



Santa Monica Daily Press

MOSS CLAIMS SHE DID NOT TIE THE KNOT
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS PAGE 17

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Fantasy 5 2 14 18 21 33

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 4 9 4
EVENING: 1 0 3

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Nick Fennelly, 31, was rushing his in-labor girlfriend, Sharon Taylor, into the parking lot at Calderdale Royal Hospital in West Yorkshire, England, just as their baby's head started to appear, and, in a corridor inside, little Ashleigh shot out of her mother so quickly that Fennelly couldn't grab her in time. She hit the floor, skidded, and then came back on the umbilical cord, according to a December report in the Halifax Courier. Except for a bruise, Ashleigh is fine.

■ Melody Howell of Richburg, N.C., expanded her collection of full-sized, designer-decorated Christmas trees this year to 52, all placed inside her 2,500-square-foot home. (Said Howell's adult daughter, "My mom is over the top. (E)verything she does is over the top." On the less joyous side, the city council in Kingston Upon Hull, England, prohibited its trash collectors from wearing their traditional Santa hats this year, declaring that the hats "(do) not create a professional impression."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1777 Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

1947 Congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

1967 Jack Ruby, the man who shot accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, died in a Dallas hospital.

WORD UP!

exegesis /ek-suh-JEE-sis/, *noun*;
Exposition; explanation; especially, a critical explanation of a text.

INDEX

Inside Scoop	
Bundles of new year joy	3
Real Estate	
Going county to county	10
Surf Report	
Water temperature: 59°	15
Horoscopes	
Keep it cheap, Gemini	16
MOVIE TIMES	
Keeping it real	17
Comics & Stuff	
Strips tease	18-19
Classifieds	
Find your place	21-23



Barking up a tree

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Jose Medrano, from Solid Waste Management, puts a Christmas tree into the dump truck on Tuesday at Reed Park. There were over 250 trees piled up as part of the "Park Your Tree" program which allows residents to drop unwanted Christmas trees at one of four local parks.

STORY ON PAGE 3

COURT

Jury selection begins for Espindola trial

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — Jury selection is expected to begin today for the trial of a suspected gang member charged with attempting to murder two undercover Santa Monica police officers.

Michael German Espindola, 21, has plead not guilty to two counts of attempted murder, two counts of assault with a firearm, one count of shooting at an occupied vehicle and one count of unlawful firearm activity.

In addition, the complaint against Espindola, a Santa Monica resident, alleges the attempted murder was to further the activities of a criminal street gang and that Espindola personally discharged a handgun. He is being held on \$2.4 million bail.

See TRIAL BEGINS, page 13



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

IN THE BAG: Floridian Matt Gattlo, 30, lies on some bean bag chairs while watching TV. He has been staying at the hostel on Second Street for three weeks.

High life on the cheap

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — In planning their travels around the world amid a six-month sabbatical, Dawn Stephens and Marc Docherty from Jolly Ol' England needed to find an affordable place to stay for their stop in Santa Monica.

Easier said than done in an internationally famous city packed with beautiful, bourgeois hotels.

The pair came across Hostelling International [HI], a hostel offering travelers, many who are between the ages of 18-26, an inexpensive place to stay in one of the most desirable

See HOSTEL STAY, page 12

Chase ends with arrests

By Daily Press Staff

SUNSET PARK — Three suspected gang members were taken into custody over the weekend on drugs and weapons charges, after leading police on a brief chase through Pico Neighborhood.

Santa Monica police officers arrested the three around 7:10 p.m. on Saturday, after finding them in possession of methamphetamines and a loaded gun.

Officers tried to pull them over for a series of vehicle code violations when the driver of the vehicle refused to stop and a brief chase ensued, according to police.

While SMPD officers were following the vehicle, one of the passengers threw a handgun out of the window, which police recovered.

The driver finally stopped in the 2800 block of Pearl Avenue and all three occupants were arrested. Officers searched the car and found drugs and drug paraphernalia. The three were taken into custody and booked for being gang members in possession of a firearm and for various drug offenses, as well as for offenses associated with their participation in a criminal street gang, police said.

The men were identified as Benjamin Arroyo, 30; Guillermo Castell, 18; and Kevin Morales, 19. All three are Santa Monica residents, police said.

news@smdp.com

WeTip

■ Anyone having information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the robbery/homicide division of SMPD at (310) 458-8451 or the watch commander at (310) 458-8427. Callers who wish to provide anonymous information may also call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463). Callers with information may be eligible for to receive a reward up to \$1,000.



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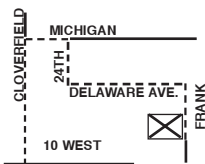
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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)
1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Story Time for Twos
2601 Main St., 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Story series for 2-year-olds at the Ocean
Park Branch of the Santa Monica Public
Library. Registration is required.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)
1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds it's
weekly luncheon with guest speakers.

Introduction to GPS
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Learn the basics of GPS units at REI.
This class will give an overview of the
features and functions of GPS units.

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.



The 411 on dumping Old Tannenbaum

By Daily Press staff

CITYWIDE — It's time to lay the Christmas trees to rest.

All this month, Santa Monica residents can dump their once beautifully decorated evergreens at four city parks — Clover Park (25th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard); Douglas Park (Chelsea Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard); Reed Park (Lincoln Boulevard and California Avenue); and Los Amigos Park (Fifth Street and Hollister Avenue) — free of charge.

The "Park Your Tree" program allows residents to drop off their trees at any one of the sites, where the city's Refuse and Recycling Services employees will later come to retrieve them.

Trees can also be left outside for collection on trash day or dropped off at the city's Transfer Station at 2401 Delaware Ave., between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Residents began depositing trees immediately after Christmas last week. By Friday afternoon, a pile of 40 -50 trees were scattered along the California Avenue side of Reed Park.

City crews began picking them up from the park on Saturday. The trees will subsequently be turned to mulch.

Christmas tree mulch is most commonly used for hiking trails, fish habitat, river delta sedimentation management, beach erosion prevention and lake and river shoreline stabilization, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

More than 33 million real Christmas trees are sold in North America every year.

melodyh@smdp.com

New year labors of love



Photos courtesy

(Top) Roderick Daegan McDonald DeVine, shown here with parents Tylene DeVine and Alex McDonald, was Santa Monica's baby New Year for 2007, arriving at 3:03 a.m. on Jan. 1 at Saint John's Health Center. (Bottom) Lorena Gillen holds her new baby Cael, the first newborn of the year at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, arriving at 3:21 a.m.

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — While most revelers were busy popping champagne corks, two local families were busy popping out babies for the new year.

Tylene De Vine was sitting in her Silverlake home, waiting for her fiancé, Alexander McDonald, to return with a bag of hamburgers from In-N-Out when the big moment came.

After 15 hours in labor, De Vine gave birth to her first child, Roderick Daegan McDonald De Vine, weighing 7.6 pounds, at 3:03 a.m. on Jan. 1. He holds the proud title of being the first child born at Saint John's Health Center in 2007.

"It's the best new year's resolution I ever made," De Vine joked on Tuesday.

When De Vine learned her due date was set for Dec. 27, she originally anticipated having a Christmas baby. It never occurred to her the baby would be born on New Year's Day. The notion didn't even hit her during labor.

"At the time, you don't think about the date, you're thinking about the pain," she said. "When we were saying 'Happy New Year,' it made sense that he could be the first baby of the year at Saint John's."

For little Roderick, being born on the first day of the year has set the tone for the rest of his life, De Vine said.

"It makes him a star early in his life."

Over at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, they welcomed their first baby at 3:21 a.m., when Lorena Gillen gave birth to her fourth son, Cael Adan Gillen.

Lorena Gillen was celebrating New Year's Eve at her mother-in-law's house at Cheviot Hills, knowing that she could go into labor at any moment considering her due date was

See FIRST BABIES, page 13

STATE

Bars may have free beer tastings on tap soon

SACRAMENTO — Free beer tastings may be on tap at California bars and restaurants thanks to a new law lifting a ban on suds samples.

The law, one of several taking effect with the new year, was backed by St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch, which argued that it was unfair that the wine and distilled spirits industries were allowed to give out free samples of their wares.

The beer company says it will conduct only small educational tastings about new beers.

"It's an opportunity for us to get consumers to sample some of our new products," said Andrew Baldonado, western region vice president of government affairs for Anheuser-Busch. "The winter's bourbon cask ale is a seasonal beer that we're doing. The best way

to introduce those new products to consumers is to be able to have them sample them."

Some brewers, especially small ones, already offer tastings at their own facilities, as does Anheuser-Busch at its Fairfield plant. But previously, companies couldn't offer free samples outside their own tasting rooms.

The new law allows beer tastings at bars and

restaurants. It limits the amount to no more than 8 ounces per person a day and requires the beer to be served in a glass. Tastings cannot last more than an hour and there are also annual limits on the number of tastings a single manufacturer, importer or wholesaler can offer at a particular establishment.

See BEER SAMPLES, page 6



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Little sympathy for Schmidt

Editor:

Shame, wasting an article on Martin Schmidt ("Surfer's life went adrift," Jan. 1, page 1). Supposedly, he was a wonderful man. Wonderful men don't jump out of windows trying to escape police. He was suspected of trying to rob a market. Police didn't see the crime, so he was only a suspect – innocent until proven guilty. But jumping out of a third-floor window to evade police does not sound very innocent.

I shall save sympathy for someone who deserves it, not this Darwin Award winner.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

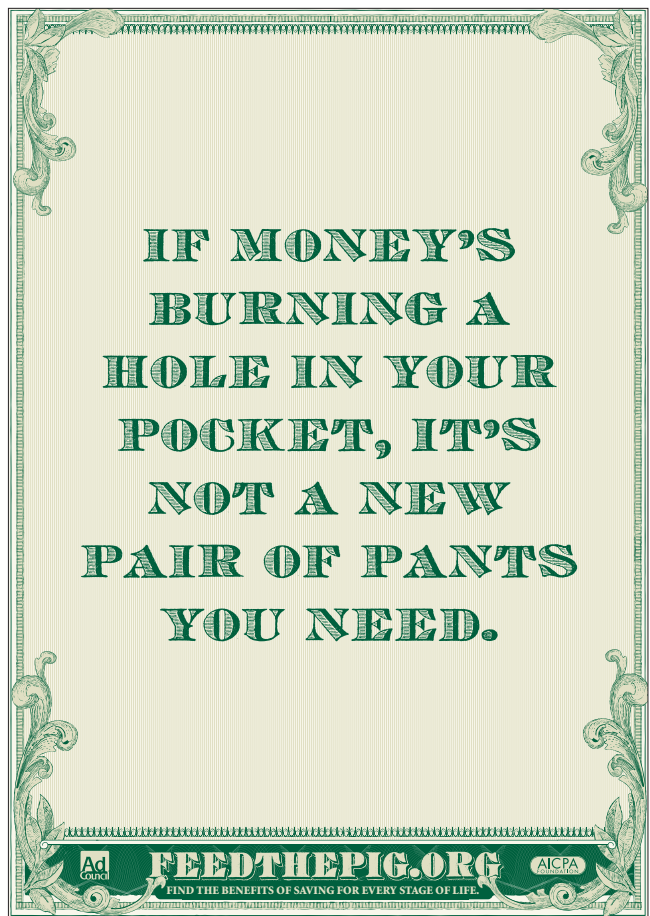
The year to come

Editor:

As we see the chimes at midnight, I pray you walk in awe and wonder as you tread lightly upon the earth; and, whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness, may it be yours in the coming year.

