



JACKO: I AIN'T WACKO
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TAKE YOUR MEDICINE ISSUE



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

THE BLUES: A Santa Monica College shuttle bus rolls down 20th street Wednesday after picking up students at the intersection of Pearl and 20th streets. Residents of Sunset Park are upset with the increased traffic resulting from a new bus route.

Riding on anger

Sunset Park residents upset about new SMC bus route

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK Each weekday, from dawn to dusk, the front of Jeff Bender's home becomes a hangout for college students.

Three times an hour, a Mini Blue Bus filled with passengers stops at the intersection of 20th and Pearl streets, near Santa Monica College, and unloads up to 50 riders in this residential neighborhood in Sunset Park.

The passengers, the majority of which are SMC students, occasionally lounge in front of Bender's home on the 1800 block of Pearl Street, hang their backpacks on his fence, block access to his garage in the alley, litter and smoke near the windows, he said.

It's just one of the gripes that Bender and a group of residents living in the vicinity of the bus stop have had with the relatively new Sunset Ride since its launch in August, complaining to the Big Blue Bus and Santa Monica College that the new route — which has drawn more than 2,500 boardings a day in the past three months — should instead be redirected to Pico

SEE BLUE-HAHA PAGE 14

LEISURE

PAWNS AND THE GAME

City celebrates the Royal Game all week long
STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 12



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Fall Fantasy

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — noon

Under the direction of Bill Elliott, the Emeritus College Lyric Chorus will perform songs from movies and Broadway in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Los Angeles Ballet's 2nd Annual Art for the Arts Fundraiser

2525 Michigan Ave., 6:30 p.m. — midnight

Anjelica Huston returns as Chair for Los Angeles Ballet's 2nd Annual Art for the Arts Fundraiser/Art Auction at Bergamot Station. Artists Ed Ruscha, Ed Moses and John Baldessari, among others, have all contributed works for the live event. Tickets for the evening are \$125 per person. For information, visit www.losangelesballet.org or call (310) 226-8002.

'A Strong Clear Vision'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:45 p.m. — 9 p.m.

To celebrate Veteran's Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, filmmaker Freida Lee Mock screens and discusses her Oscar-winning documentary on the Memorial's designer, Maya Lin. Free program. Seating first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Five Chinese spirits

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200, 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Emperor's College of Traditional Oriental Medicine presents a lecture on the Five Spirits of Oriental Medicine. Learn more about the mind-body connection and how Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine can facilitate psychological and spiritual growth.

Chess lessons

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.

Experienced chess players offer coaching and strategy tips for all levels.

'Who's There?'

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Dr. Lawrence Driscoll, professor at Santa Monica College, will lead a lecture on the creation of the self in Renaissance Art and Literature.

Haze Fest 2007

2101 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 1:30 a.m.

Immaculate Flave celebrates all things urban and innovative in a six-city extravaganza showcasing underground talent. The local stop will be at Nocturnal Bar. \$5 at the door; 21 and over. For more information, call (310) 396-9010.

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

'You Can't Take it With You'

1030 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.

St. Monica Catholic High School proudly presents Hart & Kaufman's "You Can't Take it With You." All performances are held in the St. Monica Cantwell Auditorium located on the corner of Lincoln and California. Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors, and \$12 for general admission.

Key Frances

1432 Fourth St., 9 p.m. — 1:30 a.m.

Key Frances, singer and songwriter, performs his funky, rockin' blues music Friday night at Harvelle's. As a player, Key has shared the stage with many notables, including Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Albert King. For more information, visit www.harvelles.com.

'Cinderella'

1211 Fourth St., 6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.

"Cinderella" is an original Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids 2 to 102, featuring a zany fairy godmother, silly step-sisters, zealously well-meaning step-mother and Cinderella. Tickets for children are \$10.50; adults pay \$12.50. 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.



More Vets are doing without

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Veterans make up one in four homeless people in the United States, though they are only 11 percent of the general adult population, according to a report to be released Thursday.

And homelessness is not just a problem among middle-age and elderly veterans. Younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are trickling into shelters and soup kitchens seeking services, treatment or help with finding a job.

The Veterans Affairs Department has identified 1,500 homeless veterans from the current wars and says 400 of them have participated in its programs specifically targeting homelessness.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness, a public education nonprofit, based the findings of its report on numbers from Veterans Affairs and the Census Bureau. 2005 data estimated that 194,254 homeless people out of 744,313 on any given night were veterans. In comparison, the VA says that 20 years ago, the estimated number of veterans who were homeless on any given night was 250,000.

Some advocates say the early presence of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan at shelters does not bode well for the future. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless. Advocates worry that intense and repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable.

While services to homeless veterans have improved in the past 20 years, advocates say more financial resources still are needed. With the spotlight on the plight of Iraq veterans, they hope more will be done to prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing to the younger veterans while there's a window of opportunity.

The VA started targeting homelessness in 1987, 12 years after the fall of Saigon. Today, the VA has, either on its own or through partnerships, more than 15,000 residential rehabilitative, transitional and permanent beds for homeless veterans. It spends about \$265 million annually on homeless-specific programs and about \$1.5 billion for all health care costs for homeless veterans.



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

SOBERING: Representatives of the Santa Monica Corsair news team weigh the consequences of their actions Saturday at Cal State Fullerton after members of the editorial staff were caught drinking during a conference sponsored by the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. Nine out of the 27 members on SMC's team were disqualified, preventing them from winning several awards, JACC officials said.

One costly night out

Corsair staff members busted for drinking

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Members of the editorial staff at Santa Monica College's newspaper, The Corsair, stumbled over the weekend and now face disciplinary action after they were caught drinking alcohol while attending a journalism conference and competition at Cal State Fullerton.

Officials with SMC and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC), which sponsored the SoCal Conference, said nine out of the 27 members on SMC's team were disqualified, precluding them from winning several awards. The college was also put on probation for one year.

Students who were disqualified are expected to meet with SMC's dean of discipline sometime this week to discuss further punishment.

The use of alcohol and or illegal substances is prohibited at JACC events as well as on the grounds at SMC, regardless of age or justification, meaning even those adults who are of the legal drinking age cannot indulge, SMC and JACC officials said.

Of the 31 teams that participated in the two-day event, SMC's contingent was the only one with members disqualified for violating the code of conduct.

While details are sketchy, several sources said that members of the SMC team were seen drinking at a bar or restaurant near where the competition was taking place. It is not clear who informed JACC officials about the drinking.

Some reported it was members of a rival team.

"All I can tell you is that nine members were disqualified and several awards were stripped away," said Timi Ross Poeppelman, conference chair. "We could have punished the whole team and sent a letter to their dean, which goes on their permanent record. We could have done a whole bunch of things, but we decided the best thing was to disqualify only those who violated the code of conduct and allow the other members to participate."

Poeppelman said the disqualified members were honest and open about the drinking and apologized to JACC officials for their actions.

The SoCal conference brings together some of the best community college news teams in the region and pits them against

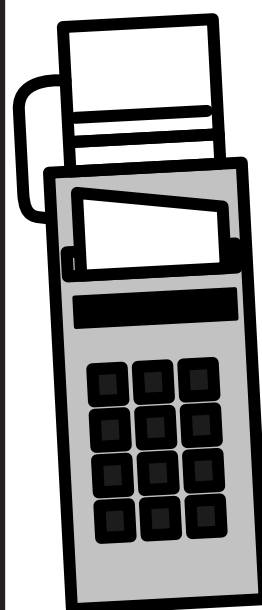
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Critical Mass bikers need to get real

Editor:

(Re: "Cops' crackdown on bikers misguided," Nov. 7, letters)

There is nothing debatable to discuss with Santa Monica Critical Mass bicycle riders. It is all about rules, regulations and proper permits.

On Fridays when Santa Monica Critical Mass riders group up and ride through the streets of Santa Monica, they create traffic jams and havoc throughout the streets; riding in large groups, not stopping at intersections and occupying all automobile traffic lanes. Riding in large groups requires a permit which indicates a date, time and approved route.

The streets of Santa Monica were basically designed for the automobile. Out of courtesy, a bicycle lane was installed on some main streets to provide safety for the bicyclist. Bicycle rules and regulations must apply for these lanes also.

All large groups – bicycles, jog-a-thon, walk-a-thon – participating in the streets of Santa Monica must obtain a permit to do so.

Why is it so difficult/hard for Santa Monica Critical Mass (SMCM) to understand this? Try going to other large cities and do what they're doing without a permit, such as Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Malibu or even downtown Los Angeles. Without a permit you must obey the rules and regulations of bicycling, and that's riding in single file, not grouping and stopping at all stop signs and lights.

