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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 371



CLINTON GETS NOD
SEE PAGE 14

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FREE SPEECH ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

TEACHING MOMENT: **Samohi girls water polo coach Matt Flanders (bottom center) goes over plays with his players on Wednesday.**

Samohi girls water polo keeps it in perspective

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The girls water polo team has finals on their minds, but they would never admit it.

As the entire campus is knee-deep in exams, Vikings players are busy preparing for a different kind of finals. But, these finals don't require no. 2 pencils or Scantrons.

It may be taboo to talk playoffs at this point of the season, yet there are certainly those on the team who would like to make it past the semi-finals of the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs and perhaps to the championship game.

But, if they are going to make it to the rarefied air of a CIF title game, they have much to do.

"This is just like school work," assistant coach Al Trundle said to the team during a break in practice on Wednesday afternoon. "You have to study, ask questions.

"It's just like your finals in class."

Some of those lessons are fundamental. Players need to defend, players need to score on offense. Those are givens. Other lessons are a little harder to define.

As head coach Matt Flanders paced alongside Samohi's pool during practice, he barked instructions to his players. He isn't the type to shy away from a teaching moment and he isn't afraid to get his players out of the water, onto the sidelines and into a huddle.

He pleads with them to stay focused. Warns them against regressing. He is a quintessential coach. Both understanding and tough as nails.

The understanding part is the easier of the two to stomach. It's the tough as nails part that gets his players' attention.

"He's a very verbal coach," senior Suzi Ortega said sheepishly after practice. "He's always yelling out to us ... giving us encouragement."

While the yelling is a part of the game, it's what is yelled that often makes the difference between winning and losing.

"Whenever an [opposing] player tries to get past our defense, coach is always reminding us to get back and defend," senior Melody Conrad said. "He always seems to know the right thing to say during games."

When it comes to talking playoffs, Flanders toes the company line and is sure

SEE WATER POLO PAGE 11

Fighting to save public access

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN John Kerwin likes to refer to himself as the Robin Hood of public access.

The host of the late night comedy gab fest " The John Kerwin Show" would often attend tapings of a certain network talk show, take gifts given to the audience (some worth as much as $150) and then give them away to members of his small, but loyal following during tapings at the Time Warner Cable production studio on Nebraska Avenue.

"I take from the rich network show and give to the poor public access show," Kerwin said.

But ever since Jan. 1, when a state law allowed cable companies to drop their longstanding obligation of providing free studios, equipment and training to the public, Kerwin and many other public access regulars feel like

SEE ACCESS PAGE 13

Arrest in burglaries targeting L.A.'s wealthy

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Police said Wednesday they cracked a burglary ring that spread fear in wealthy neighborhoods as it made off with more than $10 million worth of property and cash in some 150 break-ins over three years.

Troy Corsby Thomas, 45, one of two suspected leaders, was arrested Saturday and pleaded not guilty to two charges of residential burglary in a brief court appearance Tuesday.

SEE ARRESTS PAGE 12

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Eddie Guerboian
GOLDSMITH DESIGNER

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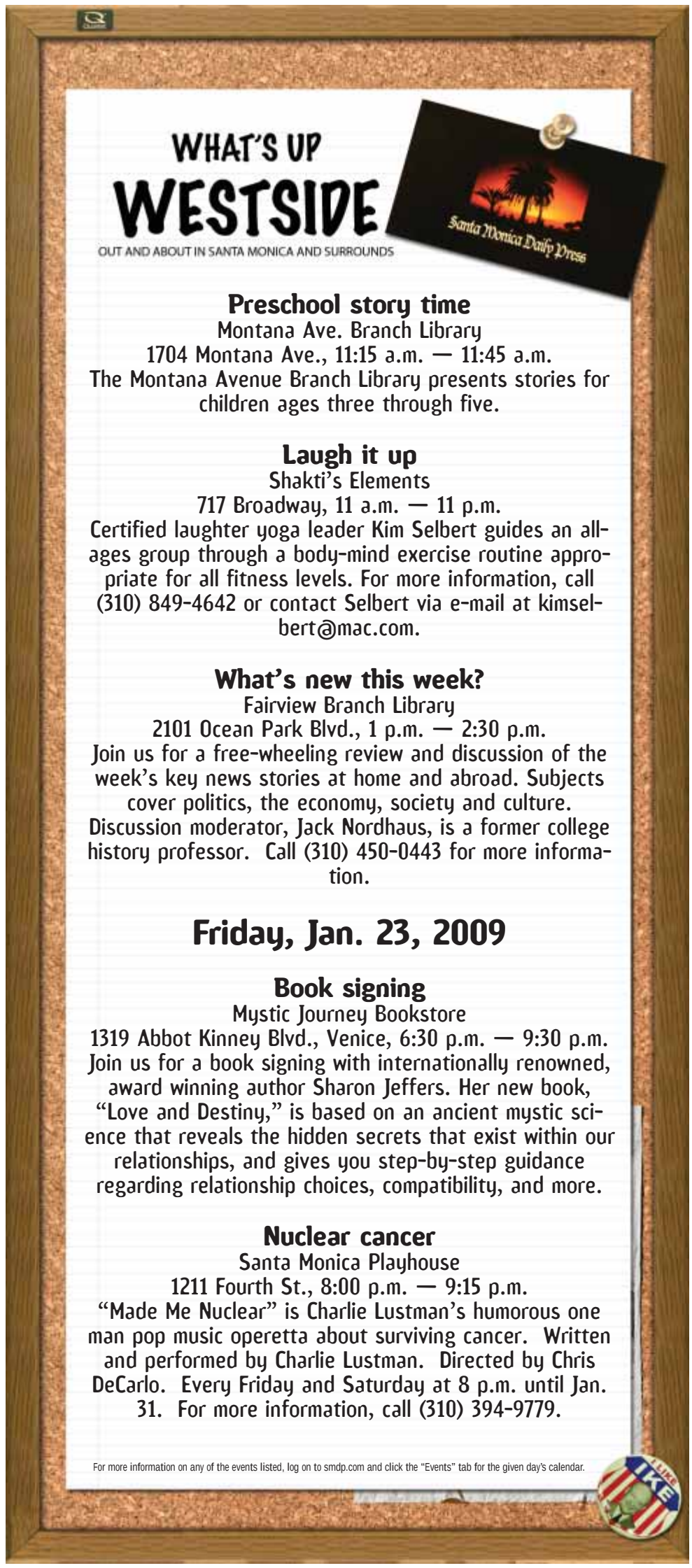
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Preschool story time
Montana Ave. Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
The Montana Avenue Branch Library presents stories for children ages three through five.

Laugh it up
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — 11 p.m.
Certified laughter yoga leader Kim Selbert guides an all-ages group through a body-mind exercise routine appropriate for all fitness levels. For more information, call (310) 849-4642 or contact Selbert via e-mail at kimselbert@mac.com.

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Join us for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad. Subjects cover politics, the economy, society and culture. Discussion moderator, Jack Nordhaus, is a former college history professor. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Friday, Jan. 23, 2009

Book signing
Mystic Journey Bookstore
1319 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Join us for a book signing with internationally renowned, award winning author Sharon Jeffers. Her new book, "Love and Destiny," is based on an ancient mystic science that reveals the hidden secrets that exist within our relationships, and gives you step-by-step guidance regarding relationship choices, compatibility, and more.

Nuclear cancer
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8:00 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.
"Made Me Nuclear" is Charlie Lustman's humorous one man pop music operetta about surviving cancer. Written and performed by Charlie Lustman. Directed by Chris DeCarlo. Every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. until Jan. 31. For more information, call (310) 394-9779.

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.

A new face at City Hall


PHILLIPS

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN You've heard of a Jack of all trades, but how about a Jennifer?

Having spent the past 24 years in public service, working in the areas of recycling, public transit and animal control, Jennifer Phillips prides herself on being a polymath and she'll need all the experience she's gained when she becomes the new assistant city manager on Monday, putting her in charge of external service departments such as the Big Blue Bus, Community and Cultural Services, the library, planning and public works.

Phillips, 43, was hired by City Manager Lamont Ewell last week after an extensive search to replace Gordon Anderson, who retired in December after eight years with City Hall so that he could serve as the interim executive director for the Westside Cities Council of Governments.

Phillips will receive an annual salary of $180,396.

"I am very excited about the appointment of Jennifer and confident that her outstanding professional experience and education will be an invaluable asset to this organization," Ewell said.

Phillips was born in Wisconsin and moved with her family to Southern California when she was 4. She grew up in Rancho Palos Verdes and attended Rolling Hills High School. From there she attended Cal State University, Long Beach where she earned a bachelor's of science and master's in public administration.

"I absolutely love public service," Phillips said Wednesday, her last day on the job as an executive manager with Orange County in charge of animal care, a position which required her to work with 22 cities within the county.

"For me, being a public administrator is the perfect job," Phillips added. "I love being a part of the community, I love providing services. For me, to work with the residents and make a difference in the community I serve is tremendous."

Phillips worked for both the public and private sectors directly out of college, but found civil service to be more rewarding. She started out in various positions, one of which included working for Los Angeles County as a recycling specialist just after a state law went into effect requiring cities to reduce the amount of garbage heading to

SEE PHILLIPS PAGE 10



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

People on Wednesday morning lined up at the Above the Fold newsstand on the Third Street Promenade to purchase a piece of history — newspapers that covered President Barack Obama's inauguration. Employees at the stand said they purchased over 800 copies of the L.A. Times.

