ways in which it manifests itself is in homophobia. In a city like Santa Monica, we don't often have open displays of homophobia. I can't recall anyone being tied to a lifeguard station and left to die (a la Matthew Shepard) or pummeled to death in a bathroom (like Alan Schindler). No, here, we have linguistic homophobia.

It's not just the typical "queer" or "homo" slurs, but rather the more subtle phrasing of "straight acting" or "discreet" that carries a hidden homophobia. It's a homophobia that knows no sexuality either, as I see it in many of the personal ads of men seeking a long-term relationship, just as I hear it from people who tell me that I don't "act gay" or "sound gay" or "look gay."

I see it in the men's groups that I attend, where someone will say, "why does he have to talk about his gay lover here? It's inappropriate." But the fact is, the same guy who would condemn me for talking about my relationship problems won't say the same thing about the guy who is talking about his wife or girlfriend. That's homophobia.

So how do you change minds? How do you bring people of ignorance into the light and stop the hating?

You put a face on it.
Even with a Constitutional Amendment giving them the right to vote in 1870, black civil rights didn't get very far until a little lady put a face on the issue by not giving up her seat at the back of the bus in 1955.

Women's suffrage got nowhere until Susan B. Anthony came along and was arrested for illegally voting in a presidential election.

NCOD is important, not just because of the highly visible gay people who have been associated with it (celebrities like Dan Butler, the actor who played Bulldog on "Frasier," and Candace Gingrich, half-sister of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, or Betty DeGeneres, the first straight spokesperson for NCOD and mother of

Ellen DeGeneres).

NCOD is important because it gives permission to Chris the waiter at your local greasy spoon to come out and be who he is; because when Chris comes out, his or her friends and family have to confront a new reality, one that perhaps they have never known. It is possible that they never knew an out gay person, and he or she might embody the example that changes their minds about being gay.

Chastity Bono, the daughter of gay icon Cher and Republican Congressman Sonny Bono, will not change the homophobes' opinion of lesbians, but she might give courage to the lesbian daughter of a homophobe to come out, and with that, change an opinion about lesbians.

IT'S NOT JUST THE TYPICAL 'QUEER' OR 'HOMO' SLURS, BUT RATHER THE MORE SUBTLE PHRASING OF 'STRAIGHT ACTING' OR 'DISCREET' THAT CARRIES A HIDDEN HOMOPHOBIA.

I know for myself, I had an easy time in some ways of coming out. I was in a small liberal arts school, where "different" was commonplace. I grew up outside of San Francisco and my family and I would go each year to the Gay Pride Parade. Yet, I still was anxious about telling my friends and family.

But Dan Butler was gay ... and he was out. And that made it just that tiniest bit easier for me to creep out of the closet and begin to accept who I am. It took years. And yet, I still today, have moments of doubt.

Granted, my anxiety these days gets less each time I out myself, but it's still there. The polls are showing greater acceptance by society of sexuality in general; the current governor's cowardice notwithstanding. But that is why NCOD matters. Progress is being made.

One person who comes out can affect the awareness of his or her family and friends; one person who was given just that little bit of extra courage, thanks to the face of someone they might never had met.

For me, it is Dan Butler. For my friends, it is me.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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Guest Commentary

Ron Prosky

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Two-for-ones, it seems, are too good to be true

I WAS NEAR THE THIRD STREET Promenade the other day and ran into a couple of girls I know. We exchanged the conventional chit-chat when they mentioned they were just returning to work after indulging in half-price sushi. Truth be told, I couldn't care less about their eating habits, but they're both pretty cute, so I pretended to show interest (I know, men are pigs). Anyway, I got to thinking as I continued strolling through this beautiful little city of mine, and it occurred to me that certain things just don't make sense. Half-price sushi? We're talking about raw fish here.

Are you really interested in saving a couple of bucks when it comes to raw meat marching through your intestines? I'm a cheapskate by nature, but when it comes to raw fish, I am more than willing to pay full fare!

This took me back a week or two, when I was reading the L.A. Weekly (or one of those off-the-beaten-path papers) and saw an advertisement that read "Lasik Eye Correction: Buy one eye, get the second eye free." Call me crazy, but when it comes to a high-power laser penetrating my retina, again, I'm willing to pay full price, no enticing deals necessary to win me over. What strikes me as strange is the fact that here's a well-trained physician who would actually consider placing such an ad, after all, I'd guess the bulk of his clientele consists of relatively well-educated folks who can decipher a good deal from a questionable one.

Who knows? He may be the best in town ... be sure to let me know how it went.

Whether it's "2 for 1," "half price," "all u can eat" or simply one heck of a deal, certain items and services just don't merge well in these situations. Two-for-one car washes are great, half-price brake service isn't. Half-price laser hair removal, I'm sure is one sweet deal, but apply breast augmentation to that very same offer and I'd sooner jump out of a perfectly good airplane with a parachute I paid half price for at my local Goodwill.

Factory incentives from your local car dealership? It doesn't matter, you're getting taken however you slice that pie. What they lose on the sale price they'll make up for 10 times over on future service, parts

and labor, but they have the "Deal of the Century" for you and they won't be beat; not to mention the free hot dogs, popcorn and pony rides for kids during their weekend tent event.

As a card carrying member of Ralph's Club, Vons Club, Albertsons Preferred Club, Smart Advantage (Smart & Final), Costco, CVS, Hallmark and Joe's Pub, I consider myself a savvy shopper. I'm a Petco Petpal Member and don't even have a pet. I got closeout tube socks for a buck a pair, store brand Ibuprophen for literally one-third the price of Motrin and it's all the same since it's FDA Regulated. But generic ketchup? I think not — Heinz or Hunts all the way. Charmin versus store brand — that's a close call, depends how sensitive you are down there.