Happy New Year.

Dan Coplan
Santa Monica



Let's take 2007 back to a kinder, gentler time



WHAT'S
THE POINT?
BY DAVID PISARRA

IN TYPICAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA fashion, I went for a bike ride the other day thanks to the 70-degree weather. I was almost run down by a guy who was turning right, while looking left, and talking on a cell phone. He, of course, cursed at me. All the spirit and joy of the season has evaporated like so much morning fog at the beach.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Yes, the truth is we can make 2007 a more hospitable year by our attitudes; not just our attitudes toward work, the jerk in the Hummer ahead of us or the selfish person in front of us with 20 items in the 10 items and under lane. We can make 2007 a nicer year by going back in time.

We can do this by returning to the use of civility and proper dress. The polite use of manners and awareness of those around us. It is something that I have noticed has been steadily degrading over time.

As our society has become more 'sophisticated,' we have simultaneously become more informal. This sense of informality has seeped into all areas of our society. A quick trip around the dial on the TV and we see news reporters wearing jeans and crew neck shirts as they report on the latest SIG alert.

We see it in the lack of any enforced dress codes at City Council meetings — and I mean by the council members, not the public. The council as a whole, creates a very relaxed atmosphere by their not enforcing upon themselves a requirement of suits and ties for men and dress suits for female members.

I realize that this is all in the spirit of equality. That we, as a society, have a policy of making everyone feel equal and that we have to look beyond what someone is wearing to properly and fairly evaluate them. I know that if we judged people only on their clothing, or their car, we would really be judging them based on their checkbook, and that is an artificial means of deciding who is worthy and who isn't.

We have become a society that wants to bring uniqueness to the masses, and elegance and refinement to the mass produced. The message from Madison Avenue is that everyone can be elite. The problem is that there is no consistent message.

Take P. Diddy for example (or whatever he is called now) — one day he is seen in public in an all white suit with a black tie, looking very formal and refined. Then he is seen in public in a track suit with a pound of diamonds to bring sparkle to an otherwise dull appearance.

This is why dress codes are important. Because they set a tone. They step up the level of respect that people are accorded. I know this from my own experience and from my own behavior. When I am wearing a suit, I am referred to as 'sir' and people are more deferential to me. I command the attention of whomever I am speaking to, and I receive a measure of respect that is greater than when I am in a polo and jeans.

I know that I treat people differently based on their mode of dress. That is a politically incorrect statement to make, but the truth is that I interact differently with men in suits than with guys in T-shirts. A man in a suit says he is serious and is commanding respect, a guy in a T-shirt says 'no worries, it's all good.' I don't mean to say that I am disrespectful to the dude in a T-shirt — certainly not. Many of my clients and best friends live in T-shirts. That may not be the proper attitude for an attorney to take, but it is my experience.

Contrast the difference in your mind between the 20-year-old in a track suit whose underwear is showing, with a woman in a pantsuit. They can both be intelligent, respectful, well-mannered individuals, but the woman will get a little better treatment.

If you want respect, you command it by your demeanor and your treatment of others. One of the ways that we communicate our desire to be respected is to be dressed appropriately. I long for the days when people knew that respect was earned, and commanded it through demeanor and treatment of others.

David Pizarra is a lawyer in Santa Monica with the firm of Pizarra and Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or dpizarra@pizarra.com.

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MUSM: miss you so much
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EARTH TALK

BY THE EDITORS OF E MAGAZINE

DEAR EARTHTALK: I understand that you can run a diesel car on used cooking oil. Why would I want to do that and how would I convert such a vehicle to do so?

Benjamin Crouch
Boston, MA

THE USE OF VEGETABLE OIL FOR DIESEL fuel has grown in popularity in recent years, thanks to both high fuel prices and ecological concerns. Analysts estimate that some 5,000 North Americans have converted their diesel cars or trucks to run on vegetable oil in the last few years alone. Those who do so usually make a deal with a local eatery willing to hand over its used cooking oil at the close of the business day.

The idea isn't new. The first diesel engines built in the 1890s were created to run on peanut oil to be used in developing countries where oil reserves didn't exist. And many of the older diesel cars and trucks still on the road today can use straight vegetable oil, especially in warmer climates where it won't congeal as easily as in the cold. Many modern diesel engines, though, leave the factory requiring true diesel fuel to run well, as straight vegetable oil can muck up intricately engineered fuel pumps and injectors.

But drivers willing to spend between \$400 and \$1,000 on a conversion kit from one of two leading vendors — Missouri-based Golden Fuel Systems and Massachusetts-based Greasecar Vegetable Fuel Systems — can make the switch. And fryer-friendly restaurants are just about the only economical fuel source right now. Buying cooking oils at the supermarket would be costly, and consumers shouldn't expect to find filling stations pumping vegetable oil anytime soon.

The benefits of a conversion are more than economic. Vegetable oil is a renewable resource derived from plants, which by nature absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) during photosynthesis. Vegetable oil is thus "carbon neutral" — burning it merely releases stored CO₂ back into the atmosphere and, therefore, contributes no new greenhouse gases to the environment. By contrast, burning gasoline in a traditional engine releases CO₂ that had been stored underground in oil, and thus contributes to global warming. Vegetable oil also burns cleaner than regular diesel, spewing no sulfur and much less particulate and carbon monoxide.

The conversion kits are only for diesel vehicles, as gasoline engines do not tolerate vegetable oil as a fuel. Since a conversion entails replacing and moving hoses and leads, as well as adding a separate fuel tank for the vegetable oil, it is best handled by a trained mechanic. Drivers should know that a converted vehicle does need a small amount of regular diesel fuel to get started, because at normal or cold temperatures vegetable oil is too thick to properly ignite. But the vehicle can switch over



Kathy Tarantola Special to the Daily Press
GREASED LIGHTING: 'Greasecar' founder Justin Carven stands beside his 1980 British Mini. He swapped out its motor for a diesel engine, and then converted it to run on vegetable oil.

THE FIRST DIESEL ENGINES BUILT IN THE 1890S WERE CREATED TO RUN ON PEANUT OIL TO BE USED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE OIL RESERVES DIDN'T EXIST.

to vegetable oil once it is warmed up and the heat inside the engine loosens its thickness so it can run through efficiently.

Another way to use vegetable oil in a diesel engine is to blend it with regular diesel fuel. This blend has become known as biodiesel, and works fine in regular diesel engines with no conversion required. Biodiesel vendors have set up pumping stations across North America, although they tend to be few and far between. Canadians can locate biodiesel stations at the Web site of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association; Americans can consult the Web site of the National Biodiesel Board.

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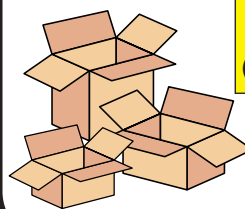
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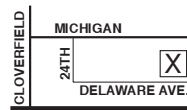
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The Q-Line

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The shooting death of 20-year-old Miguel Angel Martin near Virginia Avenue Park last week is just the latest incident of gang-related violence in the Pico Neighborhood. In the wake of such incidents, law enforcement officials routinely describe gang violence as a "regional problem," as oftentimes gang members who live outside the city are responsible for the violent crimes that take place in Santa Monica's limits. This week's Q-Line question asks:

Has the time come to disband the Santa Monica Police Department and contract with the LA County Sheriff's Department in efforts to stem gang violence?

Call **(310) 285-8106** before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in next weekend's edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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Free Workshop Reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

SANTA MONICA —An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of December at various Santa Monica locations.

The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 parents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Thursday, January 18th at the Santa Monica Main Library, Saturday, January 20th

at the Santa Monica Main Library 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Tuesday, January 23rd at the Montana Avenue Library. The classes on Tuesday and Thursday 7:15pm to 8:45pm & Saturday Morning 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college. Ron Caruthers the President of the College Planning Network is a continuous guest of KUSI TV News, Author of "How To Give Your Child A 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke", and an instructor at Palomar and Mira Costa colleges.

Seating is free, but limited by the size of the room. To reserve your seat, call 310-581-7954 leave a message and receive a confirmation returned phone call.

ADVERTISEMENT

A dozen cows free from mad disease

BY PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists have genetically engineered a dozen cows to be free from the proteins that cause mad cow disease, a breakthrough that may make the animals immune to the brain-wasting disease.

An international team of researchers from the U.S. and Japan reported Sunday that they had "knocked out" the gene responsible for making the proteins, called prions. The disease didn't take hold when brain tissue from two of the genetically engineered cows was exposed to bad prions in the laboratory, they said.

Experts said the work may offer another layer of security to people concerned about eating infected beef, although though any food derived from genetically engineered animals must first be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

"This research is a huge step forward for the use of animal biotechnology that benefits consumers," said Barbara Glenn of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, a Washington industry group that includes the company that sponsored the research as a member. "This a plus for consumers worldwide."

The surviving cows are now being injected directly with mad cow disease, known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, to make certain the cattle are immune to it.

Those key results won't be known until later this year, at the earliest, according to the Sioux Falls, S.D. based biotechnology company Hematech Inc. that sponsored the research. It can take as long as two years for mad cow disease to be detected in infected animals.

The research published in the online journal Nature Biotechnology could be used as a tool that would help researchers better understand similar brain-wasting diseases in humans, Glenn and others said.

Scientists are still mystified by the biological purposes of normal prions, which humans also produce. But they believe that even one prion going bad can set off the always fatal and painful brain disease — known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

Similar prion-based diseases also are found in sheep, deer and elk.

Glenn and others stressed that the mad cow threat to the United States is extremely low due in large part to government regulations enacted after outbreaks in Europe.

"At the moment we don't have a high threat of BSE," said Val Giddings, a scientist who consults with biotechnology companies. "But if BSE were ever to become a problem, this could turn out to be a good technological fix to it."

Also, Hematech's chief scientist, James Robl, said companies still are spending millions of dollars annually to protect their cows from the disease.

In the lab, Robl and his colleagues, who included a scientist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, scraped skin cells from cows and "turned off" the gene that makes prions.

Then, using those cells as a "starter kit," they produced 12 calves through cloning processes — the fusing of the cells into the eggs of cows. Three were slaughtered so their brains could be studied and nine are still living.

"The cloning process itself is very large scale," said Robl, who estimated that Hematech implants about 15,000 cloned embryos into 4,000 cows annually. Most of

the pregnancies are terminated before birth to collect cells for the company's research in developing human medicines, he said.

Robl said a more immediate use of the technology could be to produce prion-free cows to produce cow serum, a popular laboratory tool used for myriad biological experiments.

Since three cows in the United States were diagnosed with BSE beginning in December 2003, most labs order their cow serum from New Zealand.

But Hematech isn't much interested in producing serum for scientists and has no plans to become a beef producer.

Instead, the company is genetically engineering cows to produce antibiotics and other medicines for people.

The company embarked on the mad cow disease project five years ago to ensure it could produce medicines that were free from the brain-wasting disease. BSE is caused when one misshapen prion prompts normal prions to turn bad, slowly boring lesions in the brain and making infected animals go mad.

It's thought that people eating infected beef can contract the human variant of the disease, which also occurs spontaneously.