Methodists seek to make leadership diversified

BY ROSE FRENCH
Associated Press Writer

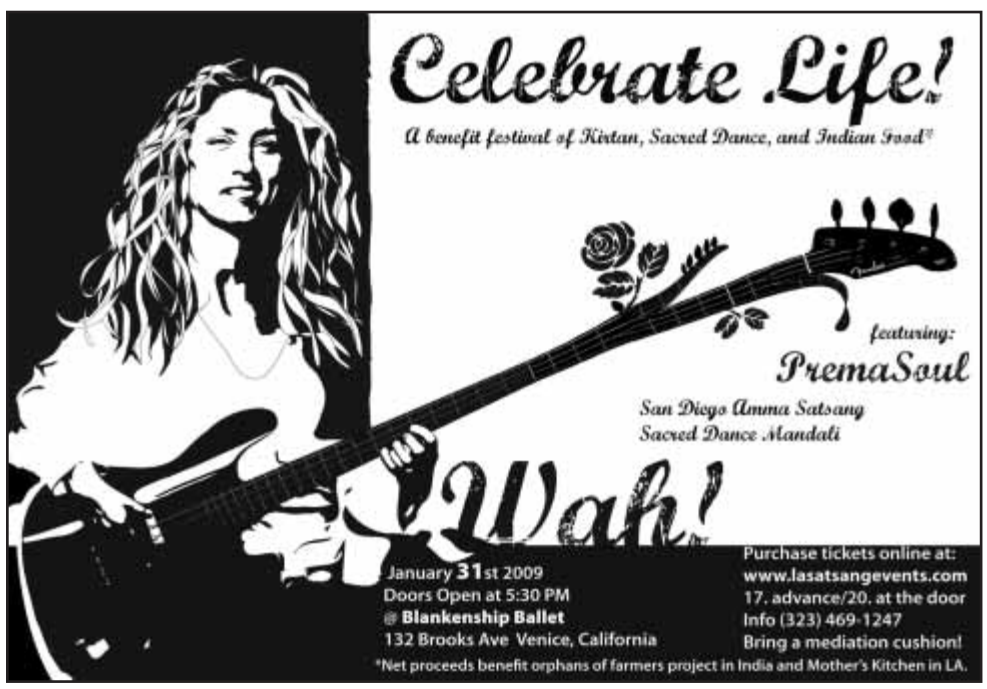
NASHVILLE, Tenn. The United Methodist Church, which boasts a history of ordaining women clergy, is seeking to shatter the so-called "stained-glass ceiling" blocking female pastors from its largest pulpits.

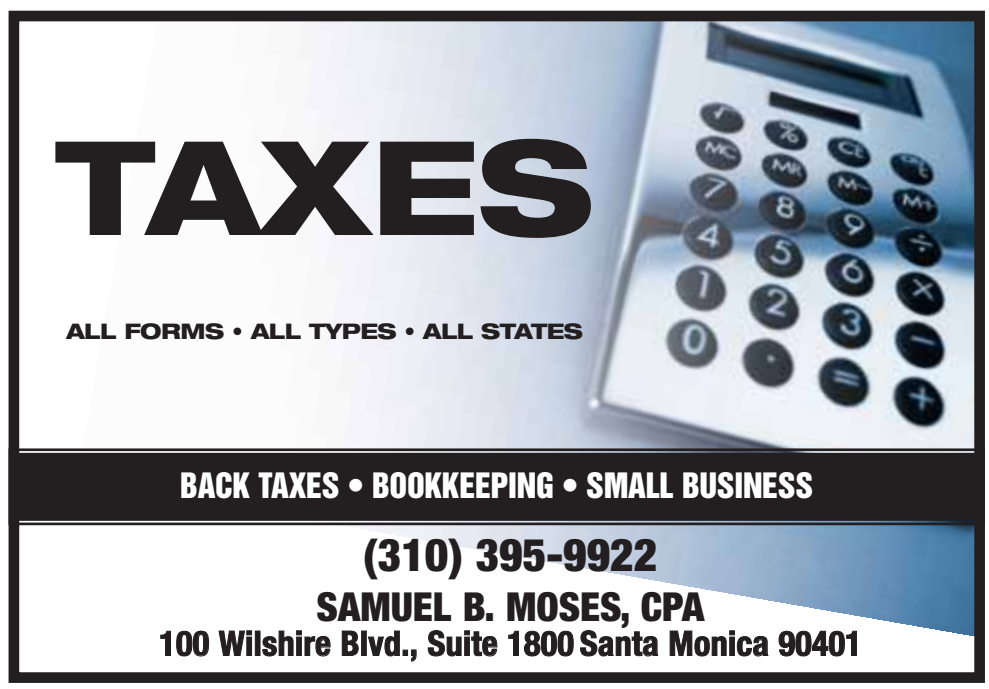
The nation's second largest Protestant denomination has launched a new initiative, the Lead Women Pastor Project, to examine barriers to women being appointed pastors to Methodist churches with more than 1,000 members.

The Nashville-based United Methodist Church has a total of 44,842 clergy, and about 10,000 are female — or 23 percent. Yet just 85 women lead those largest churches, compared to 1,082 men in those positions.

The project aims to research leadership styles of women who head these large

SEE CHURCH PAGE 12





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Too good to be true

Editor:

Mike Heayn describes sellers giving away 1960 Mustangs along with homes a couple of blocks from the beach that would be worth a million dollars now. Since the Mustang was introduced as the 1964 1/2 model, I would rather have it than the house since it would be worth several million dollars now. Actually, I think Mike's wrong on both counts. I don't think there are any million dollar homes within a couple of blocks of the beach anywhere in Southern California – condos, maybe. Kindly proofread his column before publication to avoid subjugating your readers to his generally inane comments. Talking about mouthwash in a real estate column? Please!

Steve Keats
Santa Monica

Another Kronovet critic

Editor:

Rent Control Board Commissioner Robert Kronovet's Jan. 12 rebuttal to Councilman Kevin McKeown's letter to the editor, "Preserve Our Neighborhoods," says more about Mr. Kronovet than the issues he addressed.

Kronovet calls McKeown "isolationist," claims his stand to protect rent control "code" for losing the Prop. T battle, and that he is "... destroying the motivation to move into home ownership." He also states that Mckeown's concern to maintain affordable housing levels, "cripples tenants from moving up in society ... at the cost of their self-esteem and pursuit of the American dream."

Because I live in an affordable, rent controlled apartment, I've been able to have two daughters progress through the excellent Santa Monica school system and my wife, afflicted with weakened lungs since childhood, has been able to stay healthier by living in the relatively clean air provided by coastal breezes. A good education for my children and a healthy spouse are also part of the "American dream" and, in part, contributes to my "self-esteem."

I would argue that a more relevant reason why renters stay in their apartments is the Costa-Hawkins law that allows rents on vacated units raised to market rates. This compels growing families to stay in their rent-controlled apartments because, for most, to move anywhere else in Santa Monica is impossible.

Another fact is that in Santa Monica even a one bedroom, one bath, 100-year-old vacation shack is priced above $1 million, thus preventing most city residents from moving into home ownership.

Mr. Kronovet, stated in his letter, "... life is more than just low rent." Please also consider there is more to life than a vengeful ideology bent on destroying rent control in Santa Monica.

It has not taken more than a few weeks after his election to a seat on the Rent Control Board for Robert Kronovet to reveal his true agenda. It is clear that he is not an advocate for rent control, affordable housing, or any voter interference in the "free market" as defined by landlords and developers. He has nothing but disdain for rent control despite the many campaign flyers he distributed prior to the November election promising he was supportive of the program.

It is a sad irony that he holds a commissioner seat on the very entity he wishes didn't exist.

Derek Loughran
Santa Monica



The Rand Stand

Don Watkins

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Big government is the real threat to free speech laws

SELF-APPOINTED CONSUMER WATCHDOGS — including Obama's recent pick for FCC chair, Julius Genachowski — have long complained about media consolidation. So it was no surprise that when the FCC recently loosened restrictions barring companies from owning a newspaper and TV station in the same city, these critics went apoplectic and are now urging the House to follow the Senate in blocking the measure.

Media consolidation supposedly threatens free speech. A few conglomerates, critics warn, have seized control of our media outlets, enabling these companies to shove a single "corporate-friendly" perspective down our throats. As Sen. Byron Dorgan put it, "The free flow of information in this country is not accommodated by having fewer and fewer voices determine what is out there. …You have five or six corporate interests that determine what Americans can see, hear, and read."

Leave aside that Dorgan's comments are hard to take seriously in the age of the Internet: his position is still a fantasy. Media consolidation is no threat to free speech — it is the result of individuals exercising that right.

All speech requires control of material resources, whether by standing on a soapbox, starting a blog, running a newspaper ad, or buying a radio station. Media corporations simply do this on a larger scale.

Consider the critics' favorite bogeyman, News Corp. When Rupert Murdoch launched the company, he and his fellow shareholders pooled their wealth to create a communications platform capable of reaching millions.

They further expanded their ability to communicate through mergers and acquisitions — that is, through media consolidation.

