



Santa Monica Daily Press

CITY PICKS FIGHT WITH FAA
SEE PAGE 12

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE ART SO EASY A REPORTER CAN DO IT ISSUE

Building trust at job sites

Rape case leads to questions about safety and hired hands

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE With all of the construction that pervades a typical Santa Monica day — the hammering, the grinding, the ear-splitting table saws — residents are liable to close the windows and bury their heads in their high-thread count pillows.

That might be a mistake.

On Tuesday, a 17-year-old day laborer plead not guilty

to nine felony charges stemming from an incident last month in which a Santa Monica woman was raped and robbed when she returned home late in the evening.

Authorities believe that Luis Mario Lopez, 17, who is being held in lieu of \$7 million bail, repeatedly attacked the woman over four hours in her North of Wilshire condominium before making off with her Mercedes.

Lopez, who will be tried as an adult, knew the 42-year-old victim because she had hired him to do some work at her home. Police believe the suspect climbed through a doggy door.

While an isolated incident, there have been other reports of construction workers burglarizing homes, and in at least one instance, a day laborer on 11th Street attempting to assault a young woman who works in the

area. The number of incidents are small, police said, but with the increase in construction in Santa Monica — both large and small — chances are, shady workers will strike again and residents need to be prepared.

“I can tell you some real horror stories,” said Lupe Corral, a roofer with more than 30 years of experience who trains union members. “A lot of bad things can happen when you let strangers into your home.”

“You need to be aware and take precautions.”

That goes for those who are not under construction, but may be living next to a neighbor having work done. A construction worker is around the neighborhood all

SEE JOB SITES PAGE 13

PUBLIC HEALTH



LIVING UNDER A BAD SIGN

Westsidiers willing to gamble with health for salt air digs

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



For The Arts art auction

2525 Michigan Ave., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

More than 75 works of art by local artists will be on display for this art auction. For The Arts works toward maintaining arts education in Santa Monica-Malibu public schools through the creation of a permanent endowment fund. To view artwork or for more information, visit www.buyartnow.org. Call (310) 396-4557 to make a reservation.

Words of peace

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Introductory event for international speaker Prem Rawat, regarding peace and inner happiness. Group will meet in the MLK Jr. Auditorium of the Main Library.

McC Campbell and Mendez play Tag

2903 Santa Monica Blvd., check for times

Tag Gallery's new exhibit features works by Rachael McCampbell and Valerie Mendez. For more information on the gallery or the artists, visit www.TAGTheArtistsGallery.com.

Viva Villa

2332 W. Fourth St., L.A., 8 p.m.

"I Killed Pancho Villa," written and directed by Ruben Amavizca Murua, visits the last days of the legendary leader of the Mexican revolution. General tickets are \$15. Special \$11 tickets are available for Thursday performances. For more information, visit www.fridakahlotheater.org.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

A social gathering for dogs and their people. There will be light refreshments, dog snacks and play time. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

Friday, Oct. 12, 2007

Monthly Musical: 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Free screening of the classic musical starring Jane Powell and Howard Keel. All ages welcome. Seating is first come, first served.

Dance Downtown

135 N. Grand Ave., LA, 6:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Dance Downtown is a free evening of dance on select Friday nights. Dancers of all levels are encouraged to attend and beginner dance lessons are available. No reservations are required. For more information, call (213) 972-3660 or www.musiccenter.org.

YMCA pumpkin patch

Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades, 3 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Pick a pumpkin, play on hay bales and hide-n-seek in the spooky woods at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA's pumpkin patch at Simon Meadow. For more information, call (310) 454-5591.

Kultural Columbus

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

"Columbus" is split between Kultural's 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.

Funky Lemonade Fridays

1301 Fifth St., 9 p.m. — 2 a.m.

Zanzibar presents DJs spinning hip hop, rock, top 40, and some reggae and house to round off the night. \$5 drink specials. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail rsvpmenow@gmail.com.

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.



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PICO BOULEVARD
FROM CENTINELA TO THE PACIFIC

LAPD blames itself for riots at May rally

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A scalding Police Department report blames its own policies, training and commanders for fueling a club-swinging melee at an immigration rally in which police beat demonstrators and reporters to the ground.

The 90-page report represented an unusually critical look inward for a department that has faced numerous accusations of misconduct over the years, particularly from minorities, and charges that it first and foremost protects its own.

No one was critically hurt at the May 1 clash at MacArthur Park near downtown, but images of baton-wielding officers pummeling people played repeatedly on newscasts, creating a public relations disaster and leading to lawsuits and several investigations.

The report depicted a scene of virtual chaos in which poorly trained officers were taking directions from commanders who didn't recognize the seriousness of what was unfolding and failed to communicate among themselves. At one point, police actions compressed the crowd, flaming tensions and creating an environment that encouraged disruptive behavior by demonstrators.

The findings were presented to the Police Commission, the panel that serves as the department's civilian board of directors. Its president, Anthony Pacheco, warned at meeting that "my fellow commissioners and I will hold the department accountable for any misconduct that occurred."

More than two dozen officers are under investigation and could face discipline for using excessive force.

At a news conference at City Hall, Chief William Bratton apologized for the department's actions.

"This is an event that I deeply regret," Bratton said. "I accept full responsibility for it because it occurred on my watch. My apologies to the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department and to the public."

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called the report a first step. He said he agreed with Bratton that "what happened was wrong and we are determined to make it right."

The report noted that chief officers weren't properly notified, including Bratton, who had left his office for an event at Universal Studios.



2 UP

A woman kicks back while working on the day's crossword puzzle at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica over the weekend.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

A guarded approach

City Council moves to ban jets; braces for battle with FAA

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Jet aircraft currently using Santa Monica Airport could be in for a rough landing, if the City Council gets its way.

The council voted Tuesday in favor of banning larger, faster jet aircraft from using

the airport after hearing evidence from city staff and residents about the dangers posed by such flights, which have little room for error given the shortness of the runway and its close proximity to homes on either side.

Those in support of the ban point out that the airport, which dates back to the 1920s, was not built to accommodate today's faster jets, claiming the Federal Aviation Administration has gone against its own safety standards and forced City Hall to let jets use the airport because it relieves air traffic at LAX.

Following five fruitless years of negotiations with the FAA for added safety enhancements at the airport, city officials decided

they've waited long enough, voting to move forward with the ban to protect residents and users of the airport, even though the move could expose Santa Monica to litigation.

"We have to keep our feet on the ground," Mayor Richard Bloom said. "There will be a tough discussion and perhaps a battle ahead of us. While we all have high expectations and feel positive about it, we have to maintain some sense of reality ... We need to keep this in perspective."

Residents by the airport seeking immediate relief will have to remain patient, howev-

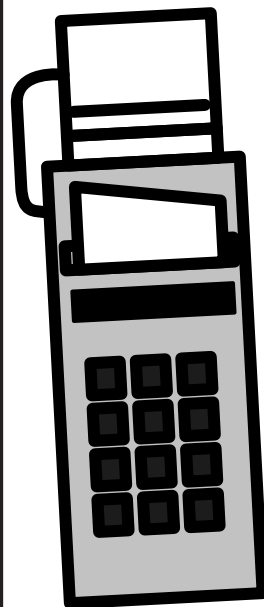
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tree huggers are the progressives

Editor:

Yes, there are definitely two sides to the (ficus tree) issue, as (Michael Tittinger) mentioned in “We aren’t just talking about trees anymore” (Oct. 10, opinion). While I give much of his appraisal of the situation kudos, I believe his labeling of the sides is incorrect. To be clear, the “progressive” city in this battle over the ficus trees are the tree huggers and environmental activists on the march. The development they are questioning is certainly a product of a conservative, money driven, build-till-we-can-build-no-more ideology. Spending our taxpayer money to move healthy trees into the jet wash at Santa Monica Airport: Is this about corporate welfare? Developer welfare?

At the City Planning Commission meeting on Oct. 3, with the tree issue on the agenda, it was easy to understand the myriad of reasons that so many of Santa Monica’s residents have mobilized I had never spoken before a city commission in my life, but was moved by the cause to do so against what seems to be an ill-communicated urban development project with suspicious omissions and illegalities.

This fight has little to do with keeping Santa Monica’s sleepy resort image intact, but more to do with the roots of Santa Monica’s progressive image. These trees are truly our future, especially in an age where our planet is gasping to tell us that something is wrong. We need to be progressive to find ways to keep the trees among us, to nurture them and to reinvigorate them in areas where the urban “hardscape” dominates.

