

Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Five star cheerleaders at McKinney North High School near Dallas apparently had the run of the place over the last year, often immune from school rules thanks to the aggressiveness of their parents and the timidity of school officials, according to an independent report to the school board (disclosed in December by The Dallas Morning News). The "Fab Five" walked out of classes, ignored teachers, dressed salaciously and posed for scandalous photos on the Internet, and whenever sanctions were suggested, parents rose in anger at comparative unfairness toward their particular daughters. One staff member said the girls acted like they hadn't "been punished properly since the seventh grade." District officials are reviewing the report.

■ John Leonard Young, 46, pleaded guilty in October to the now-familiar charge of using the Internet to lure an underage girl for sex, but the backstory was unusual. Though Young had bought her a plane ticket to Seattle, she decided to buy her own ticket but mistakenly booked "Washington, D.C." When she arrived there all alone, she sought help from authorities, and Young's plot unraveled.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2006 1. Iran resumed nuclear research two years after halting the work to avoid possible U.N. economic sanctions. 2. Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs unveiled an iMac computer based on Intel chips. 3. Bruce Sutter became the fourth relief pitcher elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

WORD UP!

uxorious luk-SOR-ee-us; ug-ZOR-ı, *adjective*: Excessively fond of or submissive to a wife.

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Nice place, Matt	20-23

Ash Wednesday

Coming to terms with the Malibu wildfire
SEE STORY PAGE 9

Andre Mayis news@smdp.com

Art cars are moveable feats



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

CHICK MAGNET: Tommy Kendall's rooster car is a fixture near his North of Wilshire home, drawing attention from the likes of Academy Award winners and neighborhood critics alike. 'Art cars' are sometimes frowned upon in cities such as Santa Monica, where a wealthy demographic tends to favor expensive imports.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Tommy Kendall was walking along the street when he spotted the car of his dreams.

There it stood in the middle of the road — a yellow 1974 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight with a gigantic rooster head attached to its roof and a yellow feathery tail sticking out of its rump.

Kendall flagged down the ultimate chick magnet, telling the driver he wanted to buy the car. The driver said she would pass along his information to the owner — a radio station in Ohio that used the car for promotional purposes. The car was only in California for a movie shoot.

The owner never called Kendall, but soon after, he received word from an auto magazine that the car

See ART CARS, page 7

Bayside doesn't get off the hook for Market crash

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Victims of the deadly Farmers' Market crash moved one step closer to having their day in court when a Santa Monica Superior Court judge last week denied another motion by Bayside District Corp. to be dismissed from a civil lawsuit that could force the management company and City Hall to pay out millions in damages.

Judge Valerie Baker's decision on Jan. 5 to deny Bayside's motion for summary judgment allows the civil trial to move forward, with jury selection set for March 20 — nearly four years after the tragic crash,

See BAYSIDE, page 10

Gary Limjap

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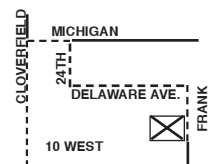
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Calendar

2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 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.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

Weekly luncheon with guest speakers

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007

Laughter Yoga Group

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing and laughter exercises.
Class is led by Certified Laughter Yoga instructor, Kim Selbert. This
is a donation class (suggested donation is \$5-\$15) although no one
is turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call Kim at
(310) 471-5773.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group

11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo to provide additional
leads and referrals to your line of work. Only one person per pro-
fession may join. Call now to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

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

Salvation Army Youth Night

1533 Fourth St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Event is open to kids ages 5-12. Activities include games, crafts
and Bible lessons. A meal is also included.

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.



Businesses can now say hello to their little friend

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SIXTH STREET — Just like Humphrey Bogart's Rick Blaine and Capt. Renault in "Casablanca," business owners and city officials alike are hoping Samantha O'Neil's arrival means the beginning of a beautiful friendship between the Chamber of Commerce and City Hall.

O'Neil, a former public relations executive with a background in politics, is the chamber's first-ever director of government affairs, a position that will require her to develop strong relationships with city staff and elected officials.

The position was created in July of last year after the chamber dissolved its political arm in favor of a more friendly approach to getting things done in City Hall. Instead of raising money to fight city officials through their political action committee, or PAC, merchants agreed to raise money to fund a new, full-time position at the chamber dedicated solely to building stronger ties to City Hall.

The theory was that the liaison would be on the ground, working closely with city staff and elected officials in formulating policy so that the interests of merchants could be considered along with those of residents so that a more balanced policy could be developed.

"I think one of the first goals is to increase communication in any way that we can so that businesses have a direct line of communication into (City Hall)," said O'Neil, 27, during an interview last week at the chamber office. "One of the main goals of creating this position in the first place is so we can identify issues in the very beginning, so that if problems do arise, we can be aware of them quickly and try to come up with a solution."

Having never worked in Santa Monica,

See CHAMBER, page 6



O'NEIL



In serious need of a trim

James Svitak, a carpenter from Scenario Design, Inc, straps up one of the city's Christmas tree decorations on the Third Street Promenade on Tuesday. Crews worked to haul away the 40-foot plastic trees placed in the shopping district by the Bayside District.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

New parks taking root

Residents to welcome Airport, Euclid parks in time for the summer; it's all part of Plan

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — With the groundwork being laid, literally, on Tuesday, Santa Monicans in two completely different parts of town can expect to have parks to call their own by the beginning of summer.

Slated for completion in May, both the new Airport Park and Euclid Park are expected to improve the quality of life for residents in their respective neighborhoods by increasing the recreational space in a city that falls well below many other communities in terms of total park acreage.

With sod being implanted into Airport Park on Tuesday, both projects are on schedule for their spring unveiling, according to officials.

Airport Park broke ground in late 2005 on 8.3 acres at the southeast corner of the Santa Monica Airport. The park is stocked with a dog park, synthetic turf field, a children's playground, a restroom facility, picnic area and a walking trail encircling the entire premise.

Because of air quality concerns near the airport and its potential effects on park patrons, the city is currently conducting an environmental investigation, the outcome of

which might determine the park hours, said Recreation and Parks Commission Chairman Susan Cloke on Tuesday.

"What we want to do is make a healthier environment for people," said Cloke. "On the other hand, we all live in Los Angeles, and if we didn't want to build where there was bad air, we wouldn't be able to build anywhere in this city."

Airport Park was a result of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that the commission adopted almost a decade ago. That plan established a series of goals, including expanding the total park acreage in the city — currently 123 acres, excluding Airport and Euclid parks. The development of Airport Park was identified in the Non-Aviation Land Use Feasibility Study [NALUFS], which

See NEW PARKS, page 10



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing project reaps benefits

Editor:

Regarding the new public housing project on 15th Street and Broadway, it is ironic that this post-apocalyptic monstrosity that looks like a prison with tinfoil on the front could ever get approved without public input. Maybe it’s no mystery that it got approved because one of the owners of the firm that designed it – Gwyne Pugh – is on the planning commission and has come out on record as opposing any public review of public housing projects. The city can build a 23-unit building on a standard-sized lot, but not private citizens. It would appear that Pugh is in a direct conflict of interest when he is approving policy and projects that benefit his business, are sponsored by his employer – the city of Santa Monica – and negatively impact the surrounding residents. Pugh should be excused from voting on any projects or policies that benefit his firm as a member of the planning commission. Other commission members who have similar conflicts should also be prohibited. How many other architects or business people who are doing business with the city are also on commissions and approving projects that they would benefit from?

Burl Michael
Santa Monica

Dressing for the occasion

Editor:

I’m often at odds with David Pizarra, but I find myself in agreement with his Jan. 3 column (“Let’s Take 2007 back to kinder, gentler time,” page 4) advocating improvement in civility and dress. Similar to his bike experience, I was recently on a crowded Vegas sidewalk and a young man walking right, but looking left, ran into me. Needless to say, he felt the collision was my fault. It was a cold night and he, like many young people out that evening, wore only a thin shirt. Maybe being cold made him grouchy. But there you have it: They’d given so little thought to their mode of dress they were not even dressed warmly enough. The fact of the matter about one’s appearance is that it doesn’t take a lot of time or money to be well-groomed and well-dressed. And so-called “proper” dress is often just as comfortable to wear as all the shorts and T-shirts sported by some of the men on the promenade. These self-styled, rugged individuals are no more comfortable than a guy in long pants and a nice shirt. Further, better dress – like good manners – not only garners more respect for the wearer, as Pizarra points out, it also demonstrates the wearer’s respect for those who have to look at him or her.

As for Jerry Rubin’s response to the column and admission that he’s “often criticized” for wearing shorts (“The long and short of it,” Jan. 6, page 4), this criticism should tell Rubin that his fellow human beings find his ultra-casual attire and in-your-face T-shirts sporting his personal opinions disrespectful, at least on certain occasions. If he believes in being civil toward his fellow man, he should consider this – his attire is not in any way bold, creative or inspiring as he may believe; it is merely eccentric.

Sunny Collins
Palm Desert

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Iraq is a meat grinder

WITH SO MUCH DISCUSSION FOCUSED on the number of troops needed to secure victory in Iraq — or whether victory is even on the horizon — the human travesty of the war seems to be getting lost. The real cost of this war is the loss of hundreds of thousands of human lives, many of whom are innocent civilians, including children.

According to a study published in October 2006, which was overseen by epidemiologists at Johns Hopkins University, 655,000 more people have died in Iraq since the war began than would have died had the war not occurred. Indeed, among the 655,000 deaths, it is estimated that 601,000 resulted from violence, while the rest died from disease and other causes. In short, this means that about 500 violent deaths occur each day in the war-torn country.

There is no doubt that Iraq is becoming increasingly more violent. Sectarian violence, coupled with political infighting, has caused an increase in bloody, deadly attacks among the various Iraqi towns. A recent study has found that an average of almost 960 attacks against Americans and Iraqis occur every week in Iraq. As a result, about 3,000 American soldiers have lost their lives and another 29,000 have been injured.

Daily life in Iraq is truly dehumanizing. Car bombs are detonated on crowded streets, maiming and killing innocent people and reducing cars and markets to rubble. More recently, Iraqi insurgents have begun randomly kidnapping bystanders on crowded streets. One day in December, 30 people were abducted in Baghdad by gunmen. That same day in a nearby neighborhood, at least 15 Iraqis were killed and 35 wounded when a series of car bombs detonated in crowded street markets. Indeed, dead bodies are routinely found scattered about the streets as a result of random shootings and torture. As the New York Times reported, on one single day, “at least 21 bodies were recovered around Baghdad, all with gunshots to the head and signs of torture.”