At least 180 people worldwide have died after eating meat infected with mad cow disease in the last two decades. Symptoms can take years to develop.

But scientists are certain the brain-wasting diseases are caused by the misshapen prions, one of the most mystifying particles in biology.

Tastings are for education, not intoxication

BEER SAMPLES, from page 3

Senate Bill 1548 was carried by former state Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Culver City.

Fred Jones, legal counsel to the Sacramento-based California Council on Alcohol Problems, a coalition of religious groups, thinks the law was a mistake.

"It was jokingly referred to as the 'Free Happy Hour' bill (in the Capitol), so I think that gives you an image of what could happen," Jones said. "What is the reason behind giving someone 8 ounces of beer free? One could argue that with wineries, each winery is different and every bottle is different depending on age or season. But we're talking about beer here."

Baldonado said the purpose of the samples is education, not intoxication.

"It would never be an instance where we would be buying the house a round," said Baldonado. "We would talk to consumers one at a time about whatever product it may be, whether it's Budweiser or something else."

The tastings are part of an effort by beer makers to regain ground lost in recent years to spirits and wine.

California microbreweries opposed to the bill at first, citing concerns that big companies would have an advantage in marketing at restaurants and bars. They withdrew their opposition after limits were put on the tastings, said Tom McCormick, executive director of the California Small Brewers Association.



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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Taking it to the streets

The Sheriff's department wants its gang specialists out of the office and on the streets.

Sheriff Lee Baca has moved Operation Safe Streets, the department's anti-gang unit, from the detective bureau to the headquarters of Region II, which has seen the largest number of gang killings in the county in the last six years.

The region includes Compton, Century and Lennox.

Working from their new home base, gang investigators will work schedules closer to those of street cops than administrators.

"The perception of the detective is he's behind the desk, filing cases," said Assistant Sheriff R. Doyle Campbell. "Gang problems are occurring 24 hours."

Baca is also expanding the number of deputies assigned to the unit, and plans to name a new captain to replace the unit's current head, Capt. Mike Ford.

Ford said he did not know where or when he would be transferred.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VENTURA, Calif.
Keeping the great wide open

Ventura County is bringing in a task force to help preserve its wide-open spaces as nine of its anti-development and agricultural resource laws set to expire between 2020 and 2030.

The Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County, a group that includes environmentalists and business leaders, has received a grant of \$150,000 from the Southern California Association of Governments to begin planning the county's long-term development.

The grant is offered to agencies that want to explore a "2 percent" development strategy, which promotes high-density growth near centers of transportation and shopping.

"That means you accommodate growth out to 2030 by using 2 percent of the land in the region," said task force Chairman Ron Bottorff. "That's pretty remarkable if you can do that."

The task force will pay consulting firms to do population projections for the area, and organize meetings of outside leaders and experts for advice.

"The guts of it is going to be a workshop where you bring in as many civic leaders from around the country as you can and talk to them about how you want to see the county grow," said City Councilman Bill Fulton.

AP

SAN BERNARDINO
Kittens and puppies galore

Animal control agencies in San Bernardino County are bracing for an annual post-holiday influx of spurned kittens and puppies given as Christmas gifts.

"Puppies may look cute under the Christmas tree, but the reality is it's like having a baby that you have to train, teach and take care of," said Bonnie O'Connor of the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley. "It may not be so cute later on."

Public animal adoption agencies frown on what they call "holiday impulse adoptions," and do all they can to discourage pets as gifts, knowing that they may soon see the same animals again after they are rejected by unprepared owners.

"We don't encourage people to adopt during the holidays," said Ken Childress, director of San Bernardino City Animal Control. "We'll usually close a few days before Christmas."

AP

Fire board president restrained

By Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District obtained a temporary restraining order against its own board president after he allegedly threatened the general counsel and other employees in a drunken telephone tirade.

Under the order granted Wednesday in Sacramento County Superior Court, Peter Engellenner was prohibited from attending a Thursday board meeting where directors were scheduled to vote on electing his replacement.

That vote was postponed after three directors left the meeting, leaving too few board members for the process to continue.

Richard Margarita, the fire district's general counsel, said in court documents that Engellenner was "extremely intoxicated" during a Dec. 7 phone call and threatened Margarita, his legal team and a district investigator.

Engellenner had been exhibiting "volatile and unpredictable behavior" as his "excessive intoxication" worsened in November, Margarita said.

THAT VOTE WAS POSTPONED AFTER THREE DIRECTORS LEFT THE MEETING, LEAVING TOO FEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE PROCESS TO CONTINUE.

Margarita quoted Engellenner as saying, "I am going to come over there (expletive) and grab you by the back of the head and pull you down stairs, drag you through the parking lot and kick the (expletive) out of you in the gutter, do you understand me?"

The employees of the district, which provides fire protection and emergency medical services to nearly 600,000 people in greater Sacramento, are now guarded by armed sheriff's deputies.

On Dec. 2, Metro Fire Chief Don Mette initiated an internal investigation over whether Engellenner, who had been rushed to the hospital in November for possible alcohol poisoning, had asked a fire captain to remove his name and references to his drinking from the incident report.

Mette applied for the restraining order on Dec. 26.

Engellenner, who later apologized to Margarita for his remarks, told the Sacramento Bee that many of the allegations against him were false and that he was distraught because his mother was ill.

"My drinking is not an issue," said Engellenner, a retired prison guard who was re-elected to the board this fall. He referred specific questions to his lawyer, Eugene Chittock. Attempts to reach Chittock by phone Sunday were unsuccessful.

The next hearing over the restraining order is scheduled for Jan. 18.

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Sunset Park	= \$ 1,328,400	\$ 640,800
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,630,363	\$ 1,159,259

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Seeking support

Seven officers charged in shootings after Katrina

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The city's police union urged its members to support seven fellow police officers charged in deadly shootings on a bridge during the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Last Thursday, a grand jury indicted the officers on murder or attempted murder charges stemming from the Sept. 4, 2005 shootings on the Danziger Bridge that killed two men and wounded four other people.

All seven officers planned to report to jail as a group on Tuesday morning, attorneys for two of the officers said Monday. The Fraternal Order of Police is encouraging other rank-and-file officers to gather outside the jail to show their support for the officers when they arrive.

"You can expect to see a tremendous amount of support from fellow officers," said Franz Zibilich, attorney for former officer Robert Faulcon, who resigned from the force after the shootings.

Faulcon, Sgt. Kenneth Bowen and officers Robert Gisevius and Anthony Villavaso are charged with first-degree murder. Officers Robert Barrios and Mike Hunter were charged with attempted first-degree murder, and Ignatius Hills was charged with attempted second-degree murder.

A judge said there would be no bond for the four accused of first-degree murder. Bond will be \$100,000 per count for the other three officers.

The officers are scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday. At that hearing, lawyers for the four officers charged with first-degree murder plan to seek bond for their clients, according to Zibilich and Frank DeSalvo, Bowen's attorney.

A first-degree murder conviction carries

a possible death sentence. A spokesman for District Attorney Eddie Jordan said Monday that prosecutors haven't decided yet whether to seek the death penalty in the case.

Ronald Madison, a 40-year-old mentally retarded man, and James Brissette, 19, were shot and killed on the bridge. The coroner said Madison was shot seven times, with five wounds in the back.

The facts of what happened on the Danziger Bridge remain murky. Police say that the officers were responding to a report of other officers down, and that they thought Madison had been reaching for a gun.

"YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE
A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT
OF SUPPORT FROM
FELLOW OFFICERS."

Franz Zibilich
attorney for former officer Robert Faulcon

Madison's brother, Lance, who was cleared by the grand jury of attempted murder charges, denies he or his brother were armed.

Lance Madison said he and his brother were running from a group of teens who had opened fire on the bridge when seven men jumped out of a rental truck and also began firing at them without warning. The men didn't identify themselves as police officers, Madison said.

On Friday, the department suspended the officers without pay pending the outcome of the case and a review by Police Superintendent Warren Riley.

Sizable homes abandoned

in polygamous Utah towns

By The Associated Press

HILDALE, Utah — There are at least a dozen abandoned homes in communities populated by followers of polygamous-sect leader Warren Jeffs.

These wouldn't be considered starters.

They include a 19-bedroom, 23-bath-room mansion with three kitchens, and a three-level house with eight bedrooms and just as many baths.

Another property has eight bedrooms and, with just three bathrooms, probably long lines in the morning.

It is "at least a three-wife home," said Isaac Wyler, a former member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or FLDS, which practices polygamy and arranged marriage.

Wyler works for Bruce Wisan, a court-appointed accountant who is overseeing an FLDS property trust. Wisan must collect property taxes and pay bills in Washington County and across the state line in Mohave County, Ariz.

Only half of the \$602,000 due to Mohave

County on Nov. 1 has been paid.

Wisan has managed the trust since spring 2005 while Jeffs, leader of the FLDS church, was on the run from police. He was arrested in August and faces trial in April on charges of rape as an accomplice.

FLDS members haven't fully cooperated with Wisan. They've skipped three public meetings to hear his plans for the trust and have resisted paying taxes.

"I am not overly concerned with what we have right now, but if every week I get three or four or five (abandoned) houses then, yeah, I'll be concerned and have to take a different approach in terms of what I'm doing," Wisan said.

He has allowed some ex-FLDS members to reclaim homes if they can prove an interest.

Wisan said he might have to put abandoned homes on the market to non-FLDS members. Some have been stripped of appliances and cabinets and need work.

"Did you think to pray today?" reads a message on a mirror in a seven-bedroom home.

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Democrats inherit agenda dominated by war in Iraq

BY ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Now the majority party, Democrats will inherit an agenda dominated by the war in Iraq when the new Congress convenes Thursday, increasing their exposure to what has mostly been a politically damaging issue for Republicans.

In the weeks ahead, the new Democratic Congress will be confronted with President Bush's new plan for Iraq and a White House request that lawmakers authorize an estimated additional \$100 billion to pay for the war.

Democrats also may be asked to support a plan lifting restrictions on reserve deployments to ease the strain on active-duty troops.

While Democrats may try to deflect as much attention as they can toward Bush — citing the president's ownership of the war and congressional limitations on foreign policy — they no doubt will find themselves playing a starring role in a debate that cost Republicans votes in the midterm elections last fall.

"They'll have to show they can govern and govern in a way that will help the executive branch resolve this," said James Thurber, director of American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies.

But resolving Iraq won't be easy, and Democrats run the risk of going too far in criticizing the president. Recent polls show Americans remain frustrated with Bush's handling of the war, but don't think Democrats have offered much of an alternative.

"They will be in the majority, and they will be blamed if they try to block the president from implementing an exit strategy," Thurber said.

The president is thought to be considering a plan to increase the number of forces in Iraq. But the specifics of how many troops will be added to the existing 140,000 force and for how long are not known.

Bush said last week he planned to engage lawmakers before making his announcement later this month. Congressional leaders planned to attend a White House reception expected at midweek.

Foreshadowing the debate to come, Democrats swiftly rallied against the notion of sending more troops, saying Iraqis must take a stronger role in security matters.

"The Iraqis need to understand that the responsibility for the future of that country is theirs," Rep.-elect Jerry McNerney, D-Calif., said Saturday in the Democrats' weekly radio address.

"I have not heard from our military, clamoring for additional soldiers," Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Ga., said upon returning from a trip to Iraq with Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff.