Some choices are clear and some require deeper thought. We walk the aisles comparing items like All Temperature Cheer vs. Detergentia Lavanderia. Which is more likely to remove grime and less likely to cause that nasty lingering rash? What about that all-u-can-eat buffet at your local dinner spot? Is it actually food or an impending case of dysentery? Comparison shopping deserves a four-year degree program in its own right.

I wish there were a mathematical equation for determining whether a deal is really a deal. Half-price sushi sounds great, but once you factor in a bottle of Pepto, doesn't that level things out? People are emotional. It's taught in Advertising 101. We are driven by need and emotion. I "need" to pay my electric bill, but I'd "feel" a lot better with a new pair of Banana Republic jeans.

We all want what we want and, quite often, a good deal will drive us there, but at what price? There are so many scenarios and tastes vary, but some offers just sound sketchy. Keep in mind that I'm a pessimist/realist, so I'll look for the scam in any ad, but at least my brakes work well and my cupboard is stocked with "Fruit Loops" rather than "Fruity Rounds" or "Berry O's."

Always look for the real deal, and beware of smoke and mirrors.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

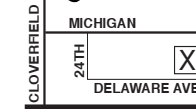
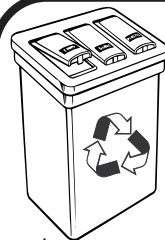
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The Q-Line

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Enough with the trees already

Local activists the Treesavers have been successful in their bid to delay the city's plan to remove over 50 ficus trees from the downtown area. They are still short of their ultimate goal of saving the trees for good, but this development bodes well for their cause.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

How far do you believe the tree activists can go with this fight? Do you think the city is going to give the trees a reprieve or is this just a temporary victory?

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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Is nudity with kids OK?

Parenting lessons from Britney Spears' custody battle with ex-husband

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press Writer

The accusations leveled against Britney Spears in her custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline are well-known: alcohol and drug use, run-ins with the law and erratic behavior documented by everyone from seasoned paparazzi to amateur cell-phone photographers.

But there was another accusation worth noting. A former bodyguard testified that Spears spent time naked in front of her sons, ages 2 and 1. That this was considered evidence of substandard mothering might surprise parents accustomed to parking their child in a bouncy seat on the bathroom floor while showering and dressing each the morning.

Is being seen naked by your child an example of unfit parenting?

Joanne Baum, a family therapist and author of "Got the Baby, Where's the Manual?" who works as a family investigator for divorce cases in Colorado, weighs in here on the subject of parental nudity:

Q: As a psychologist, do you consider it harmful for parents to be seen naked by their children?

A: It depends on a set of circumstances.

How often does it occur, and is it that you're getting dressed and your child happens to be nearby? As you're getting in and out of the shower, if the kid walks in the door, that's probably not an issue. ...

But you wouldn't be sitting watching television naked with your kids cuddling up to you. ... Parents can be seductive with children and be inappropriate with children, so it's more complex than just "is the parent being undressed?"



WHEN A TRUSTED FIGURE INVADES A CHILD'S BOUNDARIES ... THE CHILD TRIES TO NORMALIZE THAT. BECAUSE UNCONSCIOUSLY, WHAT THE PARENT DOES WITH THE CHILD HAS TO BE OK BECAUSE 'THEY'RE MY MOMMY OR DADDY.'"

Joanne Baum, Family therapist and author of "Got the Baby, Where's the Manual?"

Q: What might be the impact on a child after seeing a parent naked?

A: When a trusted figure invades a child's boundaries ... the child tries to normalize that. Because unconsciously, what the parent does with the child has to be OK because "they're my mommy or daddy." It's as if it's OK for someone to treat them like this. That makes them more likely to become victims of other people, because they haven't learned at an early age to tell other people when to back off. ...

In terms of nudity at home, what we're

talking about is complex. And children, probably below the age of about 8, don't usually have a great capacity for analyzing the gray areas of life.

Q: Is there an age beyond which parents should stay dressed in front of their children?

A: It depends on the family and what you see in your child's reaction. If they're getting to be prepubescent and they seem uncomfortable, respect that. ... If your child starts

Breast-feeding Harvard mom wins appeals court victory

BY DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON An appeals court cleared the way earlier this month for a Harvard student to receive extra break time during a lengthy medical licensing exam so she can pump breast milk for her infant daughter.

The state Appeals Court refused to overturn a decision issued by a single justice of the court last week allowing Sophie Currier, 33, an extra 60 minutes of break time.

Currier is scheduled to take the nine-hour exam over two days next week, but the National Board of Medical Examiners planned to appeal to the state Supreme Judicial Court, said the board's attorney, Joseph Savage Jr.

A justice of the Judicial Court declined to hear the case last week, saying the board had to first go to the appeals court.

Currier sued after the national board said she could have only the standard 45 minutes of break time.

Last week, Judge Gary Katzmann of the Appeals Court ruled in favor of Currier, saying she needs the extra break time to pump breast milk to feed her 5-month-old baby. Katzmann said if she didn't get the extra time, she would not be on "equal footing."



SANTA MONICA PIER RESTORATION CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation (PRC) invites sealed proposals for:

Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series Talent Procurement and Stage Production Services

The PRC is requesting proposals from qualified candidates for talent procurement and stage management of the Twilight Dance Series, a 23-year-old ten-week live concert series held annually in the summer on the Santa Monica Pier. Over 100,000 residents and visitors attend the concerts each year, which feature a variety of artists reflecting the diverse musical tastes of the community.

The selected contractor will be responsible for negotiating with and contracting artists to perform at the shows as well as handling hospitality such as ground transportation, hotel reservations, and other contractual and rider requirements; arranging for backline equipment and supplying workable tech riders to the sound company; providing payment to artists and music publishers and tracking and managing all expenses according to budget.