Geno Schotte
Santa Monica

Historic district could be history

Editor:

On Nov. 12, the city's Landmarks Commission may well approve construction of one or two new, two-story Modernist recti-linear buildings in Santa Monica's Third Street Neighborhood Historic District. Owners of one of the five signature bungalows on the uphill side of Third Street – the heart of the district – want to shove canti-levered glass and stucco boxes behind the old bungalow. The city has already given permission to move the bungalow forward on the lot to make room for the boxes. A proposed Second Street box has an unattractive jagged, sawtooth roof, unlike anything else in the district.

The district was created in 1990 at the request of its residents to preserve its modest, turn-of-the-century bungalows. Residents expect the Landmarks Commission to protect the district and its character. They unanimously oppose the Third Street cantilever. Most oppose the Second Street sawtooth. But these days it appears that the Landmarks Commission has abandoned its responsibility to preserve and protect and may let people build pretty much anything they want in the district.

So you have to ask: "What's the point of having a historic district?"

Bea Nemlaha
Santa Monica



Barnes Burning

Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Only a fool will wait for a rebate

I'M CONVINCED THAT EVERY MAJOR retail company in the world has a Department of Customer Confusion. This clandestine operation doesn't sit next to marketing, accounting or IT in company headquarters. No, like some sick facsimile of a secretive CIA mercenary unit, these folks work out of a tightly secured bunker with sound-proof walls. They probably have a separate entrance and cafeteria so other employees don't catch wind of their devious, diabolical schemes (and don't have to deal with the crushing guilt and shame that would accompany such knowledge). And if you looked at the Outlook calendar of the Executive Vice President in the Department of Customer Confusion, I think you'd only see one item on this to-do list: "Concoct rebate offers that will confuse the bejesus out of our customers."

Next time you're at a cocktail party, casually drop the word "rebate" into a sentence and see what kind of response you get. I'm sure you'll hear tales of grandiose woe, involving multiple photo copies of receipts, nonsensical mailing addresses, the finest print you can imagine, and handfuls of U.S. postal stamps and rebate checks that are perpetually "in the mail." Perhaps you'll hear a tale involving an inept customer service representative or an indignant member of accounts payable. The rebate is the only legal loophole allowing companies to enact fraud on the customers they supposedly wake up each day trying to serve.

My latest tango in Rebate Hell stems from an HP notebook computer I purchased a year ago. After buying the laptop from Office Depot at a steep discount, I dutifully filled out a maze of forms and purchasing information and sent it to some obscure post office box in South Dakota. I crossed the item off my "to-do" list, and began waiting for checks in the amount of \$50 and \$150 to arrive. And I'm sure it won't surprise you to know that while I've received the \$50 check from HP, the \$150 check from Office Depot has yet to arrive (mental note: Do not cross "rebate checks" off the to-do list until they arrive). Last week, I spoke with an overseas customer service rep who informed me that my rebate request had yet to be processed. He simply processed the order with me on

the line and told me, of course, that they check was now officially in the mail. We'll see about that.

In the modern information age where, by necessity, companies are more transparent than they've ever been, I don't see how they can keep perpetuating this fraud. If they plan on selling an item for less than sticker price, simply refund that money at the point of purchase. If billions of dollars are spent in pursuit of the consumer, and the modern consumer has more choices and purchasing options than any time in history, how can a corporation even come close to risking the good graces of such a relationship by running those handing over their hard-earned money through a hellacious gauntlet of red-tape misery that drives the most patient among us totally bonkers?

Ask anybody remotely involved in the sale of goods to customers, and they'll tell you that their number one goal is to satisfy that customer. Indeed, there are countless examples of companies happily going out of their way in an active effort to lose boatloads of money in the hope of merely getting a customer in the door and/or giving that customer a positive experience within their store or virtual walls so they might come back. Wal-Mart notoriously operates on razor-thin, single-digit margins as they slash and burn their prices in the name of volume. In their third quarter earnings report, Amazon.com announced that they sold 2.5 million copies of the latest Harry Potter book ... at a loss. That's right, the world's biggest online retailer purposely sold the book at a loss-leading discount for no other reason than driving buyers to their site (who undoubtedly purchase additional items) and establishing their stake as the place to buy the latest and greatest products.

Hopefully, the rise of e-commerce strikes a dagger in the heart of Departments of Customer Confusion across the country. After all, the online retail space is notoriously competitive as alternate options abound. A better deal or experience is only a mouse-click away. Remember, the customer's always right.

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

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Meredith Pro Tem

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It's the tragically (and aged-ly) hip

AS THEY RELEASED THEIR 28TH ALBUM this summer, '70s funk band Kool & the Gang declared there is "no age limit to being cool." However — based on the less-than-stellar sales of "Still Kool," and since the band last reached No. 1 on the Billboard charts in 1981 — it appears as if the group's waning number of fans eager to cough up enough dough to keep them celebrating good times beg to differ.

Some aging superstars pull off cool with few problems. U2's Bono wisely wears shades day and night, indoors and out — successfully masking his AIDS-fighting, world peace-seeking, still kick-ass music-making distinguished 47-year-old crowd's feet, while simultaneously demonstrating his penchant for designer sunglasses. (Included on the highlight reel of Bono's coolness will, undoubtedly, be the recent photos of him walking on a beach and managing to keep cool while also keeping his shirt on, instead of revealing his pasty white Irish beer belly.)

Liza Minnelli would do well by herself if she were to take a page from Bono's cool book and don a pair of sunglasses. However, since the aged, er, ageless Grammy winner regularly looks as if she passed cool about as smoothly as others pass kidney stones, she'd be fooling no one into believing that it wasn't due to 30 years of around-the-clock bloody marys, and not the glare of the moon, if she were to wear sunglasses at night.

Last month, the almost 50-year-old Madonna left her longtime record label and signed a cool \$120 million deal with a concert promoter. While many pointed to the move as proof of her continued coolness, others whispered it was actually evidence that the record industry has cooled to her. Some insiders speculate the Material Girl has lost just enough of her cool that this deal — in which she'll get paid \$17 million in advance of each new album and \$50 million to promote her tours — is necessary if she wants to keep making as much money on her records and selling as many concert tickets as she has in the past.

Madonna's not the only maturing rock star eschewing traditional contracts. Paul McCartney is among the artists who have shunned the major labels (in his case, signing with the music arm of the Lord of the Lattes, Starbucks), perhaps anticipating that a mainstream deal might not have been as

brag-worthy as in the days of yore.

Also seeking an alternative, and arguably less cool route these days, are the fermenting Eagles. The band chose Wal-Mart as the sole distributor of their first album of original material in 27 years. In doing so, the '70s superstars also opted (to the delight of the Rainforest Alliance) to package their album with Domtar EarthChoice papers in lieu of a more useful Geritol coupon (for the benefit of their equally graying fans) in each CD jewel case.

To be fair, there's no minimum age requirement on losing one's coolness, as the new Eagles' album outsold Britney Spears' latest release last week.

Speaking of Britney Spears and losing coolness, besides the fact that the highly-manufactured pop star qualifies as a rocker only because she bought one for late night feedings in her infant sons' nursery (and because she's clearly off hers), the recently court-anointed "habitual, frequent and continuous user of alcohol and drugs" appeared last week at a Halloween bash in Hollywood in a pink and black tiger-striped leotard with feathers, fish-net stocking and red platform heels.

The 25-year-old can no more pull off animal prints than the senescent — yet still stunning — supermodel Cindy Crawford (who increasingly seems to gravitate towards the same leopard print ensembles as the ladies of the Islands — Long and Staten).

And, of course, no discussion of age limits and cool would be complete without Puerto Rican boy band phenomenon Menudo. The group that sold millions of records around the world managed to stay cool throughout much of the '70s and '80s by kicking out members once they turned 16, making way for younger, cooler boys.

MTV is currently trying to tap back into that cool niche market again by recreating the band in a new reality show, "Making Menudo." MTV is rolling the dice, however, by upping the age limit for band members. Only time — and subsequent ratings and album sales — will tell if allowing older members in the group allows them to be (and stay) cool.

Ricky Martin must have his fingers crossed.

MEREDITH CARROLL'S column appears each Thursday. She can be reached at meredithcarroll@hotmail.com.



