



Santa Monica Daily Press

DEALING WITH EMPTY NESTS
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SILLY MISFITS ISSUE

The sun also sets

New solar technology hits City Hall in the pocketbook

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL While it likes to promote Santa Monica as a sustainable city that goes out of its way to embrace alternative fuels, for nearly two years, City Hall has failed to find a full-time employee responsible for signing off on solar projects, according to interviews with contractors and city staff.

The lack of a permanent plan checker, coupled with the lack of experience with green building requirements on behalf of contractors and building inspectors, has created a backlog of projects needing approval. This has reinforced

Santa Monica's reputation for being a bad place to do business, contractors said.

"I think Santa Monica has very good intentions, but like always, they have developed a system that is so complex and administratively burdensome," said Noah Golden of Golden Energy, a Santa Monica-based solar energy-systems consultant. "They want to be supporters of solar, but they go about it in a very contorted way, relying on contract employees."

Or in the case of mechanical, electrical and plumbing, just one contract employee.

Dan Macy left Santa Monica in December 2005 for a similar job in Newport Beach. Macy said that he would have preferred to stay in Santa Monica, but City Hall refused to match Newport Beach's offer, so he left.

The following month, City Hall came calling. They were in desperate need of a plan checker with Macy's qualifications, given that the position was very technical and demanded a lot of expertise. Macy was one of a handful of people in the state who could perform all the tasks required, city officials said.

SEE SOLAR PAGE 11

EDUCATION



MAKING A COMEBACK

Webster Elementary in Malibu reopens after fire

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10

Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com



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Calendar

2

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Happy Holidays



Thanksgiving Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.

Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Halloween Family Flick: 'Monster House'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Trick-or-treaters can gear up for the Main Library's Fall Festival celebration at this free screening of the computer-animated flick, "Monster House." All ages welcome. Seating is first come, first served.

Giving can be a gas

1450 11th St., 7 a.m. — 7 p.m.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is holding a 'drive through' fundraiser in the chapter parking lot. Volunteers and staff from the Red Cross will collect donations from the public to be used for regional fire disaster relief. For more information, call (310) 394-3773 x 106 or visit www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

Tippi Hedren returns to school

1660 Stewart St., 1 p.m.

Tippi Hedren — the iconic actress best known for her starring turn in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," and who now devotes much of her time to her wild animal preserve near Los Angeles — will give a free presentation at Santa Monica College's Academy of Entertainment & Technology; Room 235. Hedren will talk about her acting, producing and wildlife efforts with the students. The presentation is open to the public but seating is limited. For information, call (310) 434-8278.

Story time Tuesdays

11360 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

The West L.A. Library offers stories and crafts for kids every Tuesday morning.

Su mo' singing

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.

SumoSkinny, Leaha Boschen and Brienne Moore will perform tonight at Temple Bar. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information, visit www.templebarlive.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007

Haunted House of Vibe

1432 Fourth St., 9:30 p.m.

Soul, Funk and R & B at Harvelle's tonight. Cover charge is \$7. For more information, visit www.harvelles.com.

Spooktacular Extravaganza

Santa Monica Place Mall, 4 p.m. — 7 p.m.

All activities, including mall-wide trick-or-treating and a costume contest are free for children up to 13. Trick-or-treating bags, spooktacular goodies and prizes are available to all children who come.

Getcha shine on

6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Cinespia presents a special non-season screening for Halloween. Grab some blankets, dinner and drinks and dig in on cemetery grounds to catch Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining." For more information, visit www.cinespia.org.

Funky souls

1026 Wilshire Blvd., doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Get your Halloween freak on indoors to some Hip Hop, Soul and Funk with Reflection featuring, Medusa, Zane One, Black Bird and DJ Jedi. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. For more information, visit www.templebarlive.com.

An enchanting lunch

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Storytelling, an enactment of a Halloween-themed fairy tale, lunch, and more make up Halloween Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre — an event for 3- to 5-year-olds and their folks. Ticket prices are \$25 for children; parents are free (including lunch) and participate throughout. Reservations are a must. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com for more information.

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



Time to talk some trash

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL To the victor belong the spoils.

Determining who will be responsible for processing recyclables and collecting waste generated by local businesses over the next 15 years could be decided tonight, when the City Council reviews offers made by its own Solid Waste Management Division and some of the industry's top garbage men.

Solid Waste, which currently collects all garbage and recyclables deposited in residents' blue and black bins, is considered the frontrunner for the business contract, offering the best combination of price and services, and providing City Hall with the greatest control over labor and operational issues — virtually guaranteeing non-interruption of service and the ability to change to meet sustainability goals, according to a report by a committee charged with evaluating the proposals.

Currently, Solid Waste competes with private companies

for commercial collection. If the council decides to go with Solid Waste, the commercial market would be closed to outside haulers.

For the last two years, City Hall has been engaged in an extensive review of solid waste operations in an effort to be more efficient and save money while cutting back on the number of garbage trucks that travel through downtown, creating gridlock and pollution.

SEE TRASH PAGE 12

TV networks prepare to turn to reality

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES TV viewers hooked on cliffhanger episodes of hit shows such as "Heroes" and "Grey's Anatomy" could be left dangling if writers walk off the job.

With Hollywood writers poised to log off their laptops as soon as Thursday, TV networks were bracing for the need to fill the airwaves with reality shows, game shows and even reruns if a threatened strike devours their script inventory.

Viewers could start seeing an onslaught of unscripted entertainment by early next year, when popular series such as "Desperate Housewives" and "Heroes" run out of new episodes.

"I was in a network meeting today, and they were referring to the fact the timing is really good for reality producers," said producer Mark Cronin.

He and partner Cris Abrego have been consistently busy with shows such as "Flavor of Love," "I Love New York" and "The Surreal Life."

But "it's going from 50 mph to 70 mph," Cronin said, adding that networks must "protect themselves and fill their airspace."

Members of the Writers Guild of America and the group representing film and TV producers were set to meet Tuesday with a federal mediator after scant progress in contentious talks that have dragged on since July. With the current contract set to expire at midnight Wednesday, negotiators remain far apart on the central issue.



SONNY DELIGHT

Boston Red Sox fans cheer on their team Sunday night inside Sonny McLean's Irish Pub. The Wilshire Boulevard pub, which caters to Boston-area sports fans, was full to capacity as the Red Sox swept the Colorado Rockies to win the 2007 World Series, their second title in four years.

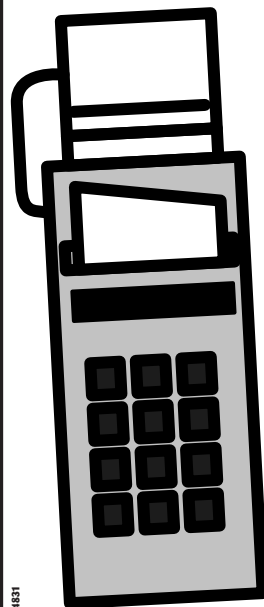
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Renters need to help carry load

Editor:

(Re: "Seeking help for schools," Oct. 24)
In a city that prides itself on equality and is one of the rent control strongholds of the nation, wouldn't it be fair for the renters who are saving so much on monthly housing payments to contribute to the ballot measures that benefit them just as much as property owners? It strikes me as rather lopsided that the 30 percent of the citizens of Santa Monica who are property owners are singled out time and again as a piggy bank to pay for ballot measures for the other non-owning 70 percent. Certainly, all residents — owners and renters alike — should contribute to the finance and maintenance of Santa Monica.

Asking property owners to foot the bill for the entire city while restricting them from receiving market value income from the very people whose rents they are forced to subsidize by the city is unjust. And make no mistake, rent control is most certainly a city government subsidy that private citizens are forced to pay.

Let's be realistic. Does anyone think if the city owned all those rental units that they would restrict themselves to a fraction of the revenues they could receive, all the while assessing fees to themselves for project after project as they do to property owners?

Many property owners are just working class people who put their housing funds toward a mortgage instead of rent and are providing housing in the process. So let's ask ourselves, would it be fair to require everyone who owns a car to pay for the bus passes of those who don't?

You live in the city, you contribute ... not just one-third of you, but all of you.

Scott Baron
Santa Monica

Paper bags aren't all that

Editor:

So the City Council wants to ban grocery stores, etc. from using plastic bags and instead use paper bags ("Up for grabs," Oct. 12). Well, well, and where, pray tell, do paper bags come from? Oh, trees. We all know how expendable trees are to the City Council.

Paper bags may be more friendly to the environment, but they come from trees, which are in short supply, in spite of what the City Council thinks. Or they can always donate the trees they wish to cut down on Fourth and Second (streets) for the paper bags.

In all the world, isn't there someone who can make biodegradable containers and bags available to grocery stores and restaurants? They make them for pet waste pick up.