As News Corp.'s owners, shareholders were able to exercise their freedom of speech by deciding what views their private property would (and wouldn't) be used to promote — the same way a blogger decides what ideas to champion on his blog. Like most other media companies, News Corp. even extended the use of its platforms to speakers from all over the ideological map — including opponents of media consolidation.

Do News Corp.'s resources give Murdoch an advantage when it comes to promoting his views? Absolutely. Free speech doesn't guarantee that everyone will have equal airtime, any more than free trade guarantees that every business will have the same amount of goods to trade. What it does guarantee is that everyone has the right to use his own property to speak his mind.

Some of today's most prominent voices, such as Matt Drudge, have succeeded without huge financial resources. But regardless of how large a media company grows, it can never — Dorgan's complaints notwithstanding — determine what media Americans consume. It must continually earn its audience. Fox News may be the leading news channel today, but if it doesn't produce shows people want to watch, it will have all the influence of ham radio. Just think of how newspapers and the big-three network news stations are losing audiences to Web-based sources.

Now consider the actual meaning of government restrictions on media ownership. The FCC is telling certain Americans that they cannot operate a printing press or its equivalent.

Such restrictions cannot protect free speech — they are in fact violations of the right to free speech. There is no essential difference between smashing someone's printing press and threatening to fine and jail him if he uses one; either way, he can't use it to express his views.

What galls critics of media consolidation is not that News Corp. stops anyone from speaking — it's that they don't like the choices Americans make when free speech is protected. In the words of one critic: "[M]arket forces provide neither adequate incentives to produce the high quality media product, nor adequate incentives to distribute sufficient amounts of diverse content necessary to meet consumer and citizen needs." Translation: Can you believe what those stupid consumers willingly pay for? If I got to decide what Americans watched, read, and listened to, things would be different.

In order to "correct" the choices Americans make, these critics demand that the FCC violate the free speech rights of some speakers in order to prop up other speakers who, absent such favors, would be unable to earn an audience. In short, they want a gun-wielding Uncle Sam — not the voluntary choices of free individuals — to determine who can speak and therefore who you can listen to.

The critics of media consolidation are frauds. They are not defenders of free speech — they are dangerous enemies of that freedom.

DON WATKINS is a writer and research specialist at the Ayn Rand Center for Individual Rights. The Ayn Rand Center is a division of the Ayn Rand Institute and promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead."

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looking for a role model for middle-achievers?

IT'S BEEN A SAD FEW DAYS FOR middle-achievers. To millions of Americans, the 43rd president carved a permanent place in their hearts as a compassionate conservative who prided himself in bipartisan leadership and steadfastly shaped public policy by saluting family and moral responsibility, limited government and local control. Others will forever suffer from post-traumatic stress as a result of George W. Bush's legacy of a frighteningly unnecessary war, a total economic meltdown, and an environmental practice so irresponsible, the damaging effects will never be reversed.

But there also exists a third category of people: those who've spent the last eight years reveling in the election (at least once legitimately) of the first world leader to whom they could truly relate. Not since Vanilla Ice has one man so succinctly epitomized mediocrity — and in the case of former President George W. Bush, the wholly unexceptional qualities so closely associated with nepotism gone wild.

He was the president for those who agree that acting decisively and staying the course trumps the actual quality and value of the decisions made. Who cares about the blood, lice, frogs, disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and death encountered along the way? Pick a destination and never waiver from its path, no matter what, is the motto of the intellectually unencumbered. Admitting defeat is a character flaw embraced only by motivated sissies. Besides, it's a fair amount of work to choose and implement a new strategy, especially when the end of a perfectly so-so mission is in sight.

To the delight of all those who thought for eight years, "If he can do it, so can I," not one madman deemed W. hateful enough to succeed in a bona fide assassination attempt like the ones on Ronald Reagan and Teddy Roosevelt. Being the target of a shoe during a press conference where everyone in attendance had to pass through a metal detector is emotionally manageable. Ducking a size 10 Ducati Model 271 loafer is physically relatable.

When George H.W. Bush was commander-in-chief, he famously and spectacularly vomited and collapsed during a state dinner at the home of the Japanese prime minister. However, not one for that kind of drama during his administration, President George W. Bush choked on a pretzel while watching a football game on TV, fainted, fell off the couch and then had to summon the White House doctor on his own after his dogs woke him up because his wife was in the next room. A classic middle-achiever move, for sure. The time he was in China and was caught trying to open a locked door in front of a bunch of journalists chronicling his every move? Straight out of the middle-achiever's handbook. So which high profile figure can middle-achievers admire now that a new president has taken office? Certainly not Barack Obama. With his fancy grammar and uncanny ability to chew and swallow without incident, he's a classic overachiever. After all, there must be very few people who read "Dreams from My Father" and believe yes, they can, too.

It wouldn't have been terrible for middle-achievers if Bill Richardson had been elected president. The governor of New Mexico (and former presidential candidate) recently withdrew himself from consideration for commerce secretary amid the whiff of scandal from an ongoing federal grand jury investigation into state contracting. Underachievers are too lazy and/or dumb to figure out how to execute a successful bribe. Overachievers don't need bribes in the first place. Middle-achievers are just smart enough to think they can get away with it, although not so clever that they ever actually do (paging Rod Blagojevich). With his used car salesman-like looks and ways, John Edwards would also have been a fine middle-achiever successor. But sadly, the National Enquirer poster boy (Cheats on cancer-stricken wife! Fathers child out of wedlock! Has supporter buy mistress' silence!) couldn't keep his fly zippered long enough to eke into office.

Speaking of zippered flies, there are plenty of middle-achievers who would have been just fine if the immortal borderline middle/overachiever Bill Clinton moved back into the Oval Office. Sure Linda Tripp busted him with his pants down (D'oh!), thereby putting an asterisk next to his name in the history books. But he's clearly a super bright guy who got where he was with a mixture of luck, personality and good old-fashioned smarts. Daddy might be able to get you into Yale, but he can't make you a Phi Beta Kappa. Or a Rhodes Scholar.

Don't feel too bad for middle-achievers, though. It shouldn't be too long before a new role model emerges. Which is a good thing, since middle-achievers aren't looking too hard for a new leader. After all, a search like that can be kind of draining and they'll just settle for anyone who comes along anyway.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

No butts

The City Council recently approved a ban on smoking in the common areas of multi-unit residences.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you agree with the decision or do you think the ban goes to far?

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




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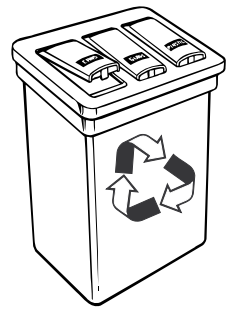
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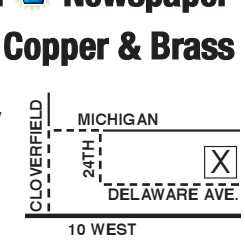


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Calls for immigration reform under Obama

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Taking to heart an inauguration speech that honored those who "traveled across oceans in search of a new life," thousands embarked on a campaign Wednesday to make immigration reform a priority for the new president.

Immigrants who lent President Barack Obama their support at the ballot box joined those who cannot vote in marches and prayers, writing letters and raising banners from Miami to Los Angeles to push the issue to the top of Obama's long to-do list.

In spite of the president's promise to tackle the thorny issue within his first year in office, even advocates recognized that with two wars and a floundering economy on the table, immigration reform was a tough sell.

But seeing the son of an immigrant in the White House makes anything seem possible, said Altagracia Garcia, 25, who waits tables to help pay for her political science degree.

"He was the one who told us that you can dream big," said Garcia, who lit candles and called for the end of immigration enforcement raids during a pre-dawn vigil in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Los Angeles.

Hispanic voters, a group for whom immigration reform ranks high, supported the Democratic ticket by a margin of more than two-to-one and helped carry battleground states such as New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada for Obama, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Seizing on the momentum of Obama's success, the moment to make demands is now, said Juan Carlos Ruiz de Dios, of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice in New York, before a rally at Manhattan's Federal Plaza. "Power does not concede anything without a demand," he said.

But even in the best of times, immigration is one of the most divisive issues facing elected officials. In 2007, deep-seated differences between supporters of legalization and advocates of tougher immigration controls ultimately scuttled a reform package that had won substantial bipartisan support in Congress.

At a time when Americans are struggling to keep their jobs, measures that would allow more immigrants into the country by creating a path to legalization for undocumented workers or by setting aside more visas will not go over well, said George Grayson, a professor of government at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and a scholar at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

"Go down to the unemployment office and ask what people lined up think of immigration reform — you'll get an earful," said Grayson. "It's the wrong time, at the wrong place, and the wrong issue to invest your political capital now."

But the promise of change by the new administration touched immigrants, who gathered around the country Wednesday. Sara Mijares, of the Mundo Maya Foundation in Los Angeles, took part in a campaign to get 10,000 letters to the new president on his first day in office.

They asked for measures the president can implement immediately, including an end to raids in which ICE officers question immigrants not named in their warrants, and a stop to an ICE program that allows local and state police officers to perform immigration checks.

"He can do this right now — we don't have to wait a year, two years, for immigration reform," Mijares said.