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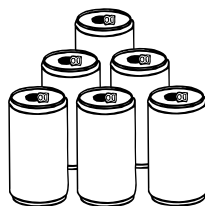
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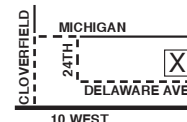
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The Q-Line

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It ain't easy being green

Sure, Santa Monica thumps its chest claiming to be as green a city as they come. Yet, pollution at the airport, notoriously dirty water off the coast, plans to remove healthy trees and a certain disdain for a bike riders group seems to prove the contrary.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think Santa Monica is truly green or is it all just a bunch of propaganda?

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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Under fire

Task force reviews firefighting efforts and building codes

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press Writer

IRVINE, Calif. Rapid development in wild-fire-prone areas and continued bone-dry weather have alarmed California firefighters, who began a sweeping assessment of fire danger Tuesday and what's needed to meet it.

Catastrophic wildfires that burned across the state last month and in 2003 were of an intensity that should be witnessed rarely — perhaps once a century, they say. The proximity of those fires has raised fears that furious blazes could become more frequent, threatening lives and property.

"We've had our second 100-year fire in four years. So, if you are going to have a 100-year fire every four years, it seems that you need to dramatically change your definition of what the fire danger is in California," said Carroll Wills, a spokesman for the California Professional Firefighters.

"Where they build the homes has a lot to do with whether or not they will be lost," Wills said.

His remarks came as a state task force began a broad review of firefighting during last month's blazes, which left seven dead and destroyed more than 2,000 homes from Los Angeles County to the Mexican border.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has directed the group to determine if California has enough fire engines and personnel, as well as look at whether the state should allow homes and businesses to be built in areas with high wildfire risk.

"The governor believes the state did a great job in its response to the fires, but we should always be asking ourselves what additional steps we need to take to do even better," said Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLearn. "He is calling on the experts to examine the most recent fires and to make additional recommendations to ensure we are always improving

our fire response."

The panel began its work on a day when the administration confirmed that state agencies have been directed to draft plans for a 10 percent, across-the-board spending cut. If enacted, it would be the biggest round of budget cuts since Schwarzenegger took office in 2003.

"Any time they start talking about cutting budgets and reducing revenues ... that's a concern," said Mike Warren, the Corona fire chief who is leading the Blue Ribbon Task Force.



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FOUR YEARS, IT SEEMS
THAT YOU NEED TO
DRAMATICALLY CHANGE
YOUR DEFINITION OF
WHAT THE FIRE DANGER
IS IN CALIFORNIA."**

Carroll Wills

spokesman, California Professional Firefighters

Warren said Monday he expected to complete a report in early 2008, but indicated Tuesday it could take longer. Among the issues: working with communities to update fire codes and building standards in light of wildfire risks.

Wills, who was one of about 30 people who attended the Monday meeting, said issues from radio communications to building codes to aircraft used in firefighting will be discussed.

A similar group convened after the 2003 fires and issued dozens of recommendations to improve firefighting. Part of the task force's work will be to see if those recommendations were followed and, if so, what worked.

Fight brewing over term limits

BY STEVE LAWRENCE

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Calling Proposition 93 a "naked power grab," state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner said Tuesday he will contribute at least \$1.5 million to defeat the Feb. 5 ballot measure that seeks to modify legislative term limits.

The initiative would reduce the overall time lawmakers could serve in the Legislature from 14 years to 12 but would allow them to serve all of it in one house. If it passes, the initiative also would allow dozens of lame duck lawmakers to run for re-election.

Poizner, a Republican, said he will try to raise other contributions to fight the proposition and is willing to dig deeper into his own fortune to fund the campaign. He made \$1 billion in 2000 by selling a cell phone global positioning company to telecom giant Qualcomm.

"Proposition 93's been written very

cleverly by the authors, mainly the legislative leaders, to fool voters into thinking that Proposition 93 will actually shrink term limits ... when in fact Proposition 93 will do exactly the opposite for the vast majority of people in the Legislature," he said.

A spokesman for the campaign supporting Proposition 93, Richard Stapler, said Poizner was using the fight against the ballot measure to help his drive to become governor in 2010.

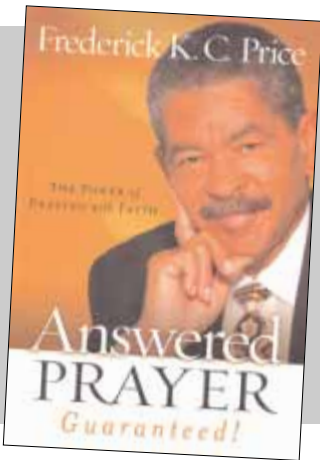
"Our insurance commissioner is out playing 2010 gubernatorial politics while he should be tending to the insurance needs of the thousands of families who lost their homes in the Southern California wildfires," Stapler said.

He also said that by jumping into the campaign against Proposition 93, Poizner was "aligning himself with a group of out-of-state, extremist nut jobs" who also favor "privatizing and eliminating nearly every aspect of government."



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Feds seize fossils, bone fragments

BY GENE JOHNSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SEATTLE Federal agents have seized more than a dozen fossils and bone fragments from the home of a Kelso man who was seen excavating illegally in Oregon's John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, according to federal court documents made public Tuesday.

A seasonal employee at the monument called authorities in May after she and her 11-year-old son confronted David Wixon and a woman believed to be his wife as they were chipping fossils out of a blue-clay-stone slope with a 2-foot-long hammer.

The worker jotted down the license plate

number for their sport-utility vehicle, which was parked in a handicapped spot even though the parking lot was otherwise empty, said an affidavit filed in support of a search warrant.

Agents with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management searched the couple's home and vehicle on Oct. 30.

According to an inventory filed with a U.S. magistrate judge in Vancouver, Wash., the items seized included a bag containing 17 fossil specimens; fragments of the "dental end" of a rhinoceros (rhinos roamed North America until about 4.5 million years ago); a prehistoric anthropod called a trilobite; lake shale slabs con-

taining fossils; and an unidentified mammal section.

Gregory Lloyd, a BLM ranger, wrote that the agents also seized computers, CD-ROMs, and hard drives, and noted that authorities were interested in any evidence that stolen fossils had been sold.

Wixon, 45, and his wife, Tina Marie Wixon, have an unpublished phone number and could not immediately be reached for comment. It was not clear if they had obtained a lawyer; they have not been charged.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, in central Oregon, covers 14,000 acres and contains fossils that are

more than 100 million years old. Among the remains found there are those of prehistoric camels, rhinos, alligators, and oreodonts, a tusked precursor to modern pigs, hippos and camels that vanished more than 4 million years ago.

David Wixon has a criminal record including drug and weapons convictions, he wrote.

A supervisor at the monument was out of the office Tuesday and could not be reached for comment. The Bureau of Land Management also declined to comment.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Migrant deaths along border fall for second straight year

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD | Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX The number of illegal immigrants dying while crossing America's southern border fell for the second straight year, officials said Wednesday.

Four hundred people perished while entering the United States from Mexico in the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, down 12 percent from the 453 deaths in the previous year.

The record for migrant deaths was set in 2005, when 494 were reported.

The U.S. Border Patrol attributed the lower numbers to tighter border enforcement that led to fewer illegal crossings and 2,500 new agents in the field who can spread out more to seek out immigrants crossing in remote and perilous terrain.

"We feel we have made significant progress this year," said Border Patrol spokesman Lloyd Easterling, who believes the number is still too high.

More than half the deaths were reported in Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point along the nearly 2,000-mile southern border. For several years, immigrants have succumbed to triple-digit heat during the summers in the state's deserts.

The primary cause of death for the immigrants was exposure to heat. Other causes include vehicle and train accidents, drownings, fatigue and banditry.

The deaths dropped in seven of the nine Border Patrol sectors along the southern border. The increases came in the sectors in Tucson, Ariz., and Laredo, Texas.

The Rev. Robin Hoover, founder of the Tucson-based group Humane Borders, said people shouldn't read too much into the decrease reported by the Border Patrol, because the numbers are likely higher.

The Border Patrol reports the number of bodies found along the border, but those numbers don't include immigrants who have died but whose skeletal remains have yet to

be discovered, Hoover said.

"This is not good news for the Border Patrol, and the Border Patrol shouldn't treat this as good news," Hoover said, blaming the deaths on the government's border enforcement strategy.

As the Border Patrol has increased border security in certain spots, it prompted smugglers to turn to remote and dangerous migration routes where enforcement is weaker, said Hoover, whose group has dozens of water stations in the Arizona desert to help illegal immigrants in distress.

Easterling said money-hungry smugglers are responsible for the deaths for failing to warn their customers of the dangers of desert crossing and bringing too little water to sustain immigrants during the long walk into the country.