The RFP is available for viewing/download at www.santamonicapier.org

Please submit proposals no later than 5 p.m. on November 2, 2007 in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format to info@santamonicapier.org or mail proposals to:

Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
Twilight Dance Series Stage Production and Talent Procurement
200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite A
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TIME IS TICKING

This creepy skeleton reminds parents that the time to shop for costumes is slipping away.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

The remedy to recall leads to another one

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The first recall was bad enough: A million-plus "Thomas & Friends" toys pulled because of lead paint. The second was surreal: The maker of the smiley-faced trains sent customers "bonus gifts" so they'd stay loyal — and now some of those toys have been recalled, too.

Even if you're not 3-year-old Zoe McGaha-Schletter, it's yet another mind-bending episode in a cascade of recalls that already had parents fretting what toys were safe for their kids.

"This is so exactly what the villain in a children's movie would do," said Zoe's father, Eban Schletter. "It's just ridiculous."

The year of the recall rolled on last week when the maker of popular Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway toys issued its second lead paint warning since June. Among the 200,000 or so items on the new list were about 2,000 tainted train cars that RC2 Corp. sent to customers who turned in recalled items over the summer.

The double recall dredges up issues of global supply chain management and China's role as factory to the world. It also shows how a company that says it's doing everything it can to ensure quality cannot guarantee that its products are lead free.

For Zoe, the consequences are simple: no more Thomas toys.

Her dad is tossing about \$500 worth of

trains, tracks and trestles, mostly from a spread he erected on a table at his Hollywood recording studio, where backup singers doing gigs for TV shows including "SpongeBob SquarePants" have plopped their kids as they worked.

While just 5 percent of Thomas toys have tested as exceeding the federal limit for lead paint (0.06 percent lead content in a product's paint), Schletter is severing all ties. He wants RC2 Corp. to do the same with China.

"It just blows my mind that no one even seems to consider the possibility of not doing business the way they do it," he said.

In June, the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced that Illinois-based RC2 was voluntarily recalling about 1.5 million items in what would become the first of several major roundups involving lead paint on toys made in China. Children who ingest even small amounts of lead can suffer brain damage; large doses can kill.

By mid-September, the company had recovered about 1 million items, sending bonus gifts to customers who returned a product.

The goodwill gesture flopped when further testing showed that lead in the paint covering about 2,000 "Toad" train cars in the bonus shipment was up to four times higher than acceptable levels. The company had sent the stick-of-butter-sized items as part of 146,000 gifts it distributed to customers such as Schletter.

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TV executives trying to trim the fat

BY JANICE RHOSHALLE LITTLEJOHN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Jerry Seinfeld announced several months ago that he would be returning to prime time on NBC in a series of one-minute episodes to promote his "Bee Movie." But he didn't know what to call them.

"Minisodes? TV juniors? Tiny-tainment?" the comedian quipped with his usual deadpan.

What about featurettes? Microseries? Pods?

These are all terms that have been bandied about by broadcast and cable executives to describe their brand of bite-sized shows — story-driven shorts usually no more than a minute long.

With shorter attention spans and the rise of digital video recorders making viewers more adept at commercial avoidance, "breaking up commercial pods with compelling content is a way to make programs and networks more sticky and to keep viewers from drifting, which has an effect not just on the programs' ratings but on the network's bottom line," says John Rash of the Minneapolis-based advertising agency Campbell Mithun.

When SoapNet began its one-minute soaps in 2003, "we really were just thinking about building our brand," says SoapNet executive Deborah Blackwell.

By the third season of its microseries rollout, SoapNet was promoting sponsors' products with compatible themes. Its short-series "Office Romance" with job site Monster.com focused on the downfalls of

love in the workplace. Another, titled "Too Late," with dating service Match.com, explored a romantic triangle.

"It wasn't like we had to integrate a jar of mayonnaise into the middle of it," says Blackwell, who wanted the spots to be entertaining and not just blatant plugs for advertisers. "And it worked for us on so many levels. It was a fun way to give a little video snack ... to give people a reason to tune in, and it's a really great way to partner with advertisers."



THE CONTENT WRAP WAS BASICALLY AN ATTEMPT TO MARRY ENTERTAINMENT WITH MESSAGING IN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT — SORT OF MORE STORYTELLING IN MAYBE TWO OR THREE MINUTES IN LENGTH."

Bill Morningstar, The CW's executive vice president of national sales

Fledgling CW network, for instance, started last fall by moving from 30-second to 10-second spots, dubbed "cwickies," and "content wraps," the network's ad-driven minishows.

"The content wrap was basically an attempt to marry entertainment with messaging in the right environment — sort of more storytelling in maybe two or three minutes in length," says Bill Morningstar, the CW's executive vice president of national sales.

The content wraps went over well with

marketers, so the network moved forward this fall with its half-hour program "CW Now," with advertiser brands integrated into the show.

Wal-Mart sponsored the first episode featuring three segments on the release of "Halo 3," the hot video game available at its stores.

"What we are trying to do with a lot of this different messaging, whether it's long form or short form, is find new ways to break through and engage the consumer," Morningstar says.

THE CONTENT WRAP WAS BASICALLY AN ATTEMPT TO MARRY ENTERTAINMENT WITH MESSAGING IN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT — SORT OF MORE STORYTELLING IN MAYBE TWO OR THREE MINUTES IN LENGTH."

"Execution, obviously, is key."

The Seinfeld minisodes airing on NBC this month to promote his upcoming animated "Bee Movie" are sponsored by Ford Motor Co. The 20 self-contained spots, each about 90 seconds, promise a behind-the-scenes glimpse of production of the film in which Seinfeld voices an embittered bee.

"When you see them they're not just commercials for the 'Bee Movie' (even though) he's talking about the making of the 'Bee Movie,'" Marc Graboff, co-chairman of

NBC Entertainment and Universal Media Studios, says. "He's so Seinfeldian in it, you know, that it's just great."

And with Nielsen Media Research, the television ratings service, now rating commercials, "we want to make sure there's something there now that the audience wants to see," says Graboff.