Standing now to save trees may be our last stand as a species. Without them, without clean air to breathe, there may be no more of those childhood games of Wiffle Ball (Tittinger) mentioned so fondly in his commentary.

Rob Pawloski

Santa Monica

No love for Fifth Street

Editor:

I noticed that the ficus trees on Fifth Street also have “damaged” limbs, just like the ones on Fourth Street, yet these don’t pose a “hazard” requiring immediate removal. This suggests, to me, that either the city is negligent of public safety on Fifth Street, or, as most of us believe, they are misrepresenting their true motives.

Perhaps the \$8 million grant isn’t enough for “beautification” of Fifth Street.

Fredric Reichel

Santa Monica

Ground the jets before disaster hits

Editor:

I am 100 percent behind Friends of Sunset Park in their fight to ban faster aircraft from landing and taking off from Santa Monica Airport (“No fly zone,” Oct. 9). By now, everyone knows that the airport was not designed to accommodate fast flying jets, and the safety of residents surrounding the airport is at risk.

It would seem to me that the FAA would be more concerned about the dangers to residents presented by jets. It is unfortunate that their concern is “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” to insure the safety of residential homes situated close to the airport and runways.

Whose homes and lives are at risk by the ever-present danger presented by faster aircraft using the airport, where usage has increased from about 800 times a year during the 1980s to 9,000 in 2006? What will the count be for 2007?

Julia Reeves

Santa Monica



Barnes Burning

Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

‘War’ at home to be continued

I HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR THE know-it-all engineering geeks who spend their time inventing the latest and greatest technologies. When designing the next Tivo, iPod or search engine, consider that human beings (that is, selfish, stubborn, self-absorbed, desperately anxious creatures with the attention span of a gnat) will be using your machinery. While technology trends towards efficiency and ease of use, humans trend towards maximum chaos and disorder, with an occasional temper tantrum thrown in the mix.

Consider the average American trying to program a digital video recorder during television’s fall premier week. We’re not exactly talking about grace in action.

The wonders, freedoms and conflicts inherent to the TiVo/DVR experience have been well chronicled, so I won’t bore you with a re-hashed analysis of how this technology affects our modern life. I do think it’s worth pointing out that DVR gives users the illusion that they have many more hours in a day than are actually available. People like me, who don’t even watch that much TV, find ourselves looking at the fall schedule like a shopper at Costco looks at a sample station. “I might as well try that,” we say. “After all, it’s free.” Pretty soon we’ve recorded all of Hollywood’s rejectamenta and can’t even rightly discern the strange mishmash of new comedies and dramas clogging the box on top of the TV.

As Los Angeles residents, I think we’re all more susceptible to this deluge of scripted drivels since the hustlers who write, produce, direct and market the stuff live in our midst. And, of course, these new shows are promoted via massive billboard displays across the city that make each new cop drama on Fox look like the next “Dirty Harry.”

Added to this year’s overindulgence on small-screen offerings were two titanic events that shook the foundations of my household to the core: Ken Burns’ “The War” documentary and the baseball playoffs. I’ve already insisted that I’m not big on TV, but I should have qualified that statement with the fact that any documentary on American history or playoff game involving the Boston Red Sox will tether me to the couch like a terrorist detainee under the care of Dick Cheney.

Ken Burns, as everyone knows, made his name making laboriously detailed documentaries on the American experience. And his look at World War II is no different. It’s 14 hours of excruciating coverage of The Great War from the perspective of the average folks who fought and lived through it. To anyone who was

able to watch this kind of brooding intensity (which is the only term for this kind of stuff ... it lacks the explosion and quick fixes of an action film, but the sheer magnitude and honesty of the depiction are enrapturing) night after night, my hat is off to you. I DVRed everything and now have it staring me down from my “recorded list” like a tweedy, insistent professor of history. “Are you really going to play around on the Internet,” it seems to be saying, “while our boys are fighting tooth and nail against the Nazis in the Ardennes Forest?”

THE BOSTON RED SOX ARE THE MAIN REASON I CAN’T HONOR THE GREATEST GENERATION. THEIR PLAYOFF RUN HAS FURTHER PREVENTED ME FROM CLEANING OUT MY DVR INBOX AND, UNLESS THEY STUMBLE IN THE NEXT TWO ROUNDS, I DON’T SEE ANYTHING CHANGING IN THIS REGARD.

The Boston Red Sox are the main reason I can’t honor the Greatest Generation. Their playoff run has further prevented me from cleaning out my DVR inbox and, unless they stumble in the next two rounds, I don’t see anything changing in this regard. It’s a matter of time. I don’t have it. And until a piece of technology is invented to stretch the day to 30 or 36 hours, my private catalogue of TV programs will sit in digital purgatory.

I can’t manage my DVR. I can’t manage my life. These complaints are nothing compared to the challenge of fighting the spread of pure evil at all corners of the globe. But, hey, they’re my complaints.

Read more commentary on **SETH BARNES’** blog at www.barnesburning.com. He can be reached at seth@barnesburning.com.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An embarrassment of riches on demand

NEIMAN MARCUS UNVEILED ITS 81ST annual Christmas Book last week. Items in the Dallas-based luxury retailer's holiday catalog include a Gem Triton 1000 Two-Person Submarine (\$1.44 million), a rocket-team franchise (pilot included) for the world's first aerospace racing league (\$2 million) and a Swami Conversational Artificial Intelligence Robot (\$75,000).

This week — for the first time ever — Neiman Marcus released a few behind-the-scenes details about what it took to wrangle some of the items included in the famed catalog.

DOUBLE PORTRAIT IN CHOCOLATE

For \$110,000, Brazilian artist Vik Muniz will create a 5-foot tall, 4-foot wide portrait painted with Bosco Chocolate Syrup.

High-end cocoa companies Ghirardelli, Teuscher and Fauchon all vied for the enviable position of having its wares swirled around on canvas in the shape of a pair of the country's wealthiest 1 percent. However, Muniz, who has recreated Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" twice (once with peanut butter, another time with jelly), felt that the brands were too haute monde for his palate.

At one time, Hershey's Syrup was a contender, but after sampling the goods, Muniz decided that there was neither a smile in every bite nor was it really the great American chocolate bar (although he conceded it was still "pretty damn good").

Nestlé's Nesquik was also a finalist, but at the last minute, Muniz and Quicky, the Nesquik Bunny, were said to have encountered "creative differences." A Neiman Marcus spokeswoman declined comment when asked if the incident with Muniz is the reason why Quicky was reportedly seen bar-hopping in Las Vegas last weekend with ripped whiskers, a rumpled ear and torn cottontail.

VERTU SIGNATURE DIAMOND PHONE

With 7.2 carats of pink and white diamonds decorating the outside and precision-engineered innards, the cell phone being offered for \$73,000 works in more than 150 countries and comes with 24-hour global concierge service. Only 100 people worldwide can claim ownership of this mobile phone accompanied by a pink leather case.

The Neiman Marcus staff struggled about whether to include the phone in the Christmas Book, thereby joining an already

crowded cell market dominated by Apple's iPhone and Verizon's new LG Voyager. Among the drawbacks of the Vertu: Only ringtones by "American Idol" runners-up are available for download; no family-share plan currently is being offered; all rollover minutes have a one-year expiration date; and the instances of dropped calls among existing Vertu Signature Phone users is said to be the highest in the Hamptons, St. Moritz and Palm Beach.

CLASSICAL SUPERSTARS FANTASY CONCERT

The Kirov Orchestra and pianist Lola Astanova, led by Russian maestro Valery Gergiev, will perform Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite" at a private holiday recital for 500 guests hosted by Regis Philbin. Included in the \$1.59 million price tag is the Steinway Concert Grand piano used in the performance, which will be autographed by all the artists after the show.

Neiman Marcus settled on Philbin as the emcee when the search for a greater superstar came up empty a few days before the print deadline for the catalog. The hope had been to have a true fantasy figure — baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams — host the event.

Unfortunately, negotiations with Williams' children stalled when two of his children demanded Neiman Marcus pay the \$111,000 balance for Williams' body (which has been stored since his death in 2002 by Alcor Life Extension Foundation in Scottsdale, Ariz.). It became increasingly clear to all parties that there probably haven't been enough scientific advances to restore Williams to life after seven years of being cryonically frozen.

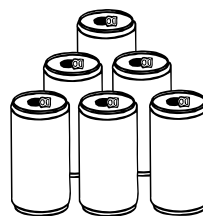
100-FOOT DRAGON TOPIARY

Starting at \$35,000, it's one of the least expensive selections in this year's holiday catalog. Sculpted by horticulture visionary Matthew Larkin, the grassy beast composed of 15 indigenous plants includes gold-leafed horns, claws, teeth and fins as well as blown-glass eyes and a custom-welded steel frame.