"(Border Patrol agents) are not the ones out there beckoning these illegal aliens to come over," Easterling said. "When you think about it, you have to tie it into the smugglers making false promises."



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Humpback, fin whales spotted in Arctic Ocean

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Endangered humpback whales swam into the Beaufort Sea off Alaska's northern coast this summer, far beyond their usual range, but federal officials monitoring the waters say it's too soon to determine whether it's a trend or an anomaly.

Environmental groups say the presence of humpbacks hundreds of miles north of their usual habitat likely is another sign of the effects of global warming and the shifting Arctic ecosystem. They are calling for more study of the endangered animals' habits before industrial activity is allowed to expand off Alaska's northern shores.

Robin Cacy, a spokeswoman for the federal Minerals Management Service, which oversees lease sales for offshore petroleum drilling in federal waters, confirmed that humpback whales were spotted in the Beaufort Sea east of Barrow, the northernmost community in the United States. Humpback whales were seen in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast last year, she said.

Also, endangered fin whales were detected this summer by acoustic monitoring north of the Bering Strait in the Chukchi Sea, Cacy said. The fin whales were recorded as far north as Point Lay, a coastal Inupiat Eskimo village of 235 about 700 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Some of the whales were spotted by observers involved with the oil industry. Shell Exploration and Production and its contractors performed seismic work this summer in anticipation of

bidding on leases. Lease sales are scheduled for 2008 in the Chukchi Sea and 2009 in the Beaufort Sea. Cacy said some whales also were spotted by observers involved with barge traffic.

No one was expecting humpbacks near the activity connected to Outer Continental Shelf lease sales, said Brad Smith, a protective resources biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

"We expected those to be further south and west of the OCS planning areas," Smith said. "We didn't anticipate that they'd been encountered in any of the OCS exploration activity that we're doing this year."

be the first suspect of why the whales are there."

Deborah Williams, a former Department of Interior special assistant for Alaska, and now an advocate for finding solutions to climate change, said the presence of humpback and fin whales so far north has significant implications for the animals' management and development.

"We now have even more compelling reasons to protect the Arctic Ocean and the species dramatically affected by climate change," she said.

Sheela McLean, spokeswoman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

IT LOOKS LIKE THE POPULATIONS ARE SUFFERING FROM IT. ALL SIGNS POINT TO GLOBAL WARMING. THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST SUSPECT OF WHY THE WHALES ARE THERE."

Brendan Cummings, Ocean programs director for the Center for Biological Diversity

Brendan Cummings, ocean programs director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said the sightings may be an indication of a recovering humpback population expanding its range or of desperate animals in search of food.

Other species that use the Chukchi Sea, from walrus congregating on Alaska's northwest shore to gray whales seeking new feeding areas, are behaving differently because of climate change, he said.

"It looks like the populations are suffering from it," he said. "All signs point to global warming. That would

Administration's fisheries service in Juneau, said humpbacks range widely and have been spotted on the Russian part of the Chukchi Sea. However, humpbacks are not usually associated with pack ice, so sightings further north might be shifts in distribution caused by climate change, she said.

This year was a record low year for pack ice. The National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder in September recorded 1.65 million square miles of sea ice. That's 39 percent below the long-term average from 1979 to 2000.

Steer clear: Wild horses to be rounded up

BY BEN NEARY | Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. Faced with protests from Wyoming officials, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has agreed to proceed with rounding up wild horses in the state this week rather than waiting until next year.

Alan Rabinoff, acting Wyoming state director of the BLM, issued a statement on Wednesday saying that the agency would proceed with the planned roundups of approximately 725 wild horses in the White Mountain and Little Colorado herd management areas near Rock Springs beginning on Friday.

"We try to balance meeting emergency needs like the critical situation facing wild horses in Nevada and the long-term management of wild horses in Wyoming and throughout the nation," Rabinoff said.

Rabinoff's comments mark a reversal for the BLM.

Robert Bennett, director of the BLM in Wyoming, last month wrote to Gov. Dave Freudenthal stating that the cost of taking care of sick wild horses in Nevada would delay planned roundups in southwestern Wyoming.

Bennett noted that federal land managers have shut down temporarily the National Wild Horse and Burro Center in northern Nevada as a preventative measure in response to an outbreak of salmonella among horses there. He said the BLM was faced with removing over 2,200 horses from five herd management areas in Nevada to prevent a recurrence.

Freudenthal and the state's congressional delegation fired back letters to the BLM demanding that the agency proceed with the scheduled Wyoming roundups this year. The state has long been concerned that wild horses consume forage that would be better used to support wildlife and livestock.

Freudenthal noted in his letter to Bennett that the BLM had signed a 2003 consent decree a few years ago to settle a federal lawsuit brought by the state over wild horse management. The agreement requires BLM to remove horses when herds exceed certain limits. The governor said the state would consider legal action.

Freudenthal spokeswoman Cara Eastwood said Wednesday, "Gov. Freudenthal is pleased that the planned wild horse gather in Wyoming will go forward, and he is glad that the agency is living up to its responsibilities under the 2003 consent decree. Clearly, the drought is impacting all of the western states, which is why he weighed in so vehemently on the proposed redirection of funding from Wyoming."

Steven Hall, spokesman for the BLM in Wyoming, said Wednesday that the BLM has been hampered by the fact Congress hasn't approved a full budget for the fiscal year. He said the agency is limited to spending only a set percentage of what it received in the last budget every month.

Although Hall said the BLM at first believed that it couldn't afford to stage the Wyoming roundups this year, he said that it has determined that it could afford to stage them. The agency says that it will cost about \$300,000 to stage the roundups and another \$500,000 to feed and care for the horses through the next fiscal year.

"We certainly heard the governor as well as the delegation and their concerns," Hall said. He said the agency will also have enough money to address the wild horse situation in Nevada as well.

Hall has said there are about 4,100 wild horses in Wyoming. He said the BLM has set the desired number of horses in the state at between 2,700 and 3,700. Once the BLM rounds up excess wild horses, it puts them up for adoption.



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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
Newsroom Santa Monica Inc 530 Wilshire	(310) 451-9444
Ocean Avenue Seafood 1401 Ocean Ave.	(310) 437-8824
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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
R A W 609 Broadway	(310) 451-4148
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
Stefano's 1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
Sunset Bar & Grill 1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
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Tandoor Cafe 395 Santa Monica Place #009	(310) 435-3845
Tastie16 Santa Monica Place	(310) 770-6745
Thai Dishes Restaurant 1910 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-5634
Tokyo Kitchen 15 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 451-5385
T's Thai 1215 4th St.	(310) 395-4106
Tudor House 1403 2nd St.	(310) 451-8470
Victoria Pizzeria 1607 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 394-6863
Villa Italian Specialties 8 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 451-3031
Wahoo's Fish Taco 418 Wilshire Blvd	(949) 222-0670
Whist 1819 Ocean Av	(310) 260-7509
Wolfgang Puck Express 1315 Third Street	(310) 576-4770

Yangtze 1333 Third Street Promenade
Yankee Doodles 1410 Third Street
Ye Olde Kings Head 116 Santa Monica Blvd

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(310)394-4632
(310)451-1402
(310)451-1402