The Seinfeld snippets, which will also run on NBC.com, are part of NBC's plan to boost commercials as entertainment, what they're calling "pod innovation," says Barbara Blangiardi, an NBC executive whose job includes "content innovation."

"I gotta tell you, when I was asked to take on 'pod innovation,' I didn't know hardly anything about it."

The fact is: The whole industry is winging it. "And anybody who says anything different is basically lying to you," says Ben Grossman, Los Angeles bureau chief of the trade magazine Broadcasting & Cable. "I mean, it's still not a lot of money in it yet. It's basically promotion. But that said, everybody feels, and probably rightfully so, that they've got to be in the game."

Sci Fi Channel is using its seven-week run of its two-minute "Battlestar Galactica: Razor" minisodes as an on-air promotional push. The channel is hoping to pull in viewers for the special two-hour extended episode of "Battlestar Galactica," premiering Nov. 24.

"This is an opportunity to tell stories that don't need to be part of the actual show itself," says Dave Howe, general manager of Sci Fi Channel, "and it's a great way to create a promotional vehicle."

Each year the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) creates a wonderful community event and safe haven for local youth on Halloween evening - October 31st.



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Grounded?

Banning some aircraft from the SM Airport is a hot issue again

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The speedy jet aircraft that have drawn the ire of residents living roughly 300 feet from the Santa Monica Airport may no longer be allowed to use the runway there under a proposal devised by city staff.

Bob Trimborn, the acting airport director, is planning to ask the City Council tonight to approve a plan banning faster aircraft, for which the airport was not designed to accommodate.

He is also asking for permission to seek runway safety enhancements to stop any aircraft from overrunning the end of a runway, and ask representatives in Washington, D.C. for assistance in doing so.

Trimborn said in a report to the council that the airport "does not even come close" to meeting the federally-approved safety standards for faster jet aircraft, which streak down the runway at speeds of 121 knots — 131 mph — or greater. This is putting the lives of neighborhood residents, pilots, passengers and others in jeopardy while exposing City Hall to substantial legal risk.

City staff has been working with the Federal Aviation Administration for the last five years on safety enhancements at the airport, however, that effort has produced no tangible results to date.

The FAA has rejected enhancements proposed by the city out of concern that some aircraft would no longer be able to use the runway because it would be significantly shortened under City Hall's plan to essentially take 300 feet on both sides out of operation.

During a presentation to the council in August, D. Kirk Shaffer, associate administrator for airports for the FAA, pledged to continue working with City Hall to come to a compromise, but during a recent telephone conversation between Shaffer and City Manager Lamont Ewell, Shaffer is reported to have said that the FAA would continue to stand by the proposal that was rejected by the council for being unsatisfactory.

The FAA's proposal included the installation of two, 130-foot collapsible concrete beds at each end of the runway that would be capable of stopping large aircraft exiting the runway at 40 knots (46 miles per hour) or less.

Following the phone call, Trimborn and his staff made the recommendation to ban most jet aircraft, something which is sure to be challenged by the FAA, which entered into a use agreement with City Hall in 1984 that governs airport operations until 2015. The FAA claims that agreement prevents City Hall from implementing any safety measures that would limit the types of aircraft that can use the airport.

Trimborn said the agreement clearly states that the airport would be capable of accommodating "most kinds of aircraft," and set forth standards making the airport suitable for faster jets, which are using the airport more frequently than ever before.

During the 1980s when the agreement was signed, faster craft used the airport

about 800 times a year. That grew to 9,000 annual operations in 2006, Trimborn said.

"I think they the agreement should be interpreted in one direction and we interpret it the other way and that has been the basis of this misunderstanding," Trimborn said. "All we want to do is operate the airport as safely as possible. That's the bottom line."

Since there are no safety areas at either end of the runway, faster jet aircraft have no margin for error.

Immediately to the west of the airport is 23rd Street, a busy two-lane road which feeds into the Santa Monica I-10 Freeway. Just over 300 feet from the runway's end are single family homes. The runway's west end sits above the roofs of the closest homes, Trimborn said

On the other end, the airport is bounded by another busy roadway, Bundy Drive, which is situated 30 feet blow the runway.

ALL WE WANT TO DO IS OPERATE THE AIRPORT AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE. THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE."

Bob Trimborn
Acting Airport Manager

Across from Bundy there is a dense residential neighborhood with a gas station to the south.

Residents on both sides have complained for decades about the dangers of a runway overrun and have called for the installation of runway safety enhancements that include 300-foot runway safety areas.

Friends of Sunset Park, an influential neighborhood group that has been fighting the FAA, sent an e-mail to the council in support of banning faster aircraft, however, the group is concerned that a ban could be overturned in exchange for runway safety enhancements, something which residents do not want to see.

"It would be extremely disappointing to gain the safety of the elimination of [faster aircraft], only to lose it again," the e-mail states. "Therefore, we believe that the most effective safety measure for all Santa Monica residents will be to permanently keep the larger, faster planes from flying into or out of our city, no matter what additional safety enhancements are installed at the Santa Monica Airport."

Not only will the elimination of those aircraft protect from overruns, it will also reduce air pollution, said Martin Rubin, president of Concerned Citizens Against Airport Pollution, which represents residents living on the Los Angeles side of the airport.

"They talk about their right to address the safety of residents around the airport, well, they also have the right to address the potential health risks from pollution from the airport," Rubin said. "I think (the ban) sounds pretty good to me. They should have done it years ago."

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HOLY DAY FOR THE ANIMALS OF THE WORLD: Father Frank Garcia, a resident of the Sierra Retreat in Malibu, addresses the crowd on hand Sunday for St. Francis Day at Reed Park.

Pets receive blessings from clergy

FROM BLESSINGS PAGE 3

maybe a little thought about thanksgiving for the beautiful blessing from God," he said. "And really, that's the tie-in with St. Francis, because he held the very radical belief at the time, that all of creation, in some fashion, reflected the goodness of God."