While preparing to mail out the Christmas Book to 2 million people, the eco-conscious staff at Neiman Marcus decided against including with the dragon a watering can and the maintenance services of a gardener ... because that would have been excessive.

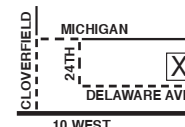
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The **Q-Line**

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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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OC Bishop stands judgment

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA A judge began criminal contempt-of-court proceedings this week against the Roman Catholic bishop of Orange County in a highly unusual hearing that marks the first time a U.S. bishop could face jail time in the church sex abuse scandal.

Bishop Tod D. Brown waived his arraignment for allegedly violating a court order when he sent a high-ranking church official out of the country before he could complete his testimony in a lawsuit. He could face a range of punishments from a verbal reprimand to jail time if found in contempt.

Brown, who appeared in court with his attorney, waived his arraignment before Orange County Superior Court Judge Gail Andler. His attorney, Peter Callahan, said outside court that the waiver amounted to

a not guilty plea.

The case stems from a sexual abuse lawsuit that was settled by the Diocese of Orange last week.

Plaintiffs' attorneys allege that during preparation for trial in that case, Brown sent Msgr. John Urell out of the country for medical treatment before he could complete a deposition in the case. Urell was responsible for handling sexual abuse allegations against the diocese.

Brown testified in a pretrial deposition that he made the decision to send Urell out of the country although he knew Urell "had given a deposition and was going to be called back for further deposition."

He said Tuesday that he chose to send Urell to Canada because it is one of few facilities that specializes in psychological care for clergy and because it could take him immediately.

Andler allowed attorneys from both

sides to deliver their opening statements in the contempt case before postponing the rest of the hearing until Dec. 3. She also ordered a subpoena on Urell to remain in effect until that date.

Callahan has also filed a motion to dismiss the contempt matter which will be heard the same day.

Venus Soltan, a plaintiff's attorney, said that Brown sent Urell away because he had critical evidence about the diocese's handling of sexual abuse that the bishop wanted to suppress. Urell was sent away a week after he broke down during his deposition by plaintiffs' attorneys.

"When Msgr. Urell was there for half a day, he couldn't take it because he was too upset about having to testify about hiding all these allegations," she said in court. "This is plain and simply hiding the facts."

Callahan, however, said there was no

evidence that a court order was in effect when Brown sent Urell away and asserted that a plaintiff attorney had verged on perjury in the court filings to the judge that precipitated the hearing.

He said that Urell specialized in clergy sexual abuse allegations and knew nothing about the current case, which involved allegations that a lay assistant basketball coach molested a 16-year-old girl at Mater Dei High School.

"I was disappointed that the judge didn't rule. We were hoping that the bishop would have the opportunity to exonerate himself by telling the truth but he didn't get the opportunity," he said.

Four alleged victims of sexual abuse settled for nearly \$7 million on Friday. The alleged abuse by lay teachers and staff occurred at Mater Dei and Santa Margarita high schools and at two local parish churches.

Gunman kills woman, self in tire shop attack

BY JACOB ADELMAN | Associated Press Writer

SIMI VALLEY A gunman shot a woman to death and wounded two men at a tire shop Tuesday, then apparently killed himself, police said.

Officers responding to reports of shooting went to the Tire Pros shop at about 7:30 a.m. and found a "chaotic" scene, with people lying in the office and garage areas, Sgt. David Livingstone said.

Livingstone identified the dead woman as Susan

Sutcliffe, 53.

Police declined to identify the suspected gunman, who Livingstone said appeared to have died from a "self-inflicted" wound.

But Ventura County deputy medical examiner Michael Tellez said the other fatality was Robert Becerra, 29, of Simi Valley.

Sutcliffe was also a Simi Valley resident, Tellez said.

Witnesses at the scene said Sutcliffe was sitting in a chair in front of the tire shop reading when the gunman

came up and shot her in the face, according to the Ventura County Star.

Livingstone told the Los Angeles Times police were ruling out robbery, and instead focusing their investigation on possible personal motives.

Dani Alley, who lives around the corner from the tire shop, said she went to the shop to investigate the commotion after the shooting, and saw officials covering the woman's body with a sheet.

"She was all slumped over," Alley said.

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Solicitation of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an Independent Review of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Special Education Program

October 2007

The Board of Education has directed staff to solicit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an independent review of the District's Special Education Program. This review will include a comprehensive assessment of program offerings, policies, practices and the operational budget.

Copies of the RFQ document are available in the Office of the Superintendent, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891.

The current RFQ schedule provides for a pre-submittal information meeting at 11:00 a.m. on November 2, 2007 in the District's Board of Education meeting room at the address noted above. Responses to the RFQ must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2007.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Board moves to delay school construction

The Los Angeles Board of Education voted to temporarily halt construction of a new school after homes and businesses in the area complained.

The board voted Tuesday to put the kindergarten-through-8th grade school in industrial Wilmington on hold.

The school would clear a handful of homes in the area along with a supermarket, a bank, a restaurant and several other businesses.

Project opponents requested a new search for alternate sites, and the issue was brought back to the table by board member Richard Vladovic.

“The vision of this community has not been heard to the extent it should have,” Vladovic said.

The school is already two years and \$4.3 million along. It would enable three overcrowded elementary schools to be taken off a year-round schedule and returned to a regular academic calendar.

New building codes scheduled to kick in Dec. 31 would add an estimated \$250,000 in costs to the project, said district regional development manager Roderick Hamilton. In addition, finding and evaluating another site is typically a two-year process, raising brick-and-mortar costs.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
District may split off 44 failing schools

The head of the nation's second-largest school district proposed splitting off 44 of the lowest-performing schools into what would amount to a special district until their academic scores improve.

The middle- and high schools would have separate operating rules, administrators and curricula and might include such reforms as all-boys academies, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent David Brewer III said Tuesday.

The program, which could be in place by next fall, could affect 105,000 of the district's 708,000 students.

The plan is one of several that involve creating smaller groups of schools within the huge district. Under a previously announced program, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will manage more than 30,000 students in two groups of schools.

Federal standards under the No Child Left Behind program require the district to develop plans to help low-performing schools.

AP

SANTA BARBARA
Natural history museum gets rare mammoth bones

The skeleton of a rare female mammoth found at a construction site finally has a home at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

The bones, uncovered in 2005 by a bulldozer operator grading a construction site in Moorpark, were delivered to the museum on Tuesday on the back of a truck.

The Moorpark City Council voted in July to donate the bones to the Santa Barbara museum instead of the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

The mammoth's skeleton has 8-foot tusks, stands 12 feet to 13 feet tall and is believed to be at least 800,000 years old.

Readying the bones for public display may take a couple of years, according to Paul Collins, the museum's curator of vertebrate zoology.

Collins said the mammoth was a nice fit for both the city and the museum.

AP

SANTA BARBARA
UCSB to host \$10M law and neuroscience program

A new national program on the law and neuroscience will be based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and funded by a \$10 million grant.

The three-year Law and Neuroscience Project will “bridge the fields of law and science in considering how courts should deal with new brain-scanning techniques as they apply to matters of law,” the Charles D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced Tuesday.

The project will involve two dozen universities.

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was named honorary chairwoman. UC Santa Barbara psychology Professor Michael Gazzaniga will serve as director and Dartmouth philosophy and legal studies Professor Walter Sinnott-Armstrong as co-director.

Three groups will study the topics of addiction, brain abnormalities and decision-making as they relate to criminal responsibility.

Each group will be directed by a neuroscientist and a legal expert and up to 15 others, including at least one judge, the foundation said.

“The MacArthur Foundation will provide critical new support for a pioneering area of research,” UC Santa Barbara Chancellor Henry T. Yang said in a statement.

AP

LOS ANGELES
LA school district expanding anti-dropout efforts

The nation's second-largest school district is expanding its efforts to curb dropout rates by reaching out to the Internet and radio.

A new program, “My Future, My Decision,” will include a text-messaging campaign, spots on radio station KPWR-FM and through Web sites Myspace and Facebook, the Los Angeles Unified School District announced Monday.

More than a year ago, the school district rolled out a \$10 million plan to keep at-risk students in school and re-enroll those who have left.

The LAUSD unveiled its Diploma Project in August 2006, with 80 advisers at 45 high schools and 34 middle schools working with teachers and students.