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310 Lounge & Bistro 3321 Pico Blvd.	(310) 453-1331
Abbots Pizza Company 1811 Pico Blvd	(310) 314-2777
Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
Ameci Pizza Pasta 2218 Lincoln Bl	(310) 314-0090
B B Q Garden 1707 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-6494
The Bread Factory Inc 1900 Pico Bl	(310) 434-4653
Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
Burger King 1919 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-1227
Bud's Famous Deli & Desserts 2727 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-6860
Cafe Bolivar 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 581-2344
Campos Mexican Food Inc 2008 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-4477
Carls Jr Restaurant 502 Pico Blvd	(714) 778-7116
Carrows 3040 Ocean Park Blvd	(714) 863-6435
Classic Pizza 2624 Pico Blvd	(310) 399-0452
Cocos 1264 3440 Ocean Park Blvd	(864) 597-8591
The Counter 2901 Ocean Park Bl #102	(310) 399-8383
The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
Dominos Pizza 1865 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 396-9696
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
El Pollo Loco Restaurant 1906 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 392-9800
El Torito 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
El Texate 316 Pico Blvd.	(310) 399-1115
Fast Taco 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-4255
Fosters Freeze 1530 Pico Blvd	(310) 734-2233
Fresh & Natural Cafe 1900 Pico Blvd	(310) 392-0516
Garys Grill 2819 1/2 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-9949
Georges Burgers 3101 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0445
Gilbert's El Indio Mexican Food 2526 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-8057
Hotel Casa Del Mar Restaurant 1910 Ocean Way	(310) 581-5533
The Hump 3221 Donald Douglas Loop South	(310) 390-3177
The Hungry Pocket 1715 Pico Blvd	(310) 458-5335
Il Forno Caffè & Pizzeria 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-1241
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La Playita 3306 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0090
Lares Restaurant Inc 2909 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-4550
Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-9011
Le Pain Du Jour 828 Pico Blvd #2	(310) 399-4870
Mandarin Food Service 2618 Pico Bl	(310) 396-9559
Mc Donalds 2902 Pico Blvd	(630) 689-5588
Michael D'S Cafe 234 Pico Blvd	(310) 452-8737
Miyako 2829 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 396-5588
Ocean Park Cafe 3117 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 452-5720
One Pico Restaurant One Pico Blvd.	(310) 587-1717
Panchos Tacos 2920 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-2970
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Yongs Cafe 3020 Nebraska Ave.	(310) 828-4775
Yoshinoya Beef Bowl 2360 Pico Blvd	(310) 527-8060
Yuni Sushi 1928 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 396-4039
Yum Yum Donuts 2628 Pico Blvd.	(310) 452-9814
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Bravo Pizzeria & Deli 2400 Main St.	(310) 392-7466
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The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 396-6706
Creative Sushi 2518 Main St.	(310) 396-2711
Dhaba Cuisine Of India 2104 Main St.	(310) 390-9451
Elvira's Cha Cha Chicken 1906 Ocean Ave.	(310) 581-1684
The Enterprise Fish Co 174 Kinney St.	(310) 392-8366
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Finn McCools Irish Pub & Restaurant 2700 Main St.	(310) 452-1734
Groundwork Coffee Co. 2908 Main St.	(310) 930-3901
The Galley 2442 Main St.	(310) 452-1934
Holy Guacamole 2906 Main St.	(310) 314-4850
It's All Good Bakery 2629 Main St.	(310) 260-0233
Joess Main Street Diner 2917 Main St.	(310) 392-5804
La Vecchia Cucina 2654 Main St	(310) 399-7979
Library Alehouse 2911 Main St.	(310) 314-4855
Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St.	(310) 392-5711
Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
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Urth Caffè 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
The Victorian Baker Cafe 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-4956
Wildflour 2807 Main St.	(310) 452-7739
World Café 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-1661
Yose Restaurant 2435 Main St.	(310) 255-0680

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26 Beach Restaurant 3100 Washington Blvd.	(310) 823-7526
Abbot's Habit 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 399-1171
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Agra Indian Kitchen 2553 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-8749
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Azteca Restaurant 835 Sunset Ave.	(310) 396-6576
Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-7675
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Hama 213 Windward Ave.	(310) 396-8783
James Beach 60 N. Venice Blvd.	(310) 823-5396
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La Meditrina 1029 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5000
Lands End Restaurant 323 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 392-3997
Lilly's French Cafe & Bar 1031 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-0004
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Piccolo Ristorante 5 Dudley Ave.	(310) 314-3222
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Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 450-5119
Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd.	(310) 822-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-2229
Wacky Wok 2805 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 822-7373

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C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd.	(310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way	(310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way	(310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way	(310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina	(310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266	(310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way	(310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-3939
Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd.	(310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-1595
Le Marmiton 4724 Admiralty Way	(310) 773-3560
Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd	(310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-4534
Tsuji No Hana 4714 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 827-1433
The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5451

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Chez Mimi Restaurant 246 26th St	(310) 393-0558
Chin Chin 11740 San Vicente Blvd.	(310) 826-2525
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Harvest Restaurant 13018 San Vicente Blvd.	(310) 458-6050
Literati II 12081 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 479-4300
Enzo and Angela 11701 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 477-3880
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Aphrodisiac 10351 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 470-0792
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Awash Restaurant 5990 Pico Blvd.	(323) 939-3233
Bombay Cafe 12021 W. Pico Blvd.	(310) 473-3388
Carmine's II Caffè 10463 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 441-4706
Colony Cafe 10937 W. Pico Blvd.	(310) 470-8909
En Sushi 11651 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 477-1551
DiVita's 11916 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 478-0286
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Il Grano 11359 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 477-7886
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Food

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 200711

Natural may take on new meaning

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON It's a fight that has the nation's largest chicken producers squabbling, Big Sugar and Big Corn skirmishing and Sara Lee mixing it up with Farmer John.

Lawmakers, too, have joined the fray, which already is thick with dueling petitions and at least one lawsuit. Meanwhile, government food regulators are uncertain how to proceed.

The question is at face value a simple one: When can food products, from chicken breasts to soda pop, rightfully be labeled as "natural?"

Wrapped up in it, however, are some far trickier questions: Is it ethical to charge for saltwater that increasingly pumps up supermarket chickens? Is the sodium lactate used as a flavoring and preservative in sliced roast beef "natural?" How about the high-fructose corn syrup that sweetens sodas?

Equally simple answers appear elusive.

"It's worth bringing in the rabbis to analyze these situations because it's complicated, it's subtle. You can argue from both sides. It has fine distinctions," said Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The watchdog group's take on the matter is clear: It has threatened to sue soft-drink companies like 7-Up producer Cadbury Schweppes Americas Beverages for promoting as "100 percent natural" drinks sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup.

It also has complained that chicken producers are pumping up (and weighing down) their "all-natural" birds with salt water and broth, a growing practice that 40 members of Congress recently called misleading and deceptive.

Poultry giant Tyson Foods Inc. says its marinated chickens are all natural because they contain no artificial ingredients. And its survey work suggests consumers prefer marinated chicken over "conventional chicken" anyway since it's tender and juicier, company spokesman Gary Mickelson said.

Tyson competitors, like Sanderson Farms Inc., say not so fast.

"Under any definition of the term, natural chicken does not contain salt, phosphates, sea salt, preservatives, carrageenan, nor is it pumped with up to 15 percent solution and other ingredients," Lampkin Butts, president and chief operating officer of Sanderson Farms, told a federal hearing last year.

Still, even Tyson supports revisiting the Agriculture Department's definition of "natural." In the mean time, it proposes a two-tier definition that would cover chicken, beef and pork that contains no added ingredients, plus those meats prepared with all-natural ingredients.

Other food companies have chosen their own sides in the debate. They have lodged petitions, comments and lawsuits with the government and are holding out that a definitive answer on what is (and isn't) natural is forthcoming.

At stake is a shot at increasing their share of the estimated \$13 billion-a-year market for "natural" foods and beverages _ a market whose 4 percent to 5 percent annual growth outpaces that of the overall grocery category, according to Packaged Facts, a market research company.

Any sort of federal ruling would, alter-

nately, either narrow or broaden current rules and regulations that govern use of the "natural" label.

A critic maintains that the push is a bald-faced bid to manipulate federal policy for financial gain, something the feuding parties are quick to accuse each other of doing, and not to add to the public good.

"What looks like a neutral issue or question, such as the meaning of 'natural,' is not neutral at all," said former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, who tackles the issue in the recently published "Supercapitalism."

Reich says the issue "has profound competitive consequences. Certain companies — sometimes whole sectors of a whole industry — will be advantaged or disadvantaged by how agencies define words that may appear in labels."

UNDER ANY DEFINITION OF THE TERM, NATURAL CHICKEN DOES NOT CONTAIN SALT, PHOSPHATES, SEA SALT, PRESERVATIVES, CARRAGEENAN, NOR IS IT PUMPED WITH UP TO 15 PERCENT SOLUTION AND OTHER INGREDIENTS."

Lampkin Butts
president and chief operating officer of Sanderson Farms

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration and Agriculture Department both say they are weighing how to move forward.

The FDA generally allows foods to be labeled as "natural" if such a claim is truthful and not misleading and the product does not contain added color, artificial flavors or synthetic substances, spokeswoman Kimberly Rawlings said. Agriculture Department policy roughly mirrors the FDA's, though it adds that "natural" meat and poultry products cannot be more than minimally processed.

That's not good enough for industry.

The Sugar Association, in a February 2006 FDA petition seeking clarity on the issue, claims the original chemical state of sweeteners like high-fructose corn syrup — made by its arch rivals — is altered so significantly during processing that "the allowance of a 'natural' claim is exceedingly misleading," trade group president and CEO Andrew Briscoe III wrote the agency. The group represents producers of sucrose, made from sugar beets and cane.

The Corn Refiners Association fired back in opposition, saying the sugar industry's claim would draw an unjustified and inconsistent distinction between sucrose and the high-fructose corn syrup its member companies make — and which presumably would no longer be considered "natural."