Paper is also using up a valuable resource, especially when people don't recycle. In my alley alone, I continually see large cardboard pieces and newspapers in the garbage containers where there is a blue recycle container nearby. They City Council would be better off forcing landlords and homeowners to use the recycle bins or be fined heavily. That would eliminate a lot of the problem.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Send some of that clear air east

Editor:

(Re: "What smog? SM honored for clean air initiatives," Oct. 24)

Santa Monica has shown that it can aggressively address environmental concerns; however, one should look more closely at the big picture when deciding how Santa Monica scores regarding addressing air quality issues. Although changing city vehicles to hydrogen fuel and smoking bans are commendable, the city has not taken aggressive steps to deal with the enormous air pollution problem coming from the jet operations at its airport; a problem that tips the scale heavily down into the negative when all is taken into consideration.

Members of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution have complained about the horrible odor and the black soot of the jet fumes.

Perhaps they can install a hydrogen refueling station at the airport for jets.

Martin Rubin
Director, Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The true horror of the holidays

TOMORROW NIGHT, THE TROLLS, GOBLINS

and ghouls, along with the princesses and pirates, will be stalking the neighborhood in search of goodies and treats. The annual ritual of dressing up and terrorizing the neighborhood, which in my childhood was a small holiday, of no great value, has grown and improved so that now it is a cause of major parties, and not just in West Hollywood.

Most months have a reasonably good excuse to throw a party, whether it be a St. Patrick's Day drunk fest, which somehow honors those of Irish heritage with gallons of dark beer and fools being sick in the parking lot, or the faux romance of St. Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to making the single feel less than accomplished.

Holidays are kinda funny. They basically are used by marketing departments to sell products. Historically, they represented a break in a routine; bringing a joy to life, where families gathered and spent time together making a feast, and reacquainting with each other.

These days, they are fast becoming nothing more than an opportunity to increase the bottom line for those dreaded corporations who make our lives busier and blander.

In a world where every major grocery store has pre-packaged holiday dinners "for your convenience," where I can buy a Santa in September, and every holiday has been so commercialized as to wipe it free of any religious meaning, I don't think the problem is me.

What with the advent of a marketing calendar that now plans 12 months in advance, you can be sure that we will only see an increase in the overall advertising and drive to extract money from our pockets for things that we don't need. I'm not opposed to such a thing on philosophical grounds, as a hard core capitalist, in fact, I spend time trying to figure out how to incorporate that into my own marketing messages.

On a personal level, however, it scares me.

It scares me because the years are flying by faster and faster, and in a year like this one, where the holidays come rapid fire, (this year's Thanksgiving is only 23 days away!) it becomes harder and harder to relax and actually enjoy the days as they unfold; which, coincidentally, makes it more and more important that we actually do stop and slow down to enjoy the days.

I had this confirmed to me today. I was sitting in the lobby of a hotel, writing this column, and a gentleman sat down next to me. We got to chatting about what I do as an entrepreneur, lawyer and writer. He had made millions of dollars and, at 65, had just suffered two heart attacks. He had worked hard his whole life, had been through two marriages and missed the raising of his son.

We spoke at length about the value of taking time to enjoy your life and making happiness a priority. He reminded me that the memories of today are what matter, that to be in the moment and enjoy the people you are with, is more important than the dogged pursuit of some goal.

In his case, it was important to make the multi-million dollar merger happen, but he said: "What's the point of it all if you don't have someone to come home to at the end of the day and share the joy of the success?" As a retired Green Beret, he knew how to drive home a point, and he gave me a thorough lecture on the value of balance in one's life.

Balance is a difficult thing to achieve. We can easily become overwhelmed with work, the need to make the holiday home "Martha Stewart Perfect" and buying gifts for everyone

THESE DAYS, THEY ARE FAST BECOMING NOTHING MORE THAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THE BOTTOM LINE FOR THOSE DREADED CORPORATIONS WHO MAKE OUR LIVES BUSIER AND BLANDER.

to make them happy. But it's all just an illusion.

When I look back at my life, at the parties I've thrown and attended, the work I've done, and the times that I put "a project" ahead of my friends, I always realize that I don't have great memories of the work, but I always have great memories of my friends. I can't tell you what the flower arrangement was at my last party, but I can tell you who was there and the funny stories that happened as a result.

The holidays are here, the year is almost over, and it will be in the blink of an eye.

My law partner's wife always says that memories are made today, so did a guy named Jack. The point is, focus on the important things: Your friends, your family, wear a costume, make a pumpkin pie ... remember that you'll always remember a party, and almost never a day at the office.

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Guest Commentary

California's former governors

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We need a Plan B for the Southland

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEEDS TWO essential elements for its future success — economic prosperity and quality of life. We can't have one without the other, and we won't have either if we don't plan for the future. Unfortunately, Plan A — relying on the government to fund our critical infrastructure needs — is no longer a viable option.

Over the next 20 years, our region will grow by more than five million people (more than two Chicagos). And most of this population growth will be internally created, not "imported." Meanwhile, goods movement to and from booming Asian economies will triple along our trade corridors. As the port of entry for more than 40 percent of the nation's waterborne imports, Southern California faces both the challenges (congestion and air quality) and the opportunities (more than a million new, good paying logistics industry jobs) linked to this growth.

We need to plan and build the necessary infrastructure if we are to preserve our future success. Such needs include modern, clean transportation systems for people and goods; more reliable water supplies; additional schools; health care and other public service facilities to meet the needs of an aging population; new housing for our children; and wide area communication and data networks to attract and grow future technology-based industries.

California took a dramatic first step last November by passing propositions to help fund our future transportation, water, school, housing and environmental needs. However, a year later, little of this funding has been put to work. In order to balance the state's 2007 budget, \$1 billion of the gas tax money was again diverted to other state needs. None of the Proposition 1B goods movement infrastructure funds were authorized either. Now the State Treasurer is warning that the fiscal imbalance could continue for 20 more years. The federal government echoes much of the same: Too many needs, not enough money.

It's clear we need a new solution, a Plan B, to ensure our state's future success. We can do so by creating "Public Private Partnerships" or "P3." Through P3, most of the highway, bridge, rail, water conveyance, public health and other facilities projects are paid for out of a combination of taxpayer-

supported bonds, private equity and debt, and fees charged to those who actually use or benefit from the infrastructure and services.

One successful model in British Columbia created a "state enterprise agency" to identify P3 opportunities and then impartially evaluate private- or public-sector involvement while focusing on ensuring the long-term protection and benefit of the community.

WE NEED TO PLAN AND BUILD THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE OUR FUTURE SUCCESS.

Why haven't we started? Because Sacramento needs to pass legislation enabling P3 to function in this state. Senate Bill 61 (Runner), supported by the governor, is a first step, but is stuck in the Assembly because of opposition by public employee unions who believe their jobs may be threatened. What they don't understand is that without this Plan B, a lagging economy and dwindling state revenue stream will indeed threaten their jobs and retirements.

We need a bigger solution. We need a fair, open process that clears the way to plan for major new infrastructure projects that attract private sector planning, management and financial skills, while protecting the long-term interests of the broader community.

The time to move forward is now. Each year we fall farther behind. We already have the worst congestion and air quality in the nation. Either we implement Plan B and ensure a vibrant future for all, or we face impending gridlock and a slow decline into a Third World existence.

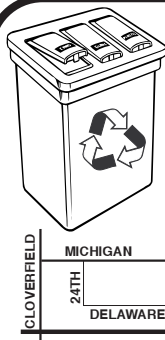
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The Q-Line

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Going to pot

City officials have been accused of dragging their feet when it comes to allowing medical marijuana dispensaries into the city. Some city bosses say it would be more trouble than it would be worth.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the city welcome dispensaries as they would any other state-approved business? What safeguards do you believe should be put in place if such a thing were to occur?

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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Empty nest leaves a void

Santa Monican starts groups for parents dealing with loss

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Louise Green had been through this before.

It was the same routine that the Santa Monican had experienced with her two eldest children, emptying the bedroom, packing the boxes and shipping them off hundreds of miles away.

Still, those heartfelt good-byes hadn't prepared her for when her youngest child, Santa Monica High School graduate Jazzy, headed off to college in Oregon over the summer.

Gone were the 6 a.m. rides to wrestling practices, the family dinners and the noise of teenagers that filled the household.

"I knew it was time, it was time for her to go," Green said. "I was excited for the opportunity, but she was the last kid out of the three to go off ... it was sadder."

It's a feeling of loss and sadness that many parents experience when their children finally leave home, whether it be to go away for college, off to the military or get married. Empty Nest Syndrome is an emotional reaction to changes, often caused by a parent's realization that their child no longer needs



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

ROOM AT THE INN: The so-called 'Empty Nest Syndrome' is an emotional reaction to changes, often caused by a parent's realization that their child no longer needs to rely on mom and dad.

to rely on mom and dad.