AP

Study: Back Pain Sufferers Benefit From New Technology

Santa Monica – “A recent study using a new technology shows a high success rate for a non-surgical procedure among chronic back pain and sciatica sufferers.”

That's what Santa Monica Chiropractor, Dr. Tim Bullock is saying about a treatment called Spinal Decompression. Dr. Bullock has been using FDA approved non-surgical spinal decompression in his office for over two years now. This treatment is a drug free breakthrough to treat back pain, disc herniation and sciatica.

“I am amazed at the results spinal decompression gets with patients who were about to give up searching for a solution for their problem. And how safe and easy it is... even for patients who have already had surgery. I am also shocked to learn that so few doctors throughout the country have this new technology available in their

office,” commented Dr. Bullock.

Due to the tremendous success in back pain patients using this technology, Dr. Bullock has made available a FREE DVD with all the latest information you must know now, to anyone suffering from a painful back caused by disc herniation!

“I want back pain sufferers to know they have an option other than drugs and surgery... an option that really works. I want to let them know there is finally REAL hope for their condition. Learn all the details in this free DVD.”

To get your free copy of Dr. Bullock's recently released DVD, just call (310) 562-6700 and listen to the 24 hr recorded message on how to have it mailed to you for free. Or log on to: www.lordexsamo.com and click on “Free Report.”

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

**FY 2006-2007 & FY 2007-2008 Street, Sidewalk, Drainage and Civic Auditorium
Parking Lot Improvement Project
SP2007**

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 31, 2007**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

No jobwalk scheduled for this project.

**ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: \$6,500,000 - 8,000,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 365
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$2,500 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: \$500 PER DAY**



Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **\$50.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **\$10.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class **A** license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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Le Marmiton	1327 Montana Ave	(310) 393-7716
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Louise's Trattoria	1008 Montana Ave.	(310) 394-8888
Marmalade	710 Montana Ave.	(310) 829-0093
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Patty's Gourmet Take & Bake Pizza	625 Montana Ave.	(310) 576-6616
Pradeeps	1405 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-1467
Ristorante Vincenzo	714 Montana Ave.	(310) 395-6619
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Spumoni	713 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-2944
Sushi Sho	1303 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-0035
Via Dolce	1627 Montana Ave.	(310) 458-1562
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Bizou Garden	2450 Colorado Ave. #1050	(310) 472-6020
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Chandni Vegetarian	1909 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-7060
Coogie's Cafe	2906 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-7871
The Corner Cafe	28th St. #121	(310) 452-2905
The Cutting Board	1260 15th St. #105	(310) 434-9924
Dagwoods Pizza	820 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 899-3030
Daily Grill	2501 Colorado Ave. #b-190	(310) 309-2170
Drago Restaurant	2628 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-1585
Dragon Palace	2832 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-1462
El Cholo	1025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 899-1106
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The Lincoln	2460 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-2217
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Maya Japanese Food	2840 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 453-2612
Manhattan Bagel	2216 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-3228
Nawab Of India	1621 Wilshire Bl	(310) 829-1106
Networks Cafe	2700 Colorado Ave. #190	(310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant	2031 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica	1601 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 395-6310
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Taqueria Chihuahua	1909 Lincoln Bl	(310) 874-2057
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Brunos Italian Rest Deli	1652 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co	301 SM Pier	(310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo	1442 2nd St.	(310) 587-0771
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Ivy At The Shore	1535 Ocean Ave.	(310) 278-2908
Jinkys Cafe	1447 2nd St.	(818) 981-2250
Jiraffe Restaurant	504 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 917-6671
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Kaiten Restaurant	1456 Third Street	(310) 451-8080
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La Salsa	#44 1401 Third Street Promenade	(310) 587-0755
La Serenata	1416 4th St.	(310) 204-5360
Le Merigot Hotel	1740 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-9700
Leonidas	331 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 417-8851
Light House Buffet	201 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-2076
The Lobster	1602 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-9294
Locanda Del Lago	231 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-3525
Loews Santa Monica	1700 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-6700
Manchu Wok	11 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 458-3558
Mariasol	401 Santa Monica Pier	(213) 626-5554
Michaels	1147 3rd St.	(310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant	424 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 576-6330
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Perrys Pizza	2600 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza	1200 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 458-3975
Perrys Pizza	2400 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Promenade Cafe	321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
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Real Food Daily	514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard	522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Rustic Canyon	1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787
Scarboni	312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
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Sushi Mon	401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku	Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
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Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
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IN THE AIR TONIGHT: Signs mandated under Proposition 65 have puzzled many of Santa Monica's renters for two decades.

Curious caution

Toxic warnings don't seem to be chasing away tenants

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK When Vanessa Ortiz moved into her new apartment on Marine Street two months ago, a foreboding little red-and-white sign proved a buzzkill.

"This facility contains one or more chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects or reproductive harm."

The small, obscure sign is affixed to the wall near the main entryway, warning residents in the two-story apartment complex of the potential dangers that lie ahead.

"It's a little awkward," Ortiz said, standing in front of her apartment unit last month. "But if they didn't post the sign, you wouldn't know and they're giving you a choice of if you want to stay in the place or not."

The signs — common in Santa Monica apartment complexes — are mandated under Proposition 65, also known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. The ballot initiative was passed to protect Californians against hazardous materials that can cause cancer and reproductive harm. Prop 65 warnings are often found in cleaning products, tableware and buildings.

In rental heavy Santa Monica, the signs can commonly be found in apartment buildings, which could contain cancerous chemicals in the paint, in the household cleaning products used by the residents and in the exhaust of the cars in the parking garages.

The state initiative requires that any business that has more than 10 employees must post a warning sign in their establishment as long as the building contains hazardous materials found in a list of cancerous chemicals released by the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment every year. The list includes everything from alcoholic beverages to airborne ceramic fibers.

In the case of apartments, the landlord would be obligated to affix a sign to their property if they employ more than 10 people, which could include the landscaping staff, an on-site manager, and even the building cleaning crew, said Debra Carlton, the vice president of public affairs for the California Apartment Association, which represents 50,000 rental property owners and management companies statewide.

"If you believe or make the assumption you may have chemicals on property that have been identified by the state of California as contributing to cancer or birth

defects, you have to post," Carlton said last week.

The most common cancerous chemicals found in apartments that cause the property owner to post a sign includes car exhaust, swimming pool chemicals and tobacco smoke.

"In some cases, where it's small amounts, it's considered to be safe," said Sam Delson, spokesman for the state Office of Environmental and Public Health. "But if it's above those thresholds, then it's the obligation (of the owner) to provide some kind of warning."

The warning signs don't seem to deter prospective tenants on the Westside.

Irma Vargas is one of the owners of RST Property Management Services, which oversees 200 buildings on the Westside, most of which are concentrated in Los Angeles.

The signs were posted shortly after a class action lawsuit was filed about five years ago when many apartment owners were sued for not notifying their residents about cancerous chemicals that could be found in the buildings. The lawsuit was settled out of court, with the apartment owners prevailing, Vargas said.

"When I first put them out in the very beginning, I got a number of calls," Vargas said. "Since then, nothing."

The warning signs don't seem to pose much of a problem for Carl Lambert, who owns a dozen buildings in the Santa Monica and LA area.

When Lambert first started posting the signs a few years ago, he thought his phone would ring off the hook with concerns from tenants. The phone remained silent.

The signs are posted in his buildings because of the asphalt in the roofing materials, household products and exhaust from the cars in the parking garage.

"It's bureaucracy run wild," remarked Lambert, the president of the Action Apartment Association. "It's like (warning) drinking alcohol may cause you to get drunk."

For Ortiz, what ultimately made her decide to stay in the Marine Street apartment is its location, situated just a few blocks away from the beach.

Her neighbors don't seem to mind the sign.

"You don't have a choice," said Ryan Thompson, whose last apartment, in Beverly Hills, exhibited the same sign. "Every place I've seen has them."

Still, the regulation has fostered confusion for prospective tenants unaware of the law.

"What's confusing to applicants is they come to one property, file an application and ask questions about the Prop 65 warning," Carlton said. "They go across the street and see no Prop 65 warning and can't figure out why."

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Council picks fight with feds

FROM NO JETS PAGE 3

er, as city staff must draft the ban and then present it to the council for a first reading. A date has yet to be confirmed, but officials hope to move forward soon.

The ban will almost certainly be challenged by the FAA.