Marshall and Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., who also visited Iraq during the Christmas holiday, reported that some progress was being made in Anbar province where Iraqi security forces and local leaders were collaborating to push out al-Qaida fighters. But, Skelton said, violence in Baghdad has accelerated and additional U.S. troops might not help.

"I will look carefully and with an open mind at any proposal the president may make, but my view remains that removing some number of American troops — however small — would send a more powerful message to our Iraqi partners than raising force levels," Skelton said.

The debate will play out in hearing rooms next month. Skelton and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who will head the Senate Armed Services Committee, have invited Defense Secretary Robert Gates to testify.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has promised to testify before his committee after Bush makes his announcement.

Democrats say they also want to hear from independent military experts and members of the Iraq Study Group.

The debate also will play out in Congress's review of the president's spending requests for the war. The Pentagon says it needs an additional \$99.7 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan until the end of the current fiscal year in September. That request is expected to arrive on Capitol Hill in February.

Democrats are eyeing ways to attach conditions to war funds that won't hurt troops and may even attract Republican support.

John Podesta, former President Clinton's chief of staff and now president of the liberal Center for American Progress, recommends lawmakers demand in that spending bill that the president seek lawmakers' approval if troop levels exceed 150,000 in Iraq.

New governor sworn in at midnight in Reno

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Saying security concerns prompted him to take office as soon as possible, Republican Jim Gibbons was sworn in as Nevada governor seconds after the New Year opened at midnight Monday.

The former five-term congressman was administered the oath of office by Bill Maupin, chief justice of the state Supreme Court, in the living room of Gibbons' Reno home. Also on hand were Gibbons' wife Dawn and about 15 friends and aides.

A second ceremony for Gibbons and other state officials being sworn into office was scheduled at midmorning Monday in Carson City. Another inaugural event was planned for Tuesday, also in the capital city.

Immediately after his oath-taking, Gibbons named Larry Martines, who has had a long career in police and security work — including work for the CIA — as the state homeland security director; and law enforcement veteran Phil Galeoto as state Department of Public Safety director.

Gibbons said that while state agencies "know of no credible threat, recent world events and New Year's celebrations raise the potential for problems during Nevada's first government transition since the terror attacks of 9-11."

"Nevadans should be assured that their leaders are in place, ready for any emergency," Gibbons said. Spokesman Brent Boynton said "recent world events" was a reference to the execution of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"I knew continuity was important and I wanted no gap in security," Gibbons said. "We're in a new reality since the Sept. 11 attacks, and the people of Nevada expect the governor to be on top of things."

Gibbons, a 48-44 percent winner over Democrat Dina Titus in the November elections, is the first Nevada governor to be sworn in at midnight, according to state Archivist Guy Rocha. But Rocha said another governor, James Scrugham, has the record for the earliest oath — Dec. 26, 1922, six days before his term started.

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Prepping for the year ahead in housing



DAYS ON THE MARKET
BY JODI SUMMERS

IN 2006, THE SOUTHLAND — SAN DIEGO, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties — relaxed after the real estate run-up between 2000 and 2005, in which home values in many communities doubled and then some. Last year, the best places to invest were San Bernardino and Riverside, which still saw nice appreciation.

The median price of all types of homes sold in the six-county region was in the neighborhood of \$487,000, up 1.7 percent from 2005, reports research firm DataQuick Information Systems. It's the slowest rate of growth since February 1997.

"Obviously, there's a correction going on, but it's not going to collapse," said Delores Conway, director of the Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast at USC. "Even with prices flattening, it doesn't mean that we're in a serious housing downturn."

In Los Angeles County, reports DataQuick, median home prices rose 2.6 percent to \$510,000 as sales fell 18.9 percent. Kudos go to San Bernardino, the county saw a median price rise of 8.6 percent to a record \$380,000, while sales declined 26.7 percent. Nice growth was also had in Riverside County, where the median price rose 5.2 percent, to a record high of \$426,000, but sales slumped 35.7 percent from a year ago. Ownership has been painful in San Diego County, where real estate is losing value. By year's end, the median price fell 6.9 percent, to \$482,000, as sales fell 24 percent. Ventura County was the biggest loser, with housing prices falling 8.2 percent, to \$562,000, with sales sliding 30.8 percent. Orange County property saw no appreciation — the median residential property price of \$616,000 is the same as 2005. Sales dipped 29.3 percent.

Remove the now lackluster housing sector from the gross domestic product equation, and the GDP actually grew 3.3 percent in the second and third quarters of 2006 — close to the 3.4 percent rate achieved in the prior four quarters, observes the National Association of Manufacturers' chief economist, David Heuther.

Foreclosures were at historic lows, and as

you'd expect, they are now on the rise. RealtyTrac Inc., a company that monitors foreclosure activity, reports that the number of Notices of Default more than doubled to 18,516 — up from 7,080 in the third quarter of 2005.

"Historically, about 60 percent of those properties won't get as far as the foreclosure auction," said Rick Sharga, the vice president of marketing for RealtyTrac Inc.

The Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast and other experts note that the deceleration is a prerequisite for the housing market to reestablish its footing after an extraordinary period of growth.

The National Assn. of Realtors reported the largest single-family home-price gains in 2006 were in the Salem, Ore., area, where the third-quarter median price of \$228,000 was 24.7 percent higher than the third quarter of 2005. Next was Elmira, N.Y., where a median home price of \$93,000 saw a price boost of 21.4 percent from the third quarter of 2005.

Going forward, in 2007, it is believed that real estate prices will go: "Not up, not down — 'flat' is the operative word for prices," notes Inman News. "2006 was the year for adjustment, and adjust they did: they stopped rising as fast as the price of oil. Without easy money, without ridiculous hype and without speculators, 2007 will see further erosion of home prices."

Housing will lose its sex appeal. TV shows on home improvements, weird realtors and house-flipping will be canceled.

The economy will grow at 2.9 percent in 2007 and 2.8 percent in 2008, the National Association of Manufacturers forecasts, up from 2.1 percent in 2006.

Heuther notes that residential housing prices will "continue to be a drag on the economy" in the first half of 2007, but solid growth in investment and trade will help the economy grow at a faster rate next year than in 2006. Nationally, housing prices fell at a 9.2 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter 2006.

Looking forward, residential investment is expected to decline by 2.8 percent in the first quarter and 2.5 percent in the second quarter, before beginning to recover in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Jodi Summers is Director of the Investment Division at Boardwalk Realty. She can be reached at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or (310) 309-4219. Visit her Web sites at www.SoCallInvestmentRealEstate.com or www.santamonicalandmarks.com.

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Additional benefits of Tenant In Common



IN YOUR SPACE
BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TENANT IN Common (TIC) investments can provide investors with a superior method of reducing risk and minimizing management, all while deferring the payment of capital gains taxes. Here are some additional benefits of investing as a Tenant In Common:

1. **Higher Quality Real Estate.** Tenant in common (TIC) properties allow investors an opportunity to participate in larger properties than they could purchase on their own. Frequently, these properties have a better risk reward ratio and provide the opportunity for investors to purchase a fractional interest in an "A" class office building, a shopping center with corporate credit tenants or a full service hotel.

2. **Better Credit Tenants.** TIC developments allow investors to own properties with better credit tenants. Most individual investors deal with individuals or small com-

panies. This is especially the case with respect to owners of multi-family property, small office buildings and smaller retail centers. In contrast, TIC investors can acquire properties with corporate credit tenants such as a bank or major retailer.

3. **Diversification.** A TIC allows investors to diversify real estate risk by acquiring several smaller interests in commercial properties in different asset classes and geographic markets. A portfolio of TIC investments spread across diverse geographic markets and asset classes provides opportunity for optimal risk management.

4. **Better Return on Equity.** TIC properties typically generate a better return on equity and cash flow for investors. As an example, many owners of residential properties have considerable equity and lower return on equity than is the case with TIC properties. Owners are forced to make repairs, replace old residential equipment and reinvest in their property. Owners of smaller office buildings, which can have higher turnover than a large credit tenant property, can find themselves reinvesting in tenant improvements when re-leasing property, paying leasing commissions and other expenses in exchange for increased

<u>Sample Properties For Sale</u>				
Medical Office				
<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Cap Rate</u>	<u>Square Feet</u>	<u>Price</u>
Las Vegas	NV	7.4%	9,000	\$1,649,000
Greer	SC	9.9%	17,602	\$2,304,950
Palm Beach	FL	7.8%	43,421	\$8,475,000
White Plains	NY	7.5%	30,000	\$8,950,000
Tenant In Common/Alternatives (No Management)				
<u>Type</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Minimum Investment</u>	<u>Year/Year 5 Cash On Cash</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Retail Office Ctr	TN	\$100,000	8%/10%	Extra Land
Restaurant	KS	\$100,000	7.25%/7.97%	04 Const. 15 years on Lease
Las Vegas Retail	NV	\$500,000	7.5%/9.1%	New Construction.
Office	WY	\$550,000	7.3%/7.5%	Class "A" 100% leased

rents which are payable over time.

5. **No Management Responsibility.** TIC property eliminates the day-to-day responsibility of managing real estate. In short, a TIC allows owners the opportunity to receive high, cash flow without the uncompensated owner labor associated with managing smaller commercial property.

6. **Ease of 1031 Debt Replacement.** TICs generally allow an investor ease of debt replacement. The terms of debt associated with most TIC developments are much more favorable than is the case with loans available to most individual investors. For investors in need of debt replacement in a 1031 transaction, TICs provide investors with opportunities to take advantage of favorable interest rate loans based on institutional quality real estate.

7. **Flexibility in 1031 Transactions.** TICs also allow investors flexibility in allocation of debt and equity. The potential for investing a smaller dollar amount provides opportunity to meet debt and equity replacement requirement more closely.

8. **Certainty of Closing in 1031 Transactions.** For 1031 investors, a TIC investment offers investors certainty that their 1031 transaction will close. For investors with high tax exposure, a TIC is always a viable "back-up" plan.

9. **Currency Diversification.** For foreign investors, TIC investments allow parties to invest in quality United States real estate when the dollar is trading at lows against many foreign currencies. The weakness of the dollar against foreign currencies makes investment in United States commercial real estate an attractive investment option which creates asset diversification. A tenant in common interest in commercial property allows investors outside the United States to diversify their assets.

Contact **Christina Porter** at (877) 4TM-1031 or Christina@tm1031exchange.com. TM 1031 Exchange assists investors and planning and executing real estate investment strategies.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Hostel acts as a hub for international visitors

HOSTEL STAY, from page 1

places in Santa Monica — on Second Street, two blocks from the beach.

"This is a great location," Stephens said, while playing Scrabble with her friend in the game area of the downtown hostel.

Since 1990, the Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International, a non-profit organization that operates about 100 hostels in the United States, has offered travelers, young and old, a cheap place to stay and even more incentive to visit Santa Monica.

The hostel is the lodging of choice for young adults and college students who visit during school breaks in the winter and summer. Though the majority of visitors are young adults, a good number of guests also include families, school groups, scout troops and senior citizens.

HI is an international hub in Santa Monica. On any given day, conversations in Japanese, English and German can be heard in the communal kitchen where guests prepare their own meals, in the game room where guests battle it out with arcade games, and in the small theatre room where the travelers watch a free movie every night.