Your move

Library celebration honors city's history with game of chess

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Long before the famous 1972 match-up between chess legends Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky, the two squared off in a relatively unknown first meeting in Santa Monica.

It was the summer of 1966 and Fischer and Spassky came face-to-face for the first time in what was known as the Second Piatigorsky Cup, a chess tournament — named after top female chess player Jacqueline Piatigorsky — held in the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

Then 23 years old, Fischer came in second place in the tournament after losing one game to Spassky and tying the second. It would be six years before the two would do battle in what is known as the most famous chess matches in history, Fischer defeating Spassky in the world championships in Iceland and becoming the first American to win the title, ending more than three decades of Soviet dominance.

Their meeting in Santa Monica is indicative of the strong chess culture in the seaside city.

"Santa Monica is (known) as a chess aficionado worldwide," said Pete Savino, the president of the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club.

A strong chess culture is said to exist in the city, from clubs dedicated to the problem-solving game to chess programs at the library to the popular Chess Park situated near Santa Monica Beach. In a city known for surfing and shopping, chess has similarly made a case for favorite pastime.

The Santa Monica Public Library is in the middle of hosting a week-long celebration dedicated to the age-old board game with nearly daily events — including tournaments and youth and family lessons — all leading up to a highly-anticipated demonstration with grand chess master Var Akobian.

Akobian, 23, is ranked as the top chess player in the state and will play against 20 challengers simultaneously at the Fairview Branch Library on Saturday.

The "Got Chess" event is the first week-long celebration the library program has hosted. Akobian also performed a demonstration last year.

"This year, we decided to build around the week preceding his appearance," said Mel Bloch, the director of the chess program.

The program brings so-called chess masters and experts together with novices, offering free lessons twice a week at the Fairview Branch and Ocean Park Branch libraries. In the past three years since the program's inception, more than 30,000



Photo courtesy Alejandro Cantarero

EYES ON THE PRIZE: A man plays a game of chess at the Chess Park on Ocean Front Walk.

lessons have been given. The instructors range in ages from high school teenagers to veterans that have been playing the game for decades. Santa Monica resident Bill Lasley, who has played chess seriously since moving to the west coast in the 1980s, teaches lessons at Grant Elementary School, St. Monica and Fairview Library.

The game has long been derided as a nerdy type of activity, played by intellectuals and social outcasts fashioning pocket protectors. With a heavy problem-solving component, chess has been proven to improve math and science skills among young students that frequently play the game.

"In preparing children for the information age, there is nothing like giving them

the experience of reading a book or doing chess problems and letting them apply the knowledge and see it work in the real world," Lasley said.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Despite its less-than-hip label, chess has actually experienced a surge in popularity, buoyed by the accessibility and convenience of the game through the Internet. Yet, while popularity for the activity has grown, membership in local chess clubs has dropped dramatically.

The 50-year-old Santa Monica Bay Chess Club is one of the oldest clubs in

SEE CHECKMATE PAGE 15

We're Giving the Bird to Artificial Additives...

COME TO BOB'S MARKET FOR AN ALL NATURAL, PREMIUM QUALITY, RANGE GROWN DIESTEL TURKEY

By Tom Guttman *Neighborhood Patron Since 1984*

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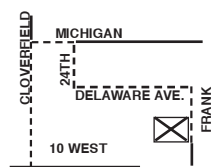
Photos courtesy Frank Cappello

Continual cold temperatures and gloomy skies leave Santa Monica's beaches seemingly deserted on Wednesday, a far cry from one month ago. High temperatures of 66 degrees and cloudy skies are forecasted through the weekend, according to AccuWeather.



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New bus line has its critics

FROM BLUE-HAHA PAGE 1

Boulevard rather than a residential neighborhood.

"It's not serving the residents," Bender said.

Officials at Big Blue and SMC say they hear the residents loud and clear and are currently looking into ways to improve service on the agency's newest route in order to meet the needs of both neighbors and students.

"We want to be good neighbors to everyone," said Dan Dawson, spokesman for the Big Blue Bus. "We want to do the best (we can) to come to a compromise and make everyone happy and still allow us to offer the best transit service possible."

Officials with the biggest public transit provider in Santa Monica held a community workshop on Tuesday night at the Fairview Branch Library to present a proposed route change and to hear some input from the neighbors.

The Sunset Ride runs from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, connecting the various SMC satellite locations and parking lots with the main campus on Pico Boulevard.

The proposed route moves the current bus stop from the controversial intersection, which in itself has more than 250 boardings a day, further west down Pearl Street near where it meets 17th Street. The new route would not only move the stop away from the residences, but actually be closer to the campus itself, Dawson said.

But some residents still seemed discontent with the proposed route, saying that the bus should be rerouted to Pico Boulevard and stay out of the neighborhood.

One of those residents is Wendy Tatt, who lives in an apartment building on 20th Street and Pico Boulevard. Tatt said the bus has affected her quality of life, adding that she not only lives, but works from home.

"The bus is loud. It makes the houses vibrate," she said at the meeting. "If I want to sleep in, forget it."

Some residents also claimed that they had no prior knowledge of the Sunset Ride route before it was implemented and didn't receive any notifications of a public hearing from the Big Blue Bus.

The Sunset Ride is part of the Big Blue Bus' community transit initiative, aimed at bringing public transportation into the neighborhood in order to encourage residents to stay out of their cars and spend more time on the buses, decreasing congestion and air pollution since the Mini Blue Buses run on alternative fuel.

"It's a community based shuttle and to be community based, you have to go into



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

BLUE IN THE FACE: Representatives of Big Blue Bus (left to right) Stephanie Negriff, Joe Stichter and Dan Dawson meet with residents of Sunset Park Tuesday at the Fairview Library. The city officials heard concerns from residents impacted by increased bus traffic in their neighborhood.

the community so people could ride it whether they go to the school or grocery store or doctor office," Dawson said.

The line is designed not only to serve the residents in the neighborhood, but also the largest contingent in the area — the students and faculty at SMC, encouraging students to take the bus instead of driving into the city.

tried to work with Big Blue Bus to find ways to encourage students to take other means of transportation, carpooling or riding the bus. One of the reasons why students haven't utilized the bus very much is because they find it inconvenient with few direct lines coming straight to the college, Martinez said.

As a result, the college and the Big Blue

Big Blue Bus officials plan to discuss the Sunset Ride issue at its transit planning meeting next week and are expected to devise a plan of action. Any drastic changes, such as an alteration of the route, won't most likely happen for a few months, since it takes time to notify the public about the changes in the schedule and route, Dawson said.

In the meantime, both officials at the Big Blue Bus and SMC said they are working to address some of the neighbors' concerns of litter and cigarette smoke, sending out someone to clean up after the students several times a day.

Whatever changes are implemented by bus officials, Martinez stress that it will still have to also serve the needs of the students.

"It still has to be convenient for students to take because if it's inconvenient for them, they're not going to take the bus and we'll be back to square one and students will drive to the college," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

IF I WANT TO SLEEP IN, FORGET IT."

Wendy Tatt, Resident

About 50 percent of the students and faculty at SMC actually live in the immediate neighborhood, according to Marvin Martinez, the vice president of planning and development at SMC. The remainder of the population actually live nearby in West Los Angeles neighborhoods of Mar Vista and Palms, he added.

Long criticized for bringing traffic into the neighborhood, SMC officials have

Bus introduced both the SMC Commuter Line — which travels through Palms and Mar Vista — and the Sunset Ride in the past year.

Approximately 85 percent of the Sunset Ride passengers are Santa Monica College students.

"The college is open to try and make this more feasible, to make this new ride work effectively," Martinez said.

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Chess Park a place to learn

FROM CHECKMATE PAGE 12

the state. With about 30 members, the chess club meets at St. Andrew's Church on National Boulevard in West Los Angeles. The club used to meet at the senior center in Santa Monica.

While the Internet has had a prominent role in the resurgence of chess, playing online lacks some advantages available in face-to-face play, including reading the opponent's faces and sensing their mood.

"You cannot read them psychologically, which is part of the game too," Savino said.

THE CHESS PARK COMMUNITY

Just south of the Santa Monica Pier, a group of men watched a chess match unfold Wednesday afternoon, the waves crashing in the background.

With picnic tables with bolted-in metal chess boards and a large life-size chess board with equally large pieces, the Chess Park has attracted a steady stream of loyal followers over the years.

"It's a Westside Mecca for chess players," Savino said.