Officials there have repeatedly said that they would fight any attempt to restrict certain types of aircraft from using the airport, setting the stage for possible litigation. The FAA has already blocked attempts to take more control over airport operations, most recently in 2002, when City Hall proposed making federally recommended safety enhancements that would have shortened the length of the runway by 300 feet on both sides. By shortening the runway, City Hall would have made it impossible for faster jets to land safely, forcing them to go elsewhere or carry lighter loads.

What makes the airport so dangerous is its location, according to city staff. Situated atop a plateau, there is a significant drop-off at the end of the runway, about 30 feet. Immediately west of the airport is 23rd Street, a busy two-lane road which feeds into the Santa Monica Freeway. Just over 300 feet from the runway ends are single family homes. The runway's west end sits above the roofs of the closest homes.

On the eastern end, the airport is bounded by another busy roadway, Bundy Drive. Across from Bundy, there is a dense residential neighborhood with a gas station to the south of homes.

Ian Gregor, a communications manager for the FAA, said that, despite claims by city officials, the FAA is willing to continue negotiating.

"The lines of communication between Santa Monica city staff and the FAA remain open," Gregor said.

The FAA was aware of City Hall's plan to ban the faster jets, which are capable of approaching speeds of 121 knots, or 131 mph. However, since an ordinance has yet to be drafted, Gregor would not comment on what action the federal agency will take.

Santa Monica must abide by a 1984 agreement 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.

City staff sees it differently. They said the agreement states clearly that the airport would be capable of accommodating "most kinds of aircraft," and set forth standards



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

A TALL TAIL INDEED: Buoyed by continual resident complaints, city staff is drafting an ordinance that would ban many of the larger, faster jets currently using Santa Monica Airport. The FAA is expected to fight the measure in court.

making the airport suitable only for slower aircraft, not the jets using the airport more frequently than ever before.

During the 1980s, when the agreement was signed, jet aircraft used the airport about 800 times a year. That figure grew to 9,000 annual operations in 2006.

has been working on the issue, said it is still too premature to talk about next steps. City staff will begin work on a ban and will also continue to lobby legislators in Washington, D.C. to see if they can pass a law giving City Hall control over airport operations.

Congressman Henry Waxman, D-Los

Anges, who represents Santa Monica, is said to be arranging meetings with fellow legislators and the FAA to come to a conclusion that satisfies City Hall's concerns.

Kate Vernez, an assistant to the city manager, said Waxman's office is trying to hold a meeting as soon as possible, no later than November.

"It is in their hands how quickly they can put this together," Vernez said.

During the public hearing, councilmem-

bers heard from scores of residents from Santa Monica and Los Angeles who expressed their desire for a ban, not only because of fears of a runway overrun, but also because of the harm caused by the idling jets' emissions.

"The air pollution danger is clear and present, it's proven, immediate and severe," Martin Rubin, president of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, told the council. "Your operation of the airport is torturing the neighbors day after day."

Susan Hartley, vice chair of the city's Airport Commission and a resident who lives near the airport, said she wanted to shout "hurray" after learning that the council was in favor of a ban on jets. She has been pleading with the council for years to take action out of fear that something deadly could happen.

"It has been stated many times that this is an accident waiting to happen, Hartley said.

WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR FEET ON THE GROUND."

Richard Bloom, Santa Monica mayor

FAA DEAL SHOT DOWN

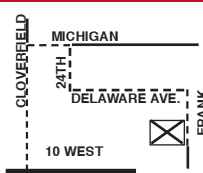
The FAA has proposed its own runway safety plan for Santa Monica. It included the installation of two, 130-foot collapsible concrete beds at each end of the runway that would be capable of stopping large aircraft exiting the runway at 40 knots (46 miles per hour) or less.

The council deemed that plan to be unacceptable.

Martin Tachiki, a deputy city attorney who

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SHAPING OPINION

Santa Monica College professor and artist Jeff O'Connell discusses his art show during the 'Catch the Art Train at Bergamot Station' forum Wednesday at the Santa Monica Public Library.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Cheap workers come at a price

FROM JOB SITES PAGE 1

day long and can easily keep tabs on someone's routine — when they wake up in the morning, leave for work, and whether or not they come home for lunch.

With that information in hand, they can easily plan a heist without drawing too much attention.

"I didn't give it much thought, to tell you the truth," said Margie Dabin, who lives on 26th Street near Ocean Park Boulevard, where workers are putting the finishing touches on a new condominium complex. "The neighbors next door just had their roof done. I just assumed that they hired good people to do the work."

Dabin made a mistake by assuming. While nothing happened to her or her family, she did hear that a neighbor down the street was burglarized. No one was sure if construction workers were to blame, but it did make Dabin think twice about not checking with her neighbor about the construction.

"It's just not something I was concerned about," she said.

Since many homeowners are in the market for independent contractors capable of completing small jobs, such as a kitchen remodel or new roof, chances are they are hiring workers who are not licensed by the state, or who are charging less because they are hiring unscrupulous characters to lay tile or install a window.

Unlicensed contractors are still allowed to work in California, but they can only take jobs that are \$500 or less, state officials said.

The Contractors State License Board holds periodic stings around California to catch unlicensed contractors who pass themselves off as being legit, making it harder for those who are to make a living. Licensed contractors go through a comprehensive screening process that includes an examination to test a contractor's skills and knowledge of the

law. They also must go through a background check and be fingerprinted.

"When you hire a licensed contractor, there are much better chances of getting someone who is clean and are trying to do things the right way," said Pamela Mares, a spokesperson for the state licensing board who has participated in stings to catch unlicensed contractors.

**WHEN YOU HIRE
A LICENSED
CONTRACTOR, THERE ARE
MUCH BETTER CHANCES
OF GETTING SOMEONE
WHO IS CLEAN AND ARE
TRYING TO DO THINGS
THE RIGHT WAY."**

Pamela Mares, a spokesperson for the
Contractors State License Board

"Unlicensed contractors, those people are scary," Mares said. "They carry a lot of legal baggage, and when we hold strings, it's not unusual to get people who are registered sex offenders. We had one guy who was wanted on a murder warrant. It's easy money. They can take cash and, to consumers, it may sound like a good buy. They see this guy willing to clean up their yard for really cheap, but you are running into people who are skirting the law."

"If they are breaking the law in one area, there's a very good chance that they are doing it in another area."

SEE JOB SITES PAGE 14

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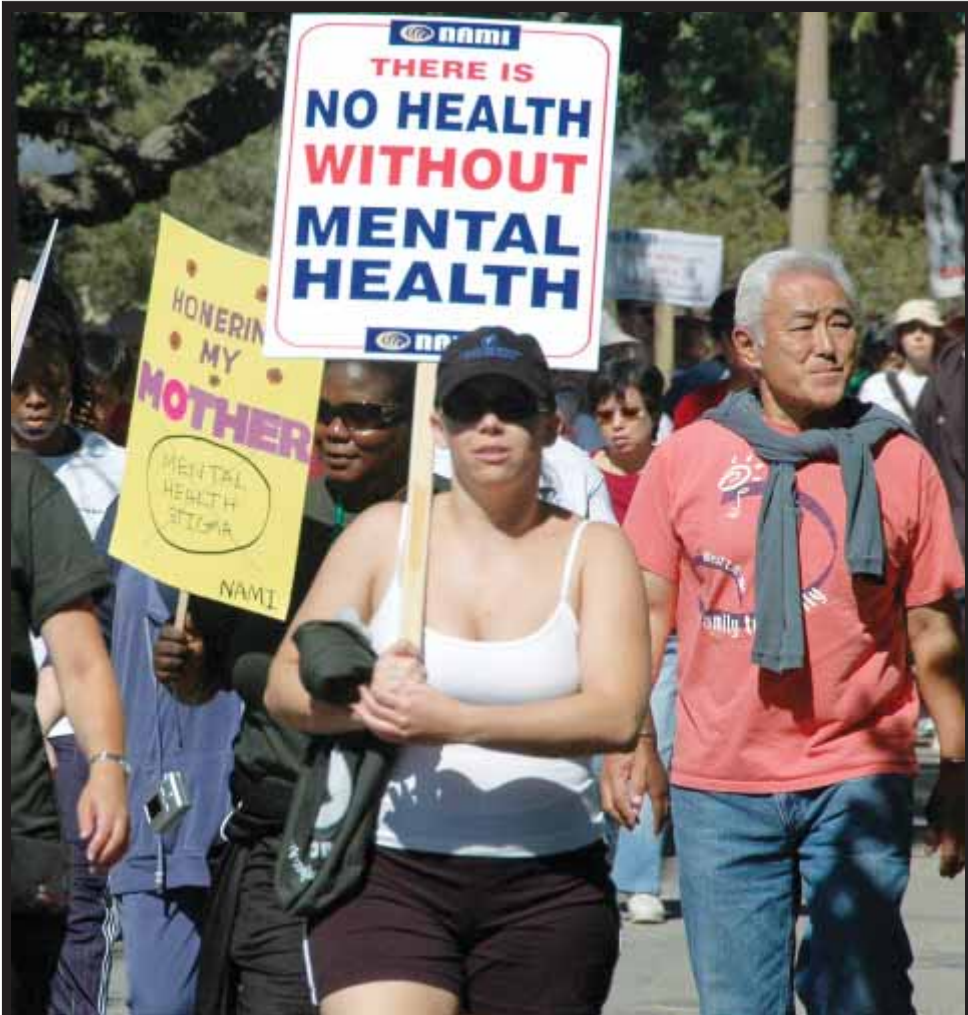
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GOING MENTAL

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Marchers head south in Palisades Park on Saturday as they take part in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) 2007 Namiwalks. NAMI, is a grass-roots, self-help, support and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of families who have relatives with a brain disorder (mental illness).