And while these events are certainly horrifying, the human travesty goes further. According to surveys conducted by the United Nations and human rights organizations, roughly 400,000 Iraqi children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of the war. In fact, Iraq’s child malnutrition rate in November 2004 was higher than that of Uganda and Haiti. And according to one report, 60 percent of rural residents and 20 percent of urban residents have access only to contaminated water.

The rise in disease and malnutrition is

mainly due to poverty and the high unemployment rate since the war. As Kasim Said, a father visiting his sick 1-year-old child in the hospital, pointed out, “During the previous regime, I used to work on the government projects. Now there are no projects.” As his son lay holding a Winnie the Pooh washcloth to keep the flies off his head, Said explained that even when he did find work, he only brought home between \$10 and \$14 a day.

Another reason for the rise in disease is that the violence is so fierce that many human rights agencies are being forced to pack up and leave. Even Doctors Without Borders, a group known for its high tolerance for risk, left the country.

Aside from the physical death and destruction resulting from the Iraq war, it is taking a tragic psychological toll on the Americans involved. Army studies have shown that up to 30 percent of troops deployed to Iraq suffer from depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder. More significantly, a recent report found that suicides among American soldiers serving in Iraq doubled from 2004 to 2005.

This is not surprising when one considers the daily life of a soldier in Iraq. According to the Washington Post, 76 — of soldiers say they knew someone who had been seriously injured or killed. Another 55 percent experienced the explosion of a roadside bomb or booby trap nearby.

Yet with the steady increase in violence and suffering, President Bush and many in Congress insist that an increase in spending and troop levels will bring peace to the ravaged country. However, military leaders insist that the military is already strained. Reinforcing Colin Powell’s assessment that the military is “about broken,” one Army general has warned Congress that the Army “will break” under today’s war-zone rotations. With an already burdened military occupying Iraq and estimates placing the current cost of the war at \$320 billion, it is difficult to see how more money and troops will bring resolution. Perhaps that will only mean more dead American troops and further resistance by insurgent fighters.

As one Iraqi physician explains, “Yes, there is a price for every war. Yes, there are victims.” Searching for an answer, he asks, “But after that?” That is a question we all have to consider. After the war, will it have been worth it?

JOHN W. WHITEHEAD is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

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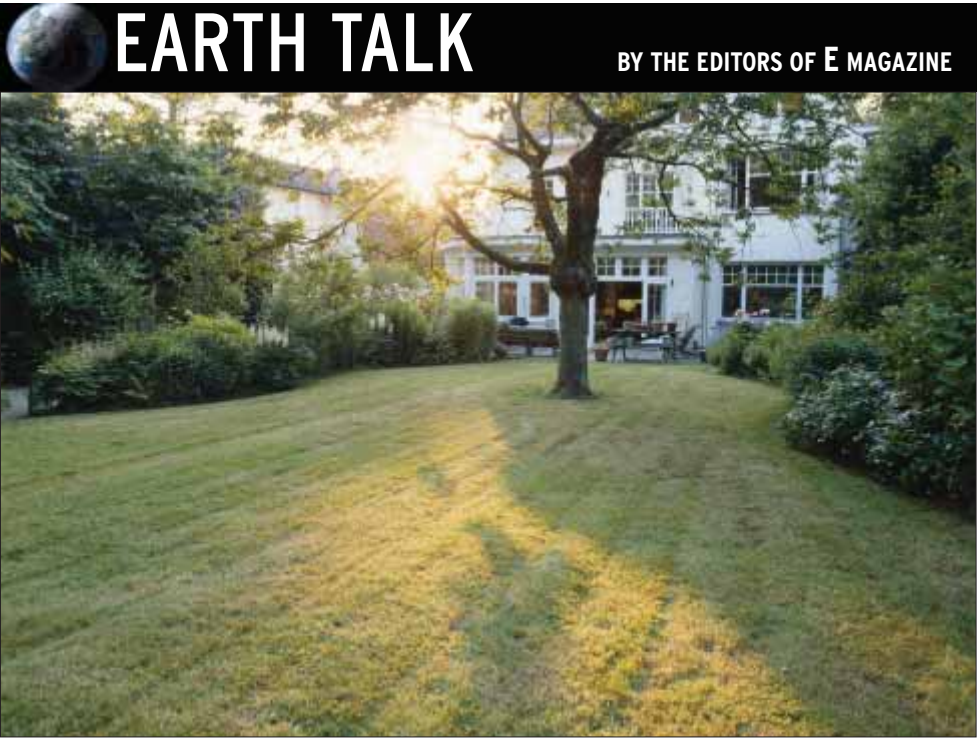


Photo courtesy Getty Images

SPLendor IN THE GRASS? Half of all U.S. residential water usage goes to irrigating lawns.

Dew tell: Lawns are a drain

DEAR EARTHTALK: I'm sick of having to maintain my lawn, and I'm sure that all the chemicals I'm using are no good for the environment. What alternatives can I explore that will save time and money while keeping the property looking nice?

Sarah
Bethesda, MD

Grass lawns first appeared in Europe in medieval times, status symbols for the rich that had to be kept trimmed by fairly labor-intensive methods, often by grazing livestock and certainly not by polluting lawn mowers and poisonous weed killers. Lawns actually did not become popular in North America until the middle of the 20th century, but are now as common as the middle class suburban homes they surround.

Besides hogging public water supplies — more than 50 percent of U.S. residential water usage goes to irrigating lawns — a 2002 Harris Survey found that American households spend \$1,200 per year on residential lawn care. Indeed, the booming lawn care industry is more than eager to convince us that our grass can be greener — and then sell us all the synthetic fertilizers, toxic pesticides and leaky lawnmowers to make it so.

According to Eartheasy.com, which offers online insights on a host of environmental issues alongside books and green products for sale, there are many alternatives to a carpet of monochromatic grass for one's property. They recommend groundcover plants and clover, which spread out and grow horizontally and require no cutting. Some varieties of ground-

cover are Alyssum, Bishops Weed and Juniper. Common clovers include Yellow Blossom, Red Clover and Dutch White, the best suited of the three for lawn use. Groundcover plants and clovers naturally fight weeds, act as mulch and add beneficial nitrogen to the soil.

Eartheasy also recommends flower and shrub beds, which can be "strategically located to add color and interest while expanding the low maintenance areas of your yard," and planting ornamental grasses. Ornamental grasses, many which flower, have numerous benefits over conventional grasses, including low maintenance, little need for fertilizer, minimal pest and disease problems and resistance to drought.

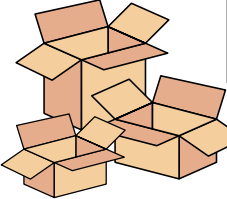
According to David Beaulieu, About.com's Guide to Landscaping, moss plants should also be considered, especially if your yard is shady: "Because they are low-growing and can form dense mats, moss plants can be considered an alternative ground cover for landscaping and planted as 'shade gardens' in lieu of traditional lawns." Moss plants do not possess true roots, he points out, instead deriving their nutrients and moisture from the air. As such, they like wet surroundings and also soil with a pH that is acidic.

In all fairness, lawns do have a few plusses. They make great recreational spaces, prevent soil erosion, filter contaminants from rainwater and absorb many kinds of airborne pollutants. So you might still keep a short section of lawn, one that can be mowed with a few easy strokes.

Want to talk environment? Submit questions to earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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The Q-Line

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The City Council is scheduled to take action Tuesday on an ordinance that would exempt all affordable housing projects with 50 or fewer units from the standard development review requirements called for in multifamily neighborhoods and select commercial and multi-use districts, negating opportunities for public input.

This week's Q-Line question:

Is City Hall on the right track by easing the review process for affordable housing projects, or does Santa Monica have more than its share already?

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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Chamber liaison 'coming in fresh'

CHAMBER, from page 3

O'Neil said she is unfamiliar with the way in which the chamber and City Hall have interacted in the past and is looking forward to "a clean slate."

"I'm coming in fresh," O'Neil said. "I don't know the background of Santa Monica politics and I think that's a good thing. It's a new position, a new person ... I think it will be great to be a new person, introduce myself and get my foot in the door. So far, everyone's been great."

O'Neil's first day on the job was last Tuesday and since then she has been busy getting to know chamber staff, the board and city officials, including City Manager Lamont Ewell, who is excited about the opportunity to work more closely with the chamber.

"The chamber has recognized for some time the need to work collaboratively with

the city and the residents to achieve our common goals," Ewell said. "This reflects that commitment."

To fund the position, the chamber has established a "Business Roundtable," where up to 30 chamber members pay an annual fee of \$2,500 to have quarterly meetings with Ewell, elected officials and city department heads. The position has been funded for three years.

HOMEWARD BOUND

A native of Florida, O'Neil, who holds a master's degree in political communications from Florida State University, has been in Southern California for the last five years, during which time she has worked with the Los Angeles and Orange County Chambers of Commerce on a national health care campaign. Before that, the Culver City resident worked for Florida Sen. Bob Graham. During her tenure with the senator, O'Neil

was responsible for answering letters, e-mails and telephone calls from constituents.

"It was always interesting working (for Graham) because when someone writes to a senator, it usually means that this is their last stop," O'Neil said. "They've tried everything to solve their problem, so if you can't help them, no one can. It was really exciting to be able to help people connect to the right resources within nation, state or local government. I really enjoyed working with the public."

Working with chambers has always interested O'Neil for that very reason, and Santa Monica offers the opportunity for her given its "many amazing businesses, from small mom and pops to large non-profits and major corporations," said O'Neil.

"Santa Monica itself is also an international destination for many different and very good reasons, and Florida was tourism-based as well, so I definitely feel at home in Santa Monica," O'Neil said. "And then there's

the people. Whether it's city workers, residents, visitors, they all seem to love the city and that's what's great about it and continuously making it better."

To ensure Santa Monica improves over the long term, O'Neil said she will focus her efforts on homelessness, creating affordable housing for workers and improving transportation.

"I'm still new so I don't know exactly what the main goals will be, but obviously we will be dealing with the same types of issues we have focused on from year to year," O'Neil said. "This is a fresh, new and exciting opportunity and I am looking forward to being an ombudsman for the business community with the goal of helping people solve problems."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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DRIVEN ARTISTS: Art cars make a statement in Santa Monica, whatever that may be: (Clockwise, from top) Quality Shoe Repair's infamous red boot on Santa Monica Boulevard; Hi De Ho Comics owner Bob Hennessey's 1965 station wagon bedecked with animated heroes; and Alison Hennessey with her hand-painted 1984 Honda Civic on Tuesday.