Studies: Steroids do not help wheezing kids

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Steroid drugs, a common treatment for young children prone to wheezing and colds, do not help and may even be harmful, according to new research.

Preschoolers in Britain who were hospitalized with a wheezing attack and treated with the steroid prednisolone stayed just as long as other children who were given dummy pills.

In another study, Canadian children who had previous wheezing trouble and who took the steroid fluticasone as a preventive measure showed modest improvement, but the side effect of possible stunted growth outweighed the benefit, researchers said.

Both studies were reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"It is disturbing to contemplate how many unnecessary courses of prednisolone have been given over the years, in good faith, because we all assumed that preschool children are little adults," Dr. Andrew Bush of the Royal Brompton Hospital in London wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Wheezing, a high-pitched whistling noise as a person exhales, occurs when air struggles to get through narrowed airways. It's a frightening symptom that often sends parents to emergency rooms, thinking their kids can't breathe.

Hospitals commonly give such children steroids to open up airways. That's a standard treatment for adults and for children who have asthma, but its effectiveness for children with transient wheezing is unknown.

In the British study led by the University of Leicester, 687 children ages 10 months to 5 years who were hospitalized for wheezing were randomly given prednisolone or placebo treatment.

There was no significant difference in the time spent in the hospital: 11 hours for the drug group compared with 14 hours for the placebo group.

In the Canadian study, 129 children ages 1 to 6 years with a history of wheezing were given either inhaled fluticasone or placebo by their parents at the first sign of an infection.

After 10 months, the drug group had milder symptoms and needed fewer repeat medications. But they also had smaller gains in height and weight compared with the placebo group, prompting the researchers to urge against using the drug for prevention purposes until the side effects are better understood.

The study was funded by GlaxoSmithKline PLC, which makes the inhaled asthma medicine Flovent, a brand of fluticasone. Lead author Dr. Francine Ducharme of the University of Montreal reports receiving research grants from Glaxo and other drug makers.



Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

So-so south of the border

WHENEVER I FIND A RESTAURANT THAT'S been around longer than I, I know it must be special. Check out the venerable Lula Cucina Mexicana on Main Street. With attractive interior décor, including one section that overlooks Main Street, plus an outside patio, this Mexican restaurant has withstood the test of time.

WHERE: 2700 Main St., Santa Monica, (310) 452-1734.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

BEST DISHES: It's hard to pinpoint any one outstanding dish. The "Plato de Botana" mixed appetizer consists of one dense cheese and corn quesadilla; a stuffed jalapeño where the green pepper is crispy and raw instead of thoroughly cooked as I'm accustomed to; a delicious duck sopes; and a fried squash blossom. The simpler dishes such as the fish of the day and the carnitas plates are a better bet.

BEST FEATURE: Good service, a pleasant setting and a wide choice of many different Mexican dishes with their respective differing flavors.

WORST FEATURE: Like many Mexican restaurants, the plates arrive with the foods placed together so that the flavors get mixed up. I like my foods served separately. And, the recipes are not super authentic, nor is this a place to go for a cheap meal. I paid $40 for two at lunch recently.

... THE PLATES ARRIVE WITH THE FOODS PLACED TOGETHER SO THAT THE FLAVORS GET MIXED UP. I LIKE MY FOODS SERVED SEPARATELY. AND, THE RECIPES ARE NOT SUPER AUTHENTIC, NOR IS THIS A PLACE TO GO FOR A CHEAP MEAL. I PAID $40 FOR TWO AT LUNCH RECENTLY.

WHAT TO DRINK: I always drink a Dos Equis amber when eating Mexican food. But, I've heard that the margaritas are very good here.

BOTTOM LINE: When you're in the mood, Lula Cucina Mexicana is a good place to go for Mexican food.

The perfect wing

BY PERVAIZ SHALLWANI
For The Associated Press

According to the lore, Teressa Bellissimo was just trying to satisfy her hungry son and his friends. So on that 1964 night in Buffalo, N.Y., she tossed leftover chicken parts into the fryer at Anchor Bar, then doused them with hot sauce.

More than four decades later, the buffalo wing has become an American culinary icon.

But those years haven't always been kind. All manner of over-fried and stale-tasting frozen fowl limbs get passed off as the real deal. Some are so bad they are almost an insult to the beer and football they pair so nicely with.

"People are like, 'Oh, it doesn't matter. They are just chicken wings,'" and they buy bad chicken, says Food Network Iron Chef Michael Symon.

THE CHICKEN

The flavor of the chicken is central to the perfect wing, so avoid the grocer's freezer case. Frozen poultry retains moisture, and moisture produces soggy, overcooked fried food.

And if you can, pony up for the good stuff. Most national and private label brands will work fine, but free-range and organic birds often sport more tender meat. And that produces a better wing.

All too often, the skin becomes rubbery, instead of crisp, says Symon. The reason? The skin is filled with water, which steams the bird instead of frying it when it hits the hot oil.

The fix isn't quick, but it is easy. Coating the wings with kosher salt overnight draws out some of this moisture.

THE FRYING

The right oil and temperature will create the right balance of crispy skin and tender meat.

Start by selecting your frying medium. Technically speaking, any oil but extra-virgin olive (which has too low a smoke point) will work. But for the best flavor, you'll want an oil with a neutral flavor, such as canola or all-purpose vegetable.

Traditionally, wings are fried only once for several minutes between 365 F and 375 F. But this can result in wings that either aren't well crisped outside, or aren't nicely cooked inside.

To fix this problem, we borrowed an Asian technique for frying chicken twice. With this approach, the wings take an initial oil bath for several minutes at 275 F.

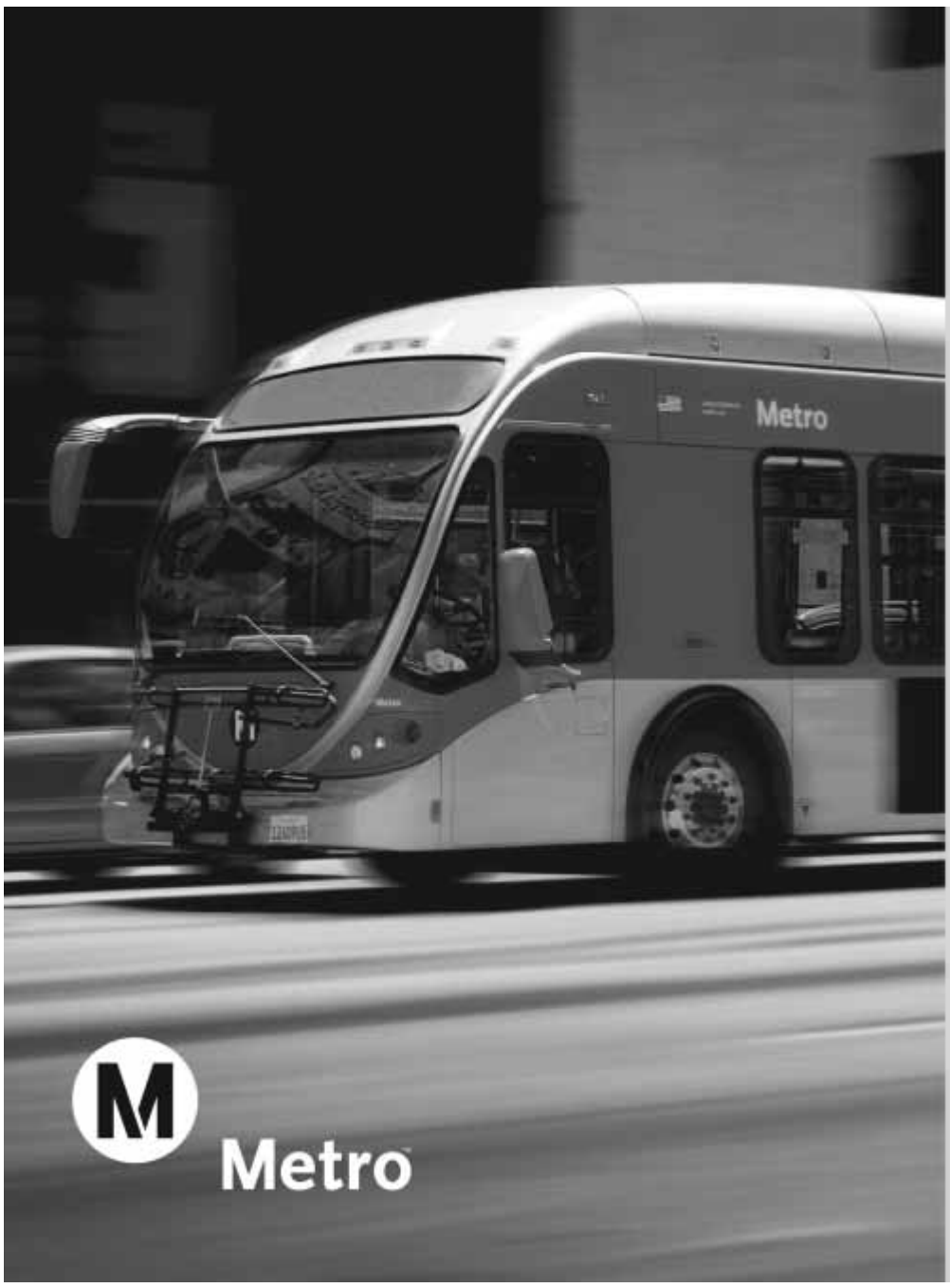
The wings then are removed from the oil and the heat is increased to 375 F. The wings then go back into the oil, during which they are quickly crisped.

