



Santa Monica Daily Press
Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE RAVENS SAY NEVERMORE
SEE PAGE 14

THE GREAT PIZZA DEBATE ISSUE

A new year, new laws

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN — If finding a legal place to smoke in Santa Monica wasn't already hard enough, state lawmakers have banned the habit when riding in cars with kids. Motorists will be hit with fines up to \$100 for lighting up in a vehicle containing a minor. The ban is amongst more than 700 changes in state law that take effect in the new year. Others include the second increase in the minimum wage in 12 months and a measure to require more efficient lights, promote solar water heaters and ease the way for the creation of more homeless shelters. The smoking ban is the latest attempt by the state to shield people from the health risk created by breathing in second-hand smoke. California already prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces, including taverns and restaurants, and within 25 feet of a playground. In Santa Monica, smoking is prohibited in all public parks, along the Third Street Promenade, at all Farmers' Markets, the beach, portions of the Santa Monica Pier and all outdoor dining areas. Smoking is also prohibited within 20 feet of an entrance to a building open to the public and at ATMs and bus stops.

Two other states — Arkansas and Louisiana — have laws that bar smoking in vehicles containing children. The Arkansas statute applies to children under the age of 6 or 60 pounds. The Louisiana law covers children under age 13. California's ban would prohibit smoking in a vehicle containing anyone under 18, but the traffic stop would have to be made for another offense, such as speeding, before a vehicle's occupant could be cited for smoking. "I think it's long overdue," Corey Trimble, a father of two,

SEE LAWS PAGE 11

BUSINESS



SHOO-IN TO SHARE

TOMS walks the philanthropy walk
STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
THESE SHOES ARE MADE FOR GIVING: TOMS considers itself a 'shoe gooder' business. The Santa Monica-based company gives a pair of shoes away to a child in need with every purchase.



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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Whatever floats your day off
Ellis Street and Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena,
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

For those who don't have to return to work and can't get enough of the Rose Parade, head on over to Pasadena to check out the floats from the parade. Tickets are \$7. For more information, visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

Meditate on it
1737 21st St., 7:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The Southern California Psychic Institute will teach a workshop on meditation. Learn to release stress, stay centered, and relax. For information, call (310) 587-3536.

Jewish story hour
1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Story time at Chabad is for children ages 3 — 7. It is recommended that participants RSVP to this free event to ensure there are enough materials for all children. For questions or to RSVP, call (310) 393-7379 or e-mail srljs@juno.com.

Cool School revisited
1611 Electric Ave., Venice, by appointment only
The "Cool School" exhibit, named for the film which features Ferus Gallery artists, will be on display through January 11. A portion of the proceeds from sold paintings will go to the "Films for Schools" outreach program. For more information, visit www.VeniceTrust.com.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2007

What's New This Week
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Ice, ice, baby
1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones — as you slice through the city's new public ice rink. Admission is \$10; including skate rental.

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.



Study: Young adults heavy library users

BY ANICK JESDANUN
AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK Young adults are the heaviest users of public libraries despite the ease with which they can access a wealth of information over the Internet from the comforts of their homes, according to a new study.

That's especially true for those who had questions related to health conditions, job training, government benefits and other problems. Twenty-one percent of Americans with such questions aged 18-30 have turned to public libraries, compared with about 12 percent among the general adult population with those problems to solve.

Education-related tasks — making decisions about schooling, paying for it and getting job training — are the most common problems drawing people to libraries, according to a joint study from the Pew Internet and American Life Project and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

And people are going to libraries not only for the Internet computers there but also for library reference books, newspapers and magazines.

"The age of books isn't yet over," said Lee Rainie, Pew's director.

The study found that library usage drops gradually as people age — to 62 percent among Americans generally aged 18-30 compared with 32 percent among those 72 and up, with a sharp decline just as Americans turn 50.

"It was truly surprising in this survey to find the youngest adults are the heaviest library users," Rainie said. "The notion has taken hold in our culture that these wired-up, heavily gadgeted young folks are swimming in a sea of information and don't need to go to places where information is."

Leigh Estabrook, a retired professor of information science and sociology at the University of Illinois, said young adults used to finding information online are likely to crave even more and realize they need to turn to libraries to get it.

A 1996 report from the Benton Foundation, a nonprofit group, had warned that Americans ages 18-24 "are the least enthusiastic boosters of maintaining and building library buildings. They are also the least enthusiastic of any age group about the importance of libraries in a digital future."



BUILDING MINDS

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Joel Pelcyger, head of the experimental PS#1 Elementary School in Santa Monica, stands in front of a construction site on the school's grounds. The school has put no boundaries between its students and the opportunity to learn about the construction process first hand.

A tough year troubles Nunez

Assembly speaker struggles to extend his term, hold power

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO A year ago, chances looked good that California voters might want to give state lawmakers more time on the job.

Few within the state's political circles — not even the Republicans who were against the idea of modifying term limits for current lawmakers — would commit to run-

ning a campaign against an initiative orchestrated by the Assembly's most powerful politician.

But as the year wore on and the Legislature accomplished little, sentiment shifted. Now Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, the longest-serving speaker in California's era of term limits, is struggling to extend his political career.

Questions about his campaign spending and his wife's income, along with low public approval ratings for the Legislature, have undercut Nunez at the most inopportune time. In just more than a month, California voters will decide whether to change the state's term limits law and give Nunez more time as Assembly speaker.

A last-minute health care deal he negoti-

ated with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, which has not yet been considered by the state Senate and requires voter approval, has done little to repair his image.

"A lot of good things he's done have been overshadowed by his personal spending of campaign money," said Bob Stern, president of the nonpartisan Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles.

Nunez, who turned 41 on Thursday, became California's second youngest speaker in 2004 after only a year in office.

Other lawmakers and political observers said he quickly learned how to lead, holding his caucus together, emerging as an articulate spokesman for his party and forging a productive friendship with the Republican governor.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop the gay drama already

Editor:

Re: Mark Marchillo's Dec. 28 Odd Man Out, "Solitary Holiday on the Homefront"

Is anyone else out there tired of this guy Marchillo airing out his weekly struggles with his sexual orientation and frustration with his personal life in general? He needs therapy, not Daily Press newspaper space to run through his cathartic musings each week. Mark, word of advice: Stop the public drama already! Why not get yourself a good counselor-therapist, preferably one who knows and has experienced life filled with joy, meaning, and purpose, and start yourself on a path of renewal in '08.

Efrain Garcia

West Los Angeles

Give one lane a chance

Editor:

I'm amazed by the letters from your readers condemning the restriping of Ocean Park Blvd. I find it hard to believe they actually use the street like I do five days a week. My experience is that traffic during morning and evening drive time is much smoother and quicker under the new configuration.

Granted, it's the week between Christmas and New Year's and SMC is out of session right now, but this morning, I drove Ocean Park Boulevard from Lincoln (Boulevard) to the gym at 31st Street without stopping once. Relax, open your eyes and mind, and give it a chance people.

Barney Alfs

Santa Monica

Reader's in love with Clinton

Editor:

People don't understand the widespread seething hatred for Hillary Clinton. Why this virulent, irrational hatred for the Democratic presidential candidate? Who are the Hillary-haters? Tens of millions of religious and social conservatives – GOP's core supporters. It defies reason how men and women of faith and intelligence can spew out such venom and vitriol.

I care for Hillary Clinton and if she is the Democratic candidate next November, I will vote for her because she is far better than any of the Republican presidential contenders. But Hillary doesn't stand a snowballs' chance in hell of winning the presidency because of the above obstacle and historically high negative ratings and disapproval ratings.

Electability is the key ingredient to winning the next presidential contest and Hillary Clinton is sadly lacking the winning touch.

Ron Lowe

Santa Monica



Your column here

By Martin Rubin and Ping Ho

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Recording aircraft emissions is easy

IT WAS APRIL 15, 2002 WHEN I FIRST MET

Ping Ho at a Santa Monica Task Force on the Environment meeting. Her son Jake Bloch, then a 7th grade John Adams Middle School student, presented the results of his science fair project, a study of ultrafine particulate emissions adjacent to the Santa Monica Airport, titled "Santa Monica Airport: Is it ruining our neighborhood?"

Jake was able to show high levels of toxic particulates that correlated with aircraft activity and infiltrated the community. Jake's project was scientifically supported by John R. Froines (UCLA), Andrea Hricko (USC), Charles Kersey (California Air Resources Board — CARB), Jim Lerner (CARB), David Mazzer (CARB), and Bill Piazza (Los Angeles Unified School District — Office of Environmental Health and Safety) and, of course, his mother, Ping Ho.

It therefore seems appropriate that both Ping and I collaborate in presenting this commentary to the public regarding the preliminary results of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's airports study.

During the planning stages of this airports study, the community learned that the objectives were not designed to address community health risks and odor concerns. As a member of the airports study working group, I asked Ping to attend the first meeting to help with the methodology and protocol. With Ping's help, the SCAQMD agreed to do an add-on study that would measure ultra-fine particles.

