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Volume 9 Issue 59



Santa Monica Daily Press

DODGERS INK PLAYERS
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE FINDING A HOME ISSUE



MAJOR MESS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Heavy rains Monday pushed trash and other urban debris into storm drains and onto local beaches. County health officials warn swimmers and surfers to stay out of the water for at least 72 hours after a storm to avoid getting sick from pollutants flowing into the Santa Monica Bay.

Lease signed for historic shotgun house

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN The house finally has a home.

City Hall and the Santa Monica Conservancy on Tuesday agreed to a 20-year, renewable lease for the historic, turn-of-the-century "shotgun" house that was saved from demolition.

The shotgun house — so named because a blast fired through the front door would travel through each of its three rooms and directly out the back door — was the last remaining structure of its kind in Santa Monica, officials with the conservancy said. Quickly constructed shotgun houses once lined the shores of Ocean Park in the late 1880s and early 1990s, providing visitors with another option aside from sleeping in tents or expensive hotels.

The 468-square-foot cottage, which originally sat on private property at 2712 Second St., was moved to the old Fisher Lumber site on Colorado Avenue at Memorial Park roughly five years ago. It previously was sitting on blocks at the Santa Monica Airport, but had to be moved to make way for construction of Airport Park. Preservationists moved the home to the airport in July of 2002 to save it. It cost an estimated $7,000 to move the house to the Fisher Lumber site, according to previous reports.

Its new home will be on city-owned land at Second Street and Norman Place adjacent to the Ocean Park Library where it will eventually become a preservation resources center staffed by the conservancy, offering visitors information on other historic structures throughout the city, conservancy officials said.

"Since the time this house was saved from demolition and designated as a landmark in 1999, members of the Santa Monica Conservancy have worked tenaciously to become the steward of this special property," said conservancy board president Carol Lemlein. "We're 'walking the talk' by rehabilitating it and putting it back into service as our headquarters and a center for teaching about Ocean Park's early history as well as

SEE HOUSE PAGE 8

BBB proposes big fare increases

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

BBB HDQTRS The price of a trip on a Big Blue Bus could triple for elderly riders and double for most others by this summer under a plan being proposed by transportation officials.

Reduced spending on transportation from Sacramento, lower tax revenue and higher fuel costs have all contributed to a $6 million deficit for the Santa Monica's bus company and prompted officials to look into rate increases, said BBB Customer Relations Manager Dan Dawson.

The City Council has final say over how much it costs to ride the bus and is expected to make a decision about the proposed fare increase in March. Any fare increase would likely take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

At a series of community meetings that begin tonight, BBB officials will be presenting two possible fare increase schemes.

The first option would double the standard local fare from 75 cents to $1.50, triple the local fare for seniors, the disabled and those on Medicare from 25 cents to 75 cents and increase the student fare from 50 cents to 75 cents.

A second option being considered would make the standard local fare $1.25 and increase the fare for seniors, the disabled and those on Medicare to 60 cents. Under both plans the student rate would go up to 75 cents per trip.

"[A] fare increase is really the only way we're going to stay solvent in the next few years," Dawson said, adding that without an increase the bus system would likely have to reduce services.

The Big Blue Bus last increased fares in 2007, Dawson said.

Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor, who serves on the board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, acknowledged it's tough to raise fares when people are suffering because of the economy, but said the bus system's

SEE BBB PAGE 9


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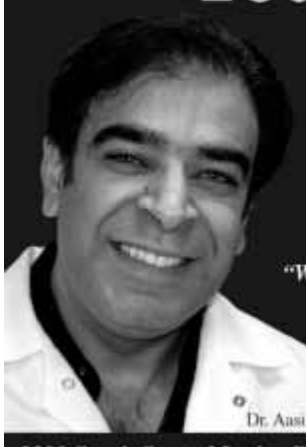
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STATE OF THE CITY 2010

Strategies for Economic Recovery

Thursday, January 21, 2010

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8:30am–10:00am Program
The Broad Stage, Santa Monica College



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bill Allen, President and CEO, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)



HONOREE: Frank McCourt, Owner, Los Angeles Dodgers



WELCOME: Rod Gould, Santa Monica's next city manager



FAREWELL: Lamont Ewell, City Manager, Santa Monica

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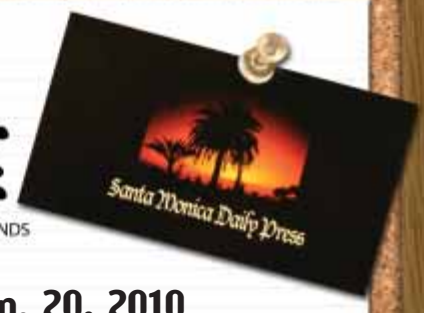
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010

On Broadway
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Tony Award winner Kelli O'Hara is the latest in a long line of heartbreakingly lovely, incredibly talented Broadway sweet-hearts. In this show, she will perform Broadway songs that have made her, and many of her predecessors, beloved by their fans. They're the kind of songs we all remember and can't stop singing. In fact, you may find yourself singing through the streets at the end of the evening. For more information call (310) 434-3412.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Join these lovely ladies every Wednesday night for ballroom dancing at its finest. There is a great crowd of dancers of all ages and levels of experience so don't be shy. Dance to today's hits and old standards. Learn to waltz, fox trot, cha cha, tango and salsa. Admission is $10, $8 for students and USA Dance members with ID. For more information, call (310) 487-0911.

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

State of the City
Broad Stage
1310 11th St.,
Find out what direction Santa Monica is headed at this yearly event. Speakers will address some of the pressing issues facing the city. Tickets range from $40 to $60.

Hayden speaks
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 7 p.m.
Tom Hayden, Santa Monica's former state assemblyman, state senator, author, lecturer and activist will discuss his recent book, "The Long Sixties: From 1960 to Barack Obama."

Opera at the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Come enjoy presentations about five upcoming operas and a behind the scenes peek before heading out to see them. For more information, call (310) 458-8600. This event takes place every third Thursday of each month through May.

Dog Town's evolution
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
The California Heritage Museum is proud to present "Skateboard: Evolution and Art in California. Guest curated by legendary Z-boy Nathan Pratt in conjunction with museum staff curator Michael Trotter and advisory committee members Jeff Ho, Skip Engblom (Zephyr co-founders), Cris Dawson (1966 Hobie Champ), Z-Boys Tony Alva and Stacy Peralta, and 1980's world champion Christian Hosoi, the exhibition traces the evolution of boards from pre-1950 to the present showcasing the riders, designers, artists, and manufacturers that created the California phenomenon known as the skateboard. This is the first exhibition of the California skate movement to be shown in "Dog Town," the Santa Monica/Ocean Park area where modern skateboarding was born and the skate became an art form.
For more information call (310) 586-6488.

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.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi boys hope to extend winning ways

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI A slow start to the season had Head Coach James Hecht scratching his head.

Despite returning a starting lineup stocked with players with varsity experience, Santa Monica High School's boys basketball team limped out to a 1-3 start, giving the long-time coach reason to wonder what was wrong.

Hecht didn't have to wait long for things to turn around. His team went on a three-game winning streak — thanks, in part, to the balanced scoring of Corey Walker, Soloman Singer and James Montgomery — and have shown the grit that an experienced team is supposed to exhibit. The team is currently on its second winning streak of the season, this time a seven-game run that Hecht hopes to extend to eight tonight at home against Ocean League rival Beverly Hills.

"We've been trying to get better," Hecht said. "There are areas we need to improve as always, but it has been very enjoyable because the guys show a genuine care for each other."

Despite having a 0-2 league record, Hecht said he isn't looking past the Normans. He expects Beverly Hills to be physical as always, but feels that his Vikings have the depth to overcome the Normans' scrappy play.

With a win, the Vikings (12-5 overall, 2-0 in league) would improve their playoff hopes. The team finished third in league last season, yet made it all the way to the semi-finals of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section playoffs, a feat Hecht hopes to repeat.

"I think we have a chance," he said. "We're part of the conversation."