Sunday's blessing, coordinated by the St. Monica Men's Ministry, lasted about two hours and was open to anyone in the community, regardless of religious affiliation.

"Blessings are about as universally accepted a concept among all faiths as they can be," Gabster said. "So many faiths have some concept of blessing or honoring animals."

Garcia likened the steady stream of animals to a "drive-through blessing." The priest, who has been a Franciscan for 36 years, has taken part in many animal blessings over the years, blessing everything from snakes and mules, to tarantulas and

"I have a thing with snakes," he said. "I usually bless those from a distance."

No matter the pet, Father Garcia acknowledges the great importance of loving and blessing pets as family.

"It's a pretty generic, standard blessing, but I think the way people perceive it makes it kind of unique. Everybody hears something different."



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

DOG'S DAY: Senior Minister Patricia Farris (right) blesses Derek Uskert's 5-year-old rescue collie mix 'Bizzy' at First United Methodist Church's 'Blessing of the Animals' service on Saturday.

"The blessing kind of becomes unique in a transference."

Many pet-owners brought their pets to the blessing for a fun afternoon in the sunshine, while others were especially eager to

give thanks for their companions.

"I look forward to this every year," said Natasha Davidson, a dog-lover and West Los Angeles resident.

Davidson, who brought two dogs with

her to the blessing, Eddie and Mikey, feels particularly thankful for the opportunity to honor her pets because she does a lot of rescue work and often attends to animals who are in rehabilitation and need a home.

Her black lab, Eddie, was energetic and frisky. Only a year and a half old, he had been hit by a car and left for dead this past July. His previous owners left him when they heard of the condition he was in.

"He was rescued by Best Friends Animals Society and he was going for surgeries and needed someone to foster him while he recovered," Davidson said.

However, after Eddie had begun to recover, Davidson realized she could not part with the puppy that had now become such a great part of her life. Davidson brought Eddie — his two hind legs wrapped in bright blue splints — and his brother Mikey to the blessing to pray for a full recovery.

"I think animals are just the best because they give unconditional love," she said. "They do so much for people and I don't think people really know all the work that animals do."

news@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Workshop seeks to mitigate traffic

FROM TRAFFIC PAGE 1

Another transportation and mobility workshop is being planned for later on this year.

For the first part of the workshop, roughly 70 residents, city officials and those interested in urban design were treated to a brief summary of the many traffic problems the city faces.

It is no secret that this quaint city by the sea has grown into a bustling economic machine that is home to major corporations as well as small, mom and pop businesses. With that comes plenty of traffic, but not all of it is caused by employees driving into the city for work.

I NOW FEEL THAT THE PEDESTRIAN IS SECOND TO THE CAR AND WE NEED TO FLIP THAT."

Chaz Marr
Green Oriented Design

A lot of traffic is caused by residents who are taking short trips to the grocery store or the dry cleaners, said Jeffrey Tumlin of Nelson/Nygaard Associates, a consultant hired by City Hall to facilitate to workshops.

Tumlin said residents can cut back on trips with better public transit. He did point out that the Big Blue Bus is working toward adding more routes.

He also said that Santa Monicans own far fewer cars than most people in other local cities, particularly in downtown where 40 percent of residents do not have a car. This has helped cut down on congestion, but more still needs to be done and the community can get creative in coming up solutions.

Some ideas he threw out had to do with parking, Tumlin said — and many residents agreed — that including the cost of parking in goods and services did a disservice to

those who are not able to afford a car or who are making a conscious decision not to drive. By giving cash to employees who find alternative means of getting to work, employers could entice more employees to cut down on their driving.

If parking wasn't included in the cost of an apartment, that could open up more opportunities for those who are at the low end of the economic spectrum. Employers could also offer free transit passes to employees and encourage carpooling, Tumlin said.

Another radical idea that is working in central London, England is charging drivers a fee to enter certain parts of town, something which is known as "congestion pricing."

The City Council could also adopt a trip reduction ordinance that would force developers of large projects to make sure that employees drive less as a condition of the development.

There's also the concept of having more rental cars for residents. If someone wanted to drive to the grocery store, but didn't own a car, they could go online and order one to be dropped off at their home or they could pick it up nearby and then leave it parked out in front of their home when they're done for someone else in the neighborhood to use.

That would eliminate much of the cost of driving and make it so that more people would give up their cars in exchange for a convenient and less expensive alternative, Tumlin said.

Many residents liked that idea as well as unbundling parking costs and providing transportation alternatives such as the Exposition Light Rail Line.

"I now feel that the pedestrian is second to the car and we need to flip that," said Chaz Marr, a principal partner in an eco-friendly design firm who is interested in the LUCE process.

A man sitting next to Marr named Adam said he was in favor of building more housing near transit hubs, especially the Expo Line, which will run through the central spine of the city.

"For me, I've basically made it so I always live five minutes from work," he said. "I live my life around that."

Council tackles diverse issues

WINTER WONDERLAND

You won't have to go far this winter to

FROM CONSENT PAGE 3

find some ice to get your carve on.

A portion of City Hall's newly purchased property at 1324-26 Fifth St. will be leased to Bayside District Corp. for \$6,000 per month to set up an ice skating rink for public use, from Nov. 16 through Jan. 7, 2008.

The property is currently being used for public parking.

MEAN STREETS

Almost 155 miles of Santa Monica streets will be receiving a facelift if the Council approves spending approximately \$120,000 of Proposition C funds.

The current system of pavement management hasn't been updated in four years, providing KMS and Associates, Inc. with the task of developing a new multi-year plan for maintaining and repairing city streets.

Without this system, local entities would not be eligible to receive revenue from the Gas Tax.

FROM STREETS TO SIDEWALKS

Next time you pump your gas you might just be helping to repair pedestrian walkways.