Residents urged to hire legit crews

FROM JOB SITES PAGE 13

TIME TO GET 'NEIGHBORLY'

To protect yourself, Mares recommends hiring a licensed contractor. To choose the right one, people should do a lot of research, just as they would if they were buying a car or hiring a baby-sitter to watch their newborn. Get references and follow up with phone calls, Mares said.

Also, check the licensing board's Web site to see if a licensed contractor has had any complaints or violations filed against them, she suggests.

"A contractor builds their business off of their reputation," Mares said. "A licensed contractor will more not want to take a chance and hire someone they do not believe is right because they have a lot at stake ... If someone files a complaint, we will investigate."

Once workers are inside your home or next door, it is important to not give them anything to steal. SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla said an important preventive measure is to hide jewelry or money and to keep certain rooms locked during the day.

"Talk to your neighbors," Padilla said. "If you're going to have some construction workers there for a few days, let your neighbors know about it. Share with them some information about the contractor and just keep that line of communication

open. It's all about being neighborly."

Padilla also recommended checking with the Better Business Bureau or the licensing board.

"With the (Internet) today, everything is at the touch of a button," Padilla said.

Obviously, not all plumbers, pipe fitters and bricklayers are crooks. In fact, some can be very helpful, which is why people should take the time to get to know their workers or, at least, introduce themselves.

Dabin did just that and found the workers at the condominium complex to be very helpful.

"I needed someone to help me move a refrigerator into the house, so I asked them," she said. "They were very nice and friendly."

The bottom line is be inquisitive and do research. After that, it is all about being aware and watchful. Even then, you can never know if the people doing work for you are going to do a great job or run off with a family heirloom, said Corral.

"You can hire the contractor and spend all the time you want making sure they have good references and do good work" Corral said. "But in the end, you have to put your trust in them that they will hire the right people."

kevinh@smdp.com

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Illness Awareness Week

OCTOBER 7-11, 2007

- One-fourth of Americans will have a mental illness in any given year or lifetime (NIMH).
- 2nd leading cause of disability by 2020 will be depression, after heart attack, according to the World Health Organization. People with depression are four times more likely to suffer from heart attack (LAT, Feb. 21, 2003, A9; NIMH, 1998).
- 8 million or 30% of individuals affected by a mental disability seek treatment (SGRMH, 1999; Epidemiologic Catchment Area study, Regier et al., 1993).

Some 98% of the severely mentally ill are treated with medications alone. Research has demonstrated that better outcomes are achieved when drug regimens are combined with psychotherapy and peer-facilitated group activities; discussion, social and recreational.

Ad provided and paid for by: West Los Angeles Council for the Disabled and Seniors, 410 Wilshire Blvd., #123, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Telephone: (310) 358-6089; Fax: (310) 395-7680.

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Dems put off getting troops home

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Congressional Democrats have put on the back burner legislation ordering troops home from Iraq and turned their attention to war-related proposals that Republicans are finding hard to reject.

The legislative agenda marks a dramatic shift for party leaders who vowed repeated votes to end combat and predicted Republicans would eventually join them. With Democrats still lacking enough votes to bring troops home, the party runs the risk of concluding its first year in control of Congress with little to show for its tough anti-war rhetoric.

"We can no longer approach the discussion on Iraq as a partisan issue," said Rep. John Tanner, a conservative Democrat from

Tennessee. "Our soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Guardsmen aren't fighting as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans."



**OUR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES, AIRMEN
AND GUARDSMEN AREN'T FIGHTING AS
DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS BUT AS AMERICANS."**

Rep. John Tanner, D-Tenn.

In the past week, the House passed two bills intended to curb misconduct by contractors in Iraq and one proposal by Tanner and Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, that requires updates on the Bush administration's plans for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. combat forces.

Following last week's rejection of a propos-

al by Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., to cut off money for combat, the Senate is expected to follow suit with similar bipartisan measures.

Delayed until early next year is debate on the \$190 billion the military says it needs to fund the war through September 2008.

There is little doubt that Democrats are biding their time and deliberating their next step. Democrats are divided on whether to continue paying for a war they oppose, or

cut off the money and be attacked politically for refusing to support the troops.

They also hope that Republicans will grow increasingly nervous about the war's effect on the 2008 elections. Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., who chairs the panel that oversees military funding, predicted last month that GOP lawmakers will jump ship after the primaries end.

"I see what happens to a Republican when they say we ought to start to get out," Murtha said. "They bash them. I mean they attack them viscerally and of course they're the ones that nominate them. Until that plays out we're going to have a problem."

Democrats calculate that the Pentagon has enough money for the war, through February or March, by borrowing against its annual budget.

Ex-stripper accused of stealing murder plot from '94 flick

BY DAN JOLING | Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska In the 1994 movie "The Last Seduction," a femme fatale coaxes her lover into killing her husband for money. Prosecutors say a beautiful stripper obsessed with the film followed the script to its murderous end.

Mechele Linehan, 34, is on trial on charges she masterminded the decade-old slaying of her fiance in hopes of collecting \$1 million in insurance.

Life and art were so similar, prosecutors say, that they even sought, unsuccessfully, to have the movie shown to the jury.

It's a case of sex, greed and manipulation that has

transfixed the Pacific Northwest, from Alaska to Washington state, where Linehan had made a new life for herself as a college graduate, doctor's wife and suburban soccer mom before cold-case investigators came calling.

Linehan, then known as Mechele Hughes, was one of the top girls at a strip club called the Great Alaska Bush Co. in 1996. A former co-worker said she was so sexy, she didn't have to dance to earn big tips; men would pay just to talk to her.

Prosecutors say that is where the blonde borrowed the plot of "The Last Seduction" and had her fiance, 36-year-old fisherman Kent Leppink, killed.

"If it was not for Mechele Linehan, Kent Leppink would be alive today because she set the stage and at least wrote the ending," prosecutor Pat Gullufsen told the jury in his opening statement. "All she needed was someone to do the dirty work ... someone to pull the trigger."

That person, the prosecutor said, was John Carlin III, another fiance of Linehan's. Carlin was convicted in April of murdering Leppink.

Leppink's body was found by utility workers on the ground near a lonely trail in Hope, more than an hour's drive from Anchorage. He had been shot three times with a .44 Magnum.

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

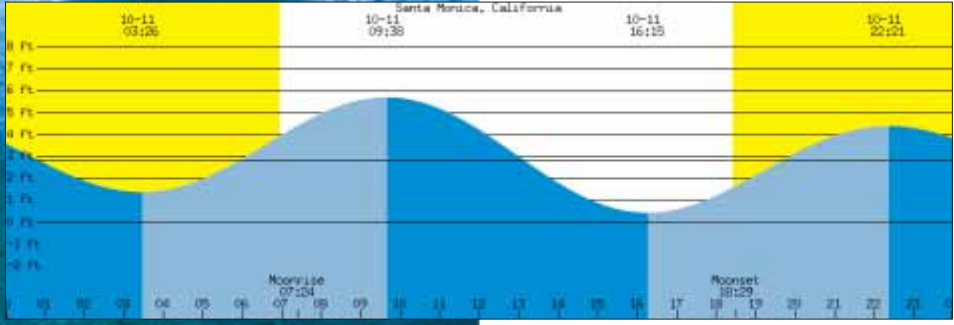
SWELL FORECAST (4-7 FT)

Today is when the NW swell makes full impact along the coast. As you may recall from my earlier reports, this is from a storm in the Gulf west of Oregon/Washington that is now kicking up impressive 30-foot seas. Models this morning are still on track, showing the fetch remaining mostly to the north, but with a good deal of its energy swiping SoCal with 290- 300-degree swell, consisting primarily of 11-second periods.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WEATHER, WIND, AND TIDE ISSUES IN THE FORECAST...