Taking their art on the road

ART CARS, from page 1

was impounded in a lot in Santa Monica because its registration had expired. A week later, he drove to the impound lot where the car was being auctioned off and as the only bidder, he became the proud owner of the rooster mobile.

"It makes me smile," Kendall said on Tuesday of the car he has owned for a decade. "If you're ever taking yourself too seriously, it has a way of resetting your perspective."

The 40-year-old Kendall, a professional race car driver and race car commentator has driven the rooster car several times to his work at the Long Beach Grand Prix and the California Speedway.

"I'm known for being a bit off, so I think people were somewhat taken aback, but not totally surprised either," he said.

The rooster car is one of several mobile artistic statements taking to the streets of Santa Monica. The sub category of art, known as "art cars," are less common in counties like Los Angeles, where image means everything, than they are in other parts of the United States like Berkeley, Houston, Minneapolis, Seattle and Baltimore, according to Harrod Blank, the owner of the Art Car Agency in Berkeley.

Blank is a master of art cars, having created his first work in 1981 when he converted his 1965 Volkswagen Bug. With a rooster painted on the door, a Bob Marley replica sitting in the passenger seat, and a chalkboard on the back, Blank named his vehicle the "oh my god" car because that is how strangers reacted when they first saw the, um, masterpiece.

"Newer cars are great because they're mechanically better," Blank said on Tuesday. "But the aesthetics is something that I question."

"Why do they all have to look the same?"

Since his first creation, Blank has converted three of his own cars and has also worked on

seven others for art projects. He is currently trying to open an art car museum in Arizona and is producing a film about the topic.

"A person's creativity and ingenuity are more valuable than their monetary value or representation their car has," said Blank.

The art car can serve many different purposes, from therapy for the artist who created it to the sheer entertainment for those who see it.

In some instances, it can also serve as a source for aggravation.

Kendall lives near the Montana neighborhood on Lincoln Boulevard, where his car stands out in contrast to the flashy German imports parked along the block.

"If I park it anywhere other than right in front of my place, there are definitely some people who don't like it," Kendall said.

Tow trucks have been sent in the past to impound his car.

But 90 percent of people love the chicken car, insists Kendall.

One day about six months ago, a woman called out to Kendall's window on the second floor of his apartment complex overlooking the car. He looked out and saw actress Helen Hunt standing next to the car with her daughter.

Kendall claims the Academy Award-winning actress told him that her daughter insists on seeing the car every day.

The car has also served as a lucky charm for the landlord who owns Kendall's apartment complex. Several residents have moved into the building solely because of the car, prompting the landlord to rename the building "El Gallo Cubano," which means "The Cuban Chicken."

Kendall has been approached several times about appearing on MTV's "Pimp My Ride," as well as other makeover television shows.

Last summer, Alison Hennessey and her husband Bob found his beloved 1965 Buick

See ART CARS, page 10

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South of Wilshire	= \$ 886,000	\$ 696,375
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Andre Mayis news@smdp.com

Crews were busy Tuesday attending to the damage done in Malibu by a quick-spreading wildfire that ignited on Monday, racing through an exclusive seaside neighborhood. Four homes in the multimillion-dollar area, as well as a guest house, were destroyed in the blaze, with another four significantly damaged, authorities said. One resident, who was not identified, was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

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SMDP1206

Firefighters combat hot spots, Santa Anas

BY PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press Writer

MALIBU — Residents had only minutes to get out of their homes when a fast-moving but short-lived wildfire raced through an exclusive seaside neighborhood leaving ashes in the footprints of mansions.

Four homes in the multimillion-dollar area and a guest house were destroyed in the blaze Monday and another four were significantly damaged, authorities said. One resident, who was not identified, was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

Firefighters worked into Tuesday to douse hot spots left after flames, fueled by Santa Ana winds, consumed 20 acres in this celebrity enclave.

"The neighborhood looks like a war zone," County Fire Chief Michael Freeman said. "Anything that was down there that could burn, did burn."

Actress Victoria Principal was among the residents who rushed out to hose down their houses after the fire was reported about 5 p.m. Monday.

"She covered her house with water," said Principal's publicist, Alan Nierob, adding the actress' home was not damaged.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. Arson investigators were at the scene, although fire officials stopped short of calling it suspicious. The blaze was contained by 8 p.m.

"At this time we're not ruling anything out because everything needs to be considered," Freeman said.

Late Monday, residents began returning to their homes, as an ocean breeze filtered the smoky air. A charred black Jaguar sat in



Andre Mayis news@smdp.com

BRANCHING OUT: Emergency personnel worked into Tuesday to douse hot spots following a wildfire in Malibu that claimed multimillion-dollar homes.

front of the skeleton of a former mansion, and burned palm trees littered the street.

Victoria Pinero, co-owner of Little Angels Pet Services, which takes care of dogs and other animals, was housesitting at one of the

homes destroyed in the blaze. She said she wasn't home at the time the fire erupted, but rushed back to save the owners' four dogs.

She said she found two dogs, but "we are still looking for the last two dogs. ... We did every-

thing we could," she said, crying. "For these people, the dogs were basically their children."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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City Hall may still have to pay millions

BAYSIDE, from page 1

which took the lives of 10 people, including a 7-month-old boy.

“The judge’s ruling is an affirmation of our civil justice system, and the importance of the jury in determining whether or not Bayside District Corp. had a duty to protect the public it invited to attend the ... Farmers’ Market,” said Geoffrey Wells, an attorney representing a handful of the plaintiffs. “Our job now is to get ready for trial ... and to prove that all of the defendants should be held accountable for their role in this tragedy.”

The trial will most likely be delayed, however, because attorneys for the victims have been unable to interview the driver responsible for the accident, George Russell Weller.

The 90-year-old Santa Monica man has refused to participate in a deposition out of fear that his statements will be used against him as he appeals a criminal conviction for vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. Weller was convicted in October and sentenced to five years probation for his role in the crash at the Arizona Avenue outdoor marketplace.

Weller’s attorneys have filed an appeal and are still awaiting a response from the state Court of Appeals.

“I don’t expect one for months,” said Mark Overland, a member of Weller’s defense team.

Attorneys for the victims are also still awaiting a decision by Judge Baker on whether or not City Hall can be included in the civil trial.

Plaintiffs claim City Hall should be held liable

for the accident, along with Weller and Bayside, because it failed to hire and put into place those who could properly barricade the market. Instead, City Hall and Bayside relied on clients of mental health provider Step Up on Second to place the barricades, which consisted of plastic sawhorses, attorneys for the plaintiffs said.

Step Up has since settled with the victims for \$5 million, according to sources close to the negotiations.

City Hall was successful earlier this year in being removed from the case on the grounds of design immunity, but still faces a claim of vicarious liability. In the former argument, City Hall argued, and Baker agreed, that the traffic management plan for the market was approved by a licensed professional and, therefore, is protected under law from litigation.

The victims want to appeal that ruling, but must await Baker’s decision on the vicarious liability issue, which should come within the next week or two, said Wells.

“Depending on how that (ruling) goes, the city will be in for the trial or we will just have to proceed without them,” said Wells. “There will be mediations and settlement conferences set up in February in an attempt to get things resolved. We are coming up on four years since this tragic accident happened and people are looking for closure.”

Attorneys for City Hall could not be reached for comment.

Ten people were killed and more than 65 injured when Weller, then 86, drove his 1992 Buick LaSabre through a crowded Farmers’

Market on July 16, 2003. During the criminal trial, Weller’s attorneys argued that the former grocer had succumbed to “pedal error” — a rare phenomenon in which a panicked driver hits the accelerator rather than the brake — after rear-ending a Mercedes-Benz at the intersection of Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue.

Weller traveled 995 feet through the market at speeds of up to 60 mph, hurling pedestrians into the air before stopping, reads a California Highway Patrol report.

Jurors agreed with prosecutors, who said Weller had several opportunities to either stop his car or steer it away from pedestrians, but instead veered back and forth down Arizona Avenue, striking additional shoppers.

The civil suit claims that City Hall and Bayside, which helps City Hall manage and promote downtown, were negligent and reckless in conducting the market, which is held every Wednesday and Saturday. Under an agreement between the two entities, City Hall agreed to represent Bayside in any legal action and pay for damages awarded.

If found liable, Bayside and City Hall could be forced to pay at least \$20 million, the amount available under City Hall’s insurance policy, said Wells.

“My clients want some kind of resolution by the end of this year,” Wells said. “If that’s OK by settlement, we’re OK with that.”

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

kevinh@smdp.com

On the heels of new city parks, public beach house to break ground in '07

NEW PARKS, from page 3

was drafted in the late 1990s.

Euclid Park, the smaller of the two parks at only 15,000 square feet, is a future neighborhood resource situated between Broadway and Colorado Avenue, amid multi-family homes and Vista del Mar, a non-profit providing support to families affected by abuse. The new park will include community garden plots and a small children’s play area. The park has been under construction since August of last year. Euclid Park was formerly a parking lot.

Once both are up and running, Santa Monica will have 26 parks, including the beach park playgrounds. A public park located on private property — at the Yahoo! complex on Olympic Boulevard — would bring the total count to 27 parks.

“There is not enough park space to meet the needs of our residents and we also do not meet what are the national standards for the amount of park space that communities should have, based on population and size,” said Cloke.

The city of Santa Monica does not follow the standard set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association, which suggests that there should be a park about every quarter mile in town, said Karen Ginsberg, assistant director of community and cultural services for the city.

Rather than following the national standard, the city has adopted its own.

FINDING ROOM TO PARK

The future looks bright, in terms of bringing in more green and recreational spaces to the city’s landscape.

In the next few years, the commission will consider adding a park to the Civic Center grounds and connecting the former Fisher Lumber site at 14th Street and Colorado Avenue to the adjacent Memorial Park.

The first public beach house in the city — 415 Pacific Coast Highway — will be breaking ground in the spring. A plan for the conversion of the former Marion Davies Estate into a community beach house gained recent approval from the Coastal Commission.

In fiscal 2007, the first beach parking lot in the city’s Beach Greening program, located at the western end of Ocean Park Boulevard, will be renovated to include a picnic area and space for bike riding and skateboarding. It is part of the commission’s long-term goals to utilize certain beach parking lots so they could incorporate parking, a small garden and recreational space.