The park is at its busiest on the weekends, when tourists come take a break from the Santa Monica Pier, bicyclists veer off the path to watch a chess match or two. The park, especially the large chess set, is popular with families.

Many regulars have been playing at the park for years and refer to each other by their nicknames, such as "Fast Eddie," who moves



File Photo

PAWN: City's chess history goes way back.

his men at the blink of an eye. The players come from all walks of life, such as one chess player who survived the Auschwitz death camp. The park is known as a place where beginners can easily tap the shoulder of a master sitting next to them and ask for assistance.

"People come from across the country, across the world," said one player who identified himself as "Download," because he can frequently be seen on his laptop. "One thing that unites them all is that they're chess players."

melodyh@smdp.com

Students face further discipline from SMC

FROM BUSTED PAGE 3

one another in a series of competitions that force them to write stories and take pictures and file them under a strict deadline. Contestants also compete in a mail-in competition, which looks at work from the previous year to see who wrote the best feature or news story, who took the most eye-catching photographs and who produced the most attractive newspaper.

SMC students caught drinking were prevented from participating in the on-the-spot competitions and were not eligible to receive mail-in awards, Poepelman said.

Still, the SMC team did not leave empty handed. The Corsair took home awards for best news story, online journalism general excellence, best sports feature photo, photo story/essay, online photo, news photo and feature photo.

The disqualifications put a damper on what would otherwise have been a joyous occasion, said Barbara Baird, advisor to the Corsair, who was not present at the conference.

"It's very bittersweet," Baird said. "The students do work really hard to put out the best newspaper they can and they are amongst the hardest working students at Santa Monica College. It's unfortunate that the students did not use good judgment in this incident ... Journalists are

held to a higher ethical standard, so any time we're not squeaky clean, it undermines our credibility as a newspaper, and we've worked very hard to establish our credibility and to follow professional and ethical standards.

"I feel sad about it and it's hard for me to say what effect it will have on the newspaper," Baird added. "But I think it does undermine our credibility."

Judith Penchansky, the dean of student services who is in charge of discipline, said Baird was planning to file a formal complaint with her office and that she would be meeting with the students to discuss punishment.

Penchansky said she was planning to use this opportunity as a "teaching moment," and that the first offense, unless egregious, is usually handled with a warning.

"The rules of conduct are very clear, but yet, we are dealing with a rule that could be considered unusual given that these are community college students," Penchansky said. "Playing devil's advocate, you can have a 30-year-old student who may think they are entitled to a drink, and under other circumstances, they would be, but the rules of conduct prevent that."

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SURF CONDITIONS

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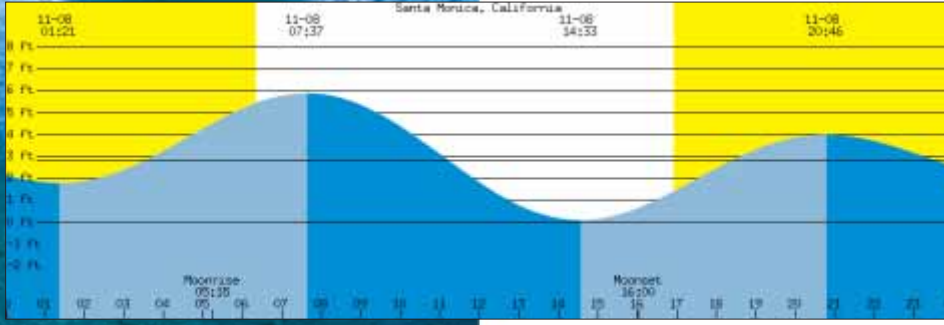
SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)

Today should still have some of the 16-second periods with similar size as Wednesday (head high to 2-feet overhead in the AM). Later in the day though (early afternoon or so), the lagging periods will start to arrive. Size from these on Thursday afternoon/evening should still keep south facing breaks in chest to head high surf, but with less oomph.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

TRACKING NW FOR 12TH...
SW FOR 18TH DOWNGRADED..

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

11-08 01:21 11-08 07:37 11-08 14:33 11-08 20:46

8 Ft. 7 Ft. 6 Ft. 5 Ft. 4 Ft. 3 Ft. 2 Ft. 1 Ft. 0 Ft. -1 Ft. -2 Ft.

MOONRISE: 05:15 MOONSET: 16:00

‘Rocket’ looks like he’s exhausted fuel

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. Roger Clemens is ready to join the Houston Astros — as a consultant.

In a sign that Clemens’ pitching career could be over, his agent told the Astros on Wednesday that the seven-time Cy Young winner is set to start his personal-services contract with the team.

“He’s moving toward retirement and leaving open the possibility of playing,” agent Randy Hendricks said. “As Roger has stated several times, he’s failed at retirement repeatedly.”

Hendricks sent Astros owner Drayton McLane an e-mail informing him of the decision. This was the first time Hendricks formally told Houston that Clemens was ready to work off the field.

It was not clear how Clemens would respond if the Yankees or Astros asked him to pitch next year.

The 45-year-old Clemens was 6-6 with a 4.18 ERA in 17 starts and one relief appearance for the New York Yankees. He rejoined the Yankees this season following three years with his hometown Astros.

Clemens was slowed by foot and elbow injuries this season, then hurt a hamstring and left in the third inning of his playoff start against Cleveland.

In 2006, Clemens worked with Astros prospects before he decided to pitch again in midseason. He joined the Yankees this

Dave Einsel/AP

RETIRED? Pitcher Roger Clemens may be making a return to the Astros ... as a consultant.

June and received \$17.4 million, a prorated portion of his \$28 million salary.

Clemens is eighth on the career wins list with 354 and second with 4,672 strikeouts behind Nolan Ryan’s 5,714.

His decision to start the personal-services contract was first reported by the Houston Chronicle on its Web site.

Trojans still have a shot at playing in the Rose Bowl

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES A week after his team lost at Oregon, Pete Carroll was rooting for the Ducks against Arizona State.

It wasn’t as if the Southern California coach had anything against the Sun Devils. It was simply a matter of what would be best for the Trojans.

“Yeah, exactly. That was a good day, yeah,” Carroll replied with a grin when asked Tuesday if he was glad No. 3 Oregon beat No. 9 ASU last weekend. “It’s going to be a great finish here. You don’t know what’s going to happen. Just when you get to the Arizona-Arizona State game, the Oregon-Oregon State game, you get those matchups, and the UCLA game at the end.”

“Those games, anything happens in those games because of the great rivalries and stuff.”

No. 12 USC (7-2, 4-2 Pac-10) is tied with UCLA in the conference standings, one game behind co-leaders Oregon and Arizona State.

Should USC finish the season by winning road games at No. 24 California and ASU and a home game against UCLA, the Trojans would be in line to play in the Rose Bowl should Oregon get a bid to play in the BCS championship game.

That could happen if the Ducks finish with wins at Arizona and UCLA and at home against Oregon State and either No. 1 Ohio State or No. 2 LSU falters.

Should Oregon lose at least once, it gets complicated. But if that happens and the

Trojans win out, they’d earn at least a share of their sixth straight conference title.

“It will be an exciting finish for everybody. I hope,” Carroll said. “This is really the fourth quarter of the season for us, and we talked about last week how we really want to be at our best here and try to really make a big push to finish strong.”

When the season began, it appeared Saturday night’s USC-Cal matchup would be the Pac-10 game of the year. To date, that honor goes to the ASU-Oregon game.

“I know that they’re trying to get their season right, we’re trying to get our season right and it’s a great matchup for us,” Carroll said. “When you play these guys, you’re getting their players’ best shot all the time. There has been a new history written a little bit about us playing against each other that’s made for great matchups.”

Cal (6-3, 3-3) appeared on its way to a No. 1 ranking before being upset 31-28 by Oregon State on Oct. 13. The Golden Bears lost their next two games, at UCLA and Arizona State, before bouncing back to beat Washington State 20-17 last Saturday night.

Carroll said he didn’t know what happened to the Bears, but added: “The conference is tough. Everybody’s struggling every game to get their wins. It ain’t over yet — there are a lot of big matchups coming up in the last month of the season.”

Carroll expressed the hope the Trojans would become more productive offensively down the stretch.