Most rooms have anywhere between six to eight bunk beds averaging about \$26 a night for guests who have a membership with Hostelling International. The membership is free for guests under the age of 18, costs \$28 for adults between the ages of 18-54, and is \$18 for seniors over 55 years old.

Almost every room has its own bathroom, but each floor is equipped with separate men's and women's central bathrooms, reminiscent of a college dormitory. The hostel includes several common areas, such as a laundry room, television room, library and meeting room for travel seminars. Volunteers also hold Los Angeles and Santa Monica tours for guests.

Part of the first level of HI includes a full-size travel information store containing literature with the 411 on California and beyond.

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

Santa Monica was an attractive location for an HI because of its proximity to LAX, and access to many different bus lines, said John Estrada, executive director of the LA Council of Hostelling International.

"Most guests use the public transportation because they come from countries where they do have good public transportation," Estrada said, explaining that its college dorm-like feel makes the hostel ideal for a person traveling by themselves.

Estrada spent much of his youth traveling across the world, staying in hostels where he created lifelong friends.

"When you're traveling and staying in a hostel, you're not alone," Estrada said on Tuesday. "When you stay in a hotel or motel, you're immediately isolated."

"These people become your friends."

That is part of the reason why Stephens and Docherty chose to stay in a hostel in Santa Monica. During their nine-week travels in the United States, which has included stops in Washington D.C., New York, Miami, St. Louis and Philadelphia, the two Brits have stayed with friends and family, and in hotels and motels.

"We do it for the social life; to interact with people," Stephens said.

Travelers aren't the only guests at Hostelling International. The hostel serves as a cheap place to stay for people in transition between homes.

Jennifer Rogers, 36, left New York about two weeks ago to relocate to the left coast. The former banquet server wanted out of the shivering cold east coast and felt California would be a perfect place to start a new life. She's now thinking of becoming a secretary.

Staying in Santa Monica has allowed Rogers to explore West LA, Hollywood and, of course, Santa Monica Beach.

"I thought the hostel was a good starting place to try and find a job and find a place to live," Rogers said.

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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

STAY TUNED: (Above left) Dawn Stephens, 32 and Marc Docherty 26, from England, play a game of Scrabble at the hostel. (Above right) Gen Nagatomo, from Japan, cooks his spaghetti in the communal kitchen of the hostel.

Rose by another name



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

(Clockwise from top) University of Michigan seniors Daniel Mickelson and Caroline Sweet chow down at a shrimp eating contest while Bubba Gump's shrimp mascot looks on. The contest was sponsored by the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company at a pre-event of the University of Michigan pep rally held at the Santa Monica Pier on Dec. 31. (2) University of Michigan cheerleaders rise to the top in support of their football team at the University of Michigan pep rally. (3) Cheerleader Nicki Trombley leads her team in a cheer in preparation for the Rose Bowl. (4) University of Michigan's band director Jamie L. Nix conducts the marching band while trumpet players make music at his directives. (5) Trombley proudly displays her school spirit across her face.

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Attorney says police arrested wrong man

TRIAL BEGINS, from page 1

If convicted, Espindola faces up to life in prison, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The trial was supposed to begin in October, however, a judge postponed the trial so that Espindola's newly hired attorney could prepare for the case.

"My client is innocent and I will prove it at trial," said David Diamond, who is representing Espindola. "The Santa Monica Police Department was in such a rush to find the person responsible for injuring one of their own, that they arrested the wrong person."

"Furthermore ... I will produce the person that should go to jail for hurting a law enforcement officer."

The shooting occurred on Feb. 2 at about 5 a.m. near the corner of 20th Street and Pico Boulevard. Officers immediately sealed off the area and conducted a search, locating the suspects in an apartment building in the

1900 block of 17th Street, near Santa Monica College. The department's SWAT team was deployed and negotiated the surrender of the suspects at approximately 6:15 a.m., police said.

Officer Walter Ramirez, a 4-year veteran of the department, suffered a "through and through" wound to his right wrist, and was transported to UCLA Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

Shortly before the shooting, the suspects were observed acting suspiciously in the parking lot of the Ralph's grocery store at 1600 Cloverfield Boulevard.

Officers in a marked patrol car notified Ramirez and his partner, who were in an undercover unit assigned to burglary suppression. The two observed the suspects drive off in a blue van and proceeded to follow them at a distance of roughly two blocks, police said.

The officers lost site of the suspects' van around 18th Street and Pico Boulevard. As the officers drove south on 17th Street, they noticed

"I WILL PRODUCE THE PERSON THAT SHOULD GO TO JAIL FOR HURTING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER."

David Diamond
Attorney for Espindola

the van parked in a driveway. As Ramirez drove closer, a suspect, believed to be Espindola, jumped from the passenger side of the van, raised a weapon and fired three rounds, one striking Ramirez in the right wrist as he tried to drive away from the scene, police said.

His partner "saw the suspect raise his arm holding a firearm," said former SMPD Chief James T. Butts hours after the incident. "He

yelled, 'gun, gun.'"

As Ramirez hit the accelerator, one shot was fired. The second shot went through the passenger side window and struck Ramirez. A third shot shattered the right rear window.

The officers did not return fire, said Butts.

The incident wasn't the first time an officer had been targeted in the area. According to Butts, an officer was shot at while patrolling 19th Street and Michigan Avenue roughly 18 months beforehand. The officer was not injured and the suspects were taken into custody shortly after the shooting.

Concerned community members have warned the City Council for years about a relatively high crime rate and gang activity in the neighborhood adjacent to SMC, where just last week a 20-year-old Santa Monica man was killed in a drive-by shooting near Virginia Avenue Park.

kevinh@smdp.com

Babies welcomed the new year just three hours after midnight

FIRST BABIES, from page 3

on Jan. 1.

"I told my family to be prepared because they were going to come celebrate with me at the hospital," Gillen recounted on Tuesday.

Gillen went into labor around 9 p.m. on

New Year's Eve and gave birth to a "nice healthy boy" via C-section, according to Dr. Gene Parks at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

Gillen and her husband, Cesar Gillen, both of Lake Balboa, are also the parents of an 8-year-old boy and 7-year-old twins.

"When we all do the countdown every year, Cael can also do a countdown for his birthday," Lorena Gillen said. "It's definitely going to be a day we will never forget."

Babies are born in the hospital every day, but there is something extra special about welcoming a child on New Year's Day.

"It's always special because it's a new beginning and a new year," said Irene Bristol, nursing director at Saint John's Health Center. "For the parents, it signifies a fantastic new beginning."

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Somali prime minister says last major Islamic stronghold captured

BY NASTEEX DAHIR FARAH

Associated Press Writer

KISMAYO, Somalia — Somali government troops backed by Ethiopian tanks and fighter jets captured the last major stronghold of a militant Islamic movement Monday, while hundreds of Islamic fighters — many of them Arabs and South Asians — fled the town.

To cheering and waving crowds, well-armed troops drove into Kismayo after clearing roads laced with land mines that had been left by an estimated 3,000 hard-line Islamic fighters fleeing a 13-day military onslaught by government troops backed by Ethiopian tanks and MiG fighter jets.

“We have entered and captured the city,” Maj. Gen. Ahmed Musa told The Associated Press while riding aboard a truck into Kismayo, where the Islamic fighters had vowed to make a last stand but melted away under artillery fire.

Hundreds of gunmen, who apparently deserted from the Islamic movement, began looting warehouses where the Council of Islamic Courts had stored supplies, including weapons and ammunition.

Gangs skirmished in the streets, and the southern coastal city was descending into chaos, said Sheik Musa Salad, a local businessman.

“Everything is out of control, everyone has a gun, and gangs are looting everything now that the Islamists have left,” he said.

Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi offered amnesty to hundreds of Islamic fighters if they gave themselves up, but he made no such offer to leaders of the group. He also ordered a countrywide disarmament starting Tuesday, an immense task in Somalia, which is awash with weapons after a 15-year civil war.

Sunnis angered by Saddam hanging protest in streets

BY LAUREN FRAYER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Sunnis Muslims, angered by the execution of Saddam Hussein and the way his hanging was carried out, took to the streets in mainly peaceful demonstrations in Sunni enclaves across the country.

A crowd of Sunni mourners in Samarra marched to a bomb-damaged Shiite shrine Monday and were allowed by guards and police to enter the holy place carrying a mock coffin and photos of the former dictator.

The protest took place at the Golden Dome, which was shattered in a bombing by Sunni extremists 10 months ago. That attack triggered the current cycle of retaliatory attacks between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, in the form of daily bombings, kidnappings and murders.

Meanwhile, the military on Tuesday announced the death of a U.S. soldier by a roadside bomb southwest of Baghdad. The blast Monday wounded three others, including an interpreter, as they talked with local residents about sectarian violence, the military said.

A roadside bomb also killed three Iraqi civilians and wounded seven others in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

U.S. troops killed a suspected al-Qaida weapons dealer and two other people in Baghdad raids Tuesday, and Iraqi forces detained more than 60 suspects over the past week, the U.S. military said.

Hundreds of demonstrators on Monday mourned Saddam in a Sunni neighborhood in northern Baghdad. Some praised the Baath Party, the outlawed nationalist group that under Saddam cemented Sunni Arab dominance of Iraq.

“The Baath party and Baathists still exist in Iraq, and nobody can marginalize it,” said Samir al-Obaidi, 48, who attended a Saddam memorial in northern Baghdad.

In Dor, 77 miles north of Baghdad, hundreds more demonstrators march to a dedication of a giant mosaic of Saddam. Children carried toy guns and men fired real weapons into the air.

Mourners at a mosque in Saddam’s hometown of Tikrit slaughtered sheep as a sacrifice. The mosque’s walls were lined with condolence cards from tribes in southern Iraq and Jordan who were unable to travel to the memorial.

Sunnis were not only outraged by Saddam’s hurried execution, just four days after an appeals court upheld his conviction and sentence. Many were also incensed by the unruly scene in the execution chamber, captured on video, in which

Saddam was taunted with chants of “Muqtada, Muqtada, Muqtada.”

The chants referred to Muqtada al-Sadr, a firebrand Shiite cleric who runs one of Iraq’s most violent religious militias. He is a major power behind the government of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Many Sunnis are also upset that Saddam was put to death the day that Sunni celebrations began for Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim festival. The judge who first presided over the case that resulted in Saddam’s death sentence said the former dictator’s execution at the start of Eid was illegal according to Iraqi law, and contradicted Islamic custom.

A ROADSIDE BOMB ALSO KILLED THREE IRAQI CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED SEVEN OTHERS IN EASTERN BAGHDAD ON TUESDAY, POLICE SAID.

The law states that “no verdict should implemented during the official holidays or religious festivals,” said Judge Rizgar Mohammed Amin, a Kurd.

Rizgar presided over Saddam’s trial on charges he killed 148 Shiite men and boys in Dujail, north of Baghdad, in a botched assassination attempt in 1982. The judge stepped down from the case after Shiite complaints that he was too lenient.

Monday’s demonstrations came on a day that saw the U.S. military kill six Iraqis during a raid on the offices of a prominent Sunni political figure where American forces believed al-Qaida fighters had taken refuge.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, reported Monday that 16,273 Iraqis — including 14,298 civilians, 1,348 police and 627 soldiers — died violent deaths in 2006. The total exceeds the Associated Press count by more than 2,500.