The Beach Greening program is a way to provide sustainability to the city, said Cloke. The project will also help prevent storm runoff from the beach lot into the ocean.

“We, as a city, do not have enough park space and we all understand that we need to be the best possible stewards of the beach,” Cloke said. “Using this opportunity for recreation and sustainability is just a tremendous benefit to the city as well as to the people who use the beach.”

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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STATE BRIEFS

PALM DESERT

Parishioners bid adieu

Hundreds of parishioners bid farewell to St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church pastor Robert Certain, whose retirement comes after officiating at services for former President Gerald R. Ford.

A retirement Mass was said Sunday for Certain, who was thrust into the national spotlight as Ford’s parish priest. Certain presided at Ford services at St. Margaret’s, the National Cathedral in Washington and Ford’s burial in Grand Rapids, Mich. Ford died Dec. 26 at the age of 93.

Bishop James R. Mathes of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego alluded to Certain’s recent national exposure during a two-hour farewell Sunday evening.

“You showed the Episcopal Church as a place of grace and prayer and joy,” the bishop said.

Certain told the congregation, “Last week the eyes of the world were here on this place. I pray you will use this gift of Gerald Ford to propel you to a broader proclamation of the love of God.”

Certain, 59, had announced his retirement two weeks before Ford’s death. He led the congregation since 1998.

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LOS ANGELES

Flights could really take off

Flights could jump at Los Angeles International Airport if the Airport Commission approves a \$154 million plan to take over several terminals to provide more parking spots for low-cost carriers.

Airlines such as Southwest have sought more airport gates for years, but five carriers under long-term leases control a majority of aircraft parking spots. The city’s airport commissioners have been unable to accommodate multiple requests by other airlines to add flights.

AP

‘Junk’ to treasured

ART CARS, from page 7

Station Wagon vandalized.

Someone, clearly unhappy that the old wagon was sitting in their Ocean Park neighborhood, spray-painted the word “junk” on three sides of the car.

“It felt like a violation,” Alison Hennessey said on Tuesday. “On the other hand, the car was a bit rusty, so they had a point.”

Rather than replace the car, the Hennesseys and 16 friends held a barbecue and car-painting party. The result was a 1965 Buick Station Wagon covered in comic book images — appropriate for Bob Hennessey, the owner of Hi De Ho Comics on Santa Monica Boulevard.

“Every [artistic] skill level was on there,” said Alison Hennessey.

The hood was painted by a Venice-based artist named Chris Hero. The Spider-man on the front passenger side of the car was a creation by a partially paralyzed man who spent hours perfecting his painting.

A few weeks after Bob Hennessey’s car was transformed, his wife decided she wanted to drive art of her own.

She purchased buckets of red paint and covered her 1984 Honda Civic in her own right hand print.

“The hand prints are the first expression of art by a human being,” she said. “I always thought it was a powerful image.”

Though the art cars are beloved for the most part, the city’s parking enforcement officers have been called to the Hennessey’s cars on more than one occasion on an anonymous report that they have been abandoned. The Hennesseys believe it might be the same person who originally vandalized the wagon.

Bob Hennessey isn’t sure why their cars are targeted by this specific person, but has a feeling that the reporting party is upset that the old car would have a presence on their up-and-coming block.

To the Hennesseys, the two art cars are the antithesis of the Mercedes and other high-end vehicles that disguise its occupants with

tinted glass windows.

“Alison is a very social creature and the car is an outreach, an invitation, saying it’s OK to smile and say ‘Hi’ to your neighbors,” said Bob Hennessey.

Alison Hennessey is a well-known figure in her neighborhood. During cold weather days, she sits on the corner of Hill and Fourth streets, selling her special crocheted hats and chatting with passersby. Though she seldom rides the Big Blue Bus, it seems as though every driver on the line that stops across from the crocheted hat stand knows her. Many will wave hello.

The Hennesseys don’t plan on replacing their cars in the foreseeable future.

“I will drive it until she dies,” Alison Hennessey said of her car. “Then, I will look for my next canvas.”

GETTING THE BOOT

Art Car Agency appraises cars for artists who want to know the value of their creation in terms of advertising and licensing.

Many art cars are, in fact, used for advertising and promotion.

Quality Shoe Repair in West Los Angeles, a shoe store and repair shop near the Santa Monica border, are the proud owners of two vehicles shaped like a red boot and black boot, respectively. The owners drive the black boot to work every day on the 405 Freeway from the San Fernando Valley, while the red boot car is reserved for trips around the city.

The previous owner sold the red car along with the business to Tony Rouben and his family 28 years ago. The family added the black boot about six years ago.

The boot is a cultural icon in Los Angeles, having appeared in several feature length films. The red boot car, sitting outside the store on Santa Monica Boulevard, in particular, is a popular tourist attraction. Rouben said he often sees people standing outside taking photos of the car.

“We drive it for fun,” Rouben said on Tuesday. “Forget the car, the store is what’s well known.”

melodyh@smdp.com

Fans all shook up

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

YORBA LINDA — The improbable meeting between two of the biggest cultural icons of the 1970s lasted all of 30 minutes, but it has fascinated the nation for years. A photo of a cloaked and bejeweled Elvis Presley solemnly shaking hands with a grim-faced President Nixon remains the No. 1 requested document from the National Archives, nearly four decades after the secret meeting took place on Dec. 21, 1970.

Now, on what would be the King's 72nd birthday, the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Birthplace is giving the curious public a good, long look at the relics of the coming together of The King and The President — and it's got Elvis fans all shook up.

The free exhibit, which opened Monday and will run several months, includes the outfit Elvis wore (a black velvet overcoat, a gold-plated belt and black leather boots); Nixon's outfit (a gray woolen suit, tie and size 11 1/2 black shoes); letters; and a World War II .45-caliber Colt revolver that Elvis gave to Nixon.

"The two of them together somehow is almost incomprehensible," said Bud Krogh, Nixon's then-deputy assistant for domestic affairs who set up the impromptu meeting that day 36 years ago. "The king of rock and the president of the United States shaking hands in the Oval Office doesn't compute for a lot of people."

About 200 people, many of whom arrived early, listened to Krogh reminisce at the exhibit opening and then lined up to get his autograph on everything from programs to water bottles. Many wore Elvis T-shirts or pins and carried mementos of earlier encounters with The King.

"Of all the two people, who would ever think that Elvis and Nixon would get together? I couldn't believe it," said Gloria Matta Tuchman, 65, of Santa Ana, who said she became enthralled with Elvis as a girl and met him when she was in her 20s.

The chain of events that led to the meeting began when a stretch limousine carrying Elvis pulled up outside the White House. One of his guards handed over a letter from Elvis addressed to Nixon requesting a meeting to discuss how the rock star could help Nixon fight drugs — including getting credentials as a "federal agent at large."

"I will be here as long as it takes to get the credentials of a Federal Agent," Elvis wrote. "I have done an in-depth study of drug abuse and Communist brainwashing techniques and I am right in the middle of the whole thing where I can and will do the most good."

At the time, Presley was less than seven years away from an early death at age 42 from prescription drug abuse and heart disease.

The Secret Service agents alerted Krogh. A self-confessed Elvis fan, Krogh met with Elvis, decided he was sincere and scrambled to get him into a noon meeting with Nixon.

About 2 1/2 hours later, Elvis walked into the Oval Office wearing his flamboyant outfit, as well as sunglasses and two huge medallions. But when Elvis entered the Oval Office, Krogh recalls, he froze.

"I think he was just awed by where he found himself. I ended up having to help him walk across over to the president's desk," he said.

Elvis and Nixon talked for about 30 minutes, during which Elvis showed Nixon pictures of his daughter and a pair of cufflinks given to him by Spiro Agnew. He also showed Nixon police badges from around the country and

Two worlds collided when Elvis, Nixon met

asked again for a badge from the then-U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Nixon agreed to give him the badge — but only after learning that the chief of the narcotics bureau had turned down the same request earlier that day and told him the only person who could overrule his decision was the president.

"Oh man, we were set up! But it was fun," said Krogh. "He said all the right words about trying to do the right thing and I took him at his word, but I think he clearly wanted to get a badge and he knew the only way he was going to get it."

I WILL BE HERE AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO GET THE CREDENTIALS OF A FEDERAL AGENT."

Elvis Presley

At Elvis' request, the meeting remained secret for more than a year — until The Washington Post broke the story on Jan. 27, 1972.

Since then, the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace has more than made up for Elvis' ruse: T-shirts, cups, notepads and watches bearing the famous black-and-white photo remain the top-selling items at the museum's gift shop.

"We've known for years that that photograph is an icon image," said Sandy Quinn, the museum's assistant director. "It is The President and The King."

ON THE NET
<http://www.nixonlibrary.org>

Bush moves against Iranian bank in efforts to thwart terror finances

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, tightening the financial vise on Tehran, moved Tuesday to block the assets of a major Iranian bank suspected of helping spread weapons of mass destruction.

The action against Bank Sepah, Iran's fifth-largest state-owned financial institution, means any banks accounts or other financial assets belonging to the bank found in the United States must be frozen. Americans also are prohibited from doing business with the financial institution.

"Bank Sepah is the financial linchpin of Iran's missile procurement network and has actively assisted Iran's pursuit of missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction," said Stuart Levey, Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence.

The Treasury Department also added to its terror-blocking list Bank Sepah International Plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank Sepah, and Ahmad Derakhshandeh, chairman and director of Bank Sepah.

The department alleges that Bank Sepah provides financial support and services to Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization as well as to two Iranian missile firms — Shahid Hemmat Industries Group and the Shahid Bakeri Industries Group. The United States has previously accused all three of helping to spread weapons of mass destruction.

The government said that Bank Sepah is the "bank of choice" — at least since 2000 — for Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization, a subsidiary of the Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, that oversees all of Iran's missile industries and is the overall coordinator of Iran's missile program.

Bank Sepah "has provided a variety of critical financial services to Iran's missile industry, arranging financing and processing dozens of multimillion dollar transactions" for Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization and its affiliates, Levey said.

The government also alleged that the bank has facilitated business between the Aerospace Industries Organization and North Korea's chief ballistic missile-related exporter, KOMID, which the government says has provided Iran with missile technology.

Korea, as represented by the business handled by Bank Sepah, is of great concern to the United States," Levey said.