VIKINGS' ZELON PICKS HARVARD

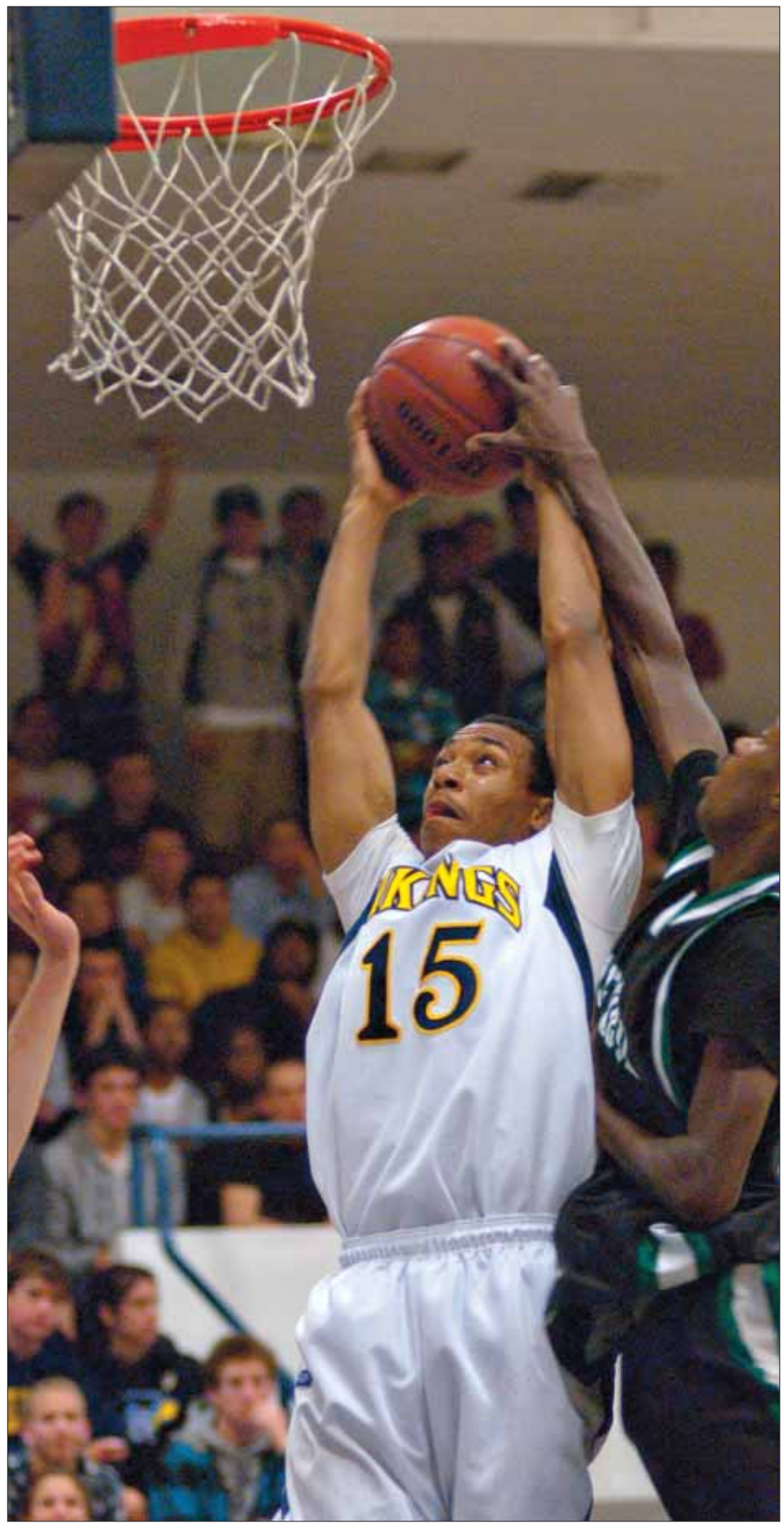
After much deliberation, Samohi football star Luke Zelon has decided to play for Ivy League heavy-weight Harvard.

The standout linebacker had been pursued by Iowa State, Washington State and New Mexico, but decided to pick education over playing for a major program.

"This is a great thing for him," Samohi Head Coach Travis Clark said. "I'm excited for him and his family."

Now that Zelon, who was named to the All-CIF team this season, has made a deci-

SEE ROUNDUP PAGE 9



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

BOARD: **Santa Monica's James Montgomery (center) snatches a rebounded against Inglewood on Saturday. Samohi won the game, 67-58. The win improved Samohi's league record to 2-0.**

L.A. council aims to close pot dispensaries

GREG RISLING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday tentatively approved an ordinance to close most of the city's medical marijuana dispensaries, winding down months of debate on how to limit the rapid spread of such clinics.

The ordinance, if passed next week by a simple majority of the 15-member council, would cap the number of dispensaries at 70 and require them to be at least 1,000 feet from "sensitive uses" — schools, parks and other public gathering spots.

The local law would put an end to the proliferation of pot dispensaries. As many as 1,000 have cropped up over the past few years. That's more than the number of Starbucks and public schools in the city. Four dispensaries were open in 2005, when city officials first discussed a local medical marijuana law.

The ordinance would also likely force remaining clinics that comply to move to industrial areas because of the distance requirement.

"I think it's a beginning point," Councilman Ed Reyes said after Tuesday's meeting. "We have to get control of this issue and shape a policy to make medical marijuana more accessible to those who need it."

While other California cities such as San Francisco, Oakland and West Hollywood have been able to regulate medical marijuana, Los Angeles city officials have discussed an ordinance for years, trying to adopt language that jibes with state law.

The number of clinics has exploded — more than 600 over the past 10 months alone — despite a 2007 city moratorium prohibiting new medical marijuana dispensaries. The shop owners took advantage of a loophole known as a hardship exemption that allowed them to open while awaiting city approval.

However, more than 180 clinics qualified to remain open because they opened before the ban was enacted. About 137 of those dispensaries still exist and would be allowed to remain open if they meet other requirements in the new ordinance.

Medical marijuana advocates argue the council's inability to provide clear regulations has led to the growth of pot shops in Los Angeles. Residents also have grown frustrated with the bottleneck as they've seen dispensaries creep closer to their homes.

Kristin Yoder, who runs California

SEE POT PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Protect our public schools

Editor:

Now that Santa Monica and Malibu voters will be asked to approve an additional parcel tax to help fund local schools, our community needs to know the following:

• Local property and parcel taxes fund just one-third of our schools' expenses. Thirty years ago, Proposition 13 shifted two-thirds of the fiscal burden to the state. California's massive spending cuts include the withdrawal of $12 million from our school system, the second consecutive year we have faced substantial state cuts.

• Our schools have already cut back sharply. This past school year the district reduced spending by $4.5 million and administrators have already identified an additional $9 million in cuts that may be required.

• Borrowing is not an option because our schools must present a balanced budget each year.

• The law provides only one reasonable option for replacing these lost state funds – asking voters to approve, by a 66 percent majority, an additional tax on each parcel of land.

Most Santa Monicans take pride in our excellent public schools. Even our neighbors without school-age children or those who opt for private schools appreciate the enhanced real estate values and stable community values that come from great public schools. As much as our beaches and weather, our schools define who we are as a community. These intangibles have provided the foundation for many successful school financing campaigns in the past.

However, many of us fear this time could be different. The combination of a recession and a tax-weary electorate fosters the sense that, like everyone else, the school district should trim its budget. And so it has, repeatedly. There is simply not much left to cut without severely affecting the quality of our public schools.

My fellow Santa Monicans, public school parents or not, we don't have the luxury to be tax weary. This time the state of California has so mismanaged its budget that the bulk of public education funding for schools is simply not there. Our traditionally strong school district now faces a financial crisis that is a direct outgrowth of the state's budget crisis and the state's failure to make the investment in the education of our children.

If our school board seeks a parcel tax, it will be because there are no other options. As residents, we should support it, just as we have in the past, not because we are giving our school district a "pass" on the belt-tightening nearly all of us have faced, but because our public schools are already working at diminished funding levels – working remarkably well – and they are worth preserving!

Our music program is one of the state's best; our high school bands, orchestras and choirs perform in some of the nation's most celebrated venues. Our API (Academic Performance Index) for each of our schools continues to rise virtually every year, evidencing the continuing strength of our academics. Santa Monica and Malibu high schools continue to produce accomplished young adults who attend the finest universities and colleges. All of this contributes to attracting the best and the brightest educators and administrators.

Santa Monica has always been a special city, with committed people who care about our neighbors, our community, our country and our planet. Let us remind ourselves that our children and our neighbors' children matter; they are our future librarians, doctors, electricians, accountants and public servants. And we will want to be able to say we were there when it mattered.

Karen Gardner
Santa Monica

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sister Sue is running show at Saint John's

WHO IS IN CHARGE? THAT'S WHAT I thought last September as raw sewage flowed out of Saint John's Health Center, through our streets, into our storm drains, and onto Will Rogers State Beach, which was closed for four days because of a (supposedly unrelated) 10,000-gallon sewage spill.

Keep in mind that this hospital, one of 15 owned by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, contaminates the air around it for four hours at a time, twice a week, every week, when it pumps its sewage into trucks to be hauled away. The hospital's story is that a "design flaw" prevents sewage from being pumped into city pipes and it's too expensive to fix; even though the SCLHS had the $300 million it needed to take over two Denver hospitals last year. I was watching the SJHCIMPACTS video on YouTube, remembering the stench from my days living on 23rd Street, and wondering why nobody from City Hall was saying or doing anything about it.