The Council will decide tonight whether to spend up to \$1.36 million in Gas Tax refund money to revamp 1,258 of Santa Monica's 2,026 sidewalks.

Repairs of all city sidewalks should be completed no later than summer 2008.

TAX JARGON

City Hall is expected to negotiate a three-year, \$465,000 contract with HdL Coren & Cone for their services in monitoring and predicting property tax and other tax revenues.

These services are required by the Finance and Housing department, as well as the Economic Development department.

news@smpd.com



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

CATCHING A RIDE: Alternative means of transportation, such as hopping a ride on a local bus, was popular among the residents who took part in a mobility workshop on Monday.

Others at the table, including Shannon Parry, who works in the Environmental Programs Division for City Hall, advocated for more bike lanes and better connections between the bike path and the city.

Parry also said better enforcement along the bike path to keep pedestrians off it would also be a help to riders. She took a blue marker and highlighted the entire path.

City planners said they will take the multi-colored maps and use them as they move closer to developing a plan for the council's approval.

Mary Kaye, a resident who lives north of

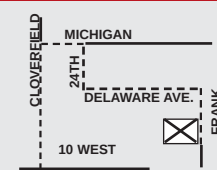
Montana Avenue, said she felt good about spending roughly five hours talking about mobility and traffic, two topics that can induce rage or boredom in most.

"I think this is a very important process to be involved in," she said. "I think everyone at the table was very thoughtful in their suggestions and I am very impressed ... I moved here seven years ago and the city had such a strong appeal. Now there is just too much development going on and I'm concerned about the future."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Community Meeting for 749 17th Street Adult Day Center and Housing Project

October 16, 2007
7:00PM

Community Room
Santa Monica Public Library –
Montana Branch
1704 Montana Avenue

You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the design for a senior adult day center, 3-unit condominium and 7 senior group residential units proposed by Villa Adventures (Charles Rosenbleet). The project consists of 7,842 square feet within two-stories on an 18,000 square foot parcel located on the north east corner of 17th Streets and Montana Avenue.

This meeting is a new City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and the developer with regards to the project design. For further information, please contact Gina Szilak, Assistant Planner at (310) 458-8341 or regina.szilak@smgov.net.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la aplicación proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

RIPCURL SURF CENTER Santa Monica
1451 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA
310-656-curl
RIPCURL.COM

SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today looks smaller, knee to waist high most everywhere. Size will be hindered further mid-morning from an excessively high tide, but winds should be rather calm for the AM.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW SWELL THURSDAY, POSSIBLE WIND ISSUES TOO...
SMALL SW FOR 13TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of October 3, 2007

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 -- 5
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 35
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 9

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 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 (leocarrillo)	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	D
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A+	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A	A+

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'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.

NFL

Culpepper gets chance to shine

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA All the secrecy about which quarterback would start for the Oakland Raiders was put to rest this week.

With Josh McCown still limping around in a walking boot and Daunte Culpepper coming off a five-touchdown performance, coach Lane Kiffin saw no reason to keep secret his decision about the starting quarterback.

That's a big change from previous weeks. Kiffin refused to divulge McCown would start the season opener against Detroit, then listed McCown as doubtful the following week in Denver with a foot injury but started him anyway.

Heading into the next week against Cleveland, the questions were about how long McCown would keep the job after struggling the previous week against the Broncos. Culpepper finished the game against the Browns after McCown left at halftime with a broken toe, but Kiffin waited until the Friday before the Miami game before declaring Culpepper the starter.

He announced that Culpepper would start this week's game for Oakland (2-2) against the San Diego Chargers before the first question of the week was even asked.

"I won't prepare any differently," Culpepper said. "I prepare the same no matter what. It's no different to me."

Culpepper wasn't asked to do much in his first start, going 5-for-12 for 75 yards, but he threw for two touchdowns and ran for three more, showing that his surgically repaired knee is feeling much better after hindering him so much the past two seasons.

In his last full season for Minnesota in 2004, Culpepper averaged more than 34 attempts a game. Now he said he's content to hand the ball off, if Oakland's top-ranked running game continues to have so much success.

"I expect to do whatever it takes to get a win," he said. "Whatever it takes to get a win. I'm pretty sure if you talk to every other guy in this locker room they'd say the same thing. It doesn't matter."

Culpepper's two TD throws went to Jerry Porter, who has had four of his seven catches after Culpepper took over the quarterbacking duties.

"He's coming along," Porter said. "Naturally, the two guys have been there months before and had a bit of a leg up on him. ... He can play. He's getting a chance to get out there."

How long that chance will last is still up in the air. Kiffin has not said what he plans to do once McCown gets healthy. McCown played through a sprained right foot and cracked bone in his finger, but will miss his second straight game with the broken left toe.

"Every week it looks like he might be coming back and then he struggles," Kiffin said. "We're just going to take it day to day."

There still are questions at running back, where LaMont Jordan has not practiced since leaving the Miami game with a sore back late in the first half. Justin Fargas ran for 172 of his career-high 179 yards in the second half against the Dolphins.

Also, Dominic Rhodes is back from his four-game suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy.

Pro Bowl defensive end Derrick Burgess is back practicing after missing two games with a sore calf and special teams standout Isaiah Ekejiuba is back for the first time since injuring his foot in the final exhibition game in Seattle.

When the Raiders take the field Sunday in San Diego, they will be in an unusual place. For the first time since winning the AFC West in 2002 on the way to the Super Bowl, Oakland is alone in first in the division.

The Raiders got there while watching the rest of the league play Sunday.