Levey said Tuesday's action applies to all branches of Bank Sepah, including those in Paris, Rome and Frankfurt, its wholly-owned subsidiary in London, as well as more than 290 branches based in Iran. The bank's Rome branch, he said, conducted a "great deal" of the transactions the United States is concerned about.

The department has the power to act against Bank Sepah under an executive order issued by President Bush in June 2005.

It marked the United States' latest move against Iran, a country the United States accuses of fostering terrorism and whose nuclear ambitions have drawn international rebuke.

Last year, the Treasury Department moved to cut off from the U.S. financial system Bank Saderat — a big Iranian state-owned bank. The government said Iran used the bank to transfer money to terrorist groups, including Hezbollah.

Last month, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to impose economic sanctions on Iran. It did so because the country has refused to end a uranium enrichment program that the United States says is aimed at building nuclear weapons.

Moderate earthquake shakes Southeast Alaska

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A moderate earthquake jolted Southeast Alaska on Tuesday and was widely felt throughout the Panhandle.

The 6:49 a.m. quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.7, according to the Alaska Earthquake Information Center in Fairbanks. It was centered 57 miles west of Haines at a depth of five miles.

The shallow earthquake was felt in Haines, Juneau, Sitka and numerous other communities. There were no immediate reports of damage, according to the earthquake information center.

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Days on the Market

Jodi Summers

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Where to buy in 2007

TIME FOR SOME NATIONAL HOUSING statistics. At the end of the third quarter of 2006, the median home price in the U.S. was \$231,000, according to the National Association of Realtors. Money magazine reported that Newport Beach had the highest median home price, at \$1.36 million, followed by Greenwich, Conn., at \$1.13 million, and Santa Barbara, at \$979,500.

And here is the \$10,000 question: As the real estate market softens, where will home prices remain highest? Last year, the median price of homes in San Bernardino County rose 8.6 percent, while in Ventura County, they fell 8.2 percent. Where is one to buy? Experts say look for a strong local economy.

"Investors will pull back from core office markets," notes Forbes columnist Peter Slatin. "Instead, the two strongest targets for investment will be retail/affordable housing in inner cities and office buildings in outer suburbs, both of which have been passed over by investors for years — and both of which now represent strong value plays."

Housing data from the U.S. census shows that the metro areas with good healthy technology, manufacturing, entertainment or financial-services companies, and renowned universities, enjoy healthy property values.

Areas such as San Jose, San Francisco and Anaheim have buyers paying nine times their median incomes on new homes. The reason, says Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com, is that "these local economies are among the nation's most productive. Housing values are driven by the activity on the land."

Between 2Q 2004 and 2Q 2005, Elk Grove, Calif., located south of Sacramento, had the nation's fastest growth — an 11.6 percent population increase to 112,338, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

But where to buy? The National Association of Realtors reported the largest 2006 gain in single-family home-prices were in the Salem, Oregon, area. Here, the 3Q 2006 median price of \$228,000 was 24.7 percent higher than the third quarter of 2005. Another winning location was Elmira, N.Y., where the median home price of \$93,000 was 21.4 percent higher than 3Q 2005.

The median sales price in Richland County, South Carolina (the area around Columbia), jumped from \$136,979 in October 2005 to \$162,487 a year later — a rise of 18.6 percent — and a jump from \$83 to \$92 in the price per square foot.

The area around Austin, TX, a hot investment market, saw 9 percent growth. In Georgia's Columbia County, home prices appreciated 5.8 percent while in nearby Richmond County, they went up 3.1 percent in that period.

Zandi observes that home buyers looking for a bargain in the strongest areas will be largely disappointed.

"Studies have shown that the time it takes for real income to catch up with median housing prices is around 12.5 years in top market areas," he said. "At which point, the housing cycle may again be in an upswing."

If you're looking to invest, the areas to watch are in the middle. In places experiencing moderate growth and where the local economy is steady if unexciting, there are people who have been taking advantage of low interest rates to finance lifestyles beyond their real spending power, buying second homes, cars, boats, etc., using their equity as easy credit. As rates increase, they will find it increasingly difficult to refinance their spending habits, and many will be forced to

sell their assets — that's where the true values can be had.

Fortune magazine and Moody's Economy.com both note that the housing market looks particularly healthy in the Southeast.

Their top market, McAllen, Texas, is predicted to rise 8.5 percent in 2007, and another 9.8 percent in 2008. Here are their selections for the top-10 housing markets projected to rise the most in 2007 and 2008:

- McAllen-Mission, Texas
- El Paso, Texas
- Albuquerque, N.M.
- Salt Lake City
- Syracuse, N.Y.
- San Antonio
- Rochester, N.Y.
- Baton Rouge, La.
- Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas
- Birmingham, Ala.

JODI SUMMERS is Director of the Investment Division at Boardwalk Realty. She can be reached at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or (310) 309-4219. Her Web sites are www.SoCallInvestmentRealEstate.com and www.santamonicalandmarks.com.

**Bachelor pad decorum
doesn't have to include
dirty socks or video games**

BY SAM DOLNICK

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — You're out of Mom's house, you've left the dorms, you're up off your friends' futons. You're a young, single man with your own home, and it's time to start living that way.

Old towels can't double as curtains. Your laundry pile won't work as a bedside table. And that old Joe Montana poster doesn't count as art.

Here are some tips about how to class up your apartment while staying true to what you like. (And if you like the towels over the windows look, no one else does, so get rid of them.)

THE AMBIENCE

Your home says a lot about you, so take the time to make it nice.

"It's not just about having somewhere to sit," says Nate Berkus, host of a show on Oprah Winfrey's XM radio channel. "It's about expressing your personal taste and your aspirations and your style."

Don't copy a living room from a magazine, don't hire a professional decorator and don't go for some sleek vision of a cool, bachelor pad. Make it unmistakably yours.

"A new home doesn't need a new man," says Berkus. "People want to be adults and cut ties to where they came from, but I think that's a mistake. You want to bring things with you, but present them in a new way."

Take pictures of friends and family, change them into black and white, and frame them. Bring an old chair from your parents' house and reupholster it. Hang a drawing you made in kindergarten. Little things can make your place feel more like home, and less like a hotel room.

Books are also a good way to add warmth to a room and to express your personality. Start collecting books and ask for big art books as gifts. You can never have too many books.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There are others like you

DO YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF OWNING real estate, but not actually doing any work aside from writing a check? If so investing in a REIT may be what you are looking for. A REIT—or real estate investment trust—is a type of company that is formed to exclusively invest in real estate. Most REITs invest in commercial properties. The company then sells shares, like a stock, to individual investors. REITs break down into three categories—equity, mortgage and hybrid. However, before you can understand the different types of REITs, it is important to know how they work.

A REIT is usually a public company, although they can be private, which focuses its investment strategy on real estate. Real estate or real estate-related investments, such as mortgages, are purchased through the REIT. Ownership is through shares, similar to other types of organizations. If public, the REIT may sell like other securities on stock exchanges. At least 90 percent of the REIT's

taxable income must be distributed to shareholders annually in the form of dividends in order for it to conform to specific laws. Revenue is usually derived directly from the real estate assets the REIT owns or has an interest in.

Normally, a REIT is not liquid. This means that if you want to sell your shares, you can only sell them back to the REIT company. Typically, they will buy shares back at a discount. You should be prepared to hold your shares in the REIT for the entire term, which can be anywhere from three to 15-plus years. In theory, you are investing in real estate since that is what the REIT invests in, but not dealing with the day-to-day logistics of purchasing or managing the properties. As far as tax benefits go, for a REIT, it is in the form of depreciation. REITs pass on the depreciation costs of their properties to shareholders as a tax write-off. In the end, only about 25-30 percent of the income distributions is non-taxable.



AN EQUITY REIT WILL PURCHASE PROPERTIES SUCH AS OFFICE BUILDINGS AND DISTRIBUTE THE REVENUE THAT IS MADE FROM THE RENTS TO SHAREHOLDERS IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS."

An equity REIT buys properties for cash and generates income from the rent they charge tenants. Simply put, an equity REIT will purchase properties such as office buildings and distribute the revenue that is made from the rents to shareholders in the form of dividends. Equity REITs can invest in all types of properties such as apartments, industrial properties, malls, large retailers and any combination.

A mortgage REIT will invest and or gain ownership of property mortgages. Direct lending of funds to property owners or investing in commercial mortgage-backed securities is what drives the revenue of a mortgage REIT. Unlike equity REITs, a mortgage REIT will generate income from the percentage they earn on the mortgages. Mortgage REITs typically have higher income levels. However, they don't take advantage of the appreciation in the value of

the properties like equity REITs do.

Hybrid REITs, per their name, take the best from both worlds. They invest in both properties and mortgage instruments. Revenue is derived from the properties income and from the mortgages in the REITs portfolio.

REITs are not fast moving investments and are often suited for investors who have a long-term investment strategy. Returns vary per REIT, but range anywhere from 4-7 percent + annually. The cost to enter a REIT can also be pricy, but if you pick the right REIT your money will usually perform consistently over the long term. For more specific information, consult a professional financial advisor about REIT options and investment strategies.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342 or michael.heayn@wamu.net.

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In your Space

Christina S. Porter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sending in the replacements

THE STRICT AND SHORT TIMELINES FOR 1031 transactions can be challenging for investors. The requirement to select replacement property within 45 days of the close of escrow of the property being sold must be carefully planned for. This is especially true if the investor is seeking replacement properties that require little or no management, such as Triple Net Leased (NNN) or Tenant in Common (TIC) properties. Even during a "slower" real estate market, attractively priced NNN and TIC properties sell quickly; and simply designating a property as a potential replacement does not mean it won't be sold to another investor.

A Triple Net Leased property (NNN) requires the tenant to pay all normal expenses of ownership, including insurance, maintenance, and taxes. Generally, lease terms are 10-30 years and include rent increases.

Tenant In Common (TIC) refers to the form of asset ownership used, in which two or more persons have an undivided fractional interest in the asset. The ownership interests are not required to be equal, can be inherited and each co-owner has a separate deed. Generally, a TIC property is professionally managed and the co-owner's responsibilities are minimal.

Both NNN and TIC investments are very compatible with the time constraints central to a 1031 Exchange. Documentation (due diligence) materials are either already prepared (TICs) or should be fairly straightforward (NNN) in lending transparency and certainty of close to the transaction.

When a NNN property is the choice for a replacement, a good strategy is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to purchase early in the 1031 identification period. An LOI is an efficient way to facilitate the negotiation process between buyer and seller, is generally not binding and simply serves as a guideline for a formal sale/purchase contract.