A child leaving home can have varying effects on the parents, depending on how closely their lives were tied to child-rearing. The men and women that experience a milder level of the empty nest effect typically are ones that dedicated other aspects of their lives to activities other than parenting, taking up hobbies or perhaps working part-

time, according to Richard Gilbert, a professor of developmental psychology at Loyola Marymount University.

The syndrome affects women more than men, but there has been an increase in fathers talking about the feelings of loss they're experiencing, Gilbert said.

But rather than dwell, parents should embrace.

"See it as a culmination of a job well done instead of some sort of loss," Gilbert said. "It's a loss, but a loss that means you've done what you needed to do."

The first few weeks after Jazzy left in August were challenging for Green, especially since her daughter didn't appear to be adjusting well to college, calling three or four times a day about the difficulties she is facing with cash flow and balancing her schedule.

After a while, as Jazzy started making more friends, the calls started to subside, as did Green's feelings of sadness.

"I'm planning a wedding for my other daughter so it's taken my mind off of it," she said.

Connie Delgadillo is in the same situation that Green was in more than 10 years ago when her first child went off to college. The mother of three children just saw her oldest son head off to the University of California at Merced, the first in his family to seek higher education.

As soon as her son, Sean Crosse, left for college, Delgadillo started worrying, wondering if her son was maintaining a healthy diet, waking up on time, working on his homework — all the things she had control over when he was still living at home.

"It's scary for me as a mom to give him total independence and responsibility," Delgadillo said.

Unlike many teenagers, Crosse, who graduated from Samohi in June, isn't big on cell phones, so the mother and son correspond through e-mail and MySpace mes-

Can we talk?

Continuing last year's discussion with
City Manager P. Lamont Ewell about
community priorities

Attend one of these neighborhood meetings to get an update on how the city has responded to the community's concerns, and discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities as the 2008-09 budget planning cycle begins.

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 1, 2007

John Muir Elementary School Auditorium, 2526 6th St.

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Montana Avenue Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Monday, November 12, 2007

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sages. Green also makes good use of the Internet in keeping in touch with Jazzy, who signed her mother up for a Facebook account.

"It's an adjustment," Green said.

Barbara McDonough remembers how painful the weeks leading up to her son, Matthew's, departure were. The 2005 Samohi graduate left recently for a two-year mission for his church. McDonough's other child, Courtney, graduated from Samohi in June and left for Brigham Young University in August.

"It was a lot of hustle and bustle of getting his clothes ready and once we took a breather and got everything done ... there was a sense of sadness and a sense of happiness," McDonough said.

But McDonough has found ways to fill the void left by both her daughter and son leaving the nest, reconnecting with her husband, going to the movies and getting to know one another better.

There's also the comforting thought of knowing that the kids will be back soon.

"You end up counting the weeks until Thanksgiving break and count the weeks until Christmas break," she said.

DIAGNOSIS

The empty nest effect can actually be felt as early as when children start heading off the nursery school and kids learn to become a little independent, said Lisa Frankel, a marriage and family therapist whose daughter is a senior at Samohi.

Parents can lessen the impact of experiencing the full on effects of the empty nest syndrome when their children go off to college by preparing early and changing their style of parenting. Recognize that children have a life of their own.

"You cannot parent a 12th grader like you parent a 13-year-old," Frankel said.

Mom and dad can also try to become more independent by adopting new hobbies and refocusing their energy on the marriage. In some cases, once the child leaves the picture, the marriages can go by the wayside, Frankel said.

"A lot of women don't know what else will give their life meaning," Frankel said. "It's a really confusing (time of life) for a lot of women."

For many parents, the time when their children begin leaving the nest coincides with their parents starting to succumb to old age.

Frankel has been working with women in transition since the 1970s and is in the process of starting a new support group for women dealing with feelings of loss and changes because of an empty nest.



SEE IT AS A CULMINATION OF A JOB WELL DONE INSTEAD OF SOME SORT OF LOSS."

Richard Gilbert
LMU professor

The Santa Monican went through a time of transition herself this summer when her daughter left for a trip to Ghana and her mother died.

"A lot of us are dealing with aging and dying parents," Frankel said.

About four parents have already expressed interest in the group, which is set to begin once it reaches about six people. Rather than dish out advice, Frankel said she will help members tackle issues they are dealing with, issues with relationship, aging and mortality.

"You've got to feel what you're going to feel," Frankel said. "It takes as long as it takes, you just have to deal with it."

For more information on the empty nest support group, contact Lisa Frankel at drfrankel@yahoo.com

melodyh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

School day's gotten longer for many kindergartners

BY RANDI GOLDBERG BERRIS

Associated Press Writer

Five-year-old Katie Kreusel loved going to kindergarten, but after 6 1/2 hours in school each day, she would come home tired and cranky.

"The first three months were incredibly difficult," says her mom, Robyn Ann Kreusel of Dacula, Ga., a part-time nurse. "She was 5 years old — it was pure exhaustion going for that number of hours."

Kreusel's decision to enroll her daughter in a full-day kindergarten class is part of a national trend. The longer school day is useful for working parents, and besides, kids who already have spent a couple years in preschool are used to the routine.

Also, proponents point to several studies that show children in full-day programs have more opportunity to master today's tougher kindergarten curriculum.

Still, other parents continue to embrace the traditional half-day kindergarten and the extra time it gives kids at home before they head off to first grade.

"They're still little," says Karen Kilroy, 37, a stay-at-home mom in West Chester, Pa.

When kids are in school all day, "you get them in the morning when they're grumpy and at dinner time when they're grumpy,

and you're missing the fun time in between," she says.

Kilroy's school district offers both full-day and half-day options, but many parents don't have a choice.

Nationwide, more than 60 percent of children in public or private kindergarten were enrolled in full-day programs, the 2000 U.S. Census indicated. Nine states mandate that full-day kindergarten be offered, and two — Louisiana and West Virginia — require that kids be enrolled in it, according to a 2005 report from the Denver-based Education Commission of the States, a non-profit focused on school reform.

Many communities, on the other hand, don't have the money or space to offer full-day kindergarten. Kathy Swegles, who teaches two three-hour kindergarten classes a day in Northville, Mich., wishes full-day were available.

"With the amount of curriculum the state of Michigan puts on us, we could do so much more, delve in a lot more, than what we do," she says. "A lot of kids are going full day anyway, doing child care the other half of the day. They might as well be in an academic environment rather than just child care — it's that much more structured of a day. They could work on things as opposed to just playing."

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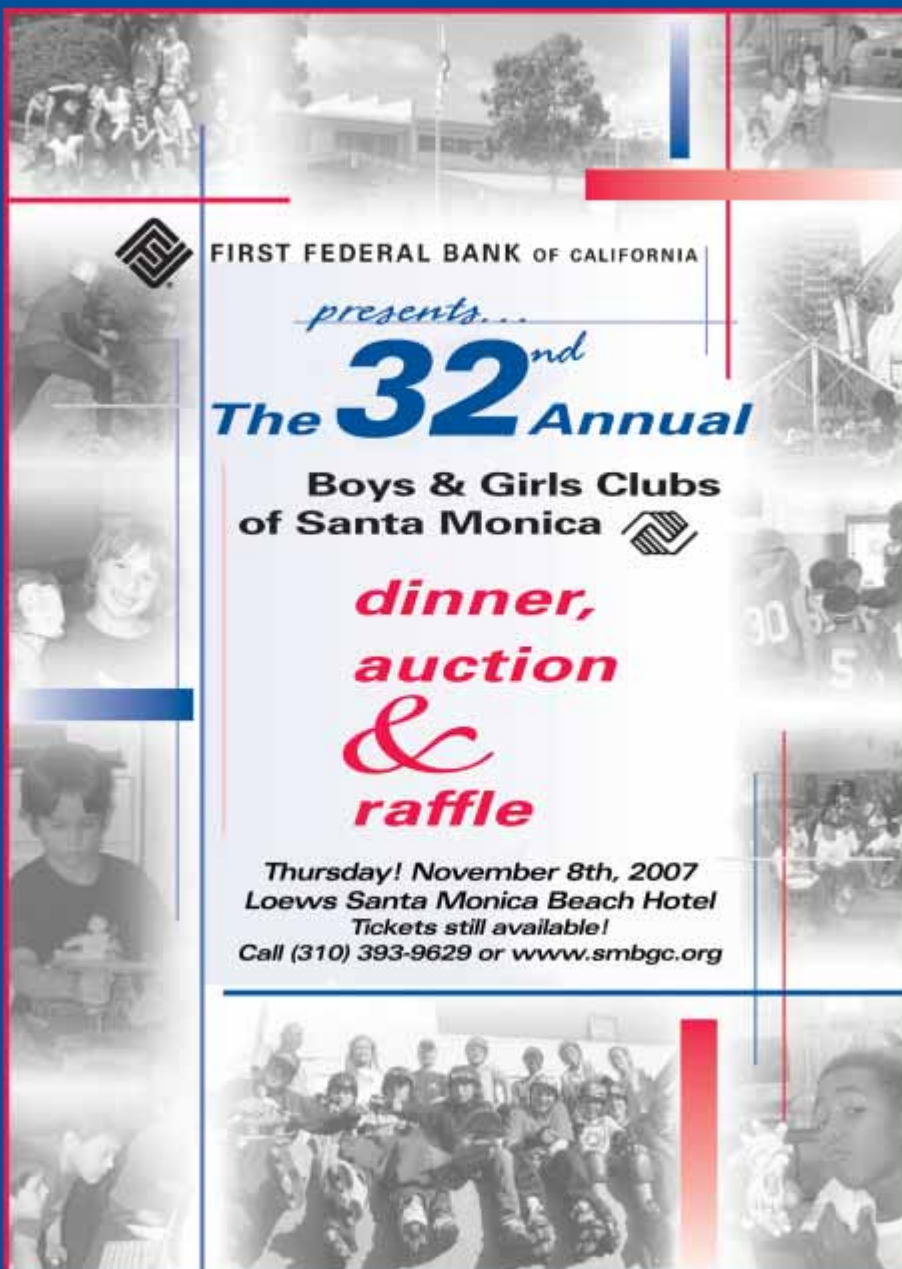
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Time lapse