As planning meetings continued, I learned of the difficulties in placing air-sampling monitors. I learned that samples were taken over periods of time which would be inadequate to measure the short spurts of individual jet emissions. When mixed with either 8 hour or 24 hour samples, single event spikes are averaged in and the result appears close to the background (everywhere) air quality. This is what the airports study objective was intended to do; to compare the air around SMO and Van Nuys airports with the air in the south coast basin, which we all know is some of the worst air in the world.

As I see it, this study has been able to do two things. It showed a clear elevation in airborne lead at and near the airport that is due to the leaded fuel of the piston planes. It also showed that ultrafine-particle counts had

spikes correlating with aircraft operations.

So five years later, the SCAQMD's preliminary results are in agreement with the project findings of a seventh grader.

It was apparent during the planning stages that the community needed a more specific study to address the SMO impacts, hence the introduction of Assemblyman Ted Lieu's bills, but there were those who felt it was better to wait for the study's results before deciding what steps should be taken next.

In a clear case of, "I told you so," Jake Bloch has shown us that this is not rocket science. The community has for well over 10 years complained of the foul smell of jet fumes that have only gotten worse.

The community has weighed in heavily on the outcome of the SCAQMD study, not only in the gathering of data on ultrafine particles, but also in the gathering of two weeks of data on aircraft activity at Santa Monica Airport, which enabled the SCAQMD to link aircraft activity to pollution in the community. This was the direct result of pressure put on the city of Santa Monica due to the attempted passage of AB 2501, which would have demanded that the city do a yearlong study of aircraft activity for precisely this purpose.

The SCAQMD is also about to experience another "I told you so."

During the gathering of data for the study, the SCAQMD took 1-minute "grab samples," which means that the persons checking the instrumentation also noted odor patterns in one-minute increments. Based on observations reported in Jake's study, the SCAQMD will find an association between the odors and ultrafine particle levels. At all locations in Jake's study fumes were associated with peak ultrafine particle levels, and the highest levels were generated by jet aircraft idling and taxiing.

It is time to move forward on research linking aircraft activity to emissions and odors in the community. AB 700 was an attempt to do just that. Absent the political will of our local elected officials to pass such a bill or fund such a study, the community may once again take matters into its own hands and say, "I told you so."

PING HO is a member of Friends of Sunset Park Airport Committee and a member of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (CRAAP). **MARTIN RUBIN** is the director of CRAAP.

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A newspaper with issues

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Your column here

Alan Gottlieb and Dave Workman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Police chiefs shoot blanks

TALES OF COPS "ON THE TAKE" HAVE so reviled the American public, and embarrassed generations of dedicated police officers, that police agencies and grand juries energetically investigate any such allegations, and when they find dirt, prosecution is relentless.

But what happens when an association of police officials blatantly sells out to a political special interest, shilling its name and influence to push an agenda? What should happen?

Now is a good time to find out. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recently issued a document called "Taking a Stand: Reducing Gun Violence in Our Communities." This report came out of the Great Lakes Summit on Gun Violence held in Chicago. Among the IACP's predictable recommendations were that all gun sales, presumably even between family members, be done only through licensed firearms retailers, with mandatory background checks. IACP also recommends banning so-called assault weapons and ".50-caliber sniper rifles." They want Congress to repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, a federal law that protects sensitive gun trace data — held by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — from general access. The data is available to law enforcement agencies for use in legitimate, on-going criminal investigations, but not for use in civil litigation "fishing expeditions."

We say "predictable" because the summit and production of the report was largely bankrolled by the Joyce Foundation, which has a history of supporting extremist gun control efforts. The IACP recommendations come right off of the gun control wish list.

The Joyce Foundation notes on its own website that it "has funded IACP to work collaboratively with law enforcement officials, public and medical health professionals, researchers and policy-makers to address gun violence reduction through a coordinated, regional approach." We're talking big bucks: Grants of \$375,000 and \$174,788 at least. Joyce spent another \$99,935 "to develop and execute the release of a report on the Great Lakes States Summit on Firearm

Violence." This isn't free coffee and donuts, or a wad of \$20 bills slipped to some beat cop caricature in a movie. This is the IACP revealing itself to be the best group of police officials money can buy.

The summit roster reads like a "Who's who" of the gun control lobby. Report contributors included Kristen Rand and Tom Diaz with the anti-gun rights Violence Policy Center, another group that gets major funding from Joyce.

Noticeably missing was anyone from the firearms industry or a gun rights organization.

GOT OP-ED?

Say it loud, say it proud, but keep your guest commentary to 800 words or less. Send submissions to EDITOR@SMDP.COM.

Newspapers greeted the IACP report as though it were gospel. In truth, it is a thinly disguised piece of political propaganda, leading us to wonder anew about media bias on the gun rights issue. The report, and the summit that produced it, should be subjected to the same savage scrutiny that would be given to any document produced by a law-enforcement group that got its funding from, say, the National Rifle Association or Second Amendment Foundation. Such a report would be ignored as pure fiction.

This episode brings up a serious question: Since when is it acceptable for police chiefs to become lobbyists or front-men for interest groups whose sole aim is to strip American citizens of their constitutionally-protected firearm civil rights?

Perhaps when enough money was thrown at the IACP by a lobby that traditionally gets a free pass from the media; only then is it apparently acceptable for cops to sell out.

ALAN GOTTLIEB is founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (www.saf.org). **DAVE WORKMAN** is senior editor of Gun Week (www.gunweek.com). They are co-authors of 'America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age,' published by Merril Press and due out in October.

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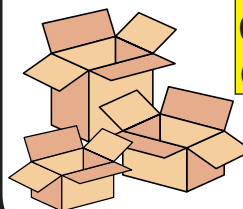
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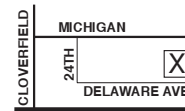
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Can we talk?

**Continuing the discussion with
City Manager P. Lamont Ewell about
community priorities**

Attend this last of five 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.

THE MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.**Monday, January 7, 2008**

Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Avenue

Co-sponsored by:

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The library is wheelchair-accessible. For additional disability-related accommodations, or for more information about this meeting, please call (310) 458-8281.

The Q-Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Addition by subtraction

Sometimes the best thing about a year coming to an end is the chance to start over anew. Whether it was a job you weren't crazy about or a significant other that was weighing you down, there is always something best left in the past.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What negative thing happened to you in 2007 that you would like to leave in the past?

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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Existing home sales see slight gains

BY JEANNINE AVERSA | AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Sales of previously owned homes nudged up in November, but that didn't improve the broader picture of a feeble housing market racked by record-high foreclosures and harder-to-get credit.

The National Association of Realtors reported Monday that sales of existing single-family homes, condominiums and townhouses rose 0.4 percent in November from October, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5 million units. Even with the small increase, the pace of sales was still the second-lowest on record going back to 1999. The lowest pace — 4.98 million — was registered in October.

"There's little reason to pop open any champagne corks," said Michael Larson, a real-estate analyst at Weiss Research Inc.

To be sure, sales are down 20 percent from November 2006, underscoring the problems plaguing the housing sector.

Economists were calling for sales to either move up slightly or hold steady for November.

Home prices continued to sink.

The median price of a home sold last month was \$210,200. That marked a 3.3 percent drop from a year ago. It was the fifth biggest annual decline on record. The median price is where half sell for more and half sell for less.

On Wall Street, the bump up in nationwide home sales failed to ease investors' fears about the economy's outlook. The Dow Jones industrials tumbled more than 80 points in afternoon trading.

By region of the country, sales were mixed.

Existing home sales jumped 10.3 percent in November from October in the West. They were flat in the Midwest. However, they fell by 2 percent in the South and by 3.3 percent in the Northeast.

"There is no doubt that housing is weak and will be weak in 2008," said economist Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.

The inventory of unsold homes in November was 4.27 million homes. At the current sales pace it would take 10.3 months to exhaust that overhang.

"Inventory is still high and further reduction in prices may be required in some areas to induce buyers back into the market," said the association's chief economist, Lawrence Yun.

A dip in 30-year mortgage rates in November probably helped give nationwide existing-home sales the small boost last month, the association suggested. Yun thought the small increase could be taken as a sign that the market might be stabilizing. That said, previous signs of stabilization earlier in the year have been dashed.

A credit crunch which took a turn for the worse in the summer has aggravated housing problems. It has made it more difficult for people to secure financing to buy a home.

The housing market has been suffering through a severe slump following five years of record-breaking activity from 2001 through 2005. Sales turned weak as did home prices. The boom-to-bust situation has increased dangers to the economy as a whole and has been especially hard on some homeowners.

Foreclosures have soared to record highs. A drop in home prices left some people stuck with balances on their home mortgages that eclipsed the worth of their home. Other home buyers were clobbered as low introductory rates on their mortgages jumped to much higher rates, which they couldn't afford.