Once the terms and conditions of a sale/purchase are agreed to a contract is prepared and the buyer conducts due diligence on the asset for an agreed period of time. A standard due diligence period ranges from

30 to 60 days. The time it takes to complete a contract can be a week or more and buyers who have not started early may not complete their due diligence before the end of the identification period. This underscores the need to proactively find appropriate properties early on in the 1031 process and to have a viable back up plan for designation of replacement property.

Many 1031 investors negotiate concurrently on two, three or more properties. While keeping as many options open as possible may be seen as advantageous, at some

their identification period

One issue for investors to consider early in the process is whether to proceed under the three-property, 95 percent or the 200 percent rule. TIC investors in particular are encouraged to take advantage of one if not the greatest strength of a TIC investment, namely the ability to diversify with relatively small dollar amounts. All investing requires managing risk and one of the best ways to minimize overall risk is to diversify. Combining diversification with a clear understanding of the real estate being invest-

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE OF CHOOSING A TIC AS A REPLACEMENT PROPERTY IS CERTAINTY OF CLOSE."

point the seller of the properties will require non refundable deposits which will then limit the available options and time. This approach can consume considerable time for both the investor and seller, and could make sellers leery of dealing with 1031 investors they feel are playing them. In addition to the wasted time on properties that will not be purchased, additional transaction costs for title, legal and due diligence fees on multiple properties are possible.

TIC investors need to be careful that they don't wait too long to make their decision. All due diligence should be completed before the 45 days expires to make sure the properties identified are viable. If they discover the property is not a good fit (too much risk, for example) it is always better to pay the taxes than make a bad investment. The way to avoid this unfortunate outcome is to select and make a reservation on likely TIC investments and take advantage of the free due diligence period that TICs offer (typically a week to ten days). If this is done early and the investment turns out to be inappropriate the investor then has time to make another selection before the end of

ed in (demographics, lease terms, quality of tenants, etc.) provides the investor the best chance of success.

It should be noted that a significant advantage of choosing a TIC as a replacement property is certainty of close. Most sponsors will have a complete due diligence package available, providing transparency and allowing investors to minimize the potential for surprises.

For investors preferring NNN property, a TIC may be a good back-up plan. TIC and NNN investments both have the appeal of no management real estate. The obvious difference between the two is control. NNN property is solely owned by the investor allowing for the maximum amount of control. TICs are generally owned by many and control is dictated by a co-ownership agreement that requires a consensus. As with everything in life, there are compromises. In the case of NNN vs. TIC, the issue is often weighing the ability to easily diversify versus having the last word on when the property will be sold or refinanced.

Contact **CHRISTINA PORTER** at (877) 4TM-1031 or Christina@tm1031exchange.com.

Making home life more tolerable in the new year

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY

Associated Press Writers

We thought we'd share some of our best tips to help ring in your new year, home improvement-wise. We hope you find these tidbits as useful as we do.

DUST-FREE STORAGE

Zip it, clip it, hang it. Wall-mounted pegboard is ideal for storing tools. It's great for organizing other things, too, such as safety gear, including goggles, dust masks and respirators. Or small hand-held electronic gadgets such as a stud-finder, multimeter, voltage tester or calculator. Even fresh batteries and various small tools and parts can be organized using pegboard. To keep such things dirt-, dust- and moisture-free, seal them in plastic food-storage bags, then put metal spring-binder clips on the tops of the bags. Hang them from a handy pegboard hook. They'll be easy to see and reach.

IMPROVING KITCHEN STORAGE

If your attempts to locate that special pot, pan or can of soup make you feel like Sherlock Holmes, chances are you can use this. A few inexpensive and simple-to-install organizers will not only improve the storage capacity of your kitchen cabinets, but will make your kitchen a more pleasant place to work. Lazy Susans, pullout shelves, spice racks, cutlery trays, trash-can pullouts and undersink pullout caddies are just a few of the accessories found at your hardware store or home-improvement center, and installed in an afternoon. For specialty items or installation help, check with a local cabinet shop.

TWO ROOMS IN ONE

Many houses today have a home office that doubles as a guest bedroom. But when no guests are visiting, the bed sits there, taking up valuable floor space. It winds up loaded with books and papers, just like a tabletop does. Is there a better way? You might try a wall bed — sometimes called a Murphy bed. During the day it folds up out of the way, and the room becomes a den or office. At night, with just the touch of a finger, a full bed lowers into place and the room is once again a bedroom.

AUTOMATIC CLOSET LIGHT

When you open a refrigerator, the light comes on. How would you like that feature in a closet? All you need is a spring-loaded jamb switch and some basic carpentry and electrical skills. The automatic light switch is located in a chiseled notch into the hinge side of the closet doorjamb. Power has to be run from the light to the switch. Many times, removing the door casing does the trick. Tools needed are a drill, chisel and screwdriver. When wiring it, the hot wire (most often black) runs to the switch then back to the light fixture. Electrical supply houses sell jamb switches, as do hardware stores and home centers. If you're unsure about either the carpentry or the electrical work, consult a pro. Then — as with a refrigerator — it's door open, light on; door closed, light off.

CARRYING 4-BY-8S

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FOOTBALL
Oakland raiding USC staff, interviews assistant Sarkisian

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA — Southern California quarterbacks coach Steve Sarkisian became the first candidate on Monday to interview for the Oakland Raiders’ head coaching vacancy. Sarkisian, 32, was Oakland’s quarterbacks coach in 2004 in between stints at USC, where he helped tutor Matt Leinart, Carson Palmer and John David Booty.

The Raiders are hoping to complete this year’s search for Art Shell’s replacement in a shorter time frame than the more than five weeks it took to replace Norv Turner a year ago. Shell was fired last week after setting a franchise record for losses in a 2-14 season.

“I have a great deal of respect for Al Davis and the Oakland Raider organization,” Sarkisian told the Los Angeles Daily News before coming to Raiders headquarters for the interview. “It’s a proud organization that wants to do whatever it can to be on top.”

Other potential candidates for the Raiders’ job include defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, offensive coordinator John Shoop, former Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green and former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel.

At USC, Sarkisian coached Heisman Trophy winners in Palmer and Leinart and helped develop Booty into one of the early favorites for the Heisman next season. Booty threw for 391 yards and four scores in last week’s Rose Bowl win over Michigan and will return to the Trojans for his senior season.

Sarkisian left USC for one season to become the Raiders’ quarterbacks coach in 2004. Oakland ranked eighth in the NFL in passing that season with 4,019 yards passing.

That’s a far cry from this season, when Oakland ranked second-to-last with 2,420 yards passing and posted the fifth-fewest points in a 16-game season with 168.

With much of the NFL’s third-ranked defense set to return next season, owner Al Davis will likely turn to an offensive coach. Oakland also has the No. 1 pick in April’s draft and could use it on quarterback Brady Quinn of Notre Dame or JaMarcus Russell of LSU, if he decides to turn pro as expected on Wednesday.

“ I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR AL DAVIS AND THE OAKLAND RAIDER ORGANIZATION.”

Steve Sarkisian
Coach

While Sarkisian is young, Davis has a history of identifying sharp coaching minds. Davis gave the first professional head coaching jobs to John Madden, Mike Shanahan and Jon Gruden when all three were in their 30s. Only Madden won the Super Bowl with Oakland; Shanahan did it with Denver, Gruden with Tampa Bay.

Gruden is the only coach to have a winning record with the Raiders since the team returned from Los Angeles in 1995. He was 38-26 in four seasons, taking the team to the postseason twice before leaving to take the Bucs job following the 2001 season.

Gruden left a Super Bowl team in place and his Buccaneers ended up beating Bill Callahan’s Raiders the following season for the title. Oakland has won just 15 games since, going through three coaches in the past four seasons.

FOOTBALL
Are Dolphins coveting Carroll?

BY STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga’s travel itinerary suggests he’s trying to lure Southern California coach Pete Carroll back to the NFL.

Carroll has been on vacation in Costa Rica, and a Huizenga-owned plane flew there Sunday, then returned to Fort Lauderdale, according to flight records. The same plane was used to take Dolphins officials to Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Diego, Jacksonville and Minneapolis to interview candidates to replace Nick Saban.

A Dolphins spokesman declined to say whether Huizenga met with Carroll. USC spokesman Tim Tessalone said Carroll was expected to return from vacation Tuesday.

“Pete hasn’t gotten back, so I don’t have any information to share with you,” Tessalone said.

In the 1990s, Carroll coached the New York Jets for one season and the New England Patriots for three before being fired. As recently as last week, he denied rumors he wanted to return to the pros.

If the 55-year-old Carroll is interested in the Dolphins job, he would become the front-runner. He led the Trojans to a fifth consecutive Bowl Championship Series appearance this season and beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl. He’s 65-12 with two national

titles in six seasons at Southern California. The Dolphins interviewed two candidates Monday: their defensive coordinator, Dom Capers, and Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin.

Capers was interviewed in Jacksonville, where he was on vacation. He coached expansion teams in Carolina and Houston and has a career record of 48-80.

Since Saban left last week for Alabama, Miami has interviewed at least six other candidates: former Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora, Pittsburgh Steelers offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt, Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey, San Diego offensive coordinator Cam Cameron, and two Chicago Bears assistants, defensive coordinator Ron Rivera and offensive coordinator Ron Turner.

Gailey, a former offensive coordinator for the Dolphins, said Monday there was nothing new to report in the coaching search.

“I’m one of the guys in the running,” he said. “We’ll see where it goes.”

The Dolphins’ experience with Saban might make them less likely to hire a college coach. He came to Miami from Louisiana State and left after two seasons, deciding he preferred the SEC to the NFL.

Carroll is one of the highest-paid coaches in college, but Huizenga last week said: “I don’t care what it takes, what it costs, what’s involved. We’re going to make this a winning franchise.”