Teachers licenses can remain valid despite problems with the law

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Clifford Doty's career in education came to an end when he was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for sending child pornography over the Internet.

Throughout his criminal case and for months afterward, however, his California state teaching credential remained valid. It was in effect without so much as a notation that its holder had been criminally charged with a sex-related offense.

Doty was arrested in November 2000 trying to meet someone he thought was a 13-year-old girl, a rendezvous he arranged through a chat room called "Widdle Gurls."

After pleading guilty in June 2001, the former Palmdale Unified elementary school vice principal wrote the state credentialing commission himself the following February asking that his license be revoked, which it subsequently was.

Doty's case is among dozens in California uncovered by The Associated Press in which teachers' credentials remained valid even after they had been arrested or charged for sex-related offenses.

In most cases, California law requires quick action — often within 10 days — against educators who are accused or convicted of sex crimes.

During a review of more than 300 cases of sexual misconduct by California educators from 2001 to 2005, The Associated Press found delays of months and sometimes years before the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing took action.

California's data is part of a seven-month investigation in which AP reporters sought records on teacher discipline in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In some cases, teachers accused of crimes are put behind bars as their cases work through the court system, putting them out of reach of children even if their credentials remain valid. At the time of Doty's arrest, state law did not require that credentials be automatically suspended for Internet sex charges, a legal loophole that has since been closed.

It is those teachers and administrators who remain free and eligible to teach after being arrested that pose the greatest concern. Gauging the extent of that problem is virtually impossible, however, because the state refuses to release the information that would allow the public to scrutinize how long it takes the credential commission to act.

The California Department of Justice provides detailed arrest and conviction reports from local law enforcement agencies to the commission and other state agencies each day. The list is based on names and fingerprints that have previously been submitted for background checks.

But the commission does not rely on the list from the Justice Department to make decisions about teachers' credentials, said Mary Armstrong, legal counsel to the commission.

Instead, the commission seeks to independently verify each of the alleged offenses

or charges before taking even preliminary action. That can delay the commission from suspending or revoking a teacher's license for months, or longer, although Armstrong said the typical delay is only a few days.

"We verify the DOJ information by getting court documents. In this day of electronic capabilities, some courts we can find out almost immediately. Other courts, it takes longer," Armstrong said. "We act as quickly as we can."

Justice Department spokesman Gareth Lacey said the arrest reports provided by the agency are credible and come from police and sheriff's departments.

"It's pretty obvious this fingerprint match is a positive identification and it's totally accurate," Lacey said.

It is impossible to assess how quickly the commission acts, however.

Citing privacy laws, the Justice Department denied a request from The Associated Press under the California Public Records Act to release the daily reports.

The delays raise the possibility that pedophile teachers can remain in contact with children, even after they have been arrested on sex-crime allegations.

W

WE VERIFY THE DOJ INFORMATION BY GETTING COURT DOCUMENTS. IN THIS DAY OF ELECTRONIC CAPABILITIES, SOME COURTS WE CAN FIND OUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. OTHER COURTS, IT TAKES LONGER. WE ACT AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN."

Mary Armstrong
Legal counsel to the commission

One case attracted international attention last year — that of John Mark Karr, who was arrested in Thailand after falsely claiming to be the killer of child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey.

The former Sonoma County substitute teacher became a fugitive after he was charged in April 2001 for downloading child pornography.

Yet it was not until April 2002, a full year after he was charged, that Karr's teaching credential was suspended. It was another year before the commission finally revoked his license.

If Karr had applied for a teaching position anywhere else in that first year, a check of his California credential would not have revealed any problems to a potential employer.

Armstrong, the commission's legal counsel, said it was Karr's flight from justice that delayed action by the commission, allowing him to keep his license longer.

"It was held up because he was a fugitive," she said, noting that his flight forced an administrative review of his case.

Legal immigrants clamor for reform

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE The placards made clear this was not your typical immigrant rights march: "We played by the rules, now it's your turn," read one. "Legal immigrants keep America competitive," read another.

High-tech workers here on federal permits are speaking out — many for the first time — over rules that leave them for years in personal and professional limbo.

After Congress failed to reform immigration laws for the second year in a row, hundreds of the largely India- and China-born workers protested this summer in Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. They were frustrated that the divisive debate over illegal immigration had overwhelmed efforts at comprehensive immigration reform.

"I've never held a banner before, but I don't know what else to do," said Gopal Chauhan, a high-tech employee who has been waiting seven years for a green card. "We usually have better things to do, like invent the next iPod."

Legal immigrants who feel squeezed by limits on the number of green cards issued each year are trying to separate their complaints from the protests by illegal immigrants. And high-tech companies that say they can't fill jobs because of a cap on skilled-worker visas have stepped up their long-standing plea for the cap to be raised. "It gets too frustrating sometimes," said Sandeep Bhatia, a software engineer from Mumbai who first applied for a green card in 2001.

Since then, Bhatia has completed an MBA, and was joined in the U.S. by his wife Preeti, who also has an MBA. But he cannot be promoted to a job that would use his new skills, and Preeti can't get a job, until the government finishes processing his green card.

"The Indian and Chinese economies are being fed right now with people who get tired of waiting and go home," Bhatia said.

The green card application system is akin to "indentured servitude," said Kim Berry, president of the Programmers' Guild, a group that opposes current work visa laws. "It takes years for the green card sponsorship to happen, and they can't leave, can't ask for a raise unless they want to lose their place in line."

Applications for work-related green cards

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HELD A BANNER
BEFORE, BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
WE USUALLY HAVE BET-
TER THINGS TO DO, LIKE
INVENT THE NEXT IPOD."**

Gopal Chauhan

A high-tech employee who has been waiting seven years for a green card

— limited to 140,000 each year, about 9,800 per sending country — are backlogged so deep that many immigrants must plod along for years, uncertain about their future in the United States and unable to change jobs while they wait for permanent residence.

And immigration officials resorted to a lottery for H1-B work visas this summer when businesses filed — on just the first day the government was accepting applications — double the number that could be considered the whole year. Three years ago, it took 10 months for businesses to fill the annual quota.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Mayor picks new Department of Water and Power chief

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's choice for Department of Water and Power general manager is H. David Nahai, an attorney and former DWP commissioner.

The City Council must approve the appointment.

DWP general manager Ronald Deaton announced Friday that he was retiring. The 64-year-old Deaton has been on medical leave with heart problems.

The mayor appointed the 53-year-old Nahai to the DWP commission in September 2005 and he resigned from the panel on Oct. 5.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Football player killed during Halloween party brawl

A San Pedro High School football player was shot to death during a gang-related brawl at a weekend Halloween party.

Seventeen-year-old Laterian Tasby, a 6-foot-5 senior defensive end for the Pirates, was killed Saturday night at an 11th Street home.

Police spokeswoman Norma Eisenman says the brawl was gang-related, but there are no details. Four other partygoers were taken to area hospitals for treatment of injuries.

AP

LOMPOC

Muslim woman says bank refused her a checking account

A Muslim woman from Morocco says a Lompoc bank refused to let her open a checking account.

Fatiha Harit says she was left in tears after a Union Bank of California representative told he she couldn't open an account because of Morocco is a high risk terrorist country.