"A significant number of mortgages reset in early 2008 will likely increase delinquencies and foreclosures driving

prices lower and pushing buyers away," predicted Benjamin Reitzes, economic analyst at BMO Capital Markets Economics. "This could get even worse before it gets better."

The housing and mortgage meltdowns have raised the odds that the country will fall into a recession. And, the situation has given Democrats and Republicans — including those who want to be the next president — plenty of opportunities to spread blame around.

The economy's growth is expected to have slowed sharply to a pace of just 1.5 percent or less in the final three months of this year. The big worry is that housing and credit troubles will force individuals to cut back on spending and businesses to cut back on hiring and capital investment, throwing the economy into a tailspin.

To help bolster the economy, the Federal Reserve has sliced a key interest rate three times this year. Many economists are predicting the Fed will lower rates again when it meets in late January. Yun said he preferred to see the Fed make one big rate reduction at that time, rather than make a series of modest, quarter-point cuts.

On Friday, the government reported that new-home sales plunged by 9 percent in November to a pace of 647,000, the lowest in more than 12 years.

The new-home numbers are thought to give a more current account of the health of the housing market because they are recorded when a contract is signed. The existing home figures lag behind because they are based on contract closings, many of which reflect deals negotiated months earlier.

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Not so secure

Data breaches in 2007 reached record levels according to analysts

BY MARK JEWELL
AP Business Writer

BOSTON The loss or theft of personal data such as credit card and Social Security numbers soared to unprecedented levels in 2007, and the trend isn't expected to turn around anytime soon as hackers stay a step ahead of security and laptops disappear with sensitive information.

And while companies, government agencies, schools and other institutions are spending more to protect ever-increasing volumes of data with more sophisticated firewalls and encryption, the investment often is too little too late.

"More of them are experiencing data breaches, and they're responding to them in a reactive way, rather than proactively looking at the company's security and seeing where the holes might be," said Linda Foley, who founded the San Diego-based Identity Theft Resource Center after becoming an identity theft victim herself.

Foley's group lists more than 79 million records reported compromised in the United States through Dec. 18. That's a nearly fourfold increase from the nearly 20 million records reported in all of 2006.

Another group, Attrition.org, estimates more than 162 million records compromised through Dec. 21 — both in the U.S. and overseas, unlike the other group's U.S.-only list. Attrition reported 49 million last year.

"It's just the nature of business, that moving forward, more companies are going to have more records, so there will be more records compromised each year," said Attrition's Brian Martin. "I imagine the total records compromised will steadily climb."

But the biggest difference between the groups' record-loss counts is Attrition.org's estimate that 94 million records were exposed in a theft of credit card data at TJX Cos., the owner of discount stores including T.J. Maxx and Marshalls. The TJX breach accounts for more than half the total records reported lost this year on both groups' lists.

The Identity Theft Resource Center counts about 46 million — the number of records TJX acknowledged in March were potentially compromised. Attrition's figure is based on estimates from Visa and MasterCard officials who were deposed in a lawsuit banks filed against TJX.

The breach is believed to have started when hackers intercepted wireless transfers of customer information at two Marshalls stores in Miami — an entry point that led the hackers to eventually break into TJX's central databases.

TJX has said that before the breach, which was revealed in January, it invested "millions of dollars on computer security, and believes our security was comparable to many major retailers."

With wireless data transmission more common, hackers increasingly are expected to target what many experts see as a major vulnerability. Eavesdroppers appear to be

learning how to bypass security safeguards faster than ever, said Jay Tumas, the head of Harvard University's network operations, at a recent conference for information security professionals.

"Within a year or two, these folks are catching up," Tumas said.

The two nonprofit groups' 2007 data also show rising numbers of incidents in which employees lose sensitive data, as opposed to cases of hacking.

Besides TJX's problem, major 2007 breaches include lost data disks with bank account numbers in Britain, a hacker attack of a U.S.-based online broker's database and a con that spilled resume contact information from a U.S. online jobs site.

"A lot of breaches are due to inadequate information handling, such as laptop computers with Social Security numbers on them that are lost," Foley said. "This is human error, and something that's completely avoidable, as opposed to a hacker breaking into your computer system."

**MORE OF THEM
ARE EXPERIENCING
DATA BREACHES, AND
THEY'RE RESPONDING
TO THEM IN A REACTIVE
WAY, RATHER THAN
PROACTIVELY LOOKING AT
THE COMPANY'S SECURITY
AND SEEING WHERE
THE HOLES MIGHT BE."**

Linda Foley
Security expert

Attrition.org and the Identity Theft Resource Center are the only groups, government included, maintaining databases on breaches and trends each year. They've been keeping track for only a handful of years, with varied and still-evolving methods of learning about breaches and estimating how many people were affected.

Despite those challenges, the two nonprofits say it's clear 2007 will end up a record year for the amount of information compromised, because of greater data loss and increased reporting of breaches.

Both groups acknowledge many breaches may be missing from their lists, because they largely count incidents reported in news media that they consider credible. Media coverage has risen in part because of the growing number of states requiring businesses and institutions to publicly disclose data losses. Thirty-seven states, plus Washington D.C., now have such requirements.

Because of proliferation of such laws, "it may take a year or two before things stabilize and we can see what's really happening," Foley said. "If that's the case, then we'll know whether businesses are practicing better information-handling techniques."

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‘National Treasure’ finds riches

Nicolas Cage leads Disney release to the top of the earnings list

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES Fortune-seeker Nicolas Cage, lonely guy Will Smith and a pack of talking chipmunks ended Hollywood’s year on a happy note.

Cage’s “National Treasure: Book of Secrets” remained the No. 1 movie for a second weekend with \$35.6 million, followed by “Alvin and the Chipmunks” with \$30 million and Smith’s “I Am Legend” with \$27.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Those hits along with a solid crop of other holdovers and new movies that opened Christmas Day capped a year-end hot streak for Hollywood, whose business soared the last few weeks after a sluggish fall.

“It’s being spread among three or four key movies, then another six or seven or eight below that, which is great,” said Mark Zoradi, president of the motion-picture group at Disney, which released “National Treasure.”

The top-12 movies took in \$169.2 million, up 18 percent from the final weekend of 2006, when “Night at the Museum” led the box office with \$36.8 million.

Hollywood will finish the year with record revenues of about \$9.7 billion, up from the previous best of \$9.45 billion in 2004, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Because of higher prices, the number of actual admissions was up just a fraction over 2006’s and fell well short of modern Hollywood’s record of 1.6 billion tickets sold in 2002.

With the holidays falling on Tuesday, many people have been taking five-day weekends, a boost for the movie business. Many students are off from school until next week, too.

“It’s turned into like a two-week-long weekend for the movie industry,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

“National Treasure,” a sequel with Cage chasing historical clues to find a legendary city of gold, raised its domestic total to \$124 million.

“Alvin and the Chipmunks,” 20th



Photo courtesy Disney

STRIKING IT RICH: Disney’s ‘National Treasure: Book of Secrets’ remained the No. 1 movie for the second week in a row earning \$35.6 million.

Century Fox’s big-screen take on the chaty critters, lifted its haul to \$142.4 million. The Warner Bros. hit “I Am Legend,” with Smith as a plague survivor who may be the last man alive, has climbed to \$194.6 million.

Opening with huge numbers in limited release was Paramount Vantage’s “There Will Be Blood,” starring Daniel Day-Lewis in a tale of greed and violence during California’s oil boom in the early 20th century.

Playing at two theaters in New York City and Los Angeles, “There Will Be Blood” took in \$185,525 over the weekend and \$309,703 since opening Wednesday. It expands to the top-10 markets Friday.

“There Will Be Blood” joins other films of violence and misdeeds such as “No Country for Old Men,” “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” and “Michael Clayton” aiming for top honors at the Academy Awards. All scored well in this month’s Golden Globe nominations.

Savvy Oscar campaigner Harvey Weinstein, who delivered such best-picture winners as “Shakespeare in Love” and “Chicago” while at Miramax, said he hoped his feel-good drama “The Great Debaters” would stand out for awards consideration among all the blood-soaked fare.

A Weinstein Co. release distributed by MGM, “The Great Debaters” took in \$6.3 million over the weekend and \$13.5 million since opening on Christmas.

A Golden Globe nominee for best drama, “The Great Debaters” features director and star Denzel Washington alongside Forest Whitaker in a story of a black debate team in the 1930s South.

“We’re late, but we’re hoping we can get that last best-picture spot” for the Oscars, Weinstein said. “The other movies are pretty bloody, but this is an uplifting American story.”

Oscar nominations come out Jan. 22. Other films that debuted on Christmas

had solid weekends. “Alien vs. Predator: Requiem,” a sci-fi horror sequel from 20th Century Fox, took in \$10.05 million, raising its total since opening day to \$26.9 million. Sony’s Loch Ness monster fantasy “The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep” grossed \$9.2 million and lifted its sum to \$16.8 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Wednesday.