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
We're expecting size to decline to chest high or so. This is also when weather shifts from offshore to onshore. Winds are expected to be light, but onshore with air temps cooling down.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW WIND SWELL AND LESS THAN FAVORABLE WINDS THURSDAY INTO FRIDAY...
TRACKING CLEAN, LONG-PERIOD, NW'ER FOR SUNDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **January 2, 2007**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - [www.healthebay.org](#) - [brc@healthebay.org](#) - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 2
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 13
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 28
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	D
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	B	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	A
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	C	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	B	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	C
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A
Tuna Canyon	ns	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	C
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	B
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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Midweek break, Gem

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)

★★★★★ Think in terms of understanding and gaining new insight. You find that others seem to lay a smorgasbord of ideas, events and choices on your plate. Your job is to pick and choose. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Slow your pace and consider what needs to be done. Think in terms of accomplishment and new ideas. Opportunity seems to strike in multiples. Tap into a boss's or someone you respect's perspective. Tonight: Put on some good music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Ever playful and full of fun, you make a difference wherever you focus your energy. Your instincts mix with ingenuity. This combo nearly makes the impossible possible. Be sensitive to an admirer or child. Tonight: Midweek break.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might discover that working at home or staying close to your office feels good. Sometimes you underestimate the importance of anchoring. You like to go out and about, yet you flourish in your personal space. Tonight: Happily at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, and others turn around and listen. Don't underestimate the power of persuasion. If you have been putting off a discussion, the time has come. If you meet someone interesting, stop. Tonight: Socialize, which is what you do best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Indulge and enjoy. Think in terms of growth and gains. What might have felt restricted loosens up. Be aware that this fact might be simply in your mind and attitude. Don't take any action based on this sense. Tonight: Treat yourself to dinner out or some other treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Someone easily could mistake you for the Cheshire cat, with your ear-to-ear smile. A romance could be heating up or a bond with a child deepening. Your imagination shows no limits. Let it go. Tonight: Go for the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Take your time relaxing and listening. What you might be thinking and in the process of deciding need not be common knowledge. Think in terms of long-term ramifications. Buy a new item for your home or a token gift for a roommate. Tonight: You don't need to decide on anything!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Where achieving your goals might have seemed somewhat of a task, events turn in your favor. Don't hesitate; network and reach out for others. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a project, especially as you sense people aren't adversarial. Ask for feedback, but know that ultimately the decision is yours. Your instincts are right-on with a boss, family member or another key associate. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ From being in the midst of an uproar, you land in a position where you nearly can do no wrong. Pull back and ask yourself where this change in attitude comes from. Hopefully you can bottle it for the future. Share a decision you have been considering. Tonight: Put on music, watch a movie or whatever you would prefer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A partner or loved one makes an overture that is touching and perhaps long overdue in your opinion. Be happy about what is occurring. Someone opens up and finally reveals his or her thoughts. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Go with a loved one's wishes.

Born Today

Singer Rod Stewart (1945)

Singer Pat Benatar (1953)

Singer Brad Roberts (1964)



Happy Birthday!

If you step up to the plate, you might be more than happy with the end results this year. You not only will be congratulated, you also might see financial rewards. As money comes in, be careful with your funds. Do not trust anyone regarding your finances. Count your change carefully. Money easily could slip out of your hands. Your efforts mark a period in which you will be making some major changes. This year, you might be a thinker. Next year, you will act. If you are single, many people see you as a good catch. Make sure someone has depth before you bond.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Runaway friend Cusack hurt Piven by saying nothing

JEREMY PIVEN played second banana to his friend John Cusack until his recent breakthrough in HBO's "Entourage," winning an Emmy Award last year for his role as shark-like agent Ari Gold.

Now Piven and Cusack, who studied acting at Chicago's Piven Theatre Workshop, which was run by Piven's parents, appear

to be on the outs, or so Piven suggests in an interview in the February issue of Best Life magazine, on newsstands Friday.

"No comment. I mean, you could fill in the blank, I bet," the 41-year-old actor says when asked how Cusack has handled Piven's recent success.

Piven played supporting roles to Cusack in films

such as "Say Anything," "Gross Pointe Blank" and "Runaway Jury" before getting his big break on "Entourage."

"... I was always proud of him, and I was always in his corner," Piven says of the 40-year-old Cusack. "Always."

The Associated Press was attempting Tuesday to reach a representative for

Cusack, who stars in "Grace Is Gone," which will be shown at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, later this month.

Piven, who co-stars with Ben Affleck in the upcoming film "Smokin' Aces," a Universal Studios release, says he values loyalty.

"It just says so much about a person if he has space for other people's

success," he says.

"I have always been so proud of my friends' success. I own that proudly because I come by it naturally. I was raised on that spirit of collaboration. ... You start getting into trouble in life when you start comparing and contrasting your life to anyone else's. You don't win when you do that."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



STARS ARE ALIGNED

HILARY SWANK and her mom came to Hollywood 16 years ago with only \$75 in their pockets. On Monday, the two-time Oscar winner received the ultimate sign that the move paid off: a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I remember my mom using a roll of quarters to call agents from a pay phone and telling agents they should sign me," said the emotional 32-year-old.

Swank, wearing a sophisticated black sleeveless dress, was flanked by producer Joel Silver and Richard LaGravenese, the director of her new film "Freedom Writers."

In 2000, a then-unknown Swank walked away with the best-actress Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry."

AP

Jolie can feel for Madonna

ANGELINA JOLIE says she was horrified by attacks on Madonna about her adoption of a toddler from Malawi, but suggested the pop singer took a risk because of the African country's adoption laws, a French magazine reported.

"Madonna knew the situation in Malawi, where he was born," Jolie was quoted as saying in this week's

edition of Gala, a gossip magazine. "In that country, there isn't really a legal framework for adopting. Personally, I prefer to stay on the side of the law."

Jolie and actor Brad Pitt have three children: Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May.

Madonna and her filmmaker husband Guy Ritchie are adopting a one-year-old Malawian boy, David Banda. He joined her two children, Lourdes and Rocco, in Britain in October.

Human rights groups in Malawi have said they are concerned the government cut legal corners to fast-track the adoption and that they want adoption laws there clarified.

AP



JOLIE



CUMMING

X-Man and lover are united

ALAN CUMMING married illustrator Grant Shaffer in a civil ceremony outside London over the weekend, the actor's spokeswoman, Bianca Bianconi, said Tuesday.

"Not only are we so happy to be able to celebrate our love for each other, but also to be able to do it in a country that properly recognizes the rights of same sex couples," Cumming, 41, said in a statement released by Bianconi.

"As residents of

America we would have loved to marry there, but we hope that soon the civil rights that we have been afforded in the U.K. will be available to all gay Americans, and we look forward to celebrating not only our marriage, but the end of prejudice."

The couple, who had been dating two years, were married Sunday at the Old Royal Naval College in the town of Greenwich, Bianconi said. Among the 140 guests were lan

McKellen, Geri Halliwell, Rufus Wainwright, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Monica Lewinsky.

Cumming, who was born in Scotland, was previously married to actress Hilary Lyon. They were divorced in 1993.

He has starred in films including "Circle of Friends," "Spy Kids" and "X2: X-Men United." He won a Tony Award in 1998 for his role as the Master of Ceremonies in the musical "Cabaret."

AP



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Thursday
Apocalypse
7:30
Friday
Volter, Pan's Labyrinth
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Babel (R)
1:15, 4:35, 7:45, 10:50
The Good Shepherd (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:35
The Holiday (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:15
Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (R)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40

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

Blood Diamond (R)
4:15, 7:25, 10:40
Children of Men (R)
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
Happily N'Ever After (PG)
12:05, 2:10
Night at the Museum (PG)
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10

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
1332 2nd Street
(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)
4:10, 9:45
The Queen (PG-13)
1:40, 7:10
Volter (R)
1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15

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

Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20
Charlotte's Web (G)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
Code Name: The Cleaner (PG-13)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
Eragon (PG)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
Rocky Balboa (PG)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

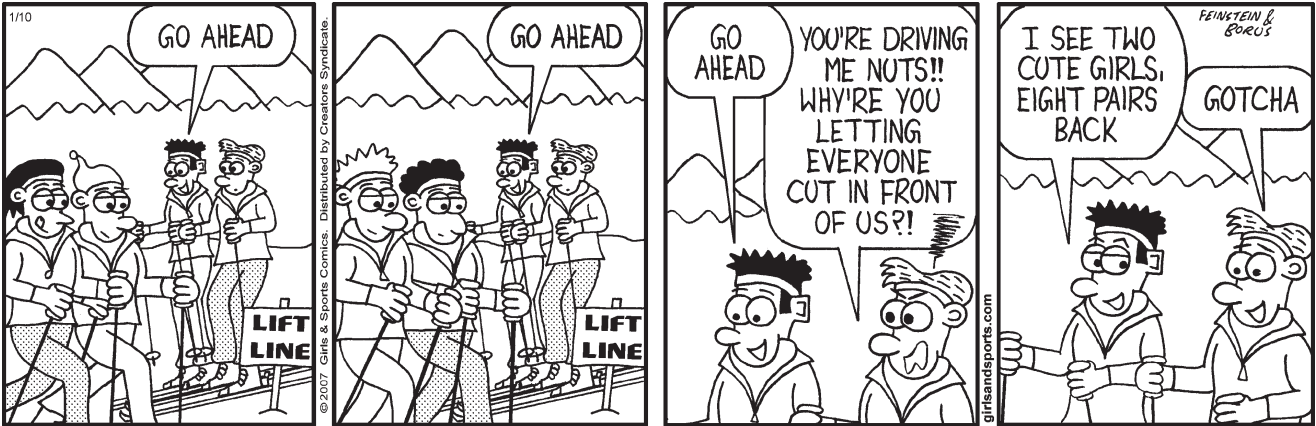
5	4	6	1	9	8	2	3	7
9	2	3	6	4	7	8	1	5
7	1	8	2	3	5	6	4	9
2	5	9	8	6	3	4	7	1
8	3	1	7	5	4	9	2	6
6	7	4	9	2	1	5	8	3
1	9	2	3	8	6	7	5	4
3	8	5	4	7	9	1	6	2
4	6	7	5	1	2	3	9	8