Harit insisted "that is not true," and five days later, Union Bank officials acknowledged the error and apologized. Union Bank spokeswoman Sharon Woodson-Bryantek says Lompoc branch employees overreacted.

AP



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Webster Elementary is alive and kicking

Fire-damaged campus nearly fell victim to recent blaze

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU More than a week after the Canyon Fire set ablaze more than 4,500 acres and shook an entire community, Webster Elementary School reopened on Monday, a calming sign for these students that normalcy would return to their lives.

The small K-5 primary school with an enrollment of approximately 380 students was the only public school campus in Malibu that sustained damage in the blaze.

It was like any other Monday morning back in the classroom after a typical weekend — the students sat in their assigned desks and the teachers carried on instruction as usual, hoping to get their pupils back into their regular routine after the traumatic events of the previous week.

But throughout the small K-5 primary school were signs of the trauma caused by a blaze that forced more than 1,500 residents out of their homes. In room number 7, the ceiling of Stacy Harris' second grade classroom is charred and gut-

ted and carries the stench of days old smoke. In the library, a slight film of ash covered a row of computers on the ground. The computers were removed from the adjacent lab in order to protect the students from the ceiling that also sustained damage.

The biggest reminder of the blaze could be seen outside where just a stone's throw away was once a Presbyterian Church, now gone, and where a small company once sold glass behind the school, also destroyed.

"Everyone is reminded of how much the schools means to them and what a tragedy it would've been to lose it," said Principal Phil Cott on Monday.

Altogether, the campus, sandwiched in the hills of Malibu, lost two storage sheds as well as use of two classrooms temporarily, one to smoke and another to structural damages. One of the two classes was shut down on Monday because the air quality was deemed unhealthy. The other — the second grade classroom — needs some work done on its roof and roof supports, according to Superintendent Dianne Talarico.

A cost estimate on repairs was not available, nor was an idea of how long it would take for the two classrooms to reopen.

Despite the damage, parents were grateful that the school managed to survive, escaping with a few scars.

"I think the kids are so resilient," said Nancy Little as she picked up her third grade daughter from class on Monday afternoon. "They get to come back to something familiar."

Little and her family are members of the Malibu Presbyterian Church that was destroyed. For her daughter to see the Webster Elementary School up and running is a comforting sight, knowing that not everything close to her was lost, Little said.

To lessen the shock of seeing the school for the first time, Rey Cano drove his daughter, who is in the second grade, to the school a few days after the fire.

More than 30 parents pitched in to help clean part of the campus on Sunday, removing the remaining charred shrubbery so the children would not be confronted with the evidence of the fire, said Dorothy Reinhold, the PTA co-president for Webster.

"There was a lot of sweat equity that went into the school yesterday," Reinhold said.

Administrators also made it a point to get the students back into their normal routine. Before school reconvened at its normal hour on Monday, school and district officials met with teachers to discuss what they should expect from their students emotionally.

"We need to be cognizant of the fact that kids all went through something unusual and stressful and pay attention to that and make sure kids know it's safe here," Cott said. "At the same time, we wanted to get the kids in their regular routine as much as possible."

Counseling was available for the students who appeared to be distressed.

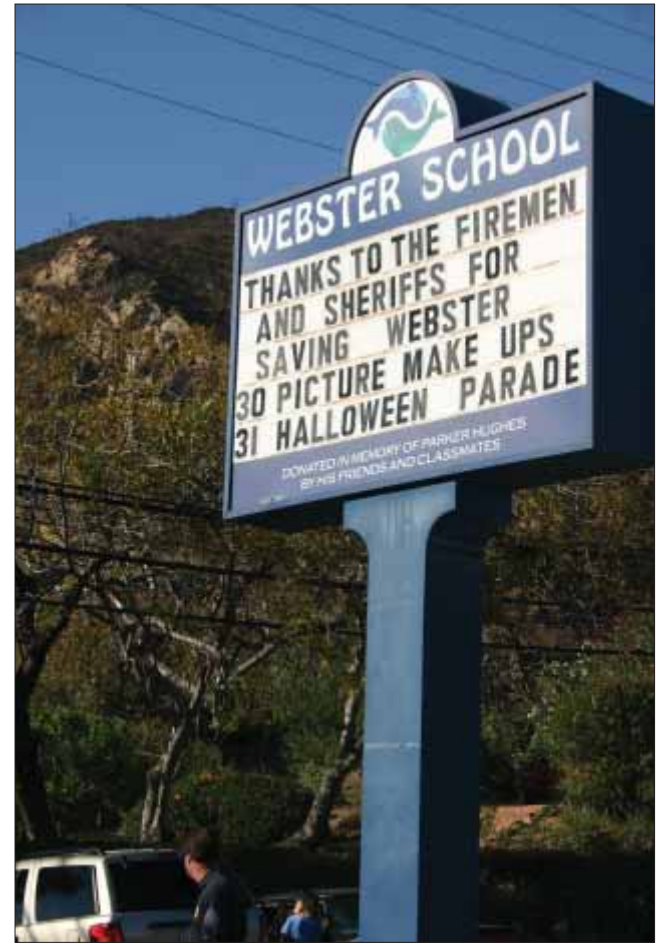
Diane Hines, an art instructor at Webster, said the students seemed to be in good spirits, anxious about the fact that Halloween was just two days away. The teachers avoided discussing the fire and if the students brought up the topic, the adults would try to steer the conversation to focus on the silver lining, such as how wonderful it was for the firefighters to save the school or how a more than 100-year-old fig tree on campus survived, Hines said.

"We don't want to minimize (the fire), but what we want to say is that when ... you're at school, you're safe," Hines said.

The Canyon Fire started early on the morning of Oct. 21. Officials believe the blaze was caused by a downed power line. The fire ended up destroying six homes, one church and one commercial trailer and damaging nine homes and five businesses. One Webster family lost a home they were renting in the fire and a fundraising drive for the family is expected to commence soon.

The fire shut down Malibu High School, Juan Cabrillo Elementary School and Point Dume Marine Science School on Monday and Tuesday of last week. Those schools reopened last Wednesday while Webster remained closed throughout the week. The Public Schools Week, which was set to showcase all of the campuses in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District next week, was postponed to the week of Dec. 3.

melodyh@smdp.com



Photos by Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

DAMAGES: (Top) Webster Elementary gives thanks to the people who helped save the campus. It reopened on Monday. (Middle and above) Just one classroom was partially damaged by the blaze that struck Malibu last week.



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Solar technology isn't very cheap

FROM SOLAR PAGE 1

"I said, 'Sure, for 30 days,'" said Macy, who is in Santa Monica just two days a month, but takes plans home to approve over the weekend.

"Soon, 30 days turned into 90 days, and 90 days turned into a year, and now here we are approaching two years."

Golden had nothing but praise for Macy, calling him one of the most experienced plan checkers in the business, however, he did voice his displeasure with City Hall's failure to retain a quality employee like Macy, which has forced the Planning Department to pay for his services at a premium since he is now a contract employee.

"You lose that expertise and the flexibility you have with permanent employees," Golden said.

Realizing that there is a problem, Planning Director Eileen Fogarty, who was hired roughly one year ago, and her staff have worked diligently on finding permanent replacements for Macy. Fogarty said she is close to breaking up the position into two and advertising those vacancies in hopes to have two new employees within the coming months.

It is Fogarty's goal to cut down the time it takes to approve plans and inspect projects. Fogarty is also assigning inspectors to certain areas of the city so that they remain dedicated to specific projects in their jurisdiction instead of being transferred to other

projects, which has created confusion and inconsistency in the past.

"One of the complaints I heard from the public when I came here was that they would get one person in the field who would give them the OK on a set of five things and not on a set of six," Fogarty said. "They would fix the six and then get another inspector who would say they were OK on six, but not on one through five. By changing this, we have cut down in next day inspection times considerably."

In fact, city planners and inspectors are meeting all performance goals or have surpassed them in the last quarter, Fogarty said. The next step is to shorten those performance goals to get an even quicker response. Wait times at the customer service counter are down to 20 minutes, and next day inspections are up from 70 percent last year to 100 percent this quarter.

"We are making progress in these areas and we will continue to look at ways to be more efficient," Fogarty said. "I think there is some good news here."

TAKING A SHINE TO IT

All this comes as City Hall's Energy and Green Building Program Office prepares to celebrate the first anniversary of Solar Santa Monica, a program designed to make solar reasonable and affordable for a large percentage of residents. The program links residents and preferred solar providers together, ensuring that residents receive a good price.

Through the program, 300 kilowatts of



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

CAPTURING THE SUN: Solar panels such as these can be costly to install and maintain.

electrical muscle have been added to the city's grid and another 500 are expected in the coming year, said Susan Munves, director of Solar Santa Monica.