A little investigative journalism revealed the answer, and it didn't bode well for the hospital's neighbors — including McKinley Elementary School — because the person in charge at Saint John's lives in Kansas and only cares about the people of Santa Monica inasmuch as we pad her bottom line.

So I set out to determine who in city government should be protecting us from Sister Sue Miller of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and her giant hospital corporation. I'm sorry to report that our first line of defense, the Planning and Community Development Department, has failed. What's worse is they don't even realize it.

The week after Thanksgiving, the editor of your Daily Press informed me that a meeting was being scheduled with Planning Director Eileen Fogarty to discuss the status of the city's development agreements. I knew from City Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Gleam Davis that Ms. Fogarty is the first person with oversight of Saint John's, and I was looking forward to asking some specific questions arising from the now infamous development agreement between the hospital and City Hall.

When she opened the meeting by saying that all 11 agreements are up to date and all parties are in compliance, I was excited to get answers to the questions the hospital's neighbors have been asking for years. But not only did Ms. Fogarty, Planning Division Manager Amanda Schachter, and Principal Planner Brad Misner (point-person on the Saint John's agreement) have literally no answers to my questions, Ms. Fogarty actually got upset with me for "interrogating" her. Out of fairness, I held this column for six weeks over the holidays to allow them to set the record straight. I'm sure they're all good people and I appreciate the hard work they did (especially in the last few weeks of December gathering hundreds of pages of documents), but that doesn't change the outcome — which is all bad for the people of Santa Monica.

On the big issues related to Saint John's Health Center — sewage and the construction of an underground parking garage — the agreement refers to two specific documents the planning department should have — neither of which it has been able to produce. They are an "urban runoff mitigation plan" and a "parking operations plan" for that garage.

The first is important because of the aforementioned "design flaw." It's possible the plan to deal with runoff required the hospital to take preventive measures like fixing the sewage system, but we'll never know until someone finds it. The second document is critical because it was supposed to have been submitted and approved before construction could begin on the new inpatient suites. The language of the agreement is unmistakable. "No construction of the inpatient suites may commence prior to approval of such parking plans by the planning director."

Since those suites are now completed, the hospital's submitted and approved plan for operating the North Subterranean Parking Garage should be in a file somewhere. But more than a month after it was requested, the document remains elusive.

There are two key legal points at issue: First, City Hall may change the agreement if it determines that failure to do so would be dangerous to the health or safety of residents — and rivers of filth are definitely health hazards. Second, the agreement is a city ordinance; so not complying in good faith is a violation of law. When there is no mention of an underground parking garage on the site map of the new Saint John's, no designs or specifications for that garage, and no evidence of a plan for operating that garage (which is to be completed by summer), it is hard to argue good faith compliance.

Sister Sue has a cute little quirk in her corporate structure that allows the 15 local hospitals to cry broke because they can't spend money (that authority is exclusively hers). With the help of high-priced lawyers like Chris Harding, who has been on this case from the beginning, she may think she can use her cash to crap on our community forever and ever. But despite the best efforts of local sellouts like Harding and Shane Miller and the failure of our Planning Department, we still have the power. No matter what anyone does or doesn't do, it will eventually fall to our City Council to either lie down for Sister Sue or shut her down until she does the right thing.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who still has nightmares about a Saint John's sewage truck overturning at the corner of 24th and Arizona. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

One down, three to go

THE ORGIASTIC "LOVE OBAMA/HATE Bush" columns from the liberal illiterati in the SMDP two weeks ago were so lubricious that you could practically smell the friction burns on the newsprint! This intellectually insolvent Axis of Idiots cottaged around their penurious narrative faster than George Michael finding a quarter outside of a West Hollywood pay toilet and exclaiming,"Wow! This is the change I've been waiting for!" As it would be easier than drowning goldfish to confound their risibly self-inflicted fallacies, I will address the Orifice of Change directly:

Dear Mr. Obama,

I am typing this slowly as I know you can't read very fast without a TelePrompTer but please accept my hearty congratulations on "Change: Year One" or more precisely, for the ninth successful year of the Bush administration. After all, imitation is considered the sincerest form of flattery and sometimes a "monkey see, monkey do" strategy helps in unfamiliar work environments.

However, to demur the responsibility of your office by slavishly reposing in Dubya's overwhelming shadow then one can only conclude that you are demonstrably too impotent to define your own presidency on the merits of its flaccid exploits. It's not that you're our redoubtable 44th president inasmuch as you're our rather droopy 43rd-and-a-half president.

I sleep a little better at night, however, knowing that you have continued the Constitution-shredding practices of the Patriot Act, FISA wiretaps and terror detainee renditions although you do have problems with free-range party crashers at your state dinners. If you can't protect your chicken nuggets from uninvited interlopers at the buffet table, how can you prevent the predation of Islamic panty-bombers on the homeland? I understand that Dubya gave you his personally autographed 9/11 copy of "My Pet Goat" just after Christmas as a momento.

Don't worry, you didn't miss your "3 a.m. moment." It's just the Secret Service waking you up so you'd make your man-date out on the golf course. And a big "thumbs up" on your procrastinating surge in Afghanistan. Presently, the greatest success during your "war of necessity" is racking up the highest single yearly body count than in the previous seven.

Mission accomplished!

Ron Reagan had a very utilitarian Cold War policy in dealing with your mentors from the former USSR that you could use in the global war on terror. Reagan said: "We win, they lose." Add Malcom X's, "by any means necessary" and you'd have a pretty good bipartisan formula for victory. So simple even a community organizer could do it!

Your Obamalicious $787 billion dollar tax-and-spend crap sandwich has demonstrated your naive grip on the economic iniquities of "how much bread you have is directly proportional to how little crap you may have to eat." It appears that you've given Wall Street the keys to the bakery and Main Street a manure shovel.

During "Change: Year One" we had 4.1 million jobs lost according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while there were 2.8 million home foreclosures. Nationwide small business bankruptcies are up 44 percent while California's is a crushing 81 percent. Forget the taste of this fecal fajita, Mr. President, since it can't even pass the smell test. Is it an inconvenient truth that the most successful program of your stimulus to date was "Cash for Clunkers" which went broke after two weeks?

You excoriated Bush for failure in Iraq and then further drooled on about foreign policy matters not commensurate within the pay grade of your minimum wage expertise. Let me get this straight, you and your chuckleheads for change prefer the Hussein family franchise of torture spas highlighting its candlelit rape rooms and sensuous sulfuric acid jacuzzis over Dubya's liberation of 31 million Iraqis? Wow. It doesn't take the world's smartest pundit to know from which side of the waterboard you fell off.

Meanwhile you have racked up the frequent flyer miles to pick up a Snuggies-style Nobel prize; lose the Chicago Olympics bid; get frozen out of a global warming summit; and trash American exceptionalism overseas while checking the shoe polish on King Abdullah and Emperor Akihito's loafers. Were you rubbernecking at your own reflection or undertaking to bootlick the scuff marks from their brogues with your pocket hankie? If so, it would've reasonably been the only honest blue-collar day job that you've ever held.

Reagan also gave great career advice: "Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book." Since you've already written two obsequiously indulgent autobiographies, I am anxiously waiting for your third self-absorbed tome, "The Mendacity of Hoax" right after President-elect Palin is sworn into office in 2013.

"Drill, baby, drill!"

STEVE BREEN is looking forward to three more years of George W. Obama and is still the "best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Money for schools

The SMMUSD's Board of Education recently agreed to place an emergency parcel tax on the ballot. This issue is sure to divide the local electorate. Some are no doubt willing to pay more for education while others feel that taxpayers are overburdened as it is.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What's your opinion of the proposed tax?