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

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



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.

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

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

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bears get whiff of the spotlight

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer



Photo courtesy of Cal

SPREAD THE NEWS: The second-ranked Bears host Oregon State on Saturday.

BERKELEY As much as California coach Jeff Tedford might want to downplay the national rankings, his players admit they had special interest in the developments around the country last weekend.

As soon as Southern California was upset by Stanford, the first thing many of the players did on their weekend off was check in on LSU.

If not for a late rally by the Tigers to beat Florida and preserve their No. 1 ranking, the Golden Bears could've been in the top spot for the first time since 1951 this week.

"I'm not going to lie. I say rankings don't mean anything, but I was watching the USC game," linebacker Greg Van Hoesen said. "I was watching the ticker and I was very excited. It's great. It's fun. But I don't want to let that get in the way of what we have to do this week against Oregon State."

Cal (5-0, 2-0 Pac-10) has to settle for the No. 2 spot in the polls heading into Saturday's game against the Beavers (3-3, 1-2). The last time the Bears were ranked this high came in 1951, when they made it to the top spot for one week before losing to USC.

Even so, Tedford isn't about to celebrate the accomplishment.

"It really makes no difference," he said. "It's no different for us whether we're two or six or three or 12 or whatever. It really doesn't matter until the end of the season what your ranking is. The target, the bull's-eye on us is there no matter what. Teams are going to come in and give you

NBA

What's in a name? This Coby is just trying to make the cut

BY JAYMES SONG

AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU Hey, Kobe! Or is it Coby?

It can sure get puzzling in the Los Angeles Lakers' training now that Coby Karl is there with Kobe Bryant.

"I've been called Kobe II, Karl, Coby Karl," Karl said. "Kobe calls me Coby. But the confusion comes when someone else says it, and he looks and I look. For the most part, I know who they're talking to, but he has to get used to having another Coby around."

Karl, son of Denver Nuggets coach George Karl, said Lakers coach Phil Jackson slipped once and called him "George."

"I've been called 'Little George' and 'Little Karl' before, but that's the first time I've been specifically called 'George,'" he said. "But I knew who he was talking to, so it's all good."

Derek Fisher said things can get mixed up, but so far the two players have been on different teams during camp.

"And there's a clear difference between one and the other," he said.

Luke Walton said he hasn't had a problem.

"When the first team comes out, you're

talking about Kobe. When red team comes out, you're talking about Coby Karl," Walton said. "He's playing great right now. He's a smart player and a lot of fun to have on the team."

Karl is named after his father's close friend and former San Antonio Spurs teammate, Coby Dietrick.

The undrafted free agent out of Boise State is fighting for a roster spot and is one of four players in camp without a guaranteed contract. The Lakers have 14 players under contract and have the option of adding one more.

Karl, a 6-foot-5 guard, averaged 12.2 points in five games for the Lakers' summer league team. He averaged 14.8 points and 4.0 assists as a senior at Boise State last season and was voted first team All-Western Athletic Conference. He is the Broncos' career leader in games played (127) and 3-pointers made (266) and ranks third with 1,698 points.

"I'm not going to change anything I've done. Try to be unselfish and help the team in whatever way I can," he said. "Hopefully I can knock down some shots because I think that's what they're looking for specifically."

Fond of Peter

‘Easy Rider’ memorabilia a hit with vintage film fans



PETER FONDA

The American flag taken from the back of the jacket worn by **PETER FONDA** in “Easy Rider” has sold for \$89,625 at an auction of the actor’s memorabilia from the iconic 1969 movie.

The Rolex watch that Fonda wore in the film was also part of the auction last weekend at Dallas’ Heritage Auction Galleries.

The prototype watch sold for \$33,460.

Heritage said the names of the buyers weren’t revealed.

“Vintage film fans were quite active in this auction, with material related to classic stars realizing stratospheric prices,” said Doug Norwine, director of music and entertainment auctions for Heritage.

Aside from items offered by the 67-year-old Fonda, the auction included memorabilia related to Peter Frampton, Elvis Presley and Abbott and Costello.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEING ON THE REBOUND

BOBBY BROWN spent a night in the hospital after suffering a mild heart attack, his attorney said Wednesday.

Brown had severe chest pains Tuesday night and was taken to two hospitals. He was admitted to Tarzana Regional Medical Center in the San Fernando Valley.

“This morning they did diagnose him as suffering from a mild heart attack ... they attributed (it) to stress and diet,” said his attorney, Phaedra Parks, in Atlanta.

AP

Reese’s picking up pieces

Witherspoon, Phillippe are divorced; couple co-starred in ‘Cruel Intentions’

REESE WITHERSPOON and Ryan Phillippe are officially single.

The couple’s divorce was finalized Oct. 5, according to court documents.

Witherspoon cited irreconcilable differences when she filed for divorce on Nov. 8, 2006. The couple were married for seven years and have two children, 8-year-old daughter Ava and 3-year-old son Deacon.

Witherspoon, 31, and Phillippe, 33, co-starred in the 1999 movie “Cruel Intentions” and were married that year. Their separation was

announced last October.

Witherspoon won the best-actress Academy Award for her portrayal of June Carter Cash in 2005’s “Walk the Line.” She can next be seen in “Rendition,” co-starring Jake Gyllenhaal, which is due out later this month.

Phillippe’s screen credits include “Crash,” “Flags of Our Fathers” and “Breach.”

Court documents confirming the divorce were first posted by the celebrity Web site CelebTV.com.

AP



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

Vanish if you like, Scorpio

Happy Birthday!

This year unusual creativity marks your life. Many people see you as an endless source of ideas and fun. You make others think that it is easy to come up with answers and solutions. Expect more satisfaction and happiness. If you are single, you radiate, and others respond accordingly. This year comfort will be primary in choosing a sweetie. That person might not suit you in following years.



Born Today

Quarterback Steve Young (1961)

Comedian Artie Lang (1967)
Novelist Elmore Leonard (1925)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ New beginnings become possible within a relationship. You laugh and relax as you haven’t in a while. Recycle, and you might see the world quite differently. You are coming from a place of wholeness. Tonight: Sort through your offers first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might be quite surprised by what is going on within your immediate circle. Listen and make decisions that are relevant to you. You might opt for a new exercise program or diet. Tonight: Choose healthy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ A new beginning is possible in a relationship. If you are single and want to change your status, take the first step. Although wishing upon a star might not work, you could start realizing your desires. Tonight: Indulge a child or loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might be happy lying low. A change on the home front must be to your liking in order for you to work with it. Understand what you want. Tonight: A dear friend proves to be unusually resourceful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to approach a situation differently from in the past. If you decide to walk a new course, make a wish with today’s New Moon. You are capable of tremendous change and growth. As a result, others will respond differently. Tonight: Speak your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A financial change might be just what the doctor ordered. If you want to change gears or do something very differently, do. Though a work situation has an element of vagueness, you could easily gain from it. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ A New Moon in your sign implies that a change is possible professionally or in your personal life. What a great moment to start a project you have been putting off! In any case, focus on your true desires. Today you are a manifestor. Tonight: All smiles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You make a resolution about a long-overdue diet or perhaps doing some volunteer work. Focus on a personal matter rather than the many people around you. Tonight: Vanish if you would like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to try something differently from in the past. You also have the opportunity to take action or make a mental decision and see the end results. Trust in the power of your will coupled with your imagination. Tonight: Fun and games.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ If you want to head in a different direction, do. You have more strength and energy than you realize. A decision you make today is likely to stick. Go for what you want. Others sense your strength and dedication. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You want to veer in a new direction, and the timing might be right-on. Some of you might be thinking about going back to school. Be honest about your expectations. Others will respond. Tonight: Opt for a different restaurant or a different type of happening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Once more, you might want to defer to a partner or loved one. You could be on overload and feel as if you need to depend on others. Make that OK. Your sense of humor emerges with ease. Tonight: Talk turkey with a pal.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

My Brother is an Only Child (NR)
7:30

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

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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