On the first day of the New Year, Iraqi police reported finding the 40 handcuffed, blindfolded and bullet-riddled bodies in Baghdad. A police official, who refused to be named out of security fears, said 15 of the bodies were discovered in the mainly industrial Sheik Omar district of northern Baghdad.

On Tuesday, police said the found 15 more bodies dumped in the north of the city.

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NFL
Gore aims for record
2,200 yards next year

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — After far too many offseasons spent mostly in the hospital or the training room, Frank Gore has more welcoming destinations in mind this year.

The 49ers' record-setting running back will first head home to Miami, then jet off to Honolulu next month for his first Pro Bowl. After a little break, it's back to work making sure San Francisco can ride its suddenly sturdy running back to bigger things in 2007.

When the 49ers (7-9) packed their belongings and left their training complex Monday, Gore was entirely healthy and incredibly happy after a breakthrough season. With one last standout performance in San Francisco's dramatic win at Denver on Sunday, Gore finished as the NFC's leading rusher with a franchise-record 1,695 yards.

So what can Gore possibly do to top that in his third NFL season?

"I'm going for 2,200 (yards) next year," Gore said. "That's the record, isn't it? Yeah, I'll get that."

Gore said it with a smile, but he's completely serious. He wants to surpass Eric Dickerson's NFL record of 2,105 yards in 1984, a mark that the previous generation's best running backs never reached.

Perhaps because he has been injured so

often in his football life, Gore sometimes puts on an air of invincibility that's more charming than convincing — but there's no denying his body held up for some remarkable achievements this fall.

Gore finished the season with a performance that matched up with his best this season. In San Francisco's 26-23 overtime victory over the Broncos, he rushed 31 times for 153 yards and also caught two passes for 32 more.

"When I think of Frank, I think of a guy who has a lot of heart and passion to play this game and be a team player," 49ers coach Mike Nolan said afterward. "He talked about (why) being injured while in college was the best thing that had ever happened to him, because he was able to appreciate the difficult times he's been through." Gore also had 485 yards receiving this season to set the 49ers' record for total yards from scrimmage with 2,180, surpassing Garrison Hearst's 2,105 in 1998. After beginning the season in a training-camp battle with Kevan Barlow for the starting job, Gore put his name atop several significant career marks in the 49ers' record book.

Even more significantly, Gore stayed healthy all year and started every game, incurring only a minor concussion during the season. For a player who underwent two reconstructive knee surgeries in college, then had both of his shoulders surgically rebuilt last winter, health might be the greatest accomplishment of all.



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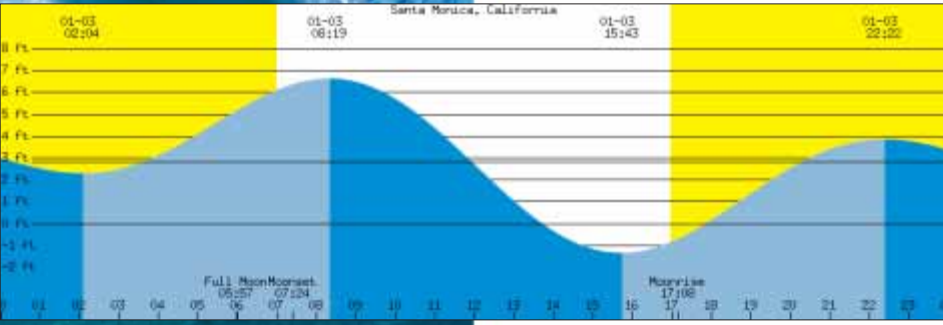
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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 5, 2006**

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 -- 8

Number of wet days -- 4

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 31

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	ns	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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

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

Keep it cheap, Gemini

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★★ Positive
★★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You feel the undercurrent of the Full Moon. Let go of tension, and life will look better. Somehow, whatever you try falls slightly out of kilter. Be as precise as possible, and defer important matters if necessary. Tonight: Mellow out at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You have the will and the right words. Still, events and reactions might not fall exactly as you would like. Let go of the outcome, and view the process. People will soon become easier to deal with. Everything can change in a day! Tonight: Swap recent tales with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ You might want to get a money matter handled but still hit interference. What seems awful right now could be manageable given time and space. Don't make any agreements, especially financial, at this point. Tonight: Keep it inexpensive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ All eyes are on you. You easily could be overwhelmed by what is coming down your path. Trust that you can manage more than many right now. Be willing to chip in. Work with what is happening knowing that you are doing your best. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Know when it is time to retreat (like now). Your best intentions could come off quite differently. If you can close your door or work alone, you will be much happier. Solitude will center you, whereas people could make you crazy. Tonight: Continue the vanishing act.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Aim for what you want. Enlist others' help. Let opinions differ, as you don't have a choice. What is important is that you have people's attention. Demands fall on deaf ears. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ While much that occurs will drop in your lap, leave unraveling the knots until tomorrow. Understanding might not be a common asset. Dig into your creativity for different solutions, applying none of them right now. Tonight: Express caring for that special person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You hear information that could cause quite a flurry. Know that you don't have the complete story yet. Find experts and ask for advice, but make no immediate decisions. A family member expresses a new type of support. Tonight: Relax your mind. Play Scrabble; surf the Internet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Suddenly you find the right words and start getting the responses you want. An undercurrent of craziness might be difficult to deal with. Guard your finances. Walk the conservative path. Tonight: Let another person vent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ The Full Moon in your opposite sign might be quite challenging. Pull away from reactive behavior. The more detached you are, the better the end results will be. Understand that you have no control over others. Tonight: Listen to others' ideas. You might not have a choice!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Though you might want to be extremely verbal, what might be best is keeping your own counsel. People might not hear you right now. Setting an example serves as the best way to communicate. Focus on errands and demands. Tonight: Take a walk or fit in some tension-reducing activity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Ideas seem to pop up from out of left field. Write them down rather than apply them right now. Be sensitive to someone who rarely expresses his or her feelings. Choose to do something just for yourself. You need to be indulged too! Tonight: Add some spice to whatever you are doing.

Born Today

Author J.R.R. Tolkien (1892)

Actor Mel Gibson (1956)

Actress Victoria Principal (1946)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!

Often this year you might swing back and forth on issues. What is great is that you can see situations from many different sides. This ability might make it difficult to choose. Your mind might say to do this, but your heart wants you to take a different path. Deciding which voice you are more comfortable with might be important. You will tend to indulge others with gifts and tokens of affection. Let's not forget you. If you are single, someone you meet could be more trouble than is obvious. Be careful whom you choose to relate to.

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No bells ringing Moss denies rumors of marriage to Doherty

A spokesman for **KATE MOSS** denied Tuesday reports the supermodel and rocker Pete Doherty had tied the knot during a candlelit Buddhist ceremony in Thailand on New Year's Day.

Stuart Higgins said Moss, 32, was vacationing in Thailand, but hadn't married Doherty, frontman for Babyshambles.

"There has not been any kind of marriage ceremony in Thailand. She is on holiday," Higgins said.

British newspapers reported that Moss and Doherty had held the ceremony in the Thai resort of

Phuket. Neither the Sun nor the Daily Mirror provided sources for the information. The Mirror quoted an unnamed friend of Moss as saying the ceremony was an expression of the couple's mutual devotion.

Higgins called the reports "entirely false."

Moss and Doherty were reported by British media to be staying at one of the island's luxury resorts – the sort where guests have their own private swimming pools – but hoteliers were discreet about the matter.

A spokeswoman for the Amanpuri hotel, contacted by phone from Bangkok, denied

the couple were staying there and said she had no knowledge of their whereabouts, though she had received many calls asking about them.

At the Trisara, a high-end resort and spa that opened in 2004, General Manager Anthony Lark said: "We don't talk about any of our guests. That's just something we don't do. We have a very simple policy of protecting our guests."

He said prices at the resort started at \$1,000 a day and went as high as \$6,000 for a five-bedroom villa. Asked what guests get for their money, he answered: "Privacy."

The Sun said the ceremony wasn't legally binding in Britain, and named Jan. 18 as the pair's official wedding day. Both papers ran blurry images of the couple; the back of Moss' head, her hair pulled back, could be seen, and Doherty, as usual, wore a trilby hat.

Moss has modeling contracts with companies ranging from Louis Vuitton and Chanel to Topshop.

In September 2005, the Mirror ran photographs of the model allegedly using cocaine at a recording studio where Babyshambles was working.

After the pictures were

published, Moss publicly apologized and went to a drug rehabilitation clinic in Arizona. Prosecutors decided in June there was insufficient evidence to charge her.

Doherty, 27, often makes headlines over his battle with drugs. The former lead singer of The Libertines, Doherty has been charged several times with drug-related offenses. In 2004, Doherty – along with former Libertines partner Carl Barat – was named coolest man on the planet by British music magazine NME. In 2005, Doherty dropped to sixth place; in 2006 he was 28th.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael caught being a careless driver

GEORGE MICHAEL is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 11 on charges of being unfit to drive, Metropolitan Police said.

The 43-year-old singer was arrested Oct. 2 after police responded to complaints that a car was

blocking an intersection in north London. Police said Michael was found passed out inside the car.

Michael received a caution for possession of marijuana and was released on bail on charges of being unfit to drive, police said.

A message left Sunday night with Michael's publicist, Bianca Bianconi, wasn't immediately returned.

The singer rose to fame in the 1980s as half of the duo Wham! before starting his solo career.

Police had warned

Michael for possession of marijuana in February.

In April, he hit three parked cars. Michael later acknowledged in an interview that he was a "terrible driver" and said he was trying to maneuver out of a parking spot.

AP

'Happy Hooker' goes to the chapel

VERA DE VRIES, better known as Xaviera Hollander, the "Happy Hooker," married boyfriend Philip de Haan in Amsterdam on Tuesday, she said.

Hollander wrote 1972's "The Happy Hooker," describing her career as a sex worker and brothel owner in New York. The book was considered a

landmark in demystifying sex.

She also wrote a sex advice column for Penthouse magazine.

Hollander, 63, married de Haan, 53, in "a quiet ceremony attended by family and friends," she wrote in an e-mail response to a query by The Associated Press.

She announced her wed-

ding plans on her Web site last month.

"Marriage is an institution; who wants to be institutionalized? But yes, I am ready to be institutionalized now!" she wrote.

Hollander runs a bed-and-breakfast in Amsterdam, where she is an active patron of theatrical and artistic circles.

Both Hollander and de

Haan had been married before.

"After two years of intense courtship I will soon be marrying the new love of my life, Philip," she wrote in an e-mail newsletter Dec. 22. "We are made for each other, and though (neither) of us believed in marriage anymore, we now are ready to tie the knot again."

AP

Bouncing boy again for 'Ricky Bobby'

It's a boy, again, for **WILL FERRELL** and his wife, the actor's publicist said Tuesday.

Mattias Ferrell was born just after 2 a.m. on Dec. 30,

said Matt Labov.

Ferrell, 39, and Viveca Paulin were married in 2000. They have a 2-year-old son, Magnus.

Ferrell earned a Golden Globe nomination last month for his role in the film "Stranger Than Fiction." His other recent

movie credits include "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "The Producers."

AP

GIVING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

OPRAH WINFREY opened a school Tuesday for disadvantaged girls, fulfilling a promise she made to former President Nelson Mandela six years ago and giving more than 150 students a chance for a better future.