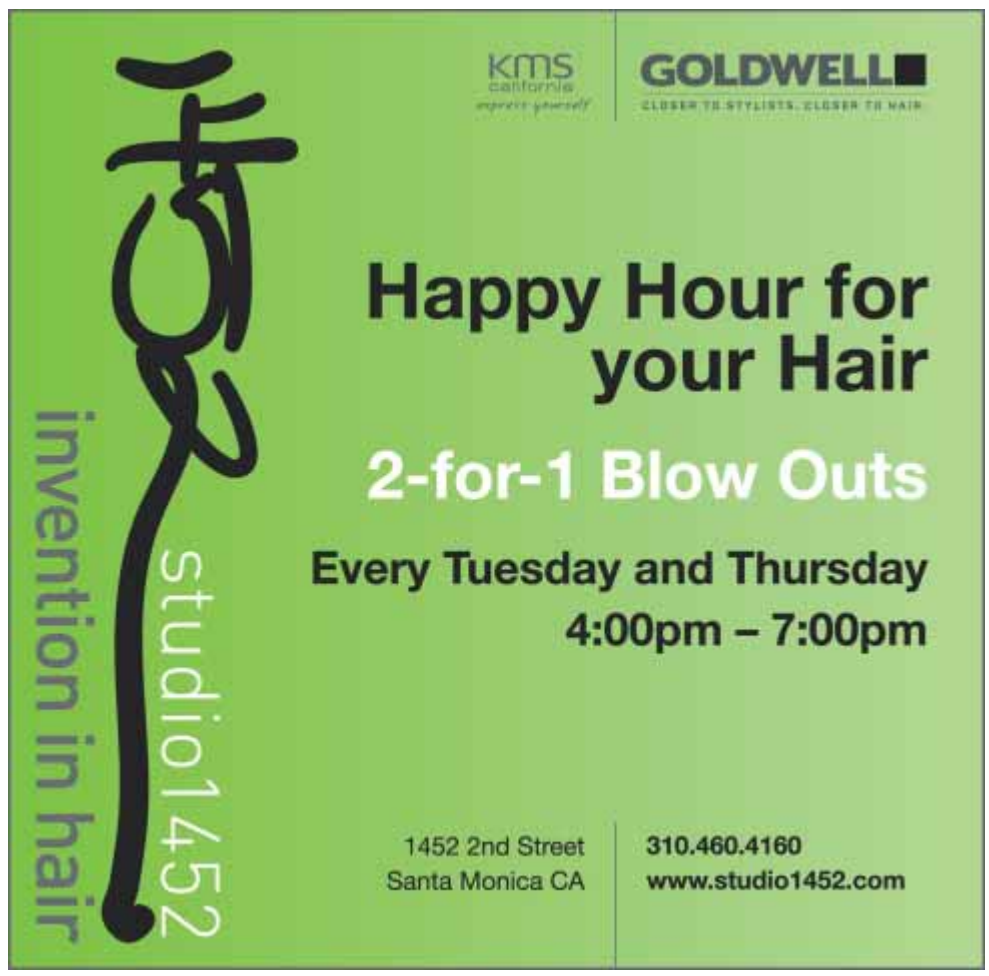
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Saint Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 21	JV/Var	St. Bernard	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
Jan 26	JV/Var	CSHM	CSHM	3:30/5pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 20	F/J/V	St. Paul	St. Paul	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 22	F/J/V	La Salle	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Jan 20	JV/Var	St. Paul	St. Paul	3:30/3:30pm
Jan 22	JV/Var	St. Bernard	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 21	JV/Var	La Salle	SMCHS	5:30/7pm
Jan 22	JV/Var	Buckley	Oakwood	4:30/6pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 20	JV	Beverly Hills		3:00pm
Jan 20	Var	Beverly Hills		6:00pm
Jan 22	JV	Culver City	Culver City	3:00pm
Jan 22	Var	Culver City	Culver City	6:00pm
Jan 23	Var	Troy	Troy	7:00pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Jan 20	Var	Beverly Hills	JAMS	3:30pm
Jan 22	Var	Culver City	Culver City	6:00pm
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 20	JV	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	4:30pm
Jan 20	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	6:00pm
Jan 22	Var	Culver City	JAMS	3:30pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 20	Var	Beverly Hills		7:30pm
Jan 22	Var	Culver City	Culver City	7:30pm
BOYS WRESTLING				
Jan 21	Var	North High School	North High School	3:00pm
Jan 21	JV	North High School	North High School	4:30pm
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Jan 21	Var	Beverly Hills	(Ocean League Game)	3:00pm
Jan 21	JV	Beverly Hills	(Ocean League Game)	4:00pm
COED WRESTLING				
Jan 23	Var		Laguna Hills Tornament	9:30am

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TAXES

Credits for college costs grow

CAROLE FELDMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON College students or their parents have a new opportunity to get a tax credit for college expenses.

Barbara Weltman, author of two J.K. Lasser tax guides, calls the American opportunity tax credit a "new and improved" version of the Hope credit.

The maximum annual credit — $2,500 — is bigger than what was available under the Hope credit and the income eligibility has been eased somewhat. Also, it's available to students for the first four years of post-secondary education; the Hope credit could be used only for the first two years. Students also must be enrolled at least half-time.

On top of that, 40 percent of the credit is refundable. "You get the credit back even if it's more than you owe," Weltman said.

Congress created the new, temporary credit as part of legislation designed to help the economy crawl out of a deep recession. It is available for both the 2009 and the 2010 tax years.

"This is the better credit to go for if you qualify," said Jeff Schnepper, MSN Money tax expert.

To claim the maximum credit, a student would have to spend $4,000 on qualifying expenses, including tuition and fees. Eligible expenses also include the cost of course materials, including books, something not allowed under the Hope credit.

The credit begins phasing out for individuals whose modified adjusted gross income is more than $80,000, or $160,000 for married couples filing jointly.

If you're not eligible for the American opportunity credit, there may be other options that have the effect of reducing the cost of going to college:

—Lifetime learning credit: Undergraduates in their fifth or sixth year of study, students attending school part-time and graduate students may be eligible for a lifetime learning credit of up to $2,000.

Similar to the American opportunity and Hope credits, the lifetime learning credit phases out for people with higher incomes. Taxpayers may not claim both the American opportunity and the lifetime learning credits for the same student in the same year.

—Tuition deduction: Also available to taxpayers is a deduction of up to $4,000 for eligible tuition and fees for higher education. The deduction is available both to people who itemize and those who claim the standard deduction, but there are income eligibility limits. You cannot claim the tuition and fees deduction for a student if you or anyone else claims an education tax credit for that student in the same year.

Unlike a credit, which reduces actual taxes owed, a deduction reduces the income on which your taxes are computed.

—Deduction for interest paid on student loans: A maximum $2,500 deduction can be taken for interest paid on student loans. To qualify, an individual's modified adjusted gross income must be less than $75,000. The income limit on a joint return is $150,000.

—Business deduction for work-related education: To qualify, the course or class must be required by your employer for your present job or related to it. You cannot deduct education expenses incurred to train for a new position. The cost of education related to your job would be included in the miscellaneous column of your itemized deductions. To take the deduction, the total of all miscellaneous deductions must exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. Self-employed people may subtract the expense from their income.

Alternatively, workers and self-employed people who take courses to acquire or improve job skills may instead qualify for the lifetime learning credit.

REAL ESTATE

SoCal home prices post gains in December

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The median home price in Southern California posted its first year-on-year gain last month since the summer of 2007, as more high-priced homes in relatively expensive neighborhoods continued to enter a market that had been dominated by lower-end sales, a tracking firm said Tuesday.

San Diego-based MDA DataQuick said the median home price in the six-county region of Southern California was $289,000 in December, up 4 percent from $278,000 in December 2008. The price also represented a roughly 1 percent bump up from November's $285,000 median.

The sales of higher value homes, combined with a leveling off of prices in more affordable inland communities, had pulled the median out of the monthslong nosedive seen following the market's collapse, said DataQuick president John Walsh.

"That simple shift of what's selling and what's not selling puts upward pressure on the median," he said. "But we've also seen price floors, however temporary, form in many areas recently as the foreclosure inventory dwindled and buyers took advantage of lower prices, lower mortgage rates and tax credits."

DataQuick also said home sales increased more than 12 percent from a year ago to more than 22,300, making for 18 consecutive months of year-on-year gains.

The largest gains were seen in high-end markets that saw few sales last year, such as Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and Newport Beach, while more affordable inland areas that had robust 2008 sales recorded year-over-year declines last month, DataQuick said.

The positive sales data came as a relief to observers who feared that this month's National Association of Realtors figures showing a dip in December's pending home purchases would portend weak activity in the Southern California market as well.

"I think the main reason Southern California is holding up pretty well is that the price declines that we have seen so far are proving enough of a stimulus to generate relatively good sales," said G.U. Krueger, an economist at research and consulting firm HousingEcon.com. "That's a positive sign that the market mechanism is working."

Foreclosures comprised nearly 40 percent of resales last month, down from almost 54 percent in December 2008, but up nearly a percent from November's figure.

The increase marked the first month-to-month increase in foreclosed homes' share of the resale market since February.

Krueger said he expected the number of foreclosures to continue to rise, pointing to an increasing number of homeowners who have received notices of default or other foreclosure-related notices.

SoCal storm responsible for one death, flooding

RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES The second in a series of powerful storms wreaked havoc Tuesday on Southern Califonia, crushing a woman to death with a fallen tree, smashing windows and flooding coastal neighborhoods.

San Diego Sheriff's Lt. Mike Munsey said the woman was killed when a eucalyptus tree with a 10-foot diameter trunk crushed her trailer and a neighbor's in a mobile home park near El Cajon. Emergency crews needed a crane to move the tree and extricate her body from the wreckage of her home.