"This is double the capacity we had when we first started," Munves said.

The popularity of solar is clear, but the ability to get it installed quickly isn't.

While the lack of a permanent plan check is a contributing factor to delays, contractors said, there is also the issue of adapting to new technology.

In the beginning of Solar Santa Monica, many contractors were coming to City Hall with inadequate plans, forcing Macy to make changes himself at first, and then eventually reject them because he was receiving too many that were not up to code.

"We started to find out that we were having a lot of problems," Macy said. "People weren't following the plans correctly, and that

created a lot of field inspections that ultimately slowed the process down. A lot of the contractors coming into solar are from traditional construction and do not have the electrical background, which is why we had a lot of plans coming back. Things are getting better now, and instead of it taking three or four weeks, projects are getting done in a week."

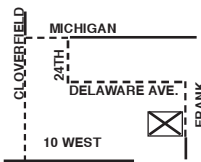
Plan checkers and inspectors are also having to adapt, Munves said. Building and Safety is working with the Santa Monica Fire Department to develop a standard checklist for green projects.

"The city has to be clear of what it expects so the contractors are able to deliver installations that meet our standards," Munves said. "I guess you could say we've had a bit of a learning curve (but) we have been successful in spite of ourselves."

kevinh@smdp.com

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

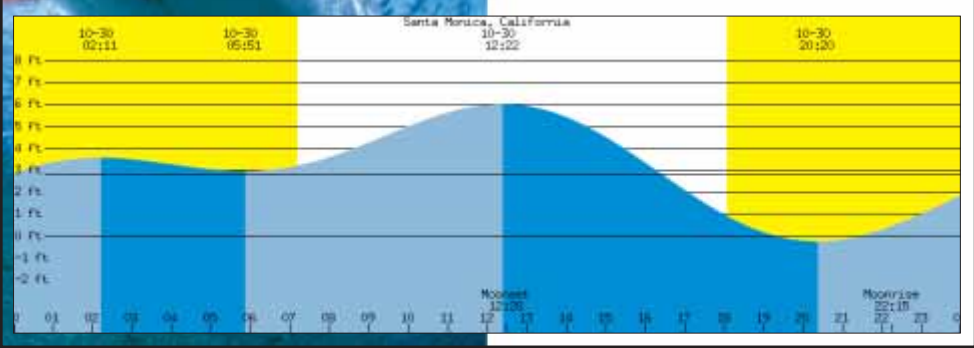
SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Today the SW should drop off to around waist high. NW remains minimally knee to waist. Winds could still be onshore early (likely similar to what Monday will bring) and the tide not too bad for the early AM sessions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

LIGHT SW AND NW DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...
LIGHT SW FOR 4TH...
POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANTLY SIZED SW FOR 7TH...

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 23, 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 -- 4

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 30

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 10

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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	B
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	B
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	C	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	D
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	C	A+	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	B	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - playground area	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- between lifeguard and dock	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	F	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	D	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's Beach Report CardSM 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.



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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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

BIN THERE, DONE THAT: Clarence McKelry, from Pier Maintance, pulls a convoy of trash bins in August. Collection of the city's waste and recyclables generated by local businesses hangs in the balance, with City Council expected to award a contract tonight.

City Hall prepares new trash contract

FROM TRASH PAGE 3

During that review, it became clear that the best way to determine the future course would be to hear from leaders in the industry and see what kinds of services they could offer, and at what costs.

City Hall made it clear that anyone providing services, including Solid Waste, would have to meet clearly articulated goals that included providing efficient and cost-effective service; maximizing recycling opportunities to ensure that 70 percent of waste generated does not end up in a landfill; increasing aesthetics and cleanliness of dumpster docks; and reducing air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases.

Another significant factor is the construction of a new transfer station at either the City Yards off Michigan Avenue or at another site, something which City Hall is requiring of all who bid.

City Hall must do something with its present transfer station, which does not meet state standards because it is an open-air facility, exposing refuse to heat, water and wind.

Under Solid Waste's proposal, a new, 82,000-square foot transfer station and processing facility would be built on the City Yards property at a cost of \$5.6 million.

Fees charged to residents and business owners will vary, depending on which service options are selected. Future negotiations will determine the financial impact.

The evaluation committee was comprised of an assistant city manager, finance director, a member of the Bayside District Corp. and the city's Environmental Task Force, the

former director of Orange County Sanitation, and an independent solid waste consultant.

The goal was to create a committee that would be impartial and provide a fair analysis of each proposal. The committee was also diverse, including a representative from the business community, the city manager's office, the environmental community and experts who have practical knowledge of the garbage industry, said Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson, who led the committee.

There were complaints expressed early on in the process by some of the companies submitting bids. They felt that while they would be able to compete with Solid Waste, they would not be given an equal opportunity because they were coming from the outside in.

Anderson dismissed those concerns, saying the committee was working independently of Solid Waste and was out to find the best deal possible for rate payers.

"Either people want to recognize this or they don't," Anderson said.

In addition to choosing one company to handle commercial collection and transfer and disposal, the council could elect to go with Solid Waste for the majority of the work and continue to contract with Allan Co. for recycling. Allan runs the Santa Monica Recycling Center, which is located at the City Yards.

kevinh@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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Buddy flick

Washington, Crowe worked as team on the set of new film

There was no power struggle between Oscar winners **DENZEL WASHINGTON** and **RUSSELL CROWE** on the set of their new crime drama, "American Gangster." Instead, they worked as a team when

filming their scenes together. "It's not about a heavy-weight fight," Crowe said in an interview with AP Television News. "What it is, is much more like two (guitarists) playing together,

two people singing together." "American Gangster" is based on the life of Frank Lucas, played by Washington, who became filthy rich in the 1960s by smuggling heroin into New York.

Crowe portrays a police officer who investigates Lucas and his dirty dealings. "... If you can blend, if you can harmonize and you can sing together still from two completely separate points of view, now

you are talking," said Crowe, 43, who won an Academy Award in 2001 for "Gladiator." He also received an Oscar nomination for his role in "The Insider."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CULP CAN MOVE FORWARD

ROBERT CULP'S lawsuit alleging that the Los Angeles Zoo mistreats elephants can go forward. Judge Reginald A. Dunn has rejected arguments by the city that the complaint filed by the 77-year-old actor and real estate agent Aaron Leider lacks a legal basis. Culp and Leider want to stop the zoo from building a \$40 million elephant exhibit. They accuse zoo authorities of withholding medical care from elephants and keeping them cramped in small places, and don't want the zoo to keep elephants. Lawyers for the city argued Monday that the pair's complaint was political.

AP

Justices refuse to hear Van Gogh case

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider a dispute involving **ELIZABETH TAYLOR** over ownership of a Vincent van Gogh painting. The painting is claimed by descendants of a Jewish woman who fled Nazi Germany. The painting, worth millions, may be among the estimated 600,000 works of art that belonged to Jews and wound up in Nazi hands between 1933 and 1945. Van Gogh painted "View of the Asylum" less than a year before his suicide. Margarete Mauthner, a one-time owner of the van Gogh, left Germany in March 1939, having lost her livelihood and most of her property due to Nazi policies of economic coercion. Relatives of



Mauthner, a noted translator and advocate of the arts, say the painting was among the property she lost to the Nazis. In 1963 while living in London, Taylor bought the painting for about \$236,000 at a Sotheby's auction from the estate of a German art collector.

Taylor's lawyers say the record shows the painting was sold through two Jewish art dealers to a Jewish art collector, with no evidence of any Nazi coercion or participation in the transactions. The family members say they didn't discover they

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

The Haunting (1963) (NR)
7:30

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

The Comebacks (PG-13)
1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
Saw IV (R)
2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
Things We Lost in the Fire (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

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

30 Days of Night (R)
1:20, 4:00, 4:35, 6:40, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00
Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
1:50, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55
Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)
1:15, 3:45
The Game Plan (PG)
1:35, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
Gone Baby Gone (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
Saw IV (R)
2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 10:05
We Own the Night (R)
1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Eastern Promises (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45
Into the Wild (R)
1:15, 4:45, 8:15

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

Bella (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:55
Darjeeling Limited, The (R)
1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Lust, Caution (Se jie) (NC-17)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Slipstream (R)
1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
The Heartbreak Kid (R)
12:40, 3:40, 7:40, 10:20
Michael Clayton (R)
12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30
Rendition (R)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00
Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Disney Digital 3D (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

More information email news@smdp.com

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

Happy Birthday!

You have a way of taking in the big picture this year that takes many aback. You can also debate the pros and cons. What might be equally important is working out a way that others can conceptualize and understand. Togetherness and teamwork easily become an unbeatable force if you allow them to develop in your life. If you are single, you will make a lot of progress as you vault to a new level of understanding. If you are attached, your relationship will blossom with travel.