As with all frying, don't crowd the pot.

THE COATING

Everyone seems to have their own potion for a tangy, sweet and spicy coating.

A vinegary hot sauce whisked with a little sugar makes the base for most sauces. We opted for a mix of honey and Sriracha.



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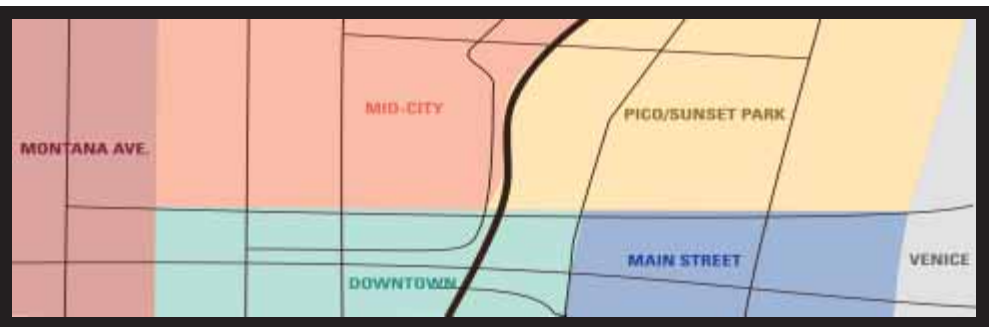


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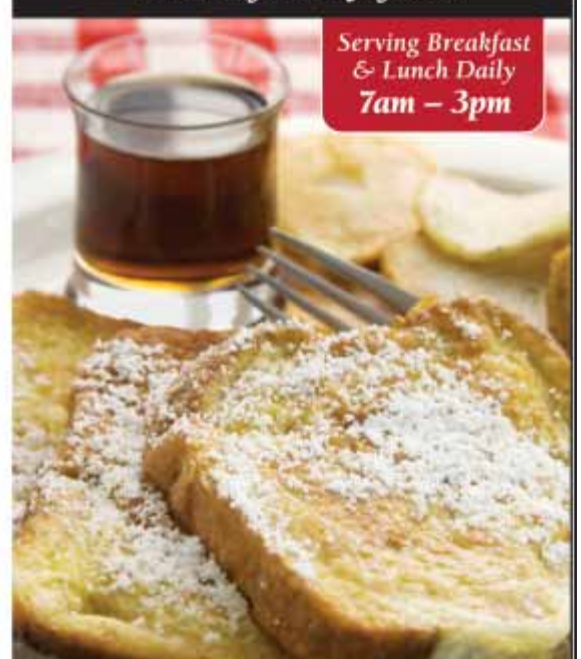
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SECOND LIFE

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Photographer Gilbert 'Gil' Garcetti, 67, and a former L.A. County district attorney, discusses his book, 'Water is Key,' during the Senior Arts Foundation's 'Gil Garcetti: My Story, Act II' at the Main Library on Wednesday. Garcetti has always been an avid urban photographer. During his time as district attorney he would carry a small camera with him at all times. After leaving the DA's office, Garcetti focused on art photography, initially producing two collections on the Walt Disney Concert Hall, 'Iron: Erecting the Walt Disney Concert Hall,' focusing on the ironworkers who constructed the landmark, and 'Frozen Music,' focusing on the finished building itself. Photos from these works were featured in an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. and at the Pasadena Museum of California Art. His most recent exhibition, 'Dance in Cuba: Photographs by Gil Garcetti,' was featured at the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History in spring 2006.

Phillips wants to make customer service a priority

FROM **PHILLIPS** PAGE 3

landfills. There she helped 88 cities in the county develop recycling programs, including Christmas tree recycling and composting.

From there she worked for the Orange County Transportation Authority helping to develop long-range financial plans. She went on to serve as the assistant to the city manager for the city of Fullerton, helping with a variety of projects including street beautification, working with businesses and community members.

"It was just a great city and a great opportunity," she said.

Phillips is looking forward to the challenges she will face as the assistant city manager here, and will use her background in finance to bring about better customer service.

"I want to work with staff to identify areas where we can continue to move forward and be more efficient, look at things with a fresh eye and maybe help them better deliver services to residents and help them make some tough choices," she said. "That is what leadership is all about."

Phillips and her husband, who works for Citigroup, hope to move to Santa Monica in the coming months with their three dogs, two great Swiss mountain dogs and an albino great dane whom Phillips fostered at a shelter. In their spare time, the Phillips enjoy hiking and traveling, particularly to Germany, where she has some ancestral roots.

"It is very important for us to be a part of the community, to be active community members," Phillips said. "Part of this decision was to find a community that I would enjoy working in and living in. … I am very excited about the goals and priorities that the city has. I strongly believe in environmental policies."

Phillips is also pleased with the level of customer service she has seen provided by city staff and will continue to make that her "number one priority." She is a fan of City Hall's committment to education and recreation, all while maintainig financial responsibility.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started, Monday," Phillips said.

kevinh@smdp.com

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ALL TOGETHER NOW: **Samohi's girls water polo team takes a break from practice Wednesday.**

Vikings undefeated in league

FROM **WATER POLO** PAGE 1

not to get ahead of himself. He hints at the playoffs, but is smart to keep his mind on Ocean League play.

UP NEXT

The team is 3-0 in league and 9-7 on the season and getting better by the game. The squad will get a shot to improve their record today against league rival Beverly Hills High School.

"They are always physical," Flanders said. "They are also well coached, so it's going to be a good game."

If his Vikings are to come out victorious they have to put goals on the scoreboard. Flanders knows defense wins championships, but it will take some serious firepower to defeat Beverly Hills.

He'll look to Ortega and Conrad to lead the way on offense and anticipates that Hope Clement and Lauren Nadel will also have to factor into the mix to notch a win.

Flanders, who has been with the team since its inception in 1996, said that his team has traditionally been a defensive minded team, he has made the development of the Vikings' offense a priority this season.

If the team's league record is any indicator, the experiment has been a success thus far.

"I think we have a strong team this year," Flanders said. "We just have to keep improving and adding plays."

He feels that his team has the personnel to reach the playoffs again, but sees El Segundo and Torrance as serious contenders for the league title.

With that in mind, Flanders wants to keep his players focused on the task at hand before getting ahead of themselves.

"We have to win league before we can even think about (the playoffs)," Flanders said.

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More women wanted

FROM **CHURCH** PAGE 3

churches and encourage more female leaders by building a mentoring program for women with potential to serve large congregations.

Church leaders say more women are needed to shepherd the large churches, considering that women make up more than half of those enrolled in master of divinity programs in United Methodist seminaries. Also, nearly 58 percent of the 8 million-member denomination is female.

"Coming from that perspective it's almost natural we pay more attention to the development of women's leadership in the church," said the Rev. HiRho Park, the project's director. "It's breaking the stained-glass ceiling. I think it gives a younger generation of women hope to have a collective vision for the future."

In 2006, women accounted for 34.4 percent of enrollment at U.S. seminaries that are open to female students — a headcount of nearly 28,000, according to the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

The National Council of Churches notes, however, that it's difficult to know how many of those women go on to be pastors. Similar organizations that monitor church activities either don't track or have current data on female pastors in the U.S. About 15 Protestant denominations allow for women to be pastors.

Jackson Carroll, a professor emeritus of religion and society at Duke Divinity School who's written extensively about female clergy, said there were a total of about 60,000 ordained female clergy in 1990. Now he estimates that number is close to 80,000.

Methodists have long been open to female clergy. In 1880, a woman was ordained as a clergyperson in a Methodist denomination that later became part of the United Methodist Church, a church spokesman said. But women didn't have voting and other rights that male clergy enjoyed until the mid-1950s.

The Rev. Grace Huck, 92, has pastored more than a dozen Methodist churches throughout her career, mostly in North Dakota. At one of the first churches Huck served, "when the district superintendent told them he was appointing a woman pastor, one of the men pounded the pew and shouted, 'There will be no skirts in this pulpit while I'm alive!'" she said. Huck notes, however, he later became one of her strongest supporters.

She believes women's opportunities to serve as pastors have greatly improved over the years, but lingering discrimination is likely why more women aren't leading larger Methodist churches.

"Women for centuries were supposed to be meek, submissive, and if a woman is strong, it's hard for some men to accept," she said. "We should just be human beings working together. It doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman."

The Rev. Patricia Farris, 57, who has been senior pastor of the 1,200-member First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, for 11 years, said qualities associated with male leadership typically are "emphasis on the leader being the one who casts the vision and leads the way, that this is the direction we should take.

"Women can do this too, but we lead in other ways that are more collegial and cooperative," she said. "Women are more inclined to say 'Let's discern this together.'"

In September, women who lead United Methodist churches with more than 1,000 members gathered in Nashville as part of the Lead Women Pastor Project to work on supporting clergywomen who lead large churches, researching their leadership styles and establishing a mentoring program for women who have the potential to serve such churches.

Women and men pastors who lead large United Methodist churches are being asked to complete a survey, which includes questions about leadership styles, pastors' salaries, demographics of their church and community and what kind of challenges and conflicts they face. The results of the survey are slated to be released sometime in the spring.