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Hey, mister

A persistent kid named Apatow found a way to get to 'The Jerk'

JUDD APATOW, writer and director of comedy hits "Knocked Up" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," is doubtless already a hero to kids who want to break into film or comedy. But once, he was just a kid dying for

the autograph of his own hero, Steve Martin. Apatow regaled an audience at the New Yorker Festival this weekend with the tale of how, on vacation in California as a boy, he had spotted Martin

washing his car in front of his home. The young Apatow jumped out of the car and asked for an autograph, but Martin said he didn't give autographs at his home. "Please, we won't

tell anyone," Apatow begged. Sorry, Martin said, but no. So Apatow went home and wrote Martin a nasty letter, in which he gave an early glimpse of his now well-documented talent for

profanity. Three months later, he received a package from Martin that contained a copy of his book "Cruel Shoes." "I'm sorry," read Martin's inscription.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Martha Stewart to dedicate new geriatric center

MARTHA STEWART says she chose the bonsai as the symbol of a geriatric center that bears her name because of the tree's longevity.

"With the proper care and nurturing, a bonsai tree can live for well over a hundred years," Stewart said in a statement.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Martha Stewart Center for Living at Mount Sinai Medical Center was set to take place Tuesday.

Stewart, 66, donated \$5 million for the outpatient clinic in Manhattan, which she is dedicating to her 93-year-old mother, Martha Kostyra.

Stewart said she wanted the center, which is expected to open in November, to encourage older patients to "embrace a healthier lifestyle."

"We all want to live for many, many years but it's important to have a good quality of life, too," she said.

The home decorating diva worked closely with C.C. Pei, the son of I.M. Pei, on the center's design, personally selecting the earth-tone color schemes.

AP

OSZY AND SHARON OSBOURNE PLAN A YARD SALE

OSZY AND SHARON OSBOURNE are doing some housecleaning.

The 58-year-old rocker and his wife are selling art, furniture and collectibles from their homes in Malibu, Beverly Hills and England.

The Nov. 30 auction will also feature items from their MTV reality show, "The Osbournes," including son Jack Osbourne's black leather bedroom furniture and a cast-iron crucifix that adorned Ozzy's den in various episodes.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Sharon Osbourne Colon Cancer Foundation.

"It's time to unload," said Sharon Osbourne, who celebrates her 55th birthday on Wednesday. "We just have an overabundance of possessions that we do not need."

With their three children now grown and out of the house, the couple have changed their style and moved to a new home, she told The Associated Press, adding that parting with hundreds of items has been "one of the most refreshing things I've done."

Ozzy, however, doesn't share his wife's enthusiasm.

"I don't know why we are selling everything as I want it all," Osbourne said in a statement.

He will perform a benefit concert at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Nov. 30, the first night of the sale.

"Ozzy gets very attached to things," Sharon explained.

AP

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

Find a stress-buster, Taurus

Happy Birthday!

You might want to break many of your patterns. Success will head in your direction if you think through a goal, project or desire. At this point, your mind and heart will be connected. With that unity, you will be close to invincible. Often people drop too much responsibility on you. You need to incorporate new technology into your daily life. If you are single, scrutinize a love interest before taking the romantic plunge.



Born Today

Singer Jackson Browne (1948)

Singer John Lennon (1940)
Historian Bruce Catton (1899)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Gracefully change gears midday. You might hope that a different interest will help make the day easier. You have many options, but "easy" is not one of them right now. Avoid losing your temper; the damage could be rough. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You will speak your mind even if others would prefer you didn't. A partner could be antagonistic, perhaps as part of a control game. Pull out and don't get into this battle. No one can win. Focus on your daily routine. Tonight: Find a stress-buster.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might want to be playful and more direct with someone you really care about. This person, more so than many, appreciates your levity. Others react in ways you didn't anticipate. Be as direct as possible. Tonight: Pretend that it's still the weekend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Use the morning, when you have more spunk and get-up-and-go. Knowing when to back down might save the day. Others could easily be irritated, and you might feel bewildered. Don't act without some forethought. Tonight: Order in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You will feel a little more energized as the day ages. Nevertheless, challenges surround you regardless of which direction you head in. Avoid acting on your anger. Be honest with yourself and clear out negative feelings. Tonight: Hang out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You encounter an obstacle whether you want to or not. Pull back and take your time, especially with a family member or property investment. You might be irritated at the cost of realizing a goal. Tonight: Pay bills first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Midday, you might want to change gears or at least do something different. As you are responding to your inner voice, this change is excellent. Still, somebody you look up to might be quite critical. Listen but don't react. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Use the a.m. as if there is no tomorrow. You will like what emerges as a result. Whatever unfurls in the afternoon is best kept close to your chest. Someone could be very touchy. If possible, don't react. Tonight: Take some much needed personal time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others might be depending on you a little too much for your taste. Know that you might not be able to change their habits, but you might want to revisit your attitude. A meeting in the afternoon proves to be worthwhile. Tonight: Find your friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Reach out for different and stronger answers. You might not always be on top of your game. The willingness to stretch and find answers earmarks your abilities. Take charge of a situation. Tonight: Out late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want a partner to dominate, even if you don't realize it yet. He or she needs to see the end results of his or her actions. Let this person take the blame if there is a boomerang. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others certainly have control. True to form, you might want to toss in your interest and go in another direction. Evaluate carefully before allowing impulsiveness to take over. Tonight: Even if you don't agree, listen to a dear friend.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Bourne Ultimatum, The (PG-13)
7:25, 10:00
Feel the Noise (PG-13)
2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50
In the Valley of Elah (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Kingdom (R)
1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Superbad (R)
1:55, 4:40

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

3:10 to Yuma (R)
1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50
Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, The (R)
1:15, 2:30, 4:40, 6:05, 8:05, 9:35
The Brave One (R)
1:30, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10
The Game Plan (PG)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
The Kingdom (R)
1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
Resident Evil: Extinction (R)
DLP-Digital Projection
2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Eastern Promises (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45
Into the Wild (R)
11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:15