Los Angeles County fire officials said they would issue mandatory evacuation orders for about 587 homes in flood-prone foothill areas beginning early Wednesday in anticipation of the next storm.

Forecasters said thunderstorms and what looked like tornados surged ashore with fierce winds in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles County beach towns and areas of Orange and San Diego counties.

In San Pedro, a working class neighborhood near the Port of Los Angeles, several blocks were flooded with about six feet of water when storm drains clogged with debris.

Jerry Bazan spent the afternoon sweeping several inches of water out of his living room, where toys, sodden clothing and furniture were strewn about and a thick layer of mud coated the floor.

Bazan said the water rose to about two feet in his apartment within a matter of minutes and some of it was contaminated with sewage. Outside, the water lifted a Dodge Ram truck and carried it down the street, he said.

"It was a heavy downpour, and the drainage system was clogged," he said. "There was nowhere for the water to go, and it just rose up."

Police said 16 people were displaced from flooded homes in the San Pedro area.

Kimmara Acosta, 51, a saleswoman at Castle Tile in Costa Mesa, was sitting at her desk when she saw palm trees outside blowing horizontally.

"The wind kind of whipped through the parking lot, and the window blew in," she said, still breathless a half-hour later. "It was like an explosion. My mind said 'earthquake!' and I ducked under the desk."

The wind threw shards of glass across the room, but tile displays and the desk protected Acosta. No one was hurt.

High winds flipped a parked SUV onto its side and blew out windows in Seal Beach, but forecasters need to examine the damage and interview witnesses before they can confirm that a tornado swept through.

Santa Barbara fire officials said what looked like a small tornado cut a path of damage across a residential neighborhood of Goleta, uprooting trees, tearing shingles off a roof and breaking a hole in a fence.

Unlike twisters in the Midwest that can run for miles on the ground, Southern California tornadoes tend to start as waterspouts and dissipate quickly when they come ashore, said Philip Gonsalves, a National Weather Service meteorologist in San Diego.

The fast-moving band of thunderstorms moved on in minutes, leaving spotty sunshine as it headed into Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It left some streets underwater in low-lying beach communities and turned other roadways into muddy swamps. Televised reports showed parked cars with water up to the hoods and kayakers paddling through the streets of Long Beach.

Southbound Interstate 710 flooded south of Interstate 405, trapping about a dozen vehicles in water and closing the freeway for hours, Long Beach fire spokesman Joshua Johnson said.

In inland San Bernardino County, two boys, ages 10 and 12, were rescued from the racing waters in a swollen flood-control channel in Montclair.

Firefighters used a ladder to help them up, said Inspector Steve Zermeno of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

"The water's moving pretty fast," he said. "They're lucky someone spotted them when they did."

Flash flood watches remained for areas of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties where wildfires in 2008 and last year stripped hillsides down to bare, black earth.

Collective patients critical of law

FROM POT PAGE 3

Alternative Caregivers in Venice, said the dispensary boom has hurt her clinic business. Her rent has gone from $2,500 per month to $7,600, and her patients have gone elsewhere.

"Other dispensaries advertise, solicit people on the streets," Yoder said. "It looks bad on us and it's because there haven't been any regulations.

Some collective patients were critical of the ordinance, arguing they wouldn't be able to get medical marijuana because the dispensaries would have to relocate.

"The (state's) Compassionate Use Act says I should get my medicine in my neighborhood," said Jamie Green who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. "What am I going to do now?"

Even if the ordinance is signed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, dispensary owners are unsure they will be able to operate without being arrested. They have said they sell marijuana to their customers as a way to cover their expenses.

The ordinance states that "no collective shall operate for profit." However, "cash and in-kind contributions" as well as "reasonable compensation" would be accepted.

Some law enforcement officials believe any cash trading hands is illegal under state law.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office will target pot clinics that profit and sell to people who don't qualify for medical marijuana. Cooley said he believes state law authorizes the possession, use and cultivation of marijuana for medicinal purposes but not the sale of the drug.

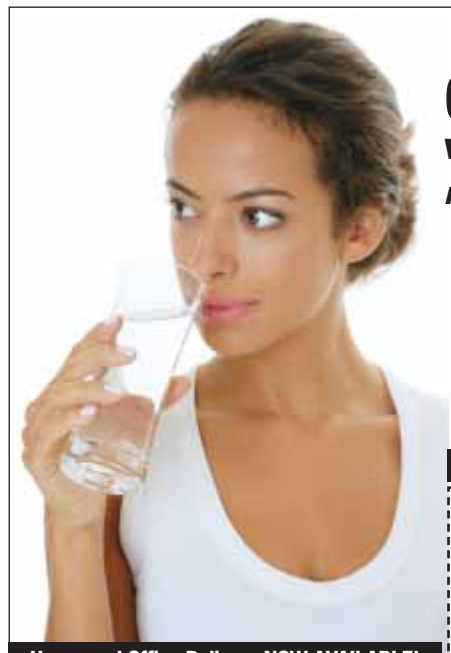
City Attorney Carmen Trutanich had also sought to ban sales at dispensaries, but the council ignored his advice.

Under the ordinance, dispensaries would have to close until they comply with the new local law. City officials would seek an injunction against those who don't. The ordinance wouldn't take effect until city officials determine the registration fees collectives would have to pay.

Fourteen states, including California, permit medical marijuana. Pot, however, remains illegal under federal law.

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File photo

HOME: **City Hall and the Santa Monica Conservancy on Tuesday agreed to a 20-year, renewable lease for this historic, turn-of-the-century 'shotgun' house that was saved from demolition.**

Funds needed for renovation

FROM **HOUSE** PAGE 1

historic preservation."

Most shotgun houses are one story high, one room wide and two or three rooms deep, one behind the other, and connected by doorways that line up.

"We commend City Council and city staff, especially Barbara Stinchfield and Karen Ginsburg, who have diligently worked with us to make our dream a reality," said Sherrill Kushner, chair of the conservancy's Shotgun House Committee. "And we couldn't have done it without the untold hours put in by Ken Kutcher of the law firm Harding Larmore Kutcher and Kozal to negotiate the lease."

The conservancy will be responsible for raising funds to rehabilitate and maintain the shotgun house. Renovation was estimated to cost $450,000, according to previous reports.

Members of the community interested in assisting with the shotgun house rehabilitation should contact the conservancy at (310) 496-3146.

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Rendering courtesy Big Blue Bus

THE FUTURE? **The proposed bus stop design incorporates blue discs to shade bus riders.**

New design concept for stops comes before council

FROM **BBB** PAGE 1

deficit creates a "catch 22" situation for the council.

"The Big Blue Bus is still a bargain," she said.

The public meetings also could include an overview of plans to modernize all 360 of the bus stops located inside Santa Monica's city limits. The bus system has been trying to get City Council's approval for a design for the new bus shelters since 2006, Dawson said, but so far has been unsuccessful. The latest design, by Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects, was scheduled to come before the council for preliminary approval last night.

The new concept for the shelters incorporates "floating" blue circles that provide shade without significantly reducing storefront visibility.

"It's rethinking the convention of what bus shelters generally are like," Lorcan O'Herlihy said.

Under the bus stop redevelopment program, the stops that get the most use would include digital signs with real-time arrival information, seating and lighting. Every stop in Santa Monica would get a kiosk with information about routes and nearby amenities.

The new bus stops will cost about $7 million, Dawson said, at least 65 percent of which will be covered by federal grants. The goal is to receive final City Council approval by April and begin construction by the end of the year, he said. The council is also being asked to give approval to an additional $325,000 for the design work, bringing the total to $985,000.

nickt@smdp.com

If You Go

- Jan. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Los Angeles City Library branch at 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles
- Jan. 21, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Blvd., Santa Monica
- Jan. 25 from 6 p.m.. to 8 p.m. at the Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica
- Jan. 30 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica
- Feb. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica

Samohi's Zelon picks Harvard

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 3

sion, Clark is busy trying to find destinations for a number of his senior players.

He said that quarterback Garrett Safron has had an up-and-down time during recruiting. He said that recruiters show interest, but they would like to see more film on him. The problem is that Safron only played in a pass-happy offense for one season, reason for recruiters to give pause.

Clark said that Alabama A&M and Azusa Pacific are currently looking at Safron.

Keelan Malone, a linebacker/defensive end, is currently talking to Montana and the University of San Diego. Jared Onouye is also getting looks from Ivy League schools, but has yet to make a decision.

VIKING GIRLS PREPARE FOR BEVERLY HILLS

Coming off an up-and-down weekend that saw Samohi beat chief Ocean League rival Inglewood on Friday and lose on a buzzer beater to Bell-Jeff on Saturday, Samohi's girls basketball team will finally get an opportunity to focus on league rivals for the next week starting with Beverly Hills tonight at home.