TOP GROSSING FILMS OF THE WEEK

1. “National Treasure: Book of Secrets,” \$35.6 million.
2. “Alvin and the Chipmunks,” \$30 million.
3. “I Am Legend,” \$27.5 million.
4. “Charlie Wilson’s War,” \$11.8 million.
5. “Juno,” \$10.3 million.
6. “Alien Vs. Predator: Requiem,” \$10.05 million.
7. “The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep,” \$9.2 million.
8. “P.S. I Love You,” \$9.1 million.
9. “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” \$8 million.
10. “Enchanted,” \$6.5 million.

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Stocks drop on last day of '07

BY MADLEN READ | AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks sank Monday as a modest uptick in existing home sales could not lift investors' downcast spirits on the last day of Wall Street's volatile and difficult year. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points with only a few hours left of trading.

The National Association of Realtors said November existing home sales rose 0.4 percent to an annual rate of 5 million — the first rise in nine months. However, sales are still 20 percent below where they were a year ago, and the median existing home price has dropped 3.3 percent over the past 12 months.

Falling home prices this year have made it hard for struggling homeowners to refinance their mortgages, and the slump in construction activity has hurt homebuilders and other housing-related industries.

Investors have some reason to believe that Wall Street in 2008 might be able to put to rest some of its financial troubles. The U.K.'s Observer newspaper reported Sunday that Merrill Lynch & Co. was in talks over the weekend to line up capital from investors in China and the Middle East in exchange for portions of the Wall Street firm.

Merrill, like many other financial houses, has seen its portfolio lose billions of dollar in value due to misplaced bets on mortgages. And as Citigroup Inc., UBS AG, Morgan Stanley and Bear Stearns Cos. have done, it has turned to investors in Asia for much-needed capital — Merrill has already gotten \$4.4 billion this month from a Singapore fund, which bought a 9.9 percent stake in the U.S. brokerage.

The Dow will be posting its first fourth-quarter drop since 1997. The blue chips' gain for the year so far of about 7 percent, though, is respectable — not as large as the increase in 2006, but a better performance than the modest loss seen in 2005.

In early afternoon trading Monday, the Dow fell 102.02, or 0.76 percent, to 13,263.85.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.16, or 0.75 percent, to 1,467.33, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 23.19, or 0.87 percent, to 2,651.27.

Going into Monday's session, the S&P was up 3.4 percent, and the Nasdaq was up 9.6 percent.

Government bonds rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, slid to 4.03 percent from 4.12 percent late Friday.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 395.4 million shares.

2007 was a remarkable year on Wall Street. The market began the year continuing the rally that propelled the Dow above 12,000 for the first time in October. Then, in late February, came a reminder that stocks were capable of turning tail and plunging — a skid on China's stock market and an ominous economic outlook from former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan sent the Dow down 416 points in one day.

That panic didn't last long. In April, the Dow barreled above 13,000 for the first time and then glided past 14,000 in mid-July. But in late July, however, the market realized that the ongoing slump in housing, and a rise in mortgage foreclosures due to resetting adjustable-rate loans, was taking a toll across the credit markets.

Though the housing market started teetering as early as 2005, few people anticipated how much the downturn could affect the global financial system. Mortgages given to borrowers deemed "subprime" comprised only about an eighth of the \$10 trillion U.S. mortgage market — why would that rattle the world markets?

The problem was, these pieces of debt were chopped up, repackaged and woven into larger fixed-income instruments, on which banks and other investors made billion-dollar bets — bets that were extremely profitable during the housing boom, but calamitous when borrowers couldn't keep up with their mortgage payments. When one slice of the instrument defaulted, it pulled the whole thing down with it.

Investors bailed out of anything tied to mortgages, and soon Wall Street realized that financial institutions in the United States and overseas were holding billions of dollars in assets that were losing value by the day. The biggest names on the Street — Merrill Lynch, Citigroup Inc., Bear Stearns Cos. — announced billions of dollars in writedowns. Merrill and Citi lost their CEOs, and several financial firms needed billion-dollar investments to clean up their balance sheets.

In the midst of this turmoil, the credit markets all but seized up, and all these interconnected events pummeled stocks. Triple-digit drops, recoveries and then drops again in the Dow became commonplace as Wall Street suffered through months of volatility reminiscent of the terrible days after the 2001 terror attacks.

In August and September the Federal Reserve began to act, with interest rate cuts and injections of liquidity. It helped for a while, and in October, stocks were rallying again taking the Dow to another set of record highs — only to succumb again to fears about the unknown extent of the credit mess.

Wall Street goes into 2008 still shaky because of that uncertainty, not to mention oil's jump this year of about 60

percent to nearly \$100 a barrel, and the U.S. dollar's tumble to record lows against the euro. On Monday, the dollar rose against most other major currencies, gold prices fell, and crude oil prices fell 77 cents to \$95.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"We've seen the return of volatility. I think that will be around for a while, and will govern trading for the new year," said Scott Fullman, director of investment strategy for I. A. Englander & Co. "Stock selection and strategy will play a very important part in the success of anybody who is trading going into the new year. This is not a time where you throw a dart at the board."

In 2007, stocks in the technology and energy industries did well, while the financial sector and small-caps lagged.



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SANTA MONICA-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
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If the shoe fits, donate it

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC BOULEVARD It was a life-changing moment for Blake Mycoskie.

The young entrepreneur was on vacation in Argentina, learning to play polo, when he looked around and noticed the feet of the children in the impoverished villages on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, wandering around shoeless, their feet scraped and scarred.

"I grew up in a middle-class family in Texas and never -----experienced that myself," Mycoskie said last Thursday of his 2005 excursion to the South American country. "It hit me hard and I felt there was this big injustice, I couldn't understand why they couldn't at least afford shoes because they have to walk a long way to get fresh water."

Then an idea came to him that night — what if he could start a company where every time a customer purchased a pair of shoes, a free pair would be donated to a child in need?

That idea was transformed into TOMS, a Santa Monica-based "shoe gooder" company whose motto is "shoes for tomorrow," where every pair sold in stores means that a shoeless child somewhere in the world will have something comfortable on their feet to wear. TOMS is short for the "tomorrow" part of Mycoskie's company motto.

The 31-year-old entrepreneur had launched several small start-ups, including an online drivers education course, before he founded TOMS in his small condo in Playa Vista with a modestly-sized staff. As business grew and word spread of the TOMS mission, the company's operations were moved to the Santa Monica Studios on Olympic Boulevard. Mycoskie has also transplanted from his Playa Vista condo and now lives on a sailboat in Marina del Rey.

The shoes are sold in more than 300 department stores and boutiques across the globe, including six in Santa Monica.

Following that fateful night when he came up with the idea to start the TOMS shoe company, Mycoskie — the runner-up in "The Amazing Race" in 2002 with sister, Paige — spent another month in Argentina, designing a shoe inexpensive enough to be able to absorb the cost of giving away a pair for free with each purchase.

The result was a slip-on heel-less shoe, made out of materials like canvas and burlap, modeled after the traditional Argentinean alpargata.

Commonly referred to as just "TOMS," the shoes have been designed to appeal to an American audience, some available in simple black, white and beige colors, others in more eccentric hues.

"It's really great for wearing a shoe when you could be wearing a flip-flop but want something covering the foot," Mycoskie said.

The slip-ons have been featured prominently in fashion magazines and celebrity tabloids, capturing shots of actresses like Keira Knightley and Scarlett Johansson fashioning a pair of red or black TOMS.

Since the company began selling the footwear in May 2006, Mycoskie has already gone on two different "shoe drops" in which he gave away more than 60,000 pairs of TOMS — 10,000 pairs in Argentina in October 2006 and 50,000 pairs in South Africa in November. This week, Mycoskie is



IT HIT ME HARD AND
I FELT
THERE WAS
THIS BIG
INJUSTICE,
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND
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BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO
WALK A LONG WAY TO GET
FRESH WATER."

Blake Mycoskie
Owner of TOMS



Photos by Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

WEARING THEIR HEARTS ON THEIR FEET: (Top) Mike Hammer (right) and Jonathan Jung (left) work on shipments at TOM's main office in Santa Monica last week. (Above) TOM's signature product, its shoes, sit in a box awaiting shipment to various retail outlets. TOMS has dedicated itself to giving a pair of shoes to a child in need with every purchase made by a customer. Currently, TOMS can be purchased in stores across the U.S. and Canada.

in Argentina giving away another 5,000 pairs of TOMS and the next trip is planned for Ethiopia this summer. A team of about 20 volunteers and company employees participate in every delivery and hand place the shoe on each child's foot, ensuring the slip-on is the right size.

"A lot of these kids are AIDS orphans and to sit there and hold and hug them and put a shoe on their feet, that memory is going to be left with that kid forever, even after the shoes are gone," Mycoskie said.

The shoes are produced in facilities in

Argentina, Brazil and China and a non-profit arm of the company, called "Friends of TOMS," organizes the shoe drops, identifying locations where there is a need.