Born Today
Football coach Dick Vermeil (1936)

Singer Grace Slick (1939)
Actor Henry Winkler (1945)

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

Easy does it, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You might be surprised how pulling yourself out of the equation can help other issues fall into place. Perhaps you were pushing a tad too much (after all, you are an Aries). Remember, you don't always need to carry the banner. Tonight: Happiest at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others welcome your opinion and imagination. With teamwork, a project and/or solution becomes a distinct possibility. You might be amazed by how easily what seemed impossible several days ago becomes a reality. Tonight: Swap news with friends. Return calls.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Much might be going on that you would prefer not to share. Investigate and get to the bottom of a money issue. Others' opinions are particularly significant right now. Think positively and welcome differences of opinion. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Step right through the door knowing that a risk will work out – though perhaps not in the manner you think. Be willing to adapt to circumstances. Others seem to naturally support your chosen path. Tonight: Make sure to get physical and let off steam.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You want others to believe that you absolutely know what you are doing. There might be a low-level inkling behind the scenes that you aren't as directed as you would like to be. Listen to associates who have different strengths. Tonight: Where you want to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You often are a lot stronger than others realize. You could push way too hard to get certain reactions. If you do, expect a backfire of sorts. Let your imagination focus on possibilities rather than push in impossible directions. Tonight: As you like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might need to establish your prominence within a situation. Not everyone understands where you are coming from. You don't need to explain what you are thinking. Tonight: Spontaneity plays a role.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You have the ability to read between the lines, especially with a key associate. These skills tighten up your projects as well as your relationships. The unexpected, as always, spices up your life. Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Let a partner dominate, and you'll get the results you've dreamt of. You might be surprised at his or her fiery response to your thoughts and ideas. Together, great ideas will be accomplished. Be as direct as possible. Tonight: Opt for the togetherness theme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others are sure they have better ideas than you. Who are you to disprove their theories? Everyone needs his or her turn in the limelight. Be careful with someone who is argumentative. He is bound and determined to win. Tonight: Do your thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You'll bring forth many possibilities if you are willing to relax and let go. How you handle someone might be very different from what you originally thought. Tonight: Easy does it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Give your best and let your creativity dominate. You might be delighted by what emerges while just hanging in the same space for a while. You might feel compelled to take a risk. Do just that if you want. Tonight: Lighten up even more.

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

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

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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

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

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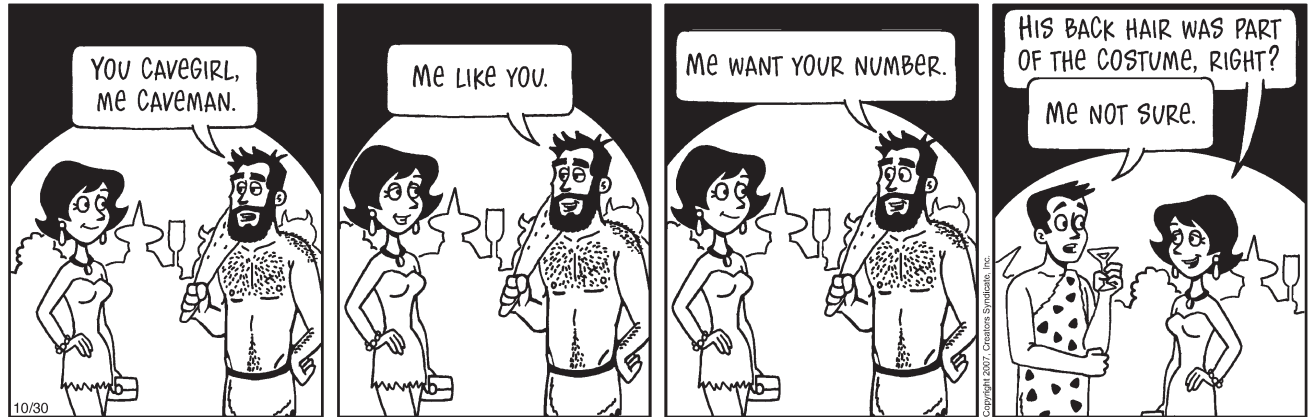
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



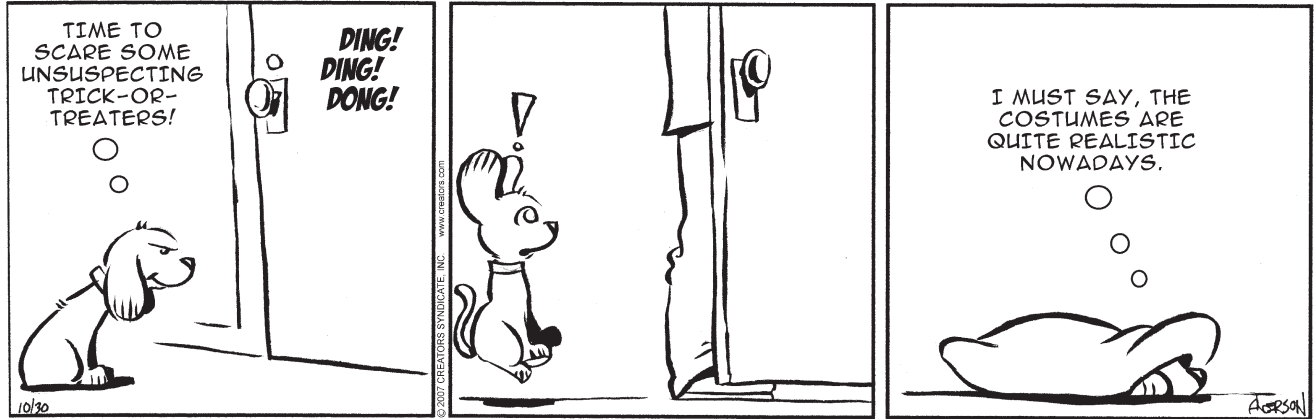
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



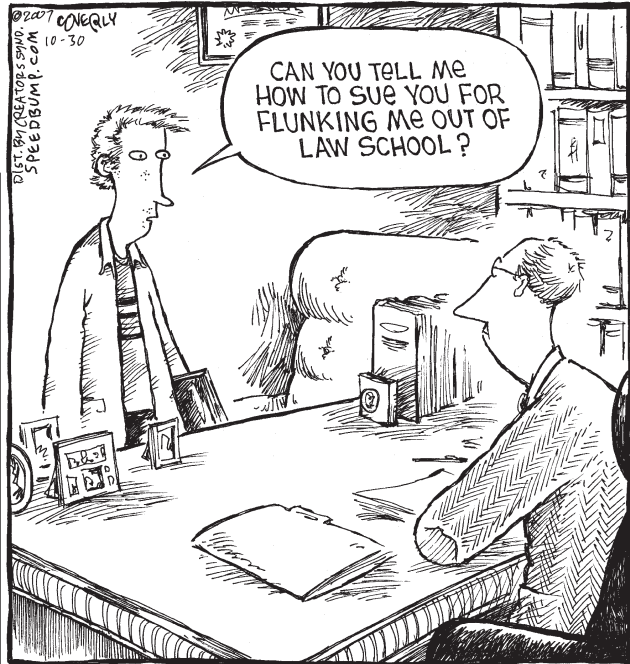
Strange Brew

By John Deering

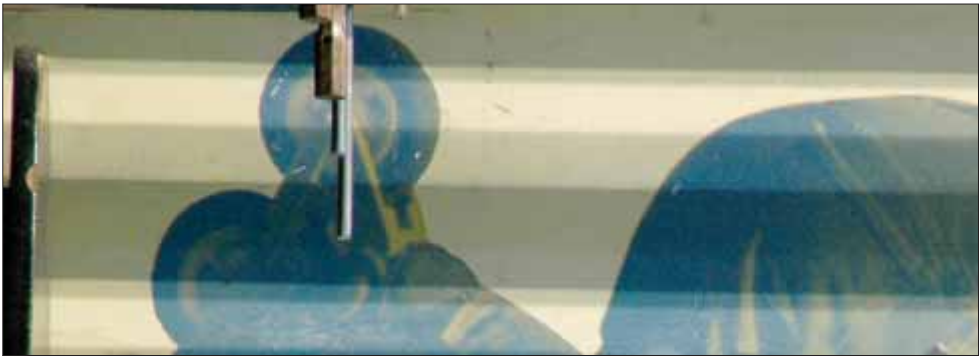


Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabian@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Do origami
- 5 Seamstress Ross
- 10 Warning sound
- 12 Banded rock
- 13 Michael Connelly mystery
- 15 Forbidden fruit taster
- 16 By way of
- 17 Jewel
- 18 Home of the Nuggets
- 20 — breve
- 21 Mixes up
- 22 Freshman, usually
- 23 The Jetsons' dog
- 25 Highlander
- 28 "Jurassic Park" critters
- 31 Taverns
- 32 Turns away
- 34 Fall mo.
- 35 Riviera season
- 36 Nest egg acct.
- 37 Michael Connelly mystery