Samohi Head Coach Marty Verdugo said that a depleted Beverly Hills team is beatable, but he'll need a unified effort from his squad to chalk up the win.

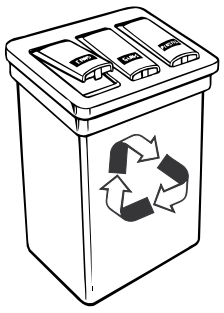
"[The buzzer beater against Bell-Jeff] was disappointing," Verdugo said. "We had every chance in the world to win it. We just didn't finish it like we know we should."

Despite the close loss on Saturday, Verdugo is optimistic.

"We're going to bounce back," Verdugo said. "It's not like it's the last game of the season."

daniela@smdp.com



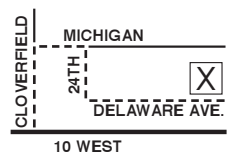


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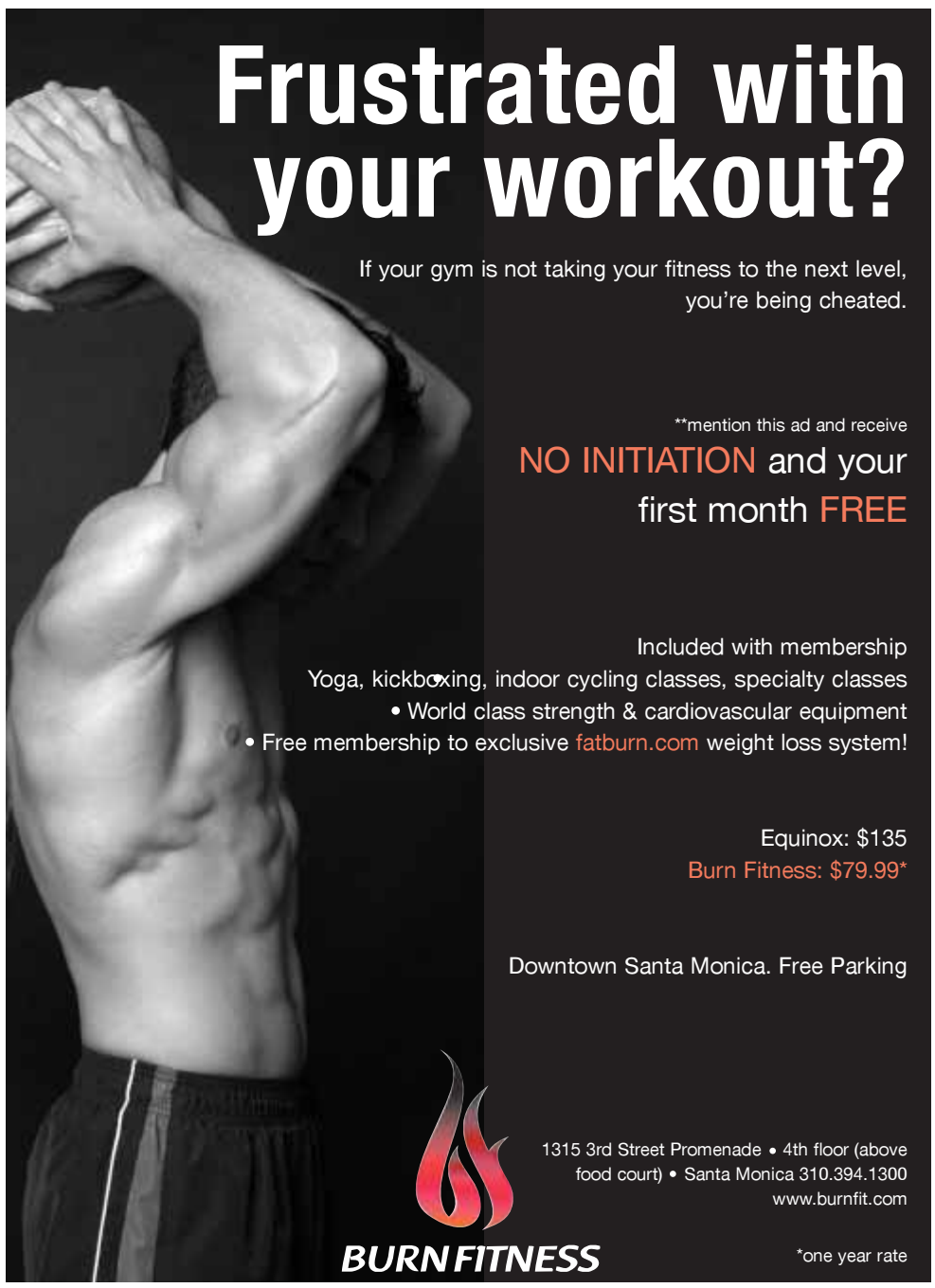
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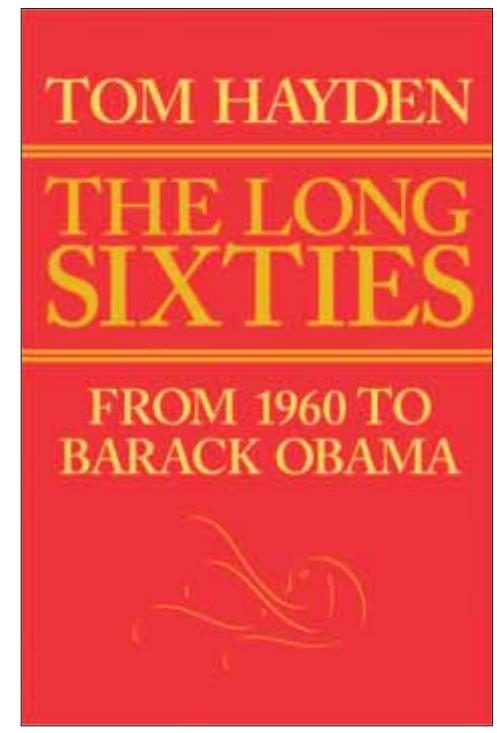
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BOOK REVIEW
BY JACK NEWORTH



'The Long Sixties: From 1960 to Barack Obama'

By Tom Hayden • Paradigm Publishers



For those unaware, or for whom memories have faded, the 1960s were perhaps our most turbulent era since the Revolutionary War. The political and social changes that resulted came at a great cost. JFK, RFK, MLK, Malcolm X were assassinated; Vietnam tore the country apart; unarmed college students at Kent State were gunned down. There were church bombings, fire hose attacks, lynchings and brutal murders of blacks and whites.

The '60s extended far beyond civil rights. The feminist, Chicano and Native American movements galvanized their constituencies. The anti-war advocates had universities all across the country under siege. Many innocent people didn't survive. Reading Tom Hayden's latest work, "The Long Sixties: From 1960 to Barack Obama," it's a wonder how the nation did.

Bill Clinton observed that those who thought that the '60s created more good than harm were likely to become Democrats. And those who felt the opposite were likely to be Republicans. Either way, the period is so relevant to understanding today's struggles.

It is difficult to imagine anyone more qualified than Hayden to document the era. Remarkably, he was present at so many crucial moments, I've joked that he's reminiscent of the character Zelig in Woody Allen's 1983 movie of the same name.

Hayden authored the Port Huron Statement, long considered the founding document of the '60s movement. He was also one of the defendants in the infamous Chicago 8 trial. (Chicago 7 when Bobby Seale's case was separated.) In 1972, all of the convictions were reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Among Hayden's many insights is that Barack Obama's election would not have been possible without the '60s. Obama was conceived because of changing mores on interracial marriage; was electable because of the civil rights movement and voting rights laws; and was successful because of a new social movement that applied participatory democracy online and door to door.

Hayden's meticulously researched history includes the many, often forgotten achievements and is valuable for activists, journalists and historians. Reading the 50-page timeline is an eye-opening experience.

On an almost daily basis, there were huge, dramatic events of major social and political significance. (Protesting the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia, many citizens immolated themselves.) Today "major events" are more likely to be about Paris Hilton's lack of underwear or the "balloon boy," reported on TMZ or in the National Enquirer.

There are also touching moments in Hayden's book as when he describes visiting Vietnam after a 40-year absence. Remarkably, many of the innocent Vietnamese he met were still alive, greeted him warmly and vice-versa.

Whether one agrees with Hayden's politics or not, any reader of this book will better understand the era that left a critical imprint on America. A century after the Civil War, the '60s saw the passage of civil rights laws, the birth of the environmental movement and forced open the political process to women and minorities.

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Haitians can start applying Thursday to stay in U.S.

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI Haitians are so eager for information about a federal designation that will let illegal immigrants work temporarily in the U.S., they bombarded a Catholic church here even though the program doesn't start until Thursday.