"It was a real adventure learning how to make shoes down there, especially if you don't know how to speak Spanish," Mycoskie said.

Among the employees that took part in the South Africa shoe drop last year was Liza de la Torre, a self-professed "shoe gooder" who handles marketing for the company.

It was during that trip that the TOMS team ran into a customer who had pur-

chased a pair of the shoes in a boutique in the San Francisco Bay Area. Though the customer had known about the TOMS mission, they were surprised to actually witness it in person, de la Torre said last Friday.

"It was amazing ... to be able to go and give away shoes and see the whole process come full circle," de la Torre said.

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CASHING IN: A new law requires retailers to redeem unexpired gift cards for cash.

New laws' impact to be far reaching

FROM LAWS PAGE 1

said about the smoking ban as he shopped downtown Saturday. "I'm not a fan of the government telling us what we can do in our private lives, but I'm also in favor of protecting children. They don't have a say in what car they ride in but those driving have a choice to smoke or not to smoke."

Another change to the law books that will affect motorists is a ban on the use of cell phones while driving, which doesn't take effect until July 1. For drivers under the age 18, the prohibition extends even to hands-free use cell phones.

"My mom gave me a Bluetooth [wireless headset] for Christmas, so I'm prepared," said Gabe Loh, 20, a student at UCLA who was in downtown over the weekend in search of shoes.

"I don't know how the law is going to help cut down on the number of accidents," Loh said. "Hands or no hands, people are distracted when they are talking on the phone. It's more of a mental thing and less to do with coordination."

The new year also brings a pay raise for the 1.4 million Californians who earn the minimum wage. Their hourly pay increases by 50 cents to \$8, making them the second highest paid minimum wage workers in the country along with workers in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts minimum wage was also raised to \$8 on Jan. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Washington state, which automatically adjusts its minimum wage each year to keep pace with inflation, will have the highest at \$8.07 an hour.

The California increase is part of a two-step adjustment approved by lawmakers in 2006. The wage jumped from \$6.75 to \$7.50 last Jan. 1.

Here are some of the other laws that take effect with the start of the new year:

Lights, Water — Legislation by Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, gives the California Energy Commission until the end of 2008 to develop tougher efficiency standards for general purpose lights. Other Huffman bills authorize a \$250 million subsidy program to encourage installation of solar water heaters and require the Energy Commission to establish water-efficiency standards for the design of new buildings.

Homeless Shelters — A new law written by Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, is intended to remove roadblocks for homeless shelters by requiring cities and counties to designate areas where shelters can be located without obtaining a conditional use permit.

Identification Devices — Legislation by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, prohibits an employer or anyone else from requiring a person to have a radio frequency identification device inserted under the skin. The devices, about the size of a rice grain, can be used to track and transmit personal information about the user.

Gang Parenting — Courts could require the parents or guardians of gang members to attend parenting classes under legislation by Assemblyman Tony Mendoza, D-Artesia, that attempts to prevent first-time juvenile offenders from committing additional crimes.

Illegal Immigrants — Legislation by Assemblyman Charles Calderon, D-Whittier, prevents cities and counties from requiring landlords to serve as surrogate border patrol agents by obtaining and reporting the immigration status of their tenants. The measure also prohibits ordinances preventing landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

HIV Testing — A law written by Assemblywoman Patty Berg, D-Eureka, makes it more likely that people will be routinely tested for HIV and AIDS. The measure drops a requirement that patients fill out a form to have the tests. They only would have to give a doctor verbal consent to add HIV to other conditions for which they are being tested.

Sperm Cleansing — Legislation by Sen. Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, allows sperm from a man with HIV to be used to artificially inseminate a wife or partner who does not have the disease if the woman consents and the sperm is processed to minimize the possibility of infection.

Iran Investments — The state's two giant public pension funds, the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System, will be prohibited from investing in companies that have defense- or nuclear energy-related business with Iran. The bill is by Assemblyman Joel Anderson, R-La Mesa.

Phony Oldies — Assemblyman Anthony

SEE LAWS PAGE 12

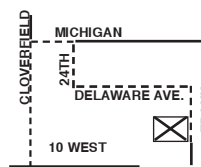
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Photos by Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

NEW LAWS: (Top) People will not be allowed to drive while talking on cellphones when a new law takes effect later this year. (Above) Minimum wage earners will see their pay bump up to \$8 an hour.

FROM LAWS PAGE 11

Portantino, D-La Canada Flintridge, is the author of a law that attempts to ensure that music fans who buy tickets to oldies concerts are not victims of deceptive advertising. The legislation requires performing groups to meet at least one of several standards to be able to legally use the name of the groups' recording days. An example: The group must include at least one member who has the legal right to use the name. Bands also can avoid lawsuits by acknowledging they are a salute or tribute to the original recording group and had a name that did not confuse ticket buyers.

Gift Certificates — A law written by Sen. Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro, allows shoppers to cash in gift certificates that have less than \$10 left in value. Consumer advocates say that will prevent stores from benefiting from an "undeserved bonanza" generated by unexhausted gift certificates that stores have refused to trade for cash.

On the education front, there are several laws in effect in the new year that are intended to help students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Assembly Bill 347 ensures students who fail to pass the California High School Exit Exam receive an additional two years of academic assistance from their school districts.

AB 57 eliminates the sunset date for the "Safe Routes to School" program for the construction of sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and traffic calming projects designed to keep children safe and more healthy.

AB 216 requires educational materials, services and programs provided by nonpublic, nonsectarian schools for a special education student to be consistent with the student's individualized education plan.

SB 777 simplifies and clarifies existing civil rights protections for California students, updates more specific prohibitions against discrimination throughout the

Education Code, and replaces outdated references to "handicapped students" with "students with disabilities."

SB 278 includes another justifiable reason for student absence for attending an education conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization. Currently, students may be excused for court appearances, funeral services, religious holidays or ceremonies, religious retreats, or employment conferences.

**I'M NOT A FAN
OF THE GOV-
ERNMENT TELLING US
WHAT WE CAN DO IN OUR
PRIVATE LIVES, BUT I'M
ALSO IN FAVOR OF PRO-
TECTING CHILDREN."**

Corey Trimble
Father of two and a non-smoker

"Some of the new laws will help us progress toward closing the achievement gap, add more rigor to the curriculum, provide more assistance to students to pass the exit exam, or protect special education and related services to students with exceptional needs," said state schools' Superintendent Jack O'Connell. "Other new measures serve to streamline existing laws to provide students with safe transportation to school, credential teachers in a timely basis, and help school facilities go green."

kevinh@smdp.com

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Freecycle converts trash into treasure

BY VICKI SMITH

Associated Press Writer

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. When Laura Gernell heard about a place where people gave away perfectly good things to strangers — no money changing hands, no questions asked — she figured it was too good to be true.

But husband Ronald had lost his job as a truck driver and she was temporarily unemployed, at home in a rented, unfurnished apartment with her infant son. With nothing to lose, she joined The Freecycle Network, a Web-based community swap program, and asked if anyone had a sofa to spare.

"I wasn't looking to furnish my whole apartment," says the 32-year-old mom from Marmet, just south of Charleston. "I was just looking for the basics, just something to sit on."

Three people e-mailed with offers, and Gernell used the sofa from that day in 2004 until last summer, when the springs broke. Today she runs West Virginia's largest Freecycle group, 2,100 members strong and part of a far-flung forum where people can find homes for things they no longer want.

"It just has completely floored me, the generosity of people," says Gernell. "Especially in West Virginia because West Virginia is considered one of the poorest states in the nation. But people are very generous. It's amazing."

Freecycle is a global recycling phenomenon. Since it started in Arizona in May 2003, it has grown to more than 4 million members in more than 4,100 cities, from Istanbul to Inwood. It boasts of keeping more than 300 million tons of trash out of landfills

every day and has inspired imitators.

There are, says founder and executive director Deron Beal, as many heartwarming stories as there are groups: the American Indian tribe that collected used prom dresses for girls in need; the Hurricane Katrina evacuee who furnished a new home; the 98-year-old man who collects and assembles bicycle parts, then gives what he's built to children; and the woman in Austin, Texas, who collected items for an orphanage in Haiti, then got FedEx to deliver the shipping container for free.



IT JUST HAS
COMPLETELY
FLOORED ME, THE
GENEROSITY OF PEOPLE."

Laura Gernell
Freecycle organizer

"It's just all sorts of countless acts of random kindness," says Beal, 40, of Tucson, Ariz. "Whatever they want to make out of it, they really can."

Call them corny. Call them cliché. But Freecycle is built on principles that work: One person can make a difference. Giving is better than receiving. One person's trash is another's treasure. Commit an act of kindness and it will be returned.

"It's not like a get-rich-quick scheme. You're not going to get everything you want every time you want it," Gernell says.