"I wanted to give this opportunity to girls who had a light so bright that not even poverty could dim that light," Winfrey said at a news conference.

Mandela, 88, attended the opening ceremony of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in the small town of Henley-on-Klip, south of Johannesburg. He looked frail as he was helped on to the stage by his wife, Graca Machel, and Winfrey. But he beamed with joy and his speech resonated with pride.

"It is my hope that this school will become the dream of every South African girl and they will study hard and qualify for the school one day," he said in a firm voice.

AP

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

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They Live by Night, On Dangerous Ground
7:30
Thursday
Bigger than Life, Party Girl
7:30

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Apocalypto (R)
10:30am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
Babel (R)
12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:20
The Good German (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45
The Good Shepherd (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

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

Blood Diamond (R)
12:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:45
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
11:30am, 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:10
The Holiday (PG-13)
12:40, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20
Night at the Museum (PG)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 5:25, 8:00, 10:40

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Miss Potter (PG)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Notes on a Scandal (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

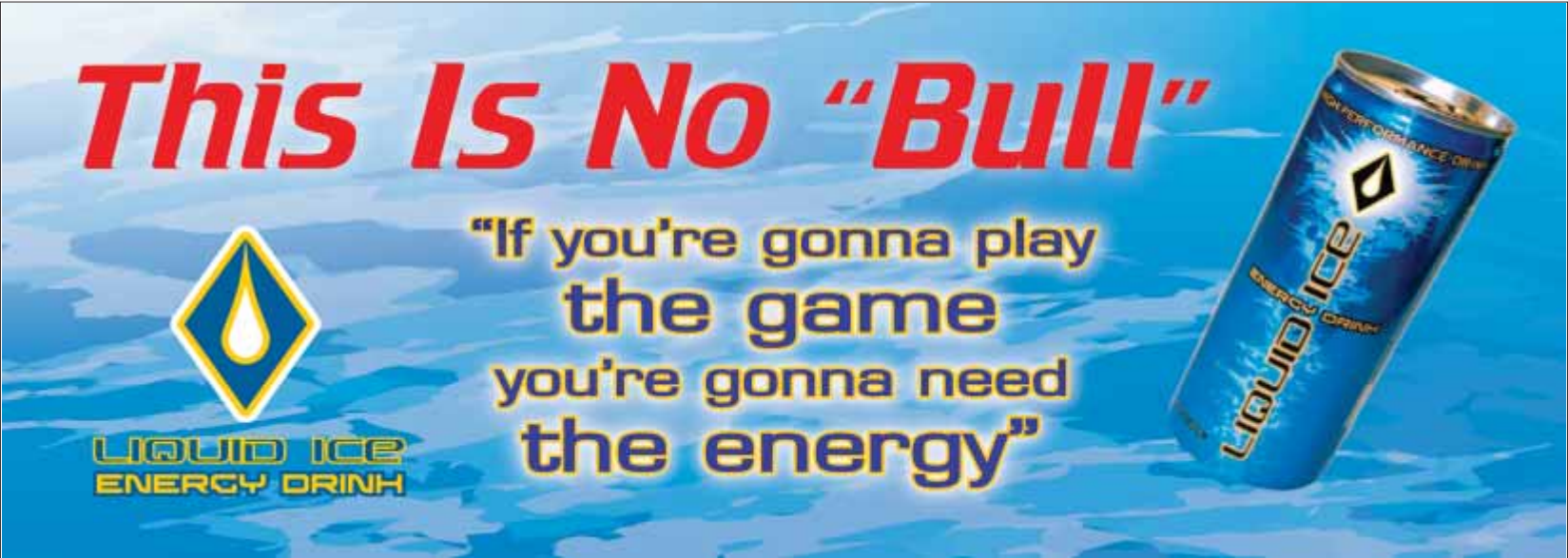
LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
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(310) 394-9741

Curse of the Golden Flower (Man cheng jin dai huang jin jia) (R)
1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10
Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Little Children (R)
4:00, 9:35
Queen, The (PG-13)
1:25, 7:00
Volver (R)
1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15

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

Black Christmas (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20
Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:30, 3:50, 7:20, 10:40
Charlotte's Web (G)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
Eragon (PG)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
Rocky Balboa (PG)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
We Are Marshall (PG)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

More information email news@smdp.com



Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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 LAST PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

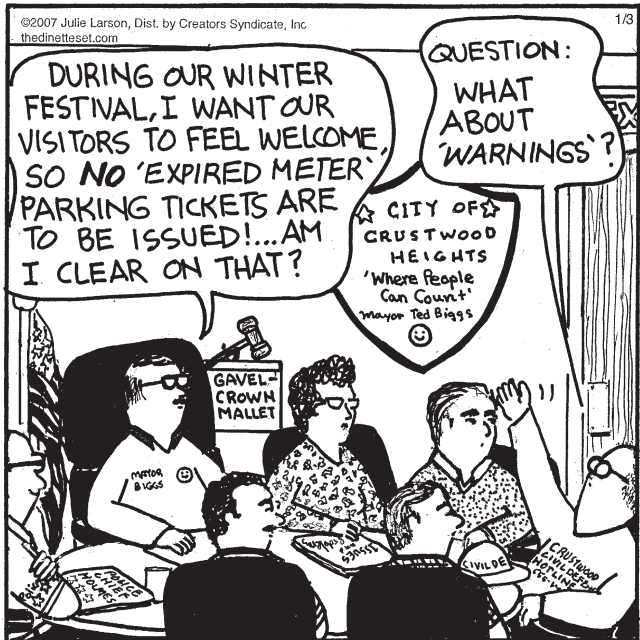
Garfield

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Stow cargo
- 5 Partisan group
- 9 Site of action
- 11 Car quartet
- 12 Alpine trill
- 13 Saudi natives
- 14 Earth-bound bird
- 15 Hardly chatty
- 17 Squash need
- 19 Road-house
- 20 Campaign speech setting
- 21 Demand
- 22 Stern with a bow
- 24 Down
- 26 — alia
- 29 Fashion line?
- 30 Auction buy
- 32 Capable of handling
- 34 PC connection letters
- 35 Soothes
- 36 Sleep disturber
- 38 Dupe
- 39 More reasonable
- 40 Aware of

41 "Star Wars" bounty hunter Boba —

DOWN

- 1 Stratum
- 2 Kitchen come-ons
- 3 Subtract
- 4 Hydro-carbon suffix
- 5 Letter start
- 6 Baghdad natives
- 7 Expose as a myth
- 8 German steel city
- 10 Band output

- 11 Stretched
- 16 Put a new coat on
- 18 Brit's pound
- 21 Play start
- 23 Chekhov and others
- 24 Clothing spangle
- 25 Charm
- 27 Horse-related
- 28 Winter apple
- 29 Nametag word
- 30 Not to mention
- 31 Reviewer Roger
- 33 Singing voice
- 37 LummoX

A	L	I	B	I	S		C	Y	A	N
R	E	T	I	N	A		R	E	N	T
K	I	S	S	O	F	D	E	A	T	H
			T	I	E	U	P			
	C	A	R	L		V	E	I	L	
B	O	N	O		Y	E	S	S	I	R
I	R	K		W	E	T		L	O	U
G	A	L	O	O	T		P	A	N	G
	L	E	N	O		G	A	M	S	
			F	L	O	O	R			
P	R	O	O	F	O	F	L	I	F	E
J	U	D	O		Z	O	O	M	I	N
S	T	E	T		E	R	R	A	N	D

Yesterday's answer

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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		

1-3

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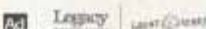


SEEMS SMALL
BUT HAS A
HUGE IMPACT



SEEMS SMALL
BUT HAS A
HUGE IMPACT

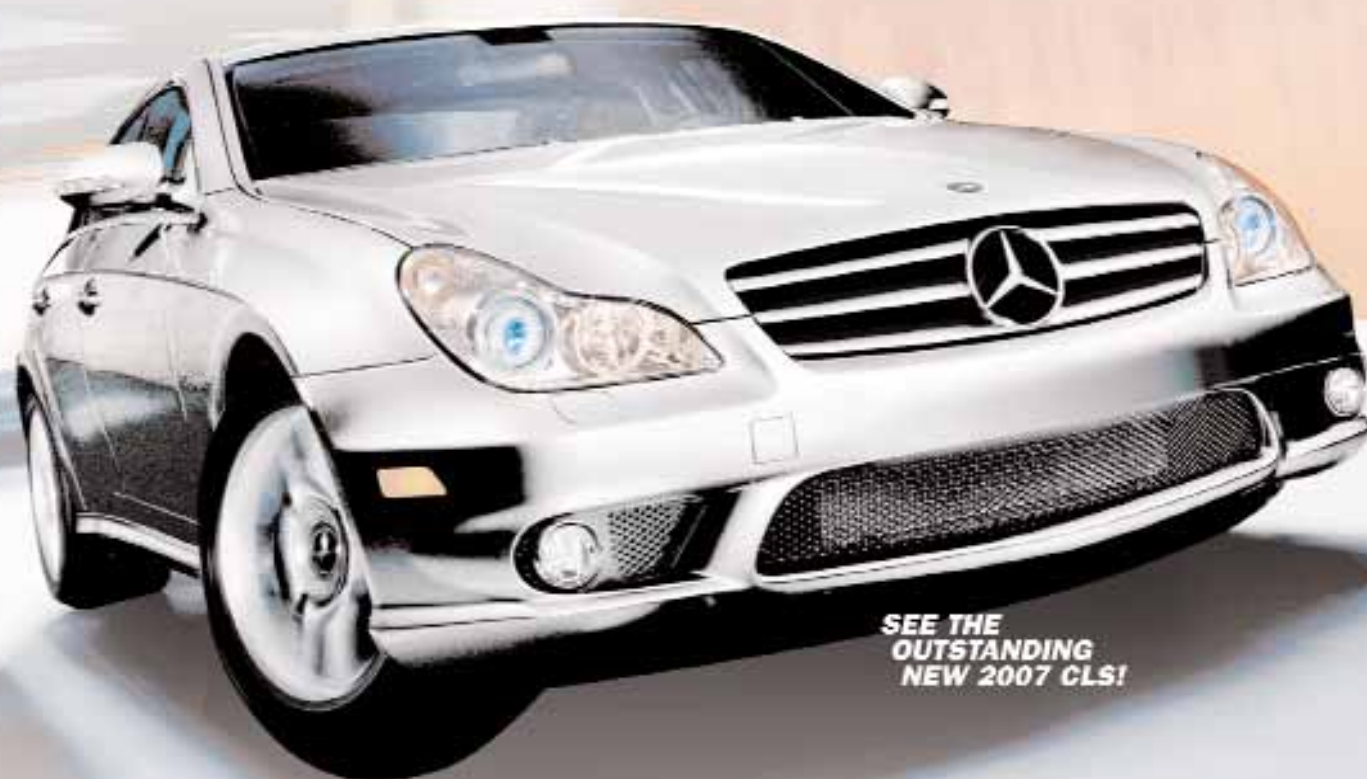
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*Rates subject to change
* As of November 12, 2006
** Denotes an interest only loan

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3 Units	\$645,300
4 Units	\$801,950



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BROKER #01218743



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\$500 POLICE IMPOUNDS! Tax Repos, DEA, more! Also Trucks, SUVs and more! For listings 1-800-425-1620x1084.