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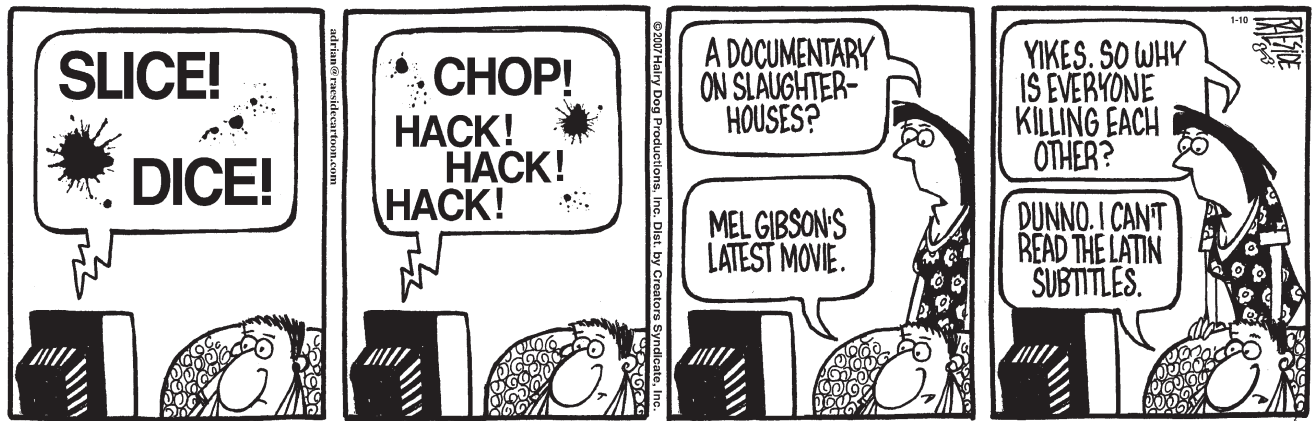
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



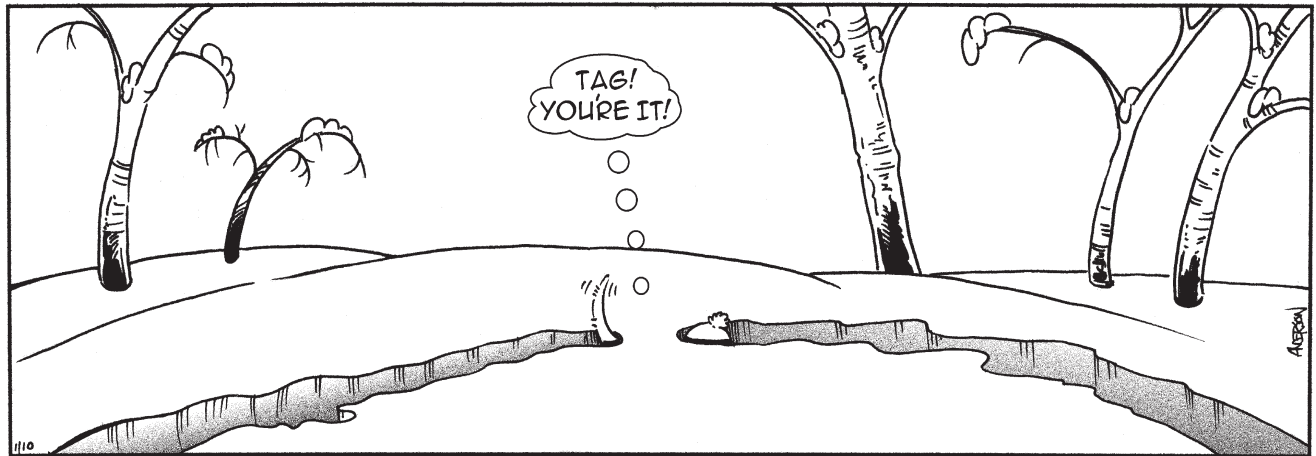
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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Historic events
- 7 Police vest initials
- 11 Like O. Henry tales
- 12 Cairo's river
- 13 Split item
- 14 Cairo's river
- 15 Chatty bird
- 17 Gift toppers
- 20 Build
- 23 Cigar remnant
- 24 "Mommie Dearest" star
- 26 Chem. or biol.
- 27 Early hour
- 28 Rascal
- 29 Suffer humiliation
- 31 Born
- 32 Fantasy
- 33 Fuse together
- 34 Sheen
- 37 Horned goddess
- 39 Figures of speech
- 43 Hamlet, for one
- 44 Pinhead
- 45 Fired
- 46 Rock's — Dan

DOWN

- 1 Stretch the truth
- 2 Nest-egg acct.
- 3 Director Howard
- 4 Loses it
- 5 Fey of "30 Rock"
- 6 Battle memento
- 7 Mexican state
- 8 Riesling, for one
- 9 Suffer
- 10 Bunion spot
- 16 Freshen
- 17 Rooted
- 18 Film trophy
- 19 Road marking

- 21 Caravan creature
- 22 Used a keyboard
- 24 Frosh housing
- 25 Half of dos
- 30 Brought about
- 33 Use a pen
- 35 Metal boxes
- 36 Fix copy
- 37 Writer Tarbell
- 38 Getz's instrument
- 40 Need to pay
- 41 Wire measure
- 42 Pig's digs

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15			16				
17	18	19				20			21	22
23				24	25					
26				27				28		
29			30					31		
32							33			
		34			35	36				
37	38				39			40	41	42
43					44					
45					46					

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I will watch your cat, water your plants, and take in your mail while you are away. Call Kirsten. References available

Pets

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LADIES! DID you make a New Year's Resolution to drop those extra pounds you gained during the holidays? Come to SoCal BOOTY Camp! SoCal BOOTY Camp is a westside based boot camp designed specifically for WOMEN! We workout at the beach, the stairs, the canyons, and local parks! Next session starts February 6! For more information go to: www.socal-bootycamp.com

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taught by established artist. Paint Sculpt and draw in a garden setting. Classes start February 1st, 2007. Your artwork and bio placed on www.campbellart.com free with sign up. Call 310-804-0335 for schedule and pricing.

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SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #203 Open

For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$1595.00 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No pets. 2535 Kansas Ave., #209, Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: #101

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Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90405

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPES: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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* As of November 12, 2006
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3 Units	\$645,300
4 Units	\$801,950



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Notices

NOTICE OF NOTIFICATION
(Acquisition of a Bank Holding Company by a Bank Holding Company)

Security Pacific Bancorp, a bank holding company with its principal executive offices located at 12121 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1350, Los Angeles, California 90025 intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to acquire up to 24.9% of Pacific Premier Bancorp Inc., a bank holding company with its principal executive offices located at 1600 Sunflower Avenue, 2nd floor, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the notification, including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notification to the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105. The comment period will not end before February 12, 2007 and may be somewhat longer.

The Board's procedures for processing notifications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested notifications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notification, contact Tracy Basinger at (415) 974-2920. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the notification if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
Date of Filing Application: SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: RSA GROUP LLC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1331-33 SANTA MONICA BLVD SANTA MONICA, CA 90404-1707.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEDWOOD.
LA125477 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/10/2007

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: OCTOBER 4, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: RSA GROUP LLC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the

Notices

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1348 14TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404-1702.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEDWOOD.
LA125478 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/10, 17, 24, 2007

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(Secs. 6104, 6105 U.C.C.)
Escrow No. 15089-FT

Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below.

The names and business addresses of the seller are:
Red Shell Foods, Inc., 1551 Ocean Avenue #130B, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: 825 Baldwin Park Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91746.

As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: Gelson's Markets, 16450 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91436-2123. 4738 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91607-3999. 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90067-6501. 5500 Reseda Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356-2608. 1660 San Miguel Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660-7124. 15424 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-3582. 2734 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361-2999. 13455 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey, CA 90292-5620. 22277 Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, CA 91302. 19500 Plummer Street, Northridge, CA 91324. 4520 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. 3305 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93105. 5521 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92602. 24 Monarch Bay Plaza, Dana Point, CA 92629. 245 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101. 2725 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027-3097. 8330 W. Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069-4307. 825 Baldwin Park Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91746. 350 S. Grand Ave., #D-8, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

The names and business addresses of the buyer are:
Jaaz Enterprises, Inc. 1551 Ocean Avenue #130B, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The assets to be sold are described in general as: Furniture, fixtures, equipment, tradename, goodwill, sub-lease, leasehold improvements and covenant not to compete and are located at: 1551 Ocean Avenue #130B, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

The business name used by the seller at that location is: Sushi Teri Express. The anticipated date of the bulk sale is January 29, 2007 at the office of Universal Escrow, Inc., 1025 W. 190th St. #160, Gardena, CA 90248. This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is Universal Escrow, Inc., 1025 W. 190th St. #160, Gardena, CA 90248, and the last date for filing claims shall be January 26, 2007, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: November 30, 2006
JAAZ ENTERPRISES, INC.
BY: AMIR A. ZAMYAD, President, Buyer
1/10/07
CNS-1071539#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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Vehicles for sale



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

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'04 Hyundai Accent GL \$10,900 Silver, auto, CD, 50K miles (540810)

Hyundai Santa Monica
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Vehicles for sale



'03 Mercury Sable \$8,995 Auto, 6 Cyl., P/W, P/L, Tilt, Cruise (3G608497)

Toyota Santa Monica
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Toyota Santa Monica
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'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

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SELL YOUR
CAR FAST!

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!

Call us today at
(310) 458-7737

Take advantage of this great offer.

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 sched-
 ule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks.
 Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renew-
 al 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.

Mail. Fax. Call. Email. Running your classified ad is easy!

\$5⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Classification (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

Ad Copy (attach copy if necessary)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____

13 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____

Requested Start Date: / / Requested End Date: / /

Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):

☐ ALL CAPS ☐ bold ☐ italics

☐ Box (.50/day) ☐ Reverse(\$1/day)

Payment:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Check

Exp: | 20 | Check #: _____

Make checks payable: Santa Monica Daily Press

NO CASH PLEASE

Signature: _____

Mail.

Fill out this form and mail to:
 1427 Third Street Promenade
 Suite 202
 Santa Monica, CA 90401

Fax.

Fill out this form and fax to:
 (310) 576-9913
 ATTN: Classifieds

Call.

Call Annie Kotok!
 (310) 458-7737 Ext. 114

Email.

Email your ad to:
annie@smdp.com

PREPAY YOUR AD TODAY!



Call us with questions
(310) 458-7737

Santa Monica Daily Press

Visit us online at smdp.com

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NEW SERVICE CENTER.



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Rob Schultz
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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

2212 Lincoln Blvd. SM, CA (310) 392-9223

WE HAVE NEW LEASING DEPARTMENT SPECIALIZING
IN COMMERCIAL SPACE CALL US FOR DETAILS

1(888)FOR-LOAN
(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
\$4,400,000
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.

LINCOLN BLVD. COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

2212 LINCOLN BLVD. \$1,800,000	2957 LINCOLN BLVD. \$1,475,000	2520 LINCOLN BLVD. IN ESCROW	LINCOLN AUTO BODY SANTA MONICA \$1,275,000	LINCOLN & VENICE 9,500 SQFT \$3,900,000	4 UNITS ON LINCOLN IN SANTA MONICA \$1,650,000
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