More than 2,000 travelers marooned by slide danger

BY GEORGE MERRITT

Associated Press Writer

DENVER More than 2,000 travelers were stranded at Red Cross shelters in the Colorado high country Monday as a threat of avalanches closed a stretch of Interstate 70 west of Denver.

Deep snow drifted into more than two dozen narrow ravines in the mountainsides — known as avalanche chutes — raising the danger of potentially deadly snow slides cascading onto I-70.

High winds and blowing snow forced the state to close the highway overnight.

Crews planned to use low-power explosives to bring the snow down while the highway was closed. Transportation officials said it would be at least midafternoon before the highway opened.

In addition to the avalanche threat, wind-blown snow reduced visibility to nearly zero.

At the 1.7-mile-long Eisenhower Tunnel about 40 miles west of Denver, wind gusts reached 70 mph, keeping crews from clearing the avalanche chutes.

"That is basically the problem we are having right now," said John Nelson, spokesman for the Colorado Department of Transportation. "It's not snowing, it's blowing snow."

Red Cross spokeswoman Melinda Epp said the agency opened seven shelters in

schools and recreation centers and most of the 2,000-plus travelers who used them during the night were still there Monday morning. Others relied on the kindness of strangers.

Ken Simons and his wife were trying to get from their Grand Junction home to Denver to spend New Year's Eve with friends when the road closure caught them in Frisco.

"I've got some (champagne) in the car, but it's probably frozen by now," Simons said.

Leaha Widrowicz was trying to get back to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with her mother and boyfriend after a skiing trip but had to spend the night in Frisco, missing their midnight flight from Denver International Airport.

"We're not even thinking of New Year's right now," Widrowicz said. "We are just trying to get home to family."

Brian Jerry of Colorado Springs said strangers let him stay in their Silverthorne home Sunday night because motels were full.

"We called the local Quality Inn, and they basically laughed at us," Jerry said Monday.

Jerry, who had been snowboarding at Keystone Resort Sunday when high winds began, said he and his friends found a place to stay through conversations at a restaurant.

"The good will and the bonding together has been outstanding," he said.

Westbound I-70, the main route between Denver and many of the state's ski resorts.

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- Load dishwasher

BATHROOMS

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

ALL ROOMS

- Pick up & straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

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SURF REPORT

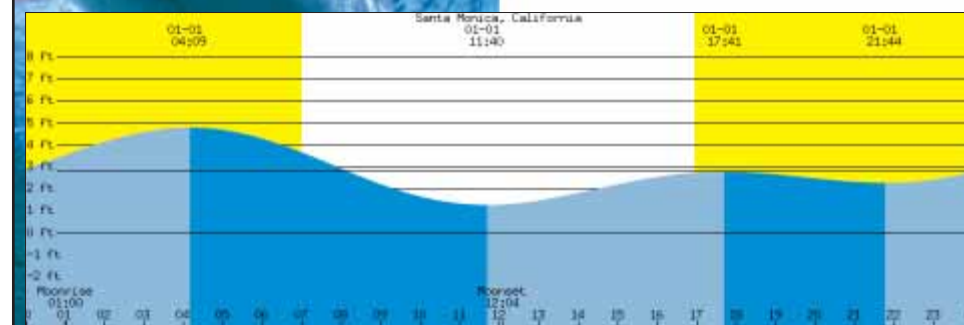


SURF CONDITIONS
WATER TEMP: 54°

SWELL FORECAST (2-2 FT)
Today should see a dramatic decline in swell with only trace NW bringing knee to waist high waves to west facing breaks, smaller at south facing spots. Tide doesn't look too bad, but as it recedes to a near-zero low around lunchtime look for size to drop even further.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SIGNIFICANT SWELLS LATE IN WEEK...
HEAVY RAIN EXPECTED DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



01-01 04:09
01-01 11:40
01-01 17:41
01-01 21:44

8 ft
7 ft
6 ft
5 ft
4 ft
3 ft
2 ft
1 ft
0 ft
-1 ft
-2 ft

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Low/Low (01:00)
Moonset: 12:04



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 11, 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 — 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
Number of wet days — 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

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
Las Cienegas Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacerville)	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 Palms Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugas)	F	F
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	F	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ladiga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Saltire Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunridge Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsall St.	A+	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Torres County Beach	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C	Deckweiler Beach- adjacent Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Cardenas Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

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



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NFL

Billick fired after long run as coach

BY DAVID GINSBURG
AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. Brian Billick was fired as coach of the Baltimore Ravens on Monday, less than a day after his team concluded a disappointing 5-11 season.

Players were told of the dismissal as they packed up their lockers at the team's practice facility.

Billick won the 2001 Super Bowl in his second season with the Ravens, and led the team to a franchise-best 13-3 record in 2006. But Baltimore lost a team-record nine consecutive games this season before ending the skid Sunday with a 27-21 win over Pittsburgh.

"This is the reality of our business," cornerback Samari Rolle said.

Billick's nine seasons with Baltimore was tied for third with Philadelphia's Andy Reid as the third-longest current run with the same team. He took the Ravens to the playoffs in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2006, but Baltimore won only one postseason game since its Super Bowl run after the 2000 season.

"Sometimes the message can get repeti-

tive after a while," 12-year offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden said.

Ogden said this month that Billick had informed the team he would be returning in 2008. But owner Steve Bisciotti evidently changed his mind.

The Ravens expected to compete for a world championship this season after bringing back almost every starter from last year's AFC North champions.

But injuries and a turnover-prone offense contributed to a complete collapse after a 4-2 start, and Baltimore finished last in the division.

"This year the injury bug not only hit us, (it) hit our prime-time players," linebacker Bart Scott said.

Billick, 53, was hired as Baltimore's second head coach in January 1999, succeeding Ted Marchibroda. In Billick's first season, the Ravens reached .500 (8-8) for the first time. Then he led Baltimore to a 12-4 record and a berth in the Super Bowl, where the Ravens beat the New York Giants 34-7.

Billick was 80-64 as Baltimore's coach. He was the offensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings before being coming to the Ravens.

NFL

Panthers' owner remains silent on Fox's status as head coach

BY MIKE CRANSTON
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. A day after Carolina finished out of the playoffs for the second straight year, John Fox remained confident that he'll return as the Panthers' coach.

But speculation about Fox's status won't end until owner Jerry Richardson makes his decision public.

When asked Monday if Richardson would finally address the status of Fox and general manager Marty Hurney, team spokesman Charlie Dayton said it was unlikely.

In an e-mail later Monday, Dayton would only say that "nothing has changed" regarding Fox and Hurney.

It meant a day of uncertainty at Bank of America Stadium as players gathered for final physicals and a team meeting before leaving with their belongings for the offseason. Not only do many players worry if they'll be back after a disappointing 7-9 campaign that's sure to bring many changes, they don't know about their coach.

"I haven't been told anything," running back DeAngelo Williams said.

Later in the morning, an evasive Fox indicated he expects to return for a seventh season.

"Our ownership has been very supportive, very positive," said Fox, who has three years left on a contract that pays him about \$5 million per season. "I never have foreseen changes with Marty or myself, and I don't anticipate them moving forward. I don't have a crystal ball. I can't predict the future. There has been plenty of speculation, I will say that. But I don't see it changing from any years past."

The speculation has been fueled by a second straight sub-par season and

Richardson's refusal to address the situation.

The NFL Network reported during Carolina's loss to Dallas on Dec. 22 that Richardson said in an off-camera interview that Fox and Hurney's jobs were safe. But team officials declined to confirm the report, and Richardson wasn't talking again on Monday.

When Fox was asked Monday if Richardson has told him he'll be retained, he referred to how he answered the same question after Sunday's 31-23 win over Tampa Bay. When asked if that meant he wasn't commenting, Fox replied, "That is what I said yesterday."

Following a season of unfilled expectations and injuries, Fox has pinned much of the blame for Carolina's second straight non-winning campaign on the loss of quarterback Jake Delhomme. He had a season-ending right elbow injury in Week 3.

The Panthers then turned to David Carr, who was Carolina's only major offseason acquisition. Despite his two-year, \$6 million deal, Carr was a bust. He got hurt and then was so ineffective, the Panthers turned to 44-year-old Vinny Testaverde and undrafted rookie Matt Moore to finish the season.

Behind Moore, the Panthers did rally to win two of their last three games. Perhaps that was enough for Fox, who is 56-49 in Carolina with one Super Bowl appearance and a trip to the NFC championship game in 2005, to keep his job.

"I've got three years left on my contract that I intend to uphold," Fox said. "I'll just say that."

Hurney has also said he plans to be back next season. Fox said they'll begin a series of meetings on Wednesday to evaluate the season and prepare for free agency.

Free woman McCready is released from jail after violating probation

MINDY MCCREADY, who was sentenced in September for violating probation from a 2004 drug arrest, has been

released from jail. The 32-year-old country singer was released Sunday morning, said a clerk at the Williamson

County jail. The violation occurred in July when McCready was accused of scuffling with her mother and

resisting arrest at her mother's home in Fort Myers, Fla. She still must serve two years' probation.