WANTED JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES: Kawasaki Z1-900, KZ900, KZ1000, H2-750, H1-500, S1-250, S2-350, S3-400. Cash Paid. 1-800-772-1142. 1-310-721-0726.

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Business Opps

ABSOLUTELY ALL Cash! Do you earn \$800/day? Vending route. 30 machines + candy. \$4995. 1-800-807-6485.

Health/Beauty

MEDICAL BENEFITS PLAN. \$155.00 for the entire family. Pre-existing conditions OK! Prescription, dental, hospitalization. 888-522-8819.

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GET THE DEBT RELIEF YOU DESERVE. Provanta will negotiate with your creditors to settle your debts for Cents -On -The -Dollar so you can get relief from collectors and be debt free in a matter of months rather than decades. Call toll free 1-800-794-9700 for a free consultation. (1043).

NEED A LOAN? No credit - BAD credit - Bankruptcy - Repossession - Personal Loans - Auto Loans - Consolidation Loans AVAILABLE! *We have been helping people with credit problems since 1991". Call 1-800-654-1816.

NEED CASH? Lawsuit Pending? We can help! No-risk cash advances. CJB Funding. 1-800-594-3029. www.cjbfunding.com

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Lost Saab Key, lost on Friday Dec. 29 while running from 4th st, near the stairs on San Vincente. Will pay a reward. (307)752-2474

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REWARD "EVA" German Shepard, Black /Cream. Lost 12/26/06 Santa Monica Blvd/Bundy 626-643-3886 818-259-0630 *Needs Medication*

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EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature European. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

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Talk to a Model 24HRS.
877-EZ MARIA
877-396-2742
\$10-17 for 15 min.
ATM/CC/Checks by phone
www.USLove.com

Vehicles for sale

\$\$ CASH 4 \$\$
\$\$ MERCEDES BENZ/BMWS \$\$
1980-1995 Running or Not
Any Questions Please Call
(310) 995-5898



'01 Volkswagen Cabriolet GLS
Low miles, auto, leather
(1M812271)
\$12,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Vehicles for sale



'99 Acura Integra LS \$9,995
Auto, a/c, alloys, low miles
Lots more!
(XS011518)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'01 Audi A6 \$18,995
Immaculate! Loaded!
Best buy around!
(1N063236)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'05 Mini Cooper \$21,995
Auto, Best Buy –
Come See This One!
(5TG95346)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Mercury Sable \$8,995
Auto, 6 Cyl., P/W,
P/L, Tilt, Cruise
(3G608497)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'04 Avalon XLS \$18,995
Toyota Certified!
Low miles, loaded
(4U383719)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'04 Chevy Malibu \$9,995
Low miles, auto, a/c,
p/w, cruise & more
(4M603301)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'04 Toyota Corolla Sedan
4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, Alloy wheels
(I6072A)
\$12,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'05 Toyota 4Runner SUV 4D
Low miles, V6 4.0L, roof rack,
traction control, running boards,
towing
pkg, privacy glass, alloy wheels
(I6188A)
\$23,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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'05 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
Low miles, V6 3.5L, Navigation
system, Bose sound, leather,
moon roof, alloy wheels
(I6168A)
\$21,393
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'05 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
Low miles, V6 3.5L, Auto,
multi CD, leather, moon roof,
alloy wheels, telescope wheel
(I6123A)
\$20,793
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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'05 Volkswagen Jetta GLI Sedan
4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, A/C, CD,
Air Bags, Moonroof, Alloy
(I6311A)
\$14,793
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 577-7253



'03 Lexus RX 300
Silver, V6 3.0L,
Low Miles!
(I6069A)
\$23,493
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'05 Mazda 3 i Sedan
Champagne, 4-Cyl., 2.0 L,
5 speed, air bags, alloy wheels
(P1481)
\$14,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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Vehicles for sale



'03 Volvo S60 Sedan 4D
5-Cyl., 2.4L, auto, air bags,
traction control, leather, moon roof
(I6375A)
\$14,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
Silver, low miles, V6 3.5L,
Cruise, leather, moon roof
(I6100A)
\$18,394
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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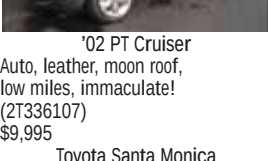
'06 Corolla S
Auto, A/C, alloys,
C/B, power pkg
(62749274)
\$14,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Your ad could run here!
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'02 PT Cruiser
Auto, leather, moon roof,
low miles, immaculate!
(2T336107)
\$9,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

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'03 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner
Xtra Cab
Low miles, Vg 3.5L, 2WD, SR5,
towing pkg, alloy wheels, wide tires
Shell not pictured
(I6054B)
\$14,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner
Xtra Cab
Low miles, Vg 3.5L, 2WD, SR5,
towing pkg, alloy wheels, wide tires
Shell not pictured
(I6054B)
\$14,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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'05 QX56 Nav \$38,900
Low miles, Navigation, DVD, tow,
Running boards, Buy Wholesale
(810914)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705

Vehicles for sale



'05 Sonata GLS Sedan only
\$14,800
Blue, 14K miles, auto, cd
(119613)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'06 Tucson GL \$16,900
3,200 miles, 1 owner
Better than new
(438787)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'04 Santa Fe \$14,900 \$15,650
2 to Choose-Black or Silver
Low miles, some factory warranty
(U786948, U648625)
Hyundai of Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'04 Nissan Sentra
CD, 42K Miles, Very Clean
Will Not Last
(4L915794)
Hyundai of Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'05 Corolla LE Blue
34K miles, auto, CD,
Nicely equipped
(502125)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'03 BMW 530i Silver \$29,900
Still has warranty, only 43K miles,
Loaded
(K35507)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705



'04 Hyundai Accent GL \$10,900
Silver, auto, CD, 50K miles
(540810)
Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not guaranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements.

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for FREE! Check out www.smdp.com for more info.

Vehicles for sale



'03 Sonata V6 White . . . \$11,500
Low miles, pristine, has factory warranty (794493)

Hyundai Santa Monica
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'00 Grand Cherokee Ltd. \$11,900
Red/Tan, 4WD, Moonroof, Pristine!
(VC223308)

Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705

Your ad could run here!
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'02 Santa Fe 4 x 4 \$12,900
Low Miles, Pristine Condition, Loaded Warranty
(2U175332)

Hyundai Santa Monica
(866) 309-6705

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'02 Escape 2WD \$9,900
R-Bds, Leather, CD, Pristine!
Must See!

Hyundai Santa Monica
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'05 C230 Sport Sedan \$26,900
1 Owner, Silver/Gray, Leather, Moonroof, 24K Miles. Like new!
Loaded factory warranty.
(SF727053)

Hyundai Santa Monica
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'06 Town & Country \$15,900
White/Grey, 7 Passenger
10K Miles, Pristine
(6B704117)

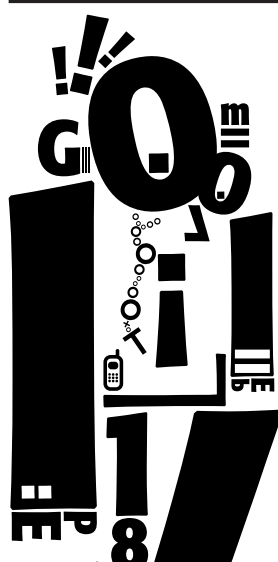
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Vehicles for sale



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Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.

FOR ONLY
\$45

Run it until it sells!*



1964 Pontiac Catalina
New Transmission, new paint job. 150K original miles. Immaculate condition inside. Kept in garage for many years. Must see!
\$3,000 (310) 458-7737

Ad shown actual size

Package includes:

- Ad runs until your car sells. Period.*
- Large format photograph.
- 20 word description.
- **FREE** online placement!

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Santa Monica Daily Press



*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to annie@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition, 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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Repipes, New and Old Constructions, Remodels
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St. Lic 855859

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Handyman

WESTSIDE GUYS Full Service Handymen

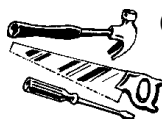
CARPENTRY, ELEC., PAINT, ETC...
TERMITE AND DRY ROT REPAIR
ROOF REPAIR AND WATER DAMAGE
CALEB 25-35/HR (310) 409-3244

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—ALL AROUND— HANDYMAN

All aspects of
construction from
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complete remodels
REFERRALS AVAILABLE



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(310) 447-3333

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No job too small

2 MEN, \$59 PER HOUR
Fully insured. We make it EZ.
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Since 1975 Lic. T-163844
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METICULOUS PAINTING & DRYWALL

Interior & Exterior • Free Estimates
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meticulouspainting.com Lic: 0002088305-0001-4

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Residential & Commercial

Int. & Ext.

Texture & Drywall
Wood works &
Repair work
Kitchen cabinet
Faux finish
Replace cabinet &
Counter top
Stucco work



Lic. # 825896
310.284.8333

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Pool and Spa

POOL & SPA SERVICE & REPAIRS

-Weekly service
-Drain & Cleans
-Spa Covers
-Electric spa repair
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FREE ESTIMATES

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Estates Director
Chairman's Circle - Platinum
#1 Prudential Santa Monica Realtor

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Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to 5 years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or by both imprisonment and fine.

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www.Cal-SCAN.com

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Buy it, Finance it & Build it!

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Rob Schultz
Broker

Licensed California Broker #01381120



Barnabus Horkai
Loan Officer

NEW RATES

30 year fixed 5.75%	APR 5.866%	10 year/1 arm 6%**	APR 6.6%
15 year/1 arm 5.25%	APR 5.6%	5 Year Fixed 1% & 2%	APR 7.75%
7 year/1 arm 5.75%	APR 6.655%	5 year/1 arm 5.75%**	APR 7.0%
3 year/1 arm 5.5%**	APR 7.0258%	1 year/1 arm 5.25%	APR 7.1%
6 mos./6 mo. arm 5%	APR 7.24%	1 mo./1 mo. arm 1%***	APR 8%

* Rates subject to change * As of January 3, 2006 ** Denotes an interest only loan *** Denotes Neg Am

REFINANCE TODAY

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IN COMMERCIAL SPACE CALL US FOR DETAILS

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(367-5626)

Pacific Ocean Properties Broker Rob Schultz, #01218743

Department of Real Estate Phone - (916) 227-0864



Pacific Ocean Properties

2212 Lincoln Boulevard, Santa Monica **310.392.9223**

NEW YEAR SPECIAL GET INTO YOUR HOUSE FOR FREE!



Andrea Arpaia
Agent new to the business. "I've sold 20 homes in two years. I invite you to become number 21"

IN ESCROW
15344 Washington St.
Sherman Oaks
\$310,000

IN ESCROW
1930 S. RIMPAU BLVD.
LOS ANGELES
\$665,000

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
Ocean View, New House
Palos Verdes
\$3.1M

PROPERTIES IN ESCROW:
PALMS SPRING HOUSE
LANCASTER HOUSE
READING ST. IN WESTCHESTER
BRONSON IN KOREATOWN

AGENTS AND BROKERS!
HAVING TROUBLE
MOVING YOUR
INVENTORY? CALL US!
WE HAVE BUYERS FOR
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES,
INCOME PROPERTIES
AND CONDOS.

Venice Canals
\$1,900,000 or
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When built

Come join our team! Only one desk available.

We are looking to acquire a twenty to forty unit building on the west side. Please call us with any available properties in this range.

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