- 40 Baseball manager Joe
- 41 Room, in Rouen
- 42 Director Welles
- 43 Some toothpastes

DOWN

- 1 Confronted
- 2 Martini extras
- 3 Hidden
- 4 Parched
- 5 Rum cake
- 6 Self-esteem
- 7 Snarl
- 8 TV's "Remington —"

- 9 Toady
- 11 Van workers
- 14 It may not include a kiss
- 19 Small bottles
- 20 Make amends
- 24 Rafters' places
- 25 Florentine painter

- 26 Couric or Williams
- 27 Comes in
- 29 Baltimore player
- 30 Casual walk
- 33 "— alive!"
- 35 Tied up
- 38 Spanish gold
- 39 Drop back

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16			17		
18			19			20			
	21					22			
			23		24				
25	26	27			28		29	30	
31					32				33
34				35			36		
37			38				39		
40						41			
42							43		

10-30

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	12 20 24 38 51 Meganumber: 3 Jackpot: \$63M
Super LOTTO	8 9 13 22 24 Meganumber: 26 Jackpot: \$25M

Fantasy 5 8 10 11 13 31

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 6 0
EVENING: 5 1 8

DAILY DERRY	1st: 10 Solid Good 2nd: 07 Eureka! 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1.49.93
-------------	---

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Frederick Cronin is challenging the suspension of his New Hampshire driver's license, claiming that his blood-alcohol reading (0.13) was not properly obtained. State law calls for two readings, with the second 20 minutes after the first, and Cronin claims that his second test was administered too soon. During the 20-minute period, he said, he had burped, and state law requires the 20-minute delay to restart following any "vomit[ing], regurgitat[ing] or belch[ing]." However, in June, a hearing examiner accepted the ticketing officer's testimony that Cronin never "belch[ed]" but rather emitted only a "dry burp," which the examiner described as air emanating not from the stomach but from closer to the mouth.

■ People With Issues: Convicted sex offender Paul D. Brunelle-Apley, 26, was arrested again, in Madison Township, Ohio, in September, when his attempt to make up with his 14-year-old girlfriend came to public attention. According to police, Brunelle-Apley was seeing another girl on the side (age 15), and in a display of remorse, he delivered flowers and a teddy bear to his main girlfriend while she was in class at Madison High.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1270 The eighth and last Crusade is launched.

1697 France signs the Peace of Ryswick, ending the War of the Grand Alliance between France on one side and England, the Netherlands, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire on the other.

1817 Simon Bolivar organizes independent government in Venezuela.

1888 In London, Jack the Ripper murders his last victim.

1918 Czechoslovakia is proclaimed an independent republic.

1928 Experimental transmission of still photographs by television begins in Britain.

1930 Treaty of friendship between Greece and Turkey is signed in Ankara.

1938 The U.S. radio play, «The War of the Worlds», starring Orson Welles, airs on CBS. The live drama, which employed fake news reports, panicked listeners who thought its portrayal of a Martian invasion was true.

1945 The U.S. government announces the end of shoe rationing.

WORD UP!

terminus \TUR-muh-nuhs\, noun: 1. The finishing point; the end. 2. A boundary; a border; a limit. 3. A post or stone marking a boundary. 4. Either end of a railroad or other transportation line; also, the station house, town, or city at that place.

UFO center is heading to new home

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

HARRINGTON, Wash. To find the new home of The National UFO Reporting Center, you must go several yards underground at a former nuclear missile site in Eastern Washington.

The National UFO Reporting Center, which moved to this sparsely populated farm country from Seattle last year, is basically a telephone, tape recorder and desktop computer run in an underground bunker by one man who collects and publishes UFO reports from across the country.

Director Peter B. Davenport took over the UFO center's work from founder Robert J. Gribble in 1994. It had been located for years in Seattle's University District, until

Davenport decided he wanted a change and paid \$100,000 for the former Atlas missile site located about 50 miles west of Spokane.

"There was the allure of owning my own missile site," Davenport said.

Missile Site No. 6 now contains a large row of file cabinets and boxes, neatly organized by date, containing thousands of reports of UFO sightings stretching back decades. A typical file reads:

"Longview, WA. February 25, 1999 1158 hrs. (Pacific) Description: Fourteen forestry workers witness a horseshoe shaped object lift an adult elk out of the forest and fly off with the apparently dead, or unconscious, animal."

The missile site covers 22 acres, and the massive concrete buildings are underground. The old Atlas E missiles rested

flat, not upright in silos, in what were called "coffin launchers." In the event of war, a concrete lid would slid open, the missile would be hoisted upright and the engine fired.

The UFO files, along with some office furniture, are stacked in a dark, dank room the size of a basketball court, where the yellow missile hoist remains in place. A few bare bulbs provide lights.

Davenport is still cleaning out the missile site, which is pretty decrepit, and is living in an apartment in nearby Harrington while he works to make it habitable.

Davenport doesn't spend much time scanning the skies, or traveling to UFO locations. Most of his work is transcribing numerous calls or e-mails each day from people who think they have seen UFOs. He places those reports on the Web site for all to see.

Davenport also gives lectures and appears often on radio talk shows tied to UFOs. He considers himself among the most skeptical of ufologists, and estimates that 90 percent of the calls he receives can be quickly disproved, and many of the rest likely have a rationale explanation.

But that still leaves a lot of reports for which no terrestrial explanation is available, Davenport said.

Washington has a long history of UFO reports, including the famous Mount Rainier sighting in 1947 that led to the coining of the term "flying saucers." In that incident, pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine silver vehicles flying in formation at high speed and moving "like a saucer if you skip it across water."

Whether UFOs exist has been hotly debated for decades. Believers point to loads of evidence, including photos and eyewitness accounts. They contend there must be other inhabited planets, and some with

more advanced civilizations may be visiting us.

Like many ufologists, Davenport also believes the world's governments and press are hushing up the existence of UFOs to avoid panic.

"There is nothing more bizarre in the galaxy than human behavior toward UFOs," he said.

Despite decades of official denials, UFOs abound in movies, television, books and advertising, he said. They even show up in religion, where some reports of visions have all the earmarks of a UFO sighting, Davenport said.

UFO skeptic Jim Oberg said Davenport performs a valuable service by recording all the strange things people see in the sky. The problem is that he and other ufologists are too quick to label them extraterrestrial, Oberg said.

That doesn't necessarily mean that aliens are not visiting Earth, Oberg said.

"But the evidence does not rise to the level of an unavoidable conclusion that there is no other explanation," Oberg said, acknowledging that the debate won't end anytime soon.

Last March, former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington said he believes mysterious lights widely seen over Phoenix 10 years ago were UFOs. Also in March, France became the first country to release its extensive UFO files on the Internet. The oldest sightings date to 1937.

Earlier this month, actress Shirley MacLaine revealed that Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich saw a UFO at her home in Graham, Wash. Representatives of Kucinich's presidential campaign and congressional office have not responded to requests for comments on MacLaine's recollection.

Last fall, numerous employees of O'Hare Airport in Chicago reported seeing a mysterious, saucer-shaped craft hovering over the airport. The workers said the object hovered over a terminal before shooting up through the clouds, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The Federal Aviation Administration said nothing showed up on radar, and that the sighting was likely a "weather phenomenon," the newspaper reported.

Davenport graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in fisheries, and specialized in research on the genetics of steelhead trout. He was friends with Gribble, who founded the center in 1974.

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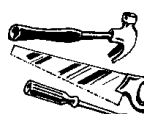


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737 Pier Avenue # 3
Reduced \$ 748,000
Bright 2 + 2.5 Ocean Park Townhome

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



4207 Sunnyside Avenue
\$ 739,000
Original 2 + 1 California Bungalow

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



1032 Maple Street
\$ 1,149,000
Charming California Bungalow

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



511 San Vicente # 302
Reduced \$ 579,000
Top Floor, 1 + 1.5

Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



852 - 21st Street Unit D
Reduced \$ 995,000
2 + 1.75 Condo Amazing Patio!

Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



1532 - 9th Street # 3
\$ 639,000
Contemporary 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late October 2007

Single Family Homes Condos & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,670,286	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,004,096	\$ 1,801,367
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,889,818	\$ 959,281
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,022,099	\$ 692,473
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,386,357	\$ 645,583
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,051,867	\$ 1,076,568

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

Wanted:

Full Time
Licensed (*preferably*)
Real Estate Assistant
For Busy Office

310.255-3430
KateBransfield@hotmail.com