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 29, 2007

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

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

Number of wet days -- 5

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 33

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 12

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 2 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 Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth (Jencanilla)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Dread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd., (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	A+
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A	A
Saltine Canyon at San Blas County Beach	A+	A
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	A+
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	A+
Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily	A	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 15948 PCH stairs	F	F
Pine Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Tepanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 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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Britney blame Spears' mother feels like she let her daughter down

LYNNE SPEARS say she's responsible for her daughter Britney's troubles. "I blame myself," she tells Life & Style Weekly magazine. "What mother wouldn't?" "I wish I'd been there more while she was touring," Spears said. "But I couldn't be. I had the other kids to look after." Spears, the mother of three children with ex-husband Jamie Spears, is writing a memoir about raising

her family in the public eye. "Pop Culture Mom: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World" is set for release May 11, which is Mother's Day. "I didn't raise my children to have Hollywood

careers. This all just exploded in my face, and big dreams became big headaches," says Spears, who recently reconciled with her 25-year-old pop singer-daughter after a period of estrangement.

Britney Spears was ordered last month to temporarily surrender custody of her sons, Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1, to ex-husband Kevin Federline.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKO SAYS HE PAYS NO MIND TO NEGATIVE STORIES, GOSSIP

MICHAEL JACKSON knows his reputation as a freak – but just ignores it. "I don't pay attention to that," the 49-year-old singer tells Ebony magazine. "In my opinion, it's ignorance. It's usually not based on fact. ... Every neighborhood has the guy who you don't see, so you gossip about him. You see those stories about him, there's the myth that he did this or he did that. People are crazy!" Jackson, a twice-divorced father of three, says he hasn't changed all that much since releasing his blockbuster album "Thriller" nearly 25 years ago. "That Michael is probably the same Michael here," he says in the magazine's December issue, on newsstands Monday. "I just wanted to get certain things accomplished first. But I always had this tug in the back of my head, the things I wanted to do, to raise children, have children. I'm enjoying it very much." Jackson says success "came with a lot of pain." "When you're on top of your game, when you're a pioneer, people come at you. ... But I feel grateful, all those record-breaking things, to the biggest albums, to those No. 1s, I still feel grateful," says the singer. What does he make of today's music? Jackson _ whose last album, 2001's "Invincible," went double-platinum but failed to produce any monster hits _ is reportedly collaborating with the likes of Kanye West for his forthcoming album, Ebony said.

AP

Osmonds to pay tribute to dead dad on 'Oprah'

MARIE OSMOND may have lost a loved one, but she's not ready to lose her place on "Dancing With the Stars." The 48-year-old singer, who missed Tuesday's results show after the death of her father, will continue to compete on the top-rated dance competition, ABC publicist Aime Wolfe said Wednesday. George Osmond, patriarch to the Osmond family's singing group, The Osmond Brothers, died Tuesday, at age 90, at his home in Provo, Utah. Marie Osmond, who skipped Tuesday's live broadcast of "Dancing" to be in Utah, will appear



with family members _ including brother Donny _ on "The Oprah Winfrey" show Friday, said Don Halcombe, a publicist at Harpo, Winfrey's production company. Besides showing off her dance moves, she will perform the theme song from "The Donny and Marie Show" with her brother, Donny, as a tribute to their father, the "Entertainment Tonight"

Web site reported. Donny Osmond told "ET" in an interview to air Wednesday night that he will sing his pop hit "Soldier of Love" on Winfrey's talk show. Jane Seymour, who missed an elimination show on "Dancing With the Stars" last month after the death of her mother, was voted off the televised dance competition. "I've had a ball," the 56-year-old actress told People.com after Tuesday's show. "It's been great. Tony (Dovolani, Seymour's dance partner) is incredibly talented and he's class. He showed me in my best light."

AP

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

Happy at home, Leo

Happy Birthday!

You might be amazed by what comes up for you in many different situations. You will be constantly adjusting and making decisions. You are likely to change the very nature of your life. How you see someone today could be a lot different in the near future. If you are single, take your time making decisions, especially if they involve a long-term commitment. You could meet someone very special this year. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from your strength.



Born Today TV host Mary Hart (1950)

Singer Patti Page (1927)
Actress Tara Reid (1975)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Others assume far more control than you might be comfortable with. Let it go. Much will be changing quickly. There is simply no point in fighting city hall. Tonight: Say yes and go along for the ride. Someone cares much more than you know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others want to dominate, and why shouldn't they? Life proves to be exciting if you let go more often and float with situations. How you handle a personal matter could change because of someone's feedback. Let more good vibes ensue. Tonight: Say yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You easily might be on overload, as you have so much to do. Knowing when to call it quits could be very important. Others will pitch in if you explain your needs more clearly. Don't be overly serious. Tonight: Try out someone else's idea.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to revamp your thinking, as you could have too much on your plate. Ask a friend or two to pitch in and help. You might see better ways of reorganizing your work or projects. Don't hesitate. Tonight: Have fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by everything that is heading down your path. Remain centered, and you'll get results. You might be delighted by what comes up with a friend or associate when you brainstorm. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Often you might want to share more of yourself than you have in the past. Think in terms of moderation and gains. You might want to try another's suggestion, because it just might work. Be optimistic. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Curb unnecessary spending. You have a lot of ground to cover, and quickly at that. Don't allow someone to push you around more than you feel comfortable with. Say no. Though at first you might get a strong reaction, that too will pass. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You have much more going for you than you realize. Try relaxing with events and situations. You could be delighted by what heads down your path. Curb a tendency toward extravagance. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might be much more strong-willed than you realize, though someone uses the moment to sit you down and force you to rethink a situation. Be willing to revamp your thinking if need be. Tonight: Let someone else dominate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, as you have a lot of ground to cover. Imagine more of what you want from a friendship. That might be step number one in making this event happen. Choose to be around people. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be surprised at how someone approaches you. Don't worry about this change of attitude. You might be reading into the situation. Understand what is happening with you. Tonight: Count on this being a late night. Someone wants your attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You will want to take a look at the big picture, whether you are comfortable or not. You can change a situation once you recognize the dynamics. Trust in your abilities. An older friend or relative has a lot to say. Tonight: A must appearance.

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1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45
Martian Child, The (PG)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Saw IV (R)
1:55, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
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30 Days of Night (R)
1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55
American Gangster (R)
1:15, 3:50, 4:50, 7:20, 8:20, 10:45
Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
Gone Baby Gone (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
Saw IV (R)
2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45
We Own the Night (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
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Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
Bella (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
The Darjeeling Limited (R)
1:50, 4:40, 10:00
Lust, Caution (Se jie) (NC-17)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Bee Movie (PG)
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:50, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00
Michael Clayton (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30
Rendition (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Disney Digital 3D (PG)
12:10, 2:20, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20

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

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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drawn by a state or federal savings and loan as-
sociation, or savings association, or savings
bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial
code and authorized to do business in this state,
will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale
will be made, but without covenant or warranty,
expressed or implied, regarding title, possession,
or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal
sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust,
with interest and late charges thereon, as pro-
vided in the note(s), advances, under the terms
of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees,
charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total
amount (at the time of the initial publication of
the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set
forth below. The amount may be greater on the
day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID
LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s):
VALROIDE LYONS, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE
AND SEPARATE PROPERTY Recorded: 9/20/2005
as Instrument No. 05-2263682 in book -, page -
of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of
LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale:
11/21/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: At the
West side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse,
directly facing Norwalk Blvd., 12720 Norwalk
Blvd., Norwalk, CA. Amount of unpaid balance
and other charges: \$336,155.76 The purported
property address is: 1923 -1923A 19TH STSANTA
MONICA, CA 90404 Assessors Parcel No.
4274-019-037 The undersigned Trustee dis-
claims any liability for any incorrectness of the
property address or other common designation, if
any, shown herein. If no street address or other
common designation is shown, directions to the
location of the property may be obtained by send-
ing a written request to the beneficiary within 10
days of the date of first publication of this Notice
of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for
any reason, the successful bidder's sole and ex-
clusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid
to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall
have no further recourse. Date: 11/1/2007 Quality
Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego,
CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE infor-
mation only Sale Line: 714-259-7850 or Login to:
www.fidelityasap.com Reinstatement Line: (619)
645-7711 ext 3704 Shenelle Mason, If you have
previously been discharged through bankruptcy,
you may have been released of personal liability
for this loan in which case this letter is intended
to exercise the note holder's rights against the
real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE
PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS
ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF
THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY IN-
FORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS
FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT
PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby no-
tified that a negative credit report reflecting on
your credit record may be submitted to a credit
report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your
credit obligations. ASAP# 917872 11/01/2007,
11/08/2007, 11/15/2007

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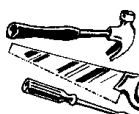
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Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,394,455	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,069,697	\$ 1,752,606
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,018,286	\$ 994,511
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,034,236	\$ 685,920
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,381,769	\$ 682,772
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