Project director Park said there's also an online study program for participants, where women can discuss the issue and recommend reading material on the subject.

"The present culture as a whole demands gender inclusivity," Park said. "Because of this demand, the church needs to develop some tools to help these female leaders to function effectively as religious leaders in this tremendous pluralistic and inclusive global context."

"Politically, women are rising in society. Why not in the church, too?"

Pacific Palisades was a target

FROM **ARRESTS** PAGE 1

The ring nearly always evaded security systems and cameras as it targeted the toniest addresses — Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, the Hollywood Hills — neighborhoods where homes of the rich and famous dot winding canyon roads or perch on slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking Los Angeles.

The stealthy work of the "Hillside Burglars" or the "Bel Air Burglar" seemed unstoppable.

City Councilman Jack Weiss, whose district covers some of the burglarized areas, said he had been approached countless times by constituents wondering what the Police Department was doing about the crimes.

"Over the last few years while residents in the hillsides lived with concern and some fear, you can only imagine that the Hillside Burglars got to the point where they were feeling a little smug, perhaps they were feeling a little untouchable," Weiss said at a police press conference announcing the break.

"This is the beginning of a very good conclusion for a case that has impacted this section of the city for many years," said Deputy Chief Charlie Beck.

Police officials said Thomas was arrested after a lengthy investigation that involved many hours of surveillance and DNA evidence from several crime scenes. They described him as a sophisticated career criminal who had prior burglary arrests and had been out of prison for the past decade. No details of his history were immediately released.

Citing the continuing investigation and anticipating more arrests, officials would not say whether any stolen valuables were recovered. They did note that their evidence included empty safes found in a canyon.

Thomas remained in custody with bail set at $3 million.

City officials looking for regional solution

FROM ACCESS PAGE 1

they are the ones who are getting robbed as they watch a valuable First Amendment platform crumble and many of their colleagues scrambling to find work in the entertainment industry.

"I'm not a politician, but certainly there is a way to keep public access alive, and I'd say that it is far more valuable than one may realize," said Kerwin, who continues to produce his show at a private studio in Santa Monica but must now take money out of his own pocket to do so.



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

ON-AIR: **Leslie Dutton prepares to tape her public access show 'Full Disclosure.'**

WHAT HAPPENED?

A provision of a law passed by the state Legislature in 2006 allowed companies to no longer pay for public access, pushing that burden onto individual cities, which are struggling to make ends meet because of the ailing economy and the budget crisis in Sacramento. The law was designed to make it easier for phone companies to enter the lucrative video market by relieving them of costly contractual obligations. These companies, including AT&T, spent millions on campaign contributions to state legislators.

Now the state Public Utilities Commission, not city officials, will regulate and set conditions for new video-delivery contracts.

In Los Angeles County, 12 public access studios — including one in Santa Monica — that provided programming for 11 community channels, including channel 77 in Santa Monica, have been closed by Time Warner Cable.

Cities will still continue to collect franchise fees — Santa Monica receives around $650,000 a year from Time Warner while Los Angeles gets around $25 million — but many are already using that funding to produce government programming, which includes rebroadcasts of City Council and Board of Education meetings, as well as community news. In Santa Monica, that includes programs like "Santa Monica Update," "Get Out" and "Be Green."

Cities will also receive another 1 percent of gross revenues, but this money can only be used for capital expenses, such as purchasing equipment.

Some are using the franchise fees to close gaps in their general funds. To fund public access could mean making cuts to other local services, raising questions about how important public access really is, particularly in the era of YouTube where anyone can post videos online for the whole world to see.

"We need to look at the cost benefit," said Councilmember Pam O'Connor. "We are having to balance things [because of the economy] and it may be that [public access] doesn't provide the same bang as it had before. We haven't evaluated all the pros and cons. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

"There are a lot of questions that need to answered."

MAKING A GAME PLAN

Santa Monica city officials are currently in talks with counterparts in Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills to see if a regional approach would work best, with cities pulling money together, allowing a non-profit agency to manage the stations so there is no government interference with a person's right to free speech.

Currently, City Hall spends $1.3 million annually on City TV programming, which includes a host of governmental and educational shows. The franchise fee from Time Warner this fiscal year is $691,500, said Robin Gee, the manager of City TV, which has won nine Emmy awards and is consistently voted the best government channel in the state.

"We are talking about a regional approach in order to create viable options," Gee said. "We need to see what happens in L.A. and that will kind of give us the parameters we have available to address the situation."

Not only are cities left with the obligation of funding production studios, they must also pay for playback, another added cost that was once covered by cable companies, Gee said.

"That was a great benefit to the city," Gee said. "Time Warner provided playback 16 hours a day, 365 days a year. … Because of the law, we have to now do it ourselves, which meant buying new equipment, training the staff."

The beauty of public access for residents is that they didn't need to pay for cameras, operators or directors. In Santa Monica, Time Warner provided that. While some exploited this, producing what is often referred to in the business as "vanity programming" where on person sits in front of a camera and talks about their personal beliefs, others used public access as a way to tackle serious issues, such as police abuse.

THE VICTIMS

Leslie Dutton of "Full Disclosure" is one of those people. She has reported on issues such as immigration, voter fraud and government accountability, attracting a loyal following that includes Santa Monica residents. Her work has earned her an Emmy. Dutton at one time filmed her show at the Time Warner studio on Nebraska Avenue, but she now producers out of her office in Marina del Rey.

Dutton is trying to organize other producers to raise awareness about the issue and put pressure on elected officials to use franchise fees they receive for public access. The effort has proved challenging given many people's apathy when it comes to public access, but she has pledged to fight on.

"L.A. is key," she said. "It's the heart of the entertainment industry. If we go, others will follow."

Santa Monica should make every effort to restore public access, Dutton said, because of its history of community activism. Dutton lived in the Pico Neighborhood for several years and remembers how engaged her neighbors were with City Hall.

"Santa Monica needs to make a commitment to public access," she said.

Not only are the producers hurting, so are some of the former camera operators and studio managers, who are now without a job. Some producers had been working with studio managers for years and developed friendships that have now been altered.

"The people in Santa Monica always had a great vibe," said Stanley Dyrector of the "Stanley Dyrector Show," which filmed in Santa Monica for 14 years, focusing on the craft of screenwriting.

"There was always a positive buzz there," Dyrector added. "They were gracious and for the most part, you could do whatever you wanted there. They were very helpful and made you feel at home. I miss them."

There has been a lot of finger pointing since the law went into effect. Producers are upset with cities for not having a plan in place once the studios closed. They feel cities should have been more prepared since the law was approved two years ago. If nothing is done, they not only fear the cancellation of their shows, but also the loss of public access channels, which they consider an asset owned by the people, not to be auctioned off to the highest bidder by cable companies.

City officials are blaming cable companies and state legislators who approved the deregulation.

"Cities are hurting and now we are being asked to absorb yet another responsibility," said Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager in charge of governmental relations. "The timing is pretty tough right now."

Tell that to Kerwin, who has dreams of becoming a late night talk show host on a major network. With the economy struggling, he has had to use his savings to produce his show, which includes a cast of 28 people, many of whom have gone on to work for major studios.

"It's a lot of money, but I'll find some way to make it happen," he said.

YouTube isn't the answer, at least for Kerwin, whose show requires three cameras, proper lighting and a director to make it come together. He can't just sit in front of a Web cam. The higher production value, is one of the reasons why he has a shot at being a correspondent for Jay Leno and "The Tonight Show."

"I think there needs to be more pressure on people to take [public access] seriously and not just see it as being dispensable," Kerwin said. "It is important for people to express themselves and to be able to have a forum to discuss important issues or for entertainment, such as ours.

"All of Hollywood is vanity programming."

kevinh@smdp.com





Obama hits ground running on first day

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON In a first-day whirlwind, President Barack Obama showcased efforts to revive the economy on Wednesday, summoned top military officials to the White House to chart a new course in Iraq and eased into the daunting thicket of Middle East diplomacy.

"What an opportunity we have to change this country," said the 47-year-old chief executive, who also issued new ethics rules for his administration and hosted a reception at the presidential mansion for 200 inauguration volunteers and guests selected by an Internet lottery.

After dancing at inaugural balls with first lady Michelle Obama past midnight, Obama entered the Oval Office for the first time as president in early morning. He read a good luck note left behind by President George W. Bush, then began breaking cleanly with his predecessor's policies.

Aides circulated a draft of an executive order that would close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year and halt all war crimes trials in the meantime.

Closing the site "would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice," read the draft prepared for the new president's signature. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press, and an aide said privately that Obama would sign a formal order on Thursday.

Some of the 245 detainees currently held at Guantanamo would be released, while others would be transferred elsewhere and later put on trial under terms to be determined.

Obama's Cabinet was moving closer to completion.

At the Capitol, the Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state after a one-day delay forced by Republicans. The vote was 94-2, and spectators seated in the galleries erupted in applause when it was announced.

Treasury-designate Timothy Geithner emerged unscathed from his confirmation hearing, apologizing for having failed to pay $34,000 in taxes earlier in the decade.

To the evident anger of Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Republicans on the panel invoked longstanding rules to postpone a vote on Eric Holder's appointment as attorney general.