Her attorney, Lee Ofman, said McCready has learned her lesson and will stay out of trouble.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BURTON GETS A NEW GIG

KATE BURTON is best known on Broadway for her appearances in plays – most notably her Tony-nominated performances in revivals of “Hedda Gabler” and “The Elephant Man,” both during the 2001-02 theater season.

Yet she has done musicals on Broadway, too, the 1995 Roundabout Theatre Company revival of “Company,” for example. Now, the actress has joined the cast of “Spring Awakening,” the 2007 best-musical Tony winner.

Burton has replaced Christine Estabrook in the role of the “Adult Woman,” playing all the older women roles in this Duncan Sheik-Steven Sater rock musical about adolescent sexual turmoil.

AP

Blues artist Weepin' Willie dies at 81

“WEEPIN'” WILLIE ROBINSON, a blues singer who performed with Steven Tyler and Bonnie Raitt but also spent time homeless, has died at age 81.

Robinson had been a sharecropper, an Army veteran and a friend of performers, including B.B. King.

“He was truly the elder statesman of the (Boston) blues. He was our godfather. He was the most dear man,” Holly Harris, host of “Blues on Sunday” on WBOS radio, told The Boston Globe for Monday's editions.

When he sang, “you knew he meant it because he had passion,” Harris said.

Robinson died Sunday in a fire started by a cigarette he was smoking in bed, the Boston Fire Department said.

He had worked a benefit

concert with Tyler and two Boston Music Awards shows, in 2005 and again earlier this month.

Robinson was born in Atlanta and picked cotton and fruit with his family up and down the East Coast. After spending time in the Army in the 1940s, he became a master of ceremonies and doorman at blues clubs in Trenton, N.J., where he met King and other legends and eventually sang with King's 21-piece orchestra.

His daughter, Lorraine Robinson, told the Globe her father found his place on stage.

“A great smile would come on his face and he would be in his own little world, like he'd tune everything out,” she said. “He just, like, felt the music. It was so much in his soul.”

Robinson settled in Boston in 1959 and played



in clubs, but by 2005 he was living on the street and out of touch with his family. Blues performers learned of his situation, held a benefit concert and made sure he was fed and clothed.

Robinson later performed everywhere from local clubs to the hallways of the rest home where he lived.

His wife, Alice, died four decades ago.

AP

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 strong sense of direction this year. As a result, you might be about to make your wish list a reality this very year. If you tumble into a disagreeable event, know that you might be clearing out a problem to make room for something better. Sometimes remaining optimistic in times like this might be challenging, but worthwhile. Learn to deal with your high energy properly.



Born Today

Actress Tia Carrere (1967)
Singer Roger Miller (1936)
Author Isaac Asimov (1920)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Anchor in, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ A partnership inspires you to head in a new direction and experience more success. Tempers can flare if you aren't communicating well. Don't allow this kind of uproar in your life right now. Tonight: Anchor in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others are in control, yet you do have the power to make some very important decisions about your finances and spending. Know when you have had enough, and allow others to know it too. Tonight: Go with another's plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take care of errands and work, and start to focus on accomplishment and getting the job done. Relax with someone you care about dearly. Avoid a controversy at any cost. Nurture someone directly. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Allow greater happiness into your life. How you see a situation could be different from many. Others do not honor what you deem to be serious. Be careful with your temper; it could explode out of nowhere. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take your time, and don't feel pressured by anyone or anything. You might not be able to continue with the hectic pace any longer. There is no reason to, either. Retreat and relax, knowing what you want and expect. Tonight: Stay close to home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You reach out for many people, making each person feel unique in his or her own right. This attitude comes through no matter what you do or with whom. Express your broadening interests. Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might be adding up the “damages” of recent holiday spending. There is no need to pull back or get upset. You are more in control than you realize. Someone could be creating an uproar. Decide whether you want to participate. Tonight: Curb indulgence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You are all smiles. In some sense you feel as if the holidays have given you a reprieve. You feel better than you have in a while. Let go and relax. Know what you want and make it so. Keep that smile. Tonight: It's your call.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Know when to slow down and take your time. Know when you are looking at a no-win situation, and happily back off. Understand your limits, and you will be a greater success. Someone might be unduly stern. Tonight: Vanish before you are noticed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ It seems you can do no wrong. With this in mind, continue as you have with a smile and a sense of purpose. Process another person's anger. Avoid reacting; rather, just deal with what you must. Tonight: Friendship plays a role.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ At times you might question what you are doing. Be as direct as possible. Your sense of leadership comes through no matter what. A friendship might be pushing the line. Listen to news and process it. Tonight: Deal with facts: Everyone wants to be around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Understanding what might be going on in someone's head could make a substantial difference. Listen to news carefully, recognizing your limits. Understanding grows with information. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

MOVIEGUIDE

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Check theatre for showtimes

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Aliens vs. Predator - Requiem (R)
10:20am, 12:45, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50
Atonement (R)
10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:25, 10:20
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
10:10am, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

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Charlie Wilson's War (R)
10:05am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
Enchanted (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10
The Golden Compass (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Kite Runner (PG-13)
10:55am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55, 10:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
10:15am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:30, 10:25
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)
10:00am, 12:40, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05

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Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50
The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30
The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40,

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
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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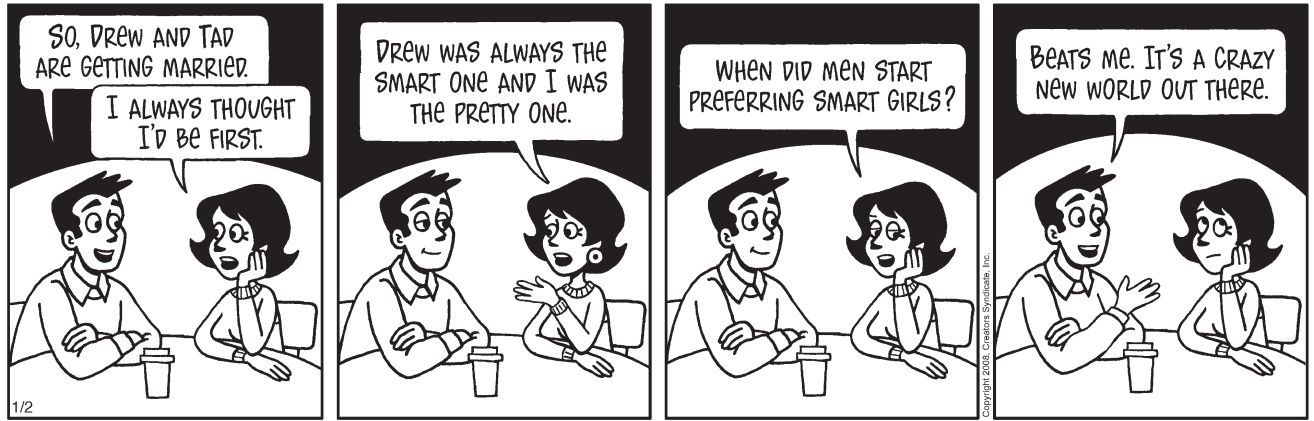
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



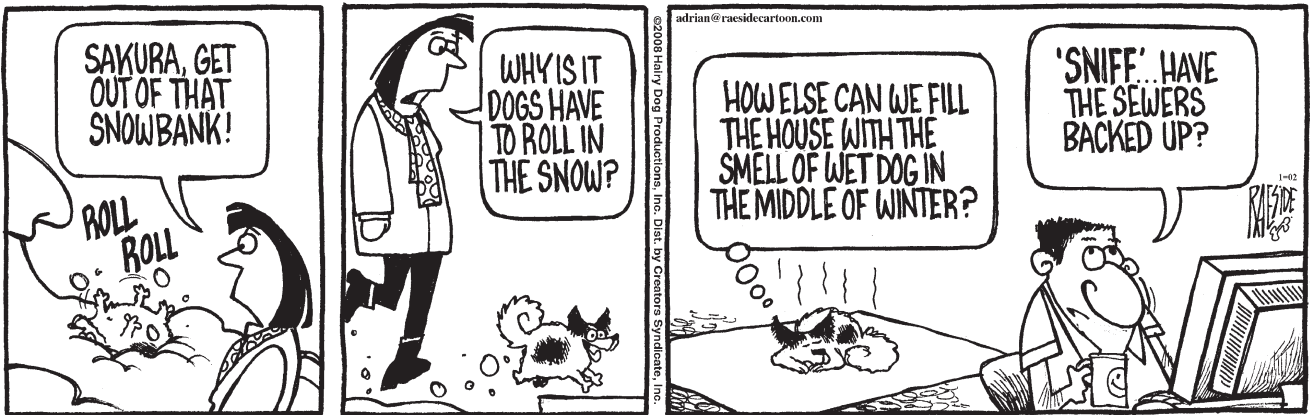
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