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Darjeeling Limited, The (R)
12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00
The Jane Austen Book Club (PG-13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Let It Ride (NR)
3:10, 7:40
Man Who Souled the World, The (NR)
1:00, 5:30, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:20
Feast of Love (R)
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Good Luck Chuck (R)
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
The Heartbreak Kid (R)
11:50am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:05, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
Seeker: The Dark Is Rising, The (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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

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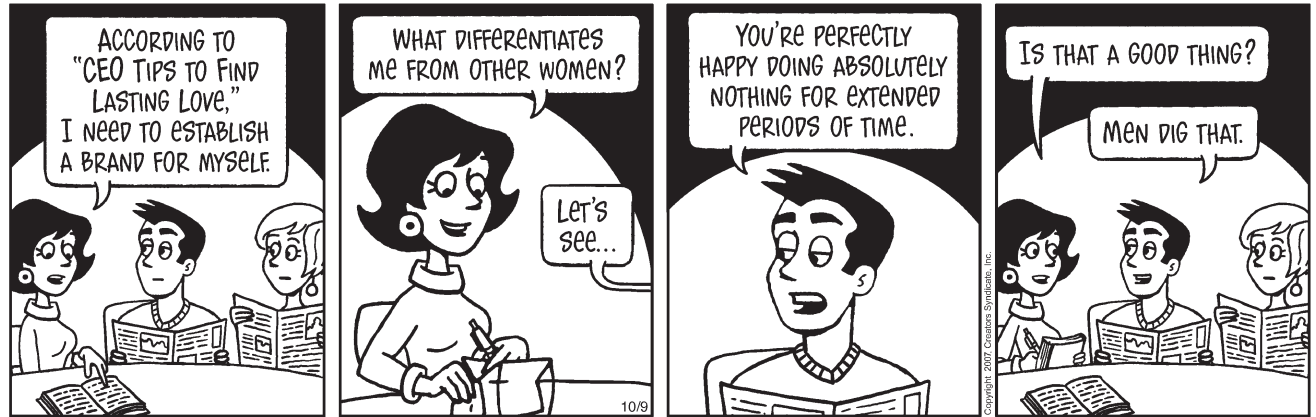
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



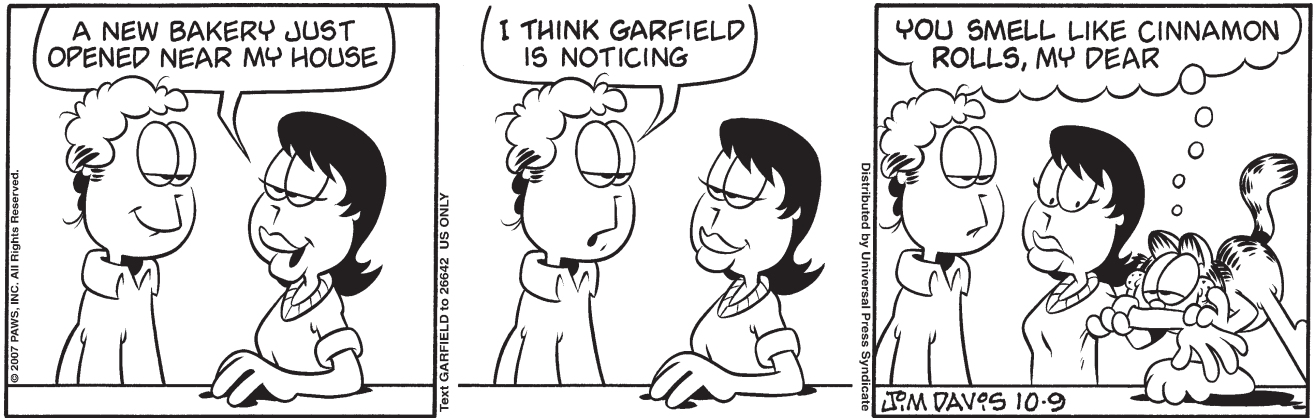
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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[08] tC



[08] xD



[08] xB



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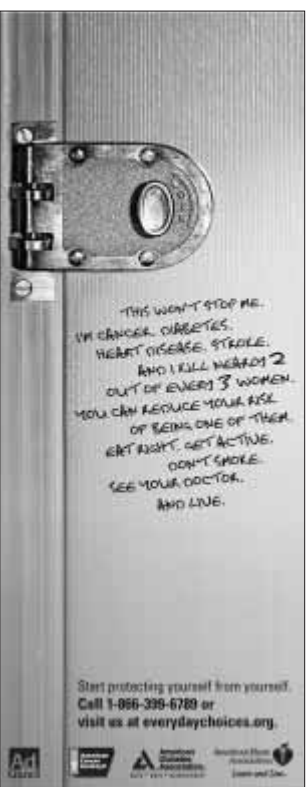
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF GRACE HICKSON MUNN

Case No. SP007279

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of GRACE HICKSON MUNN

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Heidi Sullivan in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Heidi Sullivan be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Nov. 9, 2007 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
DONALD J HROMADKA ESQ
SBN 53784
LAW OFFICES OF
HROMADKA & GAULKE
11661 SAN VICENTE BLVD STE 410
LOS ANGELES CA 90049-5112
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN785002 MUNN Oct 9,10,16, 2007

Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LORNA S. CABAONG

CASE NO. BP106665

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LORNA S. CABAONG.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PHILIP CABAONG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PHILIP CABAONG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 10/29/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
ROBERT A. BROWN, ESQ.
LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT A. BROWN
1125 E BROADWAY #116
GLENDALE CA 91205
10/9, 10/10, 10/16/07
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072087799 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as F AND M MOTORSPORTS, 11797 W. PICO BLVD. LA, CA. 90066. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: TARGA FLORIO INC. 3465 ROSEWOOD AVE. LA, CA. 90066 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: TARGA FLORIO, INC. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/10/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/9/2007, 10/16/2007, 10/23/2007, 10/30/2007

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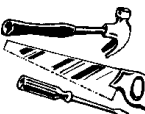
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