Counting Clinton, seven Cabinet members have been confirmed so far, as have the two top officials at the Office of Management and Budget.

Obama's schedule for the day included separate sessions on the economy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The new president has pledged to take bold steps to revive the economy, which is struggling through the worst recession since the Great Depression. Last week, he won approval to use $350 billion in leftover financial industry bailout funds.

He presided over the White House meeting on the economy as the House Appropriations Committee moved toward approval of $358 billion in new spending, part of the economic stimulus package making its way to his desk.

The new commander in chief held his first meeting in the Situation Room, where he, Vice President Joe Biden and senior military and foreign policy officials discussed war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama campaigned on a pledge to withdraw U.S. combat forces from Iraq within 16 months, and to beef up the commitment in Afghanistan.

The new White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs, said Obama's phone calls to leaders in the Middle East were meant to convey his "commitment to active engagement in pursuit of Arab-Israeli peace from the beginning of his term."

Gibbs also that in conversations with Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian leaders, the president emphasized he would work to consolidate the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Obama intends to name former Senate Majority leader George Mitchell as a special envoy to the region.

Not everything was new at the White House.

In the Oval Office, Obama worked at a desk built from the timbers of a British naval vessel, the HMS Resolute, and used off-and-on by presidents since the 1870s, including Bush. It also appeared that the carpet that Bush used in his second term, a yellow sunbeam design, was still in place.

If some of the furnishings remained in place, there was no doubt that the new president meant to fulfill his campaign promise of change.

"As of today, lobbyists will be subject to stricter limits than under any ... other administration in history," Obama told reporters as he signed the new rules. The restrictions included a ban on gifts by lobbyists to anyone serving in the administration.

Senate confirms Clinton as secretary of state

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state Wednesday as President Barack Obama moved to make his imprint on U.S. foreign policy, mobilizing a fresh team of veteran advisers and reaching out to world leaders.

The Senate voted 94-2, with Republican Sens. David Vitter of Louisiana and Jim DeMint of South Carolina opposing.

Republicans and Democrats alike said her swift confirmation was necessary so that Obama could begin tackling the major foreign policy issues at hand, including two wars, increased violence in the Middle East and the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

"It is essential that we provide the president with the tools and resources he needs to effect change, and that starts with putting a national security team in place as soon as possible," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Obama's presidential rival, Sen. John McCain, was among those who spoke in Clinton's favor.

"This nation has come together in a way that it has not for some time," said the Arizona Republican, on the Senate floor for the first time since the inauguration.

Voters "want us to work together and get to work," McCain said.

As the Senate debated Clinton's appointment, Obama wasted no time in his first day at the White House. According to a White House spokesman, Obama placed telephone calls to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The administration also planned to name former Senate Democratic leader George J. Mitchell as Clinton's special envoy for the Middle East. Dennis Ross, a longtime U.S. negotiator, was also expected to advise Clinton on Mideast policy, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the move.

She was sworn in as the nation's 67th secretary of state in her office in the Russell Senate Office Building. Attending the private ceremony was her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and her Senate staff.



Draft order sees Gitmo shut in a year

BY LARA JAKES AND DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama plans to sign an executive order Thursday to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center within a year and halt military trials of terror suspects held there, a senior administration official said.

The executive order was one of three expected imminently on how to interrogate and prosecute al-Qaida, Taliban or other foreign fighters believed to threaten the United States.

The official said the president would sign the order Thursday, fulfilling his campaign promise to shut down a facility that critics around the world say violates domestic and international detainee rights. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because the event has not yet been announced.

An estimated 245 men are being held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, and 600 others at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Most have been detained for years without being charged with a crime. The administration already has received permission to suspend the trials at Guantanamo for 120 days pending a review of the military tribunals.

A copy of a draft of the order, obtained Wednesday by the AP, dealt only with the Guantanamo prison.

"In view of the significant concerns raised by these detentions, both within the United States and internationally, prompt and appropriate disposition of the individuals currently detained at Guantanamo and closure of the facility would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice," the draft order said.

At least three military prisons — at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Charleston, S.C. — could house some of the Guantanamo detainees, an administration official said. Also under consideration, the official said, is the Supermax prison in Florence, Colo., which houses convicted 9/11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph.

A senior Obama administration official said Wednesday that 60 to 120 Guantanamo prisoners may be considered low-threat detainees and transferred to other countries, either for rehabilitation or release. Only Portugal so far has agreed to take some of those detainees, this official said, although diplomatic discussions are ongoing. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the executive orders have not been issued yet. A State Department spokesman did not immediately know which nations had been asked to accept some prisoners.

Other detainees could be imprisoned in their home nations. And the rest likely will be transferred to prisons in the United States — a plan that many members of Congress oppose.

Public interest and human rights groups that long have wanted the facility shuttered were quick to urge Obama to be more aggressive than the draft order's proposals. The Center for Constitutional Rights, which provides many of the Guantanamo detainees with legal representation, said the draft doesn't give specific steps for closing the facility.

"It only took days to put these men in Guantanamo. It shouldn't take a year to get them out," said Vincent Warren, the center's executive director.

The draft requires a review of each Guantanamo case to decide whether the detainees should be returned to their home countries, released, transferred elsewhere or sent to another U.S. prison.

House Republican leader John Boehner said he's open to options, "but most local communities around America don't want dangerous terrorists imported into their neighborhoods, and I can't blame them."

"The key question is where do you put these terrorists," Boehner said Wednesday. "Do you bring them inside our borders? Do you release them back into the battlefield? If there is a better solution, we're open to hearing it."



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Saturday:	12:45 – 3:15 p.m.
Sunday:	2:30 – 4:45 p.m.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

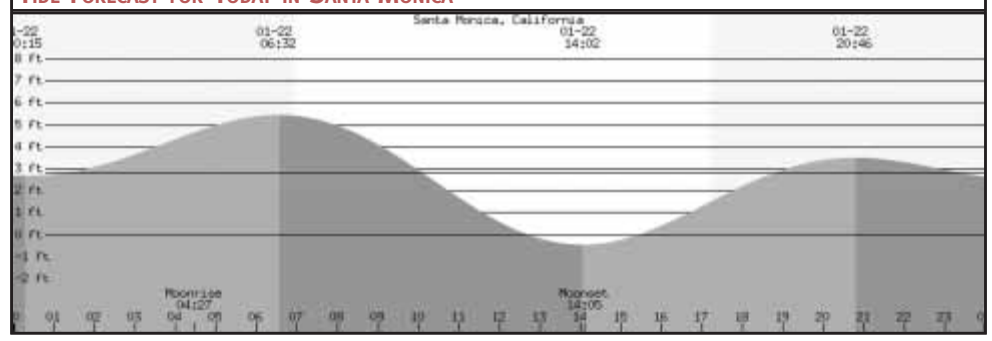
Swell Forecast (3-7 FT)

Thursday the 22nd this swell should fade further as shorter, 12-second periods arrive. Most west facing breaks are looking at chest waves max.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 23rd should start out smaller, perhaps waist high around most west facing breaks. Our next swell should build in the afternoon.

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 four weeks up to the ending date of: **January 13, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 17
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 30

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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
Las Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa 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+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
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 Blocker County Beach	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	D
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	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	C

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+	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	D
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	C
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+	C

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.

Heal the Bay

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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

North by Northwest (1959) (NR) 2hrs 16min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Bedtime Stories (PG) 1hr 35min
2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50

Not Easily Broken (PG-13) 1hr 39min
2:10, 4:50, 7:20

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
9:35

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Notorious (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

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

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
1:15, 4:45, 8:15

My Bloody Valentine 3D (R) 1hr 41min
2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15

Bride Wars (PG) 1hr 30min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 9:45

Yes Man (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:30, 7:20

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:05

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

The Unborn (PG-13)
5:05, 10:10

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

Revolutionary Road (R) 1hr 59min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Last Chance Harvey (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Slumdog Millionaire (R) 2hr 1min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

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

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

Gran Torino (R)
1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30

Valkyrie (PG-13) 2hrs
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Marley & Me (PG) 2hrs
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

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

Share with a friend, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep looking for the unusual solution or different approach. If you are constantly committed to finding a workable alternative, you will have much to smile about. Others could be tired and difficult. Don't linger around these people for too long, or else you might start feeling like them! Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Work with one other person, and you'll get results beyond your wildest imagination. How you deal with a situation and the choices you make could change radically. Consider the so-far unbelievable. You will love the results. Tonight: Say yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, knowing full well what you want. You could be pushed by others and have an extreme reaction. The unexpected occurs. Know that anything is possible. A friend can heal a problem with ease. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Easy works, and you have a lot to smile about. If you really want to think through a situation, take your time. You don't have to give an answer immediately. Listen to feedback from an associate. A partner has a strong sense of direction. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your warm style draws many people in your direction. Your perspective could change if you stay open. An associate might push you hard; go along with his or her suggestion. Tonight: Get more rest than usual.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Stay anchored and understand your limits and needs. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you hear. You have the strength needed, if you so decide. Know what is important. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Speak your mind, but give yourself the space to change your mind – because in all likelihood, you will. Consider different alternatives with care. Tap into your imagination, and you could be delighted by the choices. Tonight: Share with a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Be careful with spending. You easily could go overboard. Recognize your limits so that you won't be singing the blues in the near future. Open up to possibilities with an eye to improving communication in a key relationship. Tonight: Let your hair down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your grin goes far, but you still must act on an idea. Bosses drop a lot on your plate, and you might have very little choice as to what to do. Use care with a thought or an instinct. A touch of cynicism pays off. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Know when to do less and listen more. Sometimes you could feel overwhelmed. Today, make it OK to feel like that. Gather information. What you feel is a good hunch might have larger implications than you originally thought. Tonight: You feel better as the night gets older.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Zero in on a friendship. A meeting could prove to be more important than you originally thought. Share a dream or a very wild thought. Your instincts could cause an unanticipated surprise. Tonight: Make it an early night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others demand a lot, but on the other hand, you are able to handle all your responsibilities. The unexpected plays a big role in your unpredictability. How you see life could change radically. Tonight: Find your spirits.