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
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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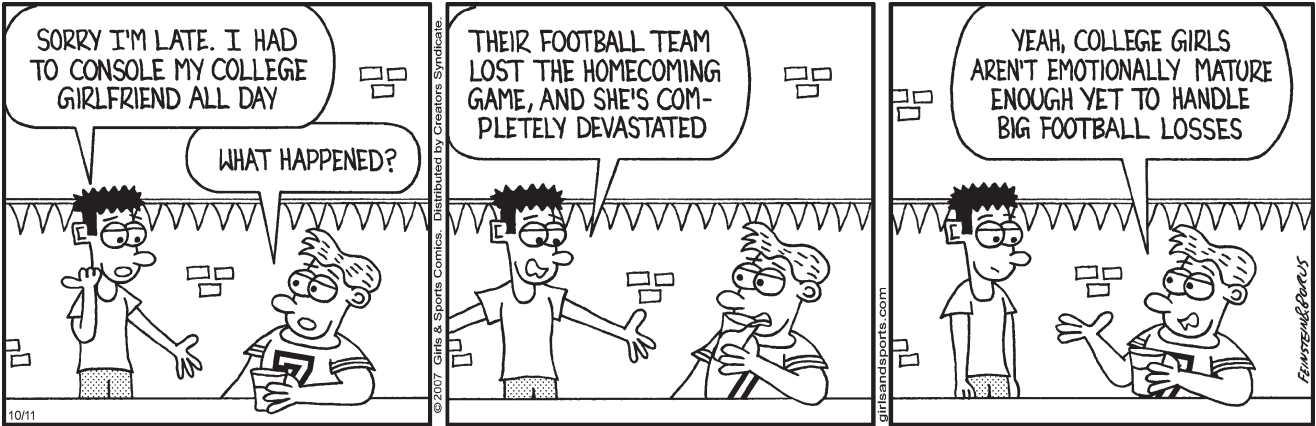
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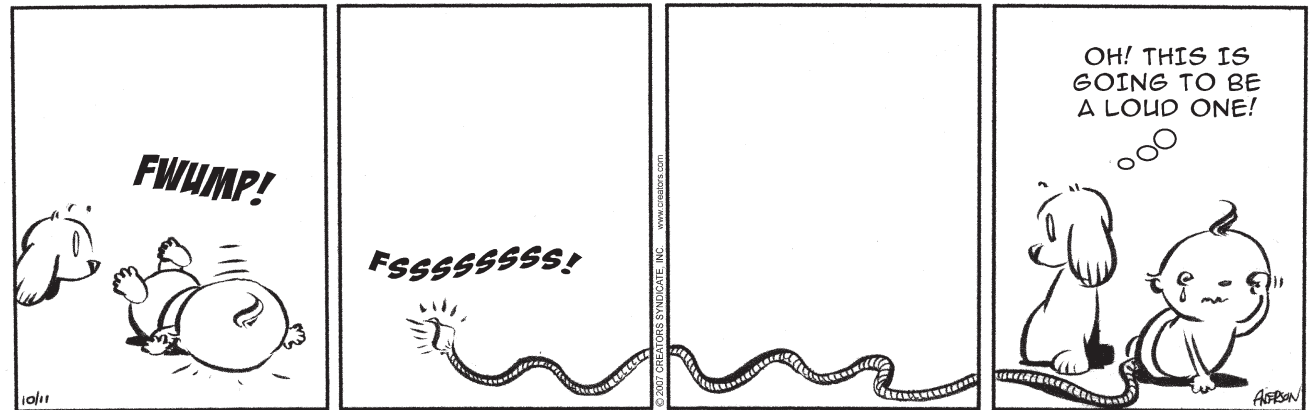
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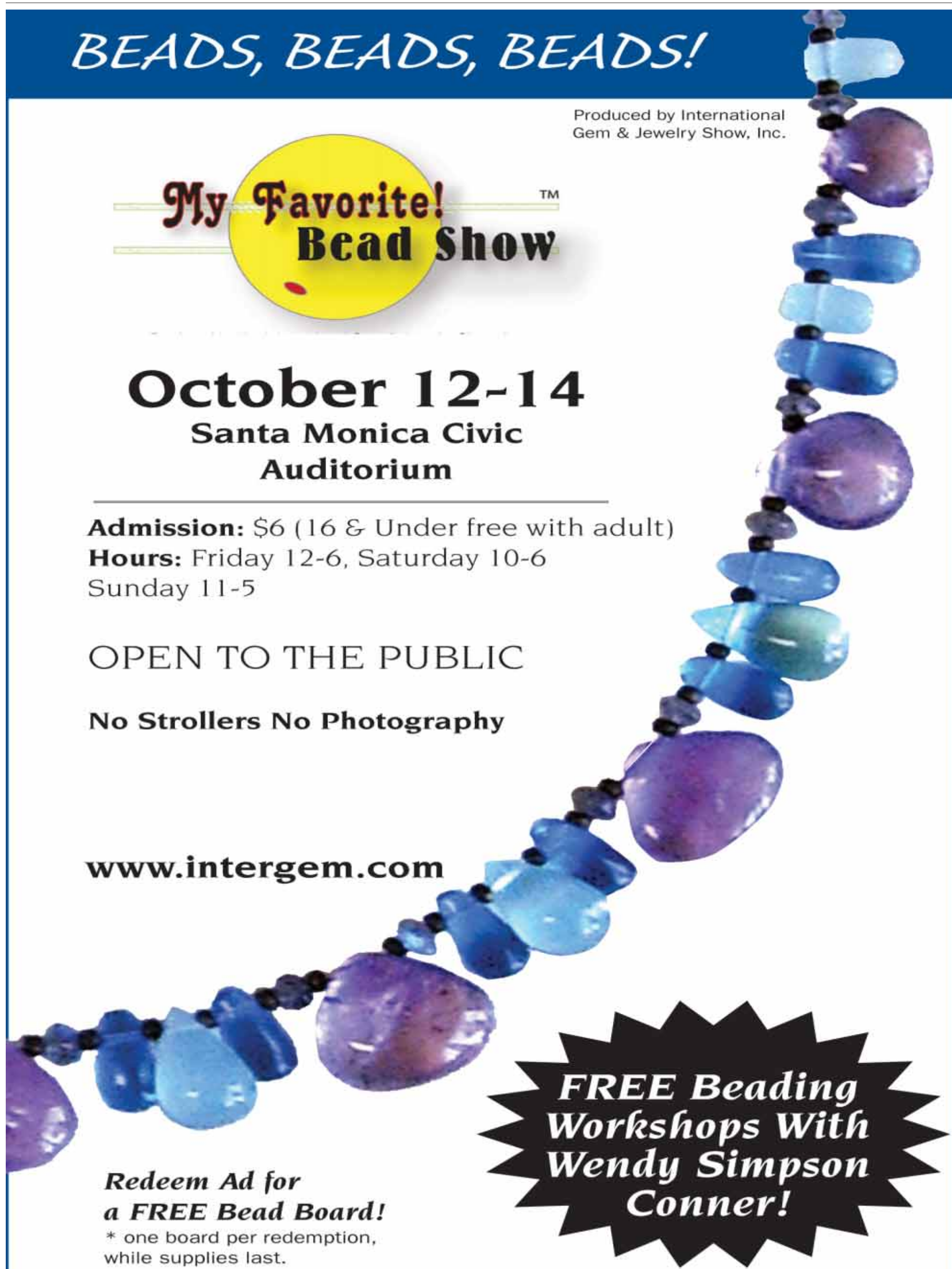
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DBAS

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Document Record # 20072220620
Current File No. 20071900098
State of California, County of Los Angeles
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name:
BOND GIRLS BAIL BONDS
located at 410 BAUCHET STREET LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 8/13/2007
In the county of LOS ANGELES.
COURTNEY LOUISE STANLEY, 417 SOUTH HILL ST. #431, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013 CYNTHIA JOANNE STANLEY, 417 SOUTH HILL STREET #431, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013
This business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
/s/ COURTNEY LOUISE STANLEY, CYNTHIA JOANNE STANLEY This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/26/2007. Published: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 9/27/2007, 10/4/2007, 10/11/2007, 10/18/2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072220621 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BOND GIRLS BAIL BONDS AII/ON 2948872, 410 BAUCHET STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : BOND GIRLS, INCORPORATED, CALIFORNIA, 68 DEER FLAT ROAD, MONTERREY, CA. 94940 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/: BOND GIRLS, INCORPORATED, VICE PRESIDENT, CYNTHIA JOANNE STANLEY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/26/2007. 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 9/27/2007, 10/4/2007, 10/11/2007, 10/18/2007

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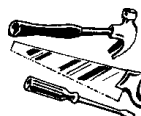
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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,781,917	\$ 946,281
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,040,000	\$ 669,003
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