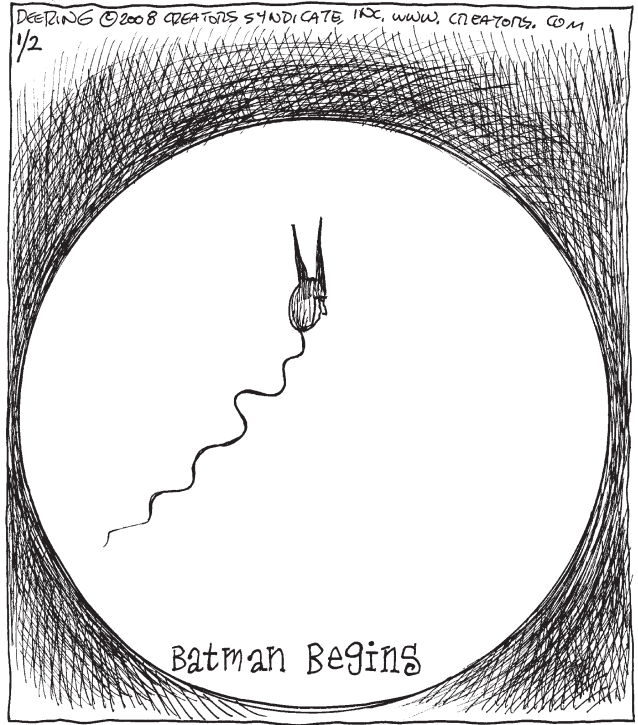
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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 — Hari
- 5 Cornfield pest
- 9 Decree
- 11 Form
- 12 Musical sounds
- 13 Like some sneakers
- 14 Radius setting
- 15 Chapter start
- 17 Out in front
- 19 Take to court
- 20 Mongrel sound
- 21 Diamond expert
- 22 Mixes up
- 24 Volcano output
- 26 Bush and Gore, e.g.
- 29 Guitar booster
- 30 Furniture trim
- 32 Pennsyl-
vania city
- 34 Goose egg
- 35 Spanish hero
- 36 Visibly shocked
- 38 Brother's girl
- 39 Marginalia
- 40 Appropri-
ate
- 41 Sea dogs

DOWN

- 1 Iron or gold
- 2 Puts on a pedestal
- 3 Oz visitor
- 4 Tennis feat
- 5 Sudan neighbor
- 6 Bigot's problem
- 7 Become chatty
- 8 Cheese buy
- 10 Casual top
- 11 Smelting waste
- 16 Put some zest into
- 18 Zest

- 21 Exploited
- 23 Carter's successor
- 24 Activist Bloomer
- 25 "Coal Miner's Daughter" star
- 27 Prize-filled target
- 28 Rooftop shooter
- 29 "— we all?"
- 30 Await
- 31 She played Cagney
- 33 Monopoly need
- 37 Understood

C	A	S	B	A	H		C	A	D	S
O	T	O	O	L	E		A	N	N	A
N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	D	A	Y
				T	U	L	I	P		
	S	P	O	T			P	E	R	T
A	W	A	Y			P	U	R	E	E
B	E	N		M	O	P		S	P	A
S	E	E	R	E	D		D	E	E	D
	P	L	O	T			V	O	T	E
				B	A	S	I	C		
R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	S
A	L	O	T			B	A	L	L	E
P	I	N	S			S	L	E	E	T

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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		

1-2

Comics & Stuff

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In November the Food and Drug Administration told Smiling Hill Farm of Westbrook, Maine, that it would have to recall all of its egg nog because it did not list "egg" as an ingredient on the label. Federal law requires the listing to protect people with egg allergies from inadvertently consuming foods that they might not have realized contain egg (even products called "egg nog").

■ Yikes! (1) The China Daily newspaper reported in November that local markets and beauty salons in Guangdong province were selling low-priced hair bands made from used condoms. (2) "Fires during surgeries a bigger risk than thought," headlined a November Boston Globe article, citing data from hospitals in Pennsylvania (28 operating-room fires a year for the last three years) and Massachusetts.

■ People Who Have a Way With Words: (1) Washington state Rep. Jim Dunn, responding in October to a reprimand by colleagues about unwanted sexual remarks made to a female staff member, said he couldn't recall exactly what he told her, but that he was "sure it was very inappropriate, because I do that kind of thing." (2) Russia's checkerboard serial killer (who said he aimed to commit 64 murders even though only charged with 49), explained in court in October how he got started, at age 18, by killing a classmate: "A first killing is like your first love. You never forget it."

■ Mesa, Ariz., police arrested Sebastian Mancilla, 41, in November after a security camera at Mervyn's department store caught him being not too subtle in looking up the skirt of a female shopper. According to an Arizona Republic reporter, citing a police source: "At one time Mancilla approached the woman from behind and laid down on the floor to look up her skirt. He then got back to his feet and continued to act as if he was shopping." Mancilla allegedly tried again with the same woman, dropping to his knees, but to no avail, as the woman walked away.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1492 Reconquista: Granada, the last Moorish stronghold in Spain, surrenders.

1788 Georgia becomes the fourth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

1818 The British Institution of Civil Engineers is formed.

1872 Brigham Young is arrested on charges of bigamy for having 25 wives.

1882 John D. Rockefeller unites his oil holdings into the Standard Oil trust.

1920 The Palmer Raids begin in the United States.

1942 The United States Navy opens a blimp base at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

1959 The first artificial satellite to orbit the moon, Luna 1, is launched by the U.S.S.R.

1969 Operation Barrier Reef began in Mekong Delta, Vietnam

2002 Eduardo Duhalde is appointed interim President of Argentina by the Legislative Assembly.

WORD UP!

sentient \SEN-shee-uhnt; -tee-; -shuhnt\, adjective: 1. Capable of perceiving by the senses; conscious. 2. Experiencing sensation or feeling.

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310-395-0762 (24 Hours)

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(Prestigious Water Garden Complex)

Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA Bonachea, Margaret C. Passed away on December 5, 2007 at the age of 92. Beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt. Services will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 10 A.M. Spalding Mortuary (323) 934-1181 may be contacted for further info.

Miscellaneous

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Employment

COOK OCEAN HOUSE, an elegant senior living residence in Santa Monica, is looking for an ideal candidate for it's line cook position. Duties include participating in the daily menu production, preparing and coordinates daily breakfast, lunch and dinners from standardized recipes. Working line shifts daily to ensure speedy service. Ensuring kitchen equipment is clean, operable, and properly maintained on a daily basis. This is a full time position with benefits after 3 months, medical, dental, vision. 401(k) plan and meal plan as well. If you have a great attitude and enjoy working on a great team, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM,CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-8989.

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Employment

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

HIRING UNARMED security officers in the Santa Monica area, starting pay is \$8.50 up to \$10.00 an hour. Must have a valid guard permit and pass pre-employment background and drug screen. If interested please call (310)791-5015 or apply @ 3771 W. 242nd Street #106, Torrance, CA 90505. EOE.

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IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/ floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

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PACIFIC YELLOW Cab is hiring taxi drivers in SM. Clss C license required. Will train. Please call (310)770-4004

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APR 6.905%	
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APR 7.35%	
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* As of August 29, 2007

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Notices

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the installation and modification of traffic signals on an as-needed basis under Project ID No. RDC0015060, As-Needed Traffic Signal Construction Project, 2007-08, in various unincorporated areas throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The work is estimated to cost between \$2,100,000 and \$2,400,000 and shall be completed over a period of one year. The work requires a California Class A or C-10 contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr.

Notices

Harry Cong at (626) 458-3111.

A mandatory prebid meeting for this Contract will be held on Monday, January 14, 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Small Dining Room of the Headquarters Building, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, Thomas Guide page 595, H-6. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for award of the contract.

The bids must be submitted on the proposal forms included in the bidder's package of the contract documents, which may be purchased for \$14, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$17, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to the County of Los Angeles in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the bid to guarantee that the bidder will enter into the contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination prepared by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A responsible bidder is a bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the contract, or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated December 18, 2007.

Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN789048 01557 Dec 21,22,24,26,27,28,29,31,
2007, Jan 2,3, 2008

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072533208 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PRETTY PRINCESS PARTY, PRETTY PRINCESS, YOUR PRETTY PRINCESS PARTY, 4381 VENTURA CANYON AVE. #5, SHERMAN OAKS, CA. 91423. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : NIKKI IANIRO, 4381 VENTURA CANYON AVE. #5, SHERMAN OAKS, CA. 91423 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: NIKKI IANIRO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/13/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/12/2007, 12/19/2007, 12/26/2007, 1/2/2008

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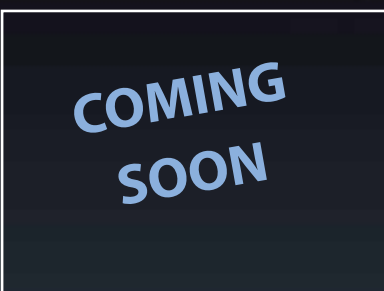


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