Happy birthday

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

You are full of energy and excitement this year. You might be focused on your goals, but inevitably, what you desire comes in from out of left field. Groups of people and friendship mean a great deal to you. As a result, you will create much more of what you want through networking. If you are single, a relationship evolves through a friend. But recognize that you might not really know this person. And you might not get to know this person for a long time. Take your time before committing. You could discover this person is very different from what you thought. If you are attached, spend more time away together. Romance blooms. CAPRICORN reads you cold.

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).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "Time's Arrow" author
5 Plays
11 Skating spot
12 Fail to follow suit
13 Covet
14 Aerie youngster
15 Southern Australian city
17 Sermon subject
18 "Adam Bede" author
22 "Ugly" TV character
24 Cost
25 Bustle
26 Bigwig
27 Bed on board
30 Salad green
32 Follow
33 Attila, for one
34 Base for a bust
38 Coped
41 One or two
42 Lace's place
43 Press
44 Solve a cryptogram
45 Invites
20 Singer Redding
21 The best
22 Paul Bunyan's blue ox
23 Perfect place
28 Elvis' birthplace
29 Obeyed
30 Revolutionary Guevara
31 Catherine the Great led it
35 Be too fond
36 In a frenzy
37 Camera part
38 Dr.'s field
39 Seaman's answer
40 Last mo.

DOWN

1 Scope
2 Intellect
3 Market players
4 Like many atriums
5 Zwei follower
6 Book lover
7 Lansbury or Bassett
8 Singer Tormé
9 Grow older
10 Determined
16 One or more
19 Patent seekers

J	A	C	K	■	B	A	L	Z	A	C
O	B	O	E	■	A	M	O	E	B	A
A	L	L	Y	■	S	A	D	D	E	N
N	E	O	■	S	I	Z	E	■	■	■
■	■	R	E	U	S	E	■	C	A	T
E	X	I	L	E	■	S	T	O	L	E
T	E	S	S	■	■	■	E	L	S	A
A	N	T	E	S	■	B	R	O	O	M
L	A	S	■	Q	U	I	N	N	■	■
■	■	■	C	U	R	B	■	I	M	P
S	T	A	L	A	G	■	I	S	E	E
E	E	Y	O	R	E	■	S	T	E	W
W	E	E	D	E	D	■	A	S	K	S

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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			

1-22

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 9 10 35 46
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: $21M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 15 21 29 37
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $53M

Fantasy 5: 2 21 29 34 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 5 1
EVENING: 3 1 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1.42.87

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

■ The Economy in Crisis: (1) The Platinum Lounge, a lap-dancing club in Chester, England, announced in November that it would begin selling advertising, in 4-by-6-inch body-paint squares, on dancers' derrieres. Said the club's agent, "I had to do a lot of research ... to come up with the optimum size for the (ads)!" (2) In the midst of widespread unemployment in Sweden, the Haxriket i Norden company announced in November it would hire 20 professional witches well-versed in tarots, crystals, herbs, exorcism, and "contact with the other side," in the expectation that desperate consumers increasingly would require counseling.

■ Although to many outsiders, the concept of "clothing" on Muslim women suggests full-body veils, many married women in Syria are decidedly more playful, feeding a market for daring and quixotic underwear (to be worn in private, of course, and only for one's husband). Musical panties (some that glow in the dark), bras with "hands" covering the cups, and underwear designed to collapse and fall to the floor at the sound of hands clapping are just three of the popular items at boutique shops, according to a December BBC News dispatch from Damascus.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1917 President Woodrow Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

1922 Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

1973 the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach.

1984 the Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Washington Redskins 38-9 to win Super Bowl XVIII, played at Tampa Stadium in Florida. (The game broadcast on CBS-TV featured Apple Computer's famous "1984" ad introducing the Macintosh PC.)

1995 Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

WORD UP!

qualitative \KWOL-i-tey-tiv\, *adjective*:
concerned with quality or qualities

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Announcements

NEED HEALING OR DREAM INTERPRETATION? HEALING CIRCLE IS HERE!
The Healing Circle Healing Rooms will be gathering at the Virginia Park in Santa Monica this Saturday January 24, from 10 am to noon. Virginia Park is located at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield. We'll be on the side of Virginia St. (Virginia and 22nd St). We'll be praying for people who are seeking spiritual, physical and emotional healing. Come and receive prayer to attain wholeness and restoration of your body, soul and spirit. We'll also be doing dream interpretation. For more info please call Cibby at 310-993-0267.

Employment Wanted

EUROPEAN WOMAN, educated, legal, looking for employment inSanta Monica- Malibu. Caring for elderly. Will cook, and take for walks, companionship. Ester (818)754-1186

I WANT to be your P/T carpet cleaner. Own equipment Robert (310)394-1533

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Employment

Advertising Sales

The Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica's Daily newspaper is seeking an Advertising Account Executive. Previous advertising sales experience isn't needed but it's certainly a plus. The job is meeting and networking with local and national businesses to help them get their message to our readers here in Santa Monica. We're looking for smart, friendly people who are motivated by money to join our growing sales team. Great work environment, must bring a positive attitude and outlook to our team. If you play well with others, are aggressive without being pushy, and have a drive to succeed, we want to work with you. Resumes are accepted via email to Rob Schwenker – Schwenker@smdp.com

Assistant Manager Position Available-Self Storage company in Santa Monica seeking a candidate with a great personality and great phone skills. Position is full time, must have sales experience, a valid driver's license, be available on weekends, must pass background check. Please e-mail your resume to info@sawtelleselfstorage.com

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

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GIVE OF YOURSELF American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs volunteer sales help. You can contribute by spending 4 hours per week Thurs., Fri., or Sat.assisting in our up-scale resale shop in Santa Monica. Conact Terry or Shaunnah at (310) 458-4490.

GROOMER/KENNEL TECHNICIAN for a Veterinarian office, experience needed e-mail resume animedctr@hotmail.com (310)575-5656

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Employment

Magellan

MAGELLAN'S HAS been making travel safer, more comfortable and rewarding since 1989 by offering innovative, quality travel products and clothing. Voted the #1 travel store in Santa Barbara again in 2007, we're looking for individuals to join our team of travel gear experts. We are currently recruiting for the following position:

P/T RETAIL SALES
Retail associates are responsible for providing exceptional service to our customers, ringing up sales and participating in visual merchandising, inventory, and all special store events. Weekend availability is required. Benefits for 30+ hrs/wk.

Magellan's offers a fun and challenging work environment as well as competitive compensation, medical, dental & vision insurance and a 401K with employer match. Please forward your resume to: Magellan's, 1006 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90401; Fax 805-564-8014; E-mail: HR@magellans.com

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MAGELLAN'S HAS been making travel safer, more comfortable and rewarding since 1989 by offering innovative, quality travel products and clothing. Voted the #1 travel store in Santa Barbara again in 2007, we're looking for individuals to join our team of travel gear experts. We are currently recruiting for the following position:

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The Santa Monica Retail Store Manager is responsible for general day to day retail operations including; hiring, training and motivating store employees. Plan and coordinate sales promotions, design in store displays and more. Must have 2+ years of retail store management experience, be available to work weekends, superior communication skills, and be computer savvy.

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Mystery shoppers earn summer gas money. Up to 150$/day. Undercover shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments.
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Santa Monica, CA

Kate Bransfield

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



2721 Washington Avenue
Charming 2 Bed, 1 Bath
Or
Great Opportunity To
Build Your Dream Home!
Approved Plans & Permits
Included in Purchase Price!
$1,499,000

1135 Berkeley Street
5 Bed, 2.5 Bath
Huge Yard!
Single Family Home
$1,788,000
Open Sunday, January 25th
1:00 - 4:00 pm





11479 Rose Avenue
5 Bed, 3.5 Bath
Craftsman
Single Family Home
$1,425,000
Open Sunday, January 25th
1:00 - 4:00 pm

North of Montana!

632 16th Street
$3,475,000
4 Bed, 4.5 Bath
Single Family Home
Open Saturday & Sunday, January 24th & 25th
1:00 - 4:00 pm



Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late January 2009

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,295,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	$3,799,000	$1,275,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$745,000
South of Wilshire	=	$854,500	$789,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,190,000	$532,000
Ocean Park	=	$2,350,000	$719,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

Featuring your Home First

- To find out how I get your home 500% more exposure online on over 100 websites
- To find out the most up-to-date Santa Monica real estate information
- For a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

Visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com

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