More than 1,000 Haitians lined up this week outside the Notre Dame d'Haiti Catholic Church in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood to ask questions about how to apply for temporary protected status. Some were told to come back the following day. Others have showed up at immigration law offices and community centers elsewhere in Florida as well as New York and New Jersey.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas said only those in the U.S. before the earthquake hit would will be eligible, and he warned that early applications would be delayed.

"I want a driver's license," said Fritznel Monneus, 34, who left a hurricane-ravaged Haiti in November 2008. "I want TPS. I want an ID. I want to be working right now."

Randy McGrorty, head of Catholic Charities Legal Services, fielded questions at the Miami church, mostly in Creole. He told some that family members wouldn't be able come from Haiti and seek the status, and that applicants likely wouldn't qualify for college financial aid. Generally, government benefits aren't available for those with the temporary status.

Some also asked whether they could get help paying the filing fees up to $470, including employment authorization. McGrorty said a fee waiver was available, though he discouraged it because it could delay an application.

Although the government has cautioned the protection is temporary — 18 months — some of those applying hoped it would lead to a longer reprieve. Immigrants from Central American countries have had the designation for more than a decade after a hurricane.

Applicants must prove their Haitian citizenship as well as their residence in the U.S. before the earthquake struck Jan. 12. Advocates urged people to collect rent receipts, utility bills, employment records and medical records to show they lived here.

Rex Chen, managing attorney at Catholic Charities in Newark, N.J., said he warned Haitians against potential scam artists that may falsely advertise TPS papers for a fee.

"A number of Haitian Americans are devastated by the disaster and they may not feel it's time to think about themselves," Chen said. "Unfortunately, they need to start thinking about themselves in the next six months, even if all they want to think about is helping those in Haiti."

Haitian President Rene Preval asked twice in 2008 for the U.S. to grant the temporary status, including after four consecutive hurricanes and tropical storms devastated a country already reeling from previous storm damage, food riots and spiking fuel prices. Those requests were denied.

U.S. officials have said they expect about 100,000 to 200,000 applications. However, Haitian community advocates in Miami believe the number of applicants will be closer to 30,000.

Allan Pierre, 29, of Miami, came to ask questions for friends who are here illegally and were afraid of being deported if they showed up.

"A lot of them were scared to come because they don't know what's going on, but I have a green card, so they can't do nothing to me," Pierre said.

Like many Haitians in the U.S., Pierre and his friends lost relatives in the earthquake. "They don't have a home no more in Haiti," Pierre said. "If they're able to be here, even temporarily, but legally, that's a big help."

About 350,000 people from five Central American and African countries are considered eligible for TPS, though not all may have it.

The agency's Web site, www.uscis.gov, has information in English, French and Creole. Also, the agency's call center, reachable at 1-800-375-5283, is open later than usual. Staffers who speak Creole are available to help.


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WHERE:
Trees may be brought to any of the following Santa Monica parks:
Clover Park
25th & Ocean Park Blvd.
Douglas Park
Chelsea & Wilshire
Christine Emerson Reed Park
Lincoln & California
Los Amigos Park
5th & Hollister
WHEN:
City of Santa Monica
Transfer Station
2401 Delaware Avenue (next to Recycling Center). During the month of January, Christmans trees may be brought, free of charge, to the city's Transfer Station.
Hours: Monday-Saturday
6:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

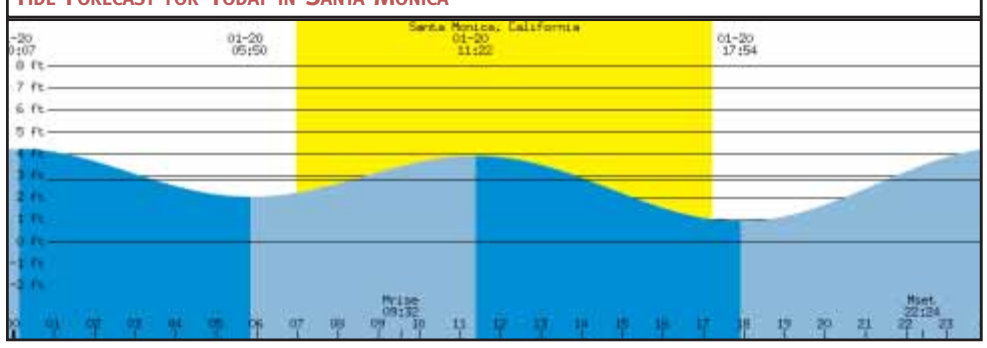
Swell Forecast

Should be the full impact day for this particular swell. Energy should come in from 270° with 16- to 18-second periods.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see the next swath of westerly swell. This could produce 15-foot face heights along west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 12, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / 21

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation. simplehuman. SIMA

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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	B	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
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+	B

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	C	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	B

LEGEND

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

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

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

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.

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Dodgers open wallet, re-sign four players

LOS ANGELES First baseman James Loney, catcher Russell Martin and relievers George Sherrill and Hong-Chih Kuo have agreed to one-year contracts with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

All four players were eligible for salary arbitration. Martin's contract is for $5.05 million, Loney will make $3.1 million, Sherrill gets $4.5 million and Kuo will earn $950,000.

Loney made $465,000 last year and batted .281 with 13 homers and 90 RBIs.

Sherrill made $2.75 million last season. The former All-Star was traded from Baltimore to the Dodgers on July 30. He can make an additional $75,000 for pitching in 60 games in 2010 and another $75,000 for 70 appearances.

Kuo went 0-2 with a 3.00 ERA last season, making $437,000. His deal includes an additional $25,000 for appearing in 55 and 60 games, with $50,000 payments if Kuo pitches in 65 and 70 games.

Martin, a two-time All-Star, dipped to .250 with seven homers and 53 RBIs last season. His deal provides an extra $50,000 each for reaching 550 and 600 plate appearances.

Outfielder Andre Ethier and closer Jonathan Broxton are the only Dodgers left in arbitration. The Dodgers also signed catcher J.D. Closser to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

MLB

Lincecum seeks record $13 million in arbitration

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum asked for a record $13 million in salary arbitration on Tuesday, while the San Francisco Giants offered their ace $8 million.

Lincecum is seeking the richest contract ever awarded in arbitration, surpassing the $10 million that Alfonso Soriano (2006) and Francisco Rodriguez (2008) got after losing cases and Ryan Howard got after winning his in 2008.

If Lincecum and the Giants don't settle, an arbitration panel will hold a hearing next month and pick one of the salaries.

Lincecum's case is an interesting test because few players have entered salary arbitration with credentials similar to his. Called up early in the 2007 season, the right-hander has a 40-17 record with a 2.90 ERA.

He won the Cy Young in his first two full seasons, becoming the first repeat winner since Randy Johnson from 1999-2002. Lincecum was a bargain for the Giants last year, when he made $650,000.

He had no negotiating leverage then, but is guaranteed to increase his salary by more than twelvefold even if he loses his case because he is eligible for arbitration as a so-called "Super 2" — a player in the top 17 percent of service time between two and three seasons.

Lincecum's case could be most similar to Howard, who won a $10 million award in his first time in arbitration in 2008. Howard won the NL MVP in 2006 when he led the league with 58 home runs and followed that with 47 homers in 2007. The Phillies offered $7 million, while Howard won with his $10 million request.

Lincecum, nicknamed "The Freak" for his giant stride and slender body, has been the NL's most dominant pitcher almost from his arrival. He has a 33-12 record with a 2.55 ERA the past two seasons, leading the league in strikeouts both years. He has 526 strikeouts during that span, averaging 10.5 per nine innings.

Lincecum also leads the majors in ERA, batting average against (.214), winning percentage (.733) and strikeouts over the past two seasons.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lincecum agreed to pay $513 to resolve marijuana charges against him in Washington state.

He originally faced two misdemeanor charges of marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession stemming from a traffic stop on Oct. 30. The charges were reduced to a civil infraction.

Lincecum appeared in Clark County District Court before Judge Darvin Zimmerman on Tuesday morning. Giants managing partner Bill Neukom was in court in a sign of support for Lincecum.

He paid a speeding ticket separately.



MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Cutter's Way (NR)
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
4:00, 6:45, 9:30

Daybreakers (R) 1hr 38min
2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:15

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
Noon, 2:15, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20, 10:05

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Crazy Heart (R) 1hr 51min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Single Man (R) 1hr 39min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:00, 6:50

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00,

Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
11:00am, 12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20,

Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hr 12min
3:50, 9:40

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Count on friends, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You enter one of your stronger periods this month. Just stop for a moment and take a breather. Execute key projects or situations. If you knew you were carrying a lucky rabbit's foot, what would you do? Now you have the answer. Tonight: Count on your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ The buildup around a problem could have more to do with the situation than the real issue. Clear the haze. Work on only known facts. Trust your instincts, not others', for the moment. Tonight: Take some much needed personal time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ A verbal and social sign, you might like to do things differently. In any case, open up to the possibilities and look to a new attitude, if not path. The more you are willing to think outside the box, the more successful you will be. Tonight: Get outside yourself. Watch a movie or listen to music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Clearly, another person demands more and more input, when you are deciding what really is enough. Understanding helps you realize that maybe you don't have the only path. Certainly, a partner lets you know he or she has a better one! Tonight: Could be late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might be seeing situations differently thanks to the input of others. Through detaching, you will gain more understanding. Think positively about others, and suddenly situations ease up. Tonight: Let your spirit soar.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Listen to news and evaluate its impact. Focus on a key relationship and getting a project done. You flourish at an easy pace, but don't lose sight of the ball. You could be tired of having to always nix someone's extravagance. Tonight: Seriously consider an offer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to let go of a need to protect yourself. Sometimes, when you're as guarded as you are, you miss out on an opportunity. Know when you have had enough of boring thinking. Break out of the box. Others do appreciate another perspective. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize what you can do as opposed to what feels impossible. Keep possibilities in mind when dealing with an associate. You might be surprised by what someone shares. Recognize this person for his or her openness. Tonight: Make it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to re-evaluate a situation or add that extra touch that identifies you. In any case, be sensitive to your budget no matter how great an idea seems. Make sure you can take a loss, even if you don't see it happening. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Understand the importance of sticking to the basics. Though you might want to add some frivolous items if you're making a purchase, it won't work ultimately. Fatigue could encourage an early day. Tonight: Get home as soon as possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have the right words to open up a conversations and resolve a hassle if need be. Evaluate someone's body language as well as his or her words. You might be taken aback by what you see. Tonight: Relax with family or friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your instincts will guide you concerning money. You often rely on good, solid judgment. Right now, follow that inner sense of knowing. A friend could become very pushy trying to have a situation as he or she would like. Learn the word "no." Tonight: Make sure ends meet.

Happy birthday

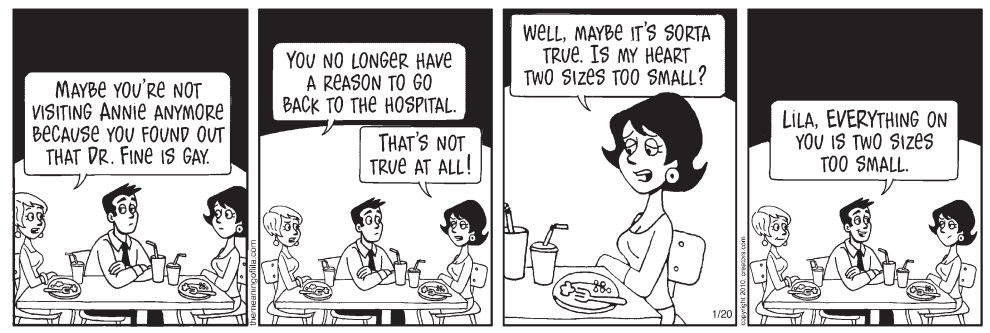
This year, learn to trust your decisions. Sometimes you overthink situations -- if you said the right thing, if someone understands your true meaning, etc. Doing this type of thinking just undermines you. Know that you will do your best in all situations. Relax and enjoy those in your daily life, from the neighbor to the person you nod to every day. By increasing your daily pleasure, you become happier. If you are single, you meet people with ease. In fact, this year you might prefer just dating to committing. Make that OK. If you are attached, the two of you need to schedule more romantic times together, dinners alone, etc. ARIES is fun to share with.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



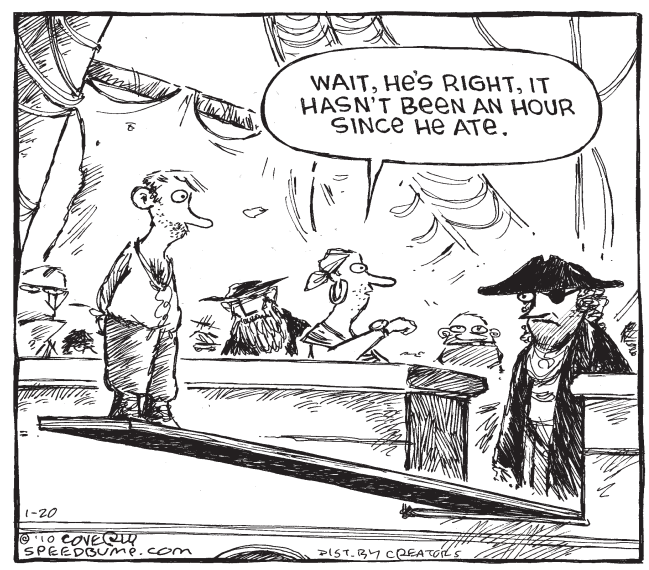
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Santa Monica, CA

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 ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 King or queen
5 Theatrical
11 Farm team
12 California desert
13 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
14 Clears
15 For each
16 Twosome
17 Squirrel's find
19 Shred
22 Blasé
24 Sung drama
26 Parched
27 Wildly eager
28 Ore sources
30 Smoothing tool
31 Do a checkout job
32 Be a rooter
34 Delay
35 River stopper
38 Peril
41 "In — veritas"
42 Right away
43 Wild about
44 Crystal-filled stone
45 Mature
18 Hand over
19 About
20 Steel ingredient
21 Book unit
22 Door part
23 Opera piece
25 Lacking color
29 Infrequent
30 Parrot or puppy
33 Stashes
34 Prop for Harry Potter
36 Poker payment
37 State of mind
38 Witch
39 Finished off
40 Chaotic spot
41 Through

DOWN

1 Hen holder
2 Car bar
3 Adjusting a road's slope
4 Some crime evidence
5 Campaign tactic
6 2006 Winter Games setting
7 Cracked
8 Empty talk
9 Serpent's victim
10 Word of accord
16 Cacao holder

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1-20

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
4 7 19 21 38
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $86M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
26 29 33 42 44
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
7 13 16 27 36

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 3 3 5
EVENING: 8 2 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.41.18

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A man identified in China's Chongqing Evening News in November as Mr. Zhang, 32, admitted he is competitive with his wife and "never wants to lose an argument," but inevitably his contentiousness leaves him with "bruises and scars all over" because Mrs. Zhang is a kung fu master. After negotiations led by Mrs. Zhang's parents, she agreed by contract to limit any beatings to no more than once a week, with a parent-administered penalty for exceeding that.

■ American Jonathan Littell was awarded the 2009 "Bad Sex in Fiction" award by Britain's prestigious Literary Review, having written passages like these in his novel "The Kindly Ones": "I [climaxed] suddenly, a jolt that emptied my head like a spoon scraping the inside of a soft-boiled egg." Later: A woman's genitalia resembles "a Gorgon's head ... a motionless Cyclops whose single eye never blinks. If only I could still get hard, I thought, I could use my [organ] like a stake hardened in the fire, and blind this Polyphemus who made me Nobody. But my [organ] remained inert, I seemed turned to stone."

■ The Kirklees (West Yorkshire, England) Environmental Health department cited farmer Ronald Norcliffe, 65, in 2008 for inadequate lighting in his barn, which inspectors said failed to meet the "psychological needs" of his one cow and her calf. In his formal appeal, heard in October 2009, Norcliffe noted (unsuccessfully) that he has had a clean record as a farmer for 30 years and that in fact, he still lives fine without electricity in his own house. After his defeat, Norcliffe's lawyer sighed. "I still have no idea how much lighting is appropriate for a cow."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1320 Duke Wladyslaw Lokietek becomes king of Poland.

1356 Edward Balliol abdicates as King of Scotland.

1502 The present-day location of Rio de Janeiro is first explored.

1523 Christian II is forced to abdicate as King of Denmark and Norway.

WORD UP!

perambulate **\puh-RAM-byuh-layt** , intransitive verb; 1. To walk about; to roam; to stroll; as, "he perambulated in the park."

Santa Monica Daily Press

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091802567 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GREENER ENERGY PRODUCTS; GREENER ENERGY WORLD; AI #/ON 3259287, 1580 W. SAN BERNADINO RD, SUITE G, COVINA, CA 91722. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : THINK GREENER SOLUTIONS INC., 1580 W. SAN BERNADINO RD, SUITE G, COVINA, CA 91722, (CALIFORNIA) This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: THINK GREENER SOLUTIONS INC., PRESIDENT, HADI GHOMESHI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2009, 1/6/2010, 1/13/2010, 1/20/2010



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Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,849,000	$680,000
South of Wilshire	$897,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$1,187,000	$639,500
Ocean Park	$1,700,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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