



VICK'S IN THE MONEY
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE GET OUT AND VOTE ISSUE



HOW HIGH

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Left Zedra Slaton of the womens Santa Monica College Basketball jumps into the air in front of La' Day Venson of Los Angeles Valley College on Saturday, Feb. 3 as SMC travelled to LA Valley for a western state conference game. SMC won 87-73. The men's team lost, 78-69 to LA Valley.

Redevelopment raises concerns

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVENUE A 56-year-old courtyard-style apartment on the northern end of the city, a locale known for its views of the Pacific Ocean and tranquility, could soon be transformed into condominiums, concerning long-time rent-controlled residents about finding an affordable place to live.

Dallas-based Trammell Crow Co. acquired the 47-unit apartment complex situated on the corner of San Vicente Boulevard and Ocean Avenue last summer and is planning to erect a 26-unit condominium project in its place.

The project is still in its initial conceptual phases and the company has yet to file for any building or demolition permit applications, according to Greg Ames, the senior vice president and a Santa Monica resident overseeing the project, who estimates applications could be filed in the next two months with construction beginning in summer 2009.

The development could consist of a mix of three-level townhouses, duplexes, penthouses and affordable housing units. Neither an estimated square footage nor a construction cost has been calculated.

"With both coastal and mountain views, Ocean Avenue is destination real estate and home to a number of top quality high-rise and mid-rise multifamily properties," Ames said on Monday. "Redevelopment of this site into an environmentally friendly, luxury condominium building complemented with on-site affordable units, all designed by a world class architect, will be an excellent addition

to the Ocean Avenue landscape fronting Palisades Park.

The proposal has concerned some residents about the impact on the long-time tenants whose low rents are protected under rent control.

"Most of them are elderly people who have lived here more than 20 years and unfortunately, there is no plan for what to do next," said Djamal Kord, an acupuncturist who moved into the building about 10 years ago.

Kord chose to live at the apartment because of its proximity to an acupuncture school in downtown Santa Monica that he attended at the time. The apartment is also close to his acupuncture office in the downtown area, where he commutes to everyday by walking or biking.

"We are at an age where we can do something about our situation," Kord said. "But others don't have that kind of help and sometimes when they have to go somewhere, we have to (drive) them."

The company has offered move-out agreements with existing tenants and would like to reach a voluntary agreement with each tenant rather than file Ellis Act eviction notices, Ames said. If the company does decide to go through the Ellis process, it will file an application within the next two months, Ames estimated.

"It is important for us to respect the rights of the tenants in the building and we are working hard to minimize the effects of this disruption to the greatest extent possible," Ames said.

While a rendering was not available by press time on Monday, many tenants that

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 8

Supporters of district split gathering signatures

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU When voters today mull over their favorite presidential candidate and decide whether the public school district should continue to receive more than \$10 million a year from property owners, they could also be asked to chew on another school-related question — should Malibu and Santa Monica call it quits over their 51-year educational partnership?

While that question will remain off the Super Tuesday ballot, Malibu residents that have been calling for an examination of a possible secession from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will be out at polling locations in the seaside city today, asking voters to sign a petition that will spark a process to studying the feasibility and legality of a split.

Talks of separating the district have taken place every few years since the 1980s but recent events related to the allocation of Measure BB construction bond monies, which some Malibu parents and city officials claim heavily favors Santa Monica High School over Malibu Middle/High School, have reawakened those discussions.

Laura Rosenthal, a Malibu resident who is among the parents spearheading the petition drive, estimates the group pushing the campaign has collected more than 600 signatures.

FROM SPLIT PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'A Heart Full of Laughter'

2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Jesse and all his puppet pals are sharing the love, laughter and stories during a special puppet show. Tickets for both shows are free but must be picked up after noon on the day of the shows. There are no phone reservations. This program is for children, ages 3 — 7. For more information, call (310) 392-3804.

Mindfulness Meditation

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Experts will discuss the science behind mindfulness and its effectiveness in reducing stress, boosting the immune system, and increasing attention. Call UCLA Health System at (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

Peter's Zeal

402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Peter who wrote "Classic Hikes of the World" will present a slide show featuring pictures of his hiking experiences through New Zealand. There will be a Q & A session after the presentation, and copies of his book will be available for purchasing and signatures. Those who attend will have a chance to win an REI Adventures trip for two to New Zealand.

Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library brings back their music and story program for toddlers aged 24 — 36 months. Registration and an accompanying adult are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 392-3804.

The Play 'tis the Thing

2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library is hosting a six-week play writing workshop. Learn principles of dramatic structure, how to construct dialogue and analyze the finished product with instructor Anna Stramese. Registration required. Enrollment limited. For more information, call (310) 458-8638.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2008

Funny feelings

6360 W. Sunniest Blvd., L.A., 8 p.m.

For all of those Barbara fans suffering from their diva-in-hiding pangs, the Arclight presents a quick-fix in "Funny Girl." Sing along to "Don't Rain on My Parade" and "People" and let that caged bird soar. Tickets are \$12. For more information, call (323) 464-4226.

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library book sale

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The Friends Bookstore Volunteers will conduct a sale of specially-priced books. There will be about 100 books that have been signed by an author, are special editions, or have unique value. These books come from the donations of materials to the Santa Monica Public Library.

'Choosing the Quiet'

1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.

Maurizio Barattucci's solo show, "Choosing the Quiet" will be on display at Emeritus College through February 29. Barattucci taught at the Art Department of Santa Monica College for 30 years and retired recently. For more information on this free event, call (310) 434-4306.

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.



CORRECTION

In the Feb. 2-3 edition of the Daily Press ("Recruiting 101," page 1) a photo of former Santa Monica High School quarterback Ryan Katz should have said the photo was taken by Fabian Lewkowicz.

Major financial company moves out

By Daily Press Staff

OLYMPIC BOULEVARD A financial services holding company that became entangled in the now infamous sub-prime lending debacle last year is moving its operations from Santa Monica to Orange County.

Fremont General Corporation (FGC), whose headquarters were based in the Water Garden, moved its principal executive offices to Brea, the company announced on Monday.

Linda Bandov, a spokeswoman for FGC

declined to comment on the specifics of the move, including how many employees worked out of the former Santa Monica headquarters.

"Right now, we're still in the process (of moving)," Bandov said.

The company in March reached an agreement to sell approximately \$4 billion of its sub-prime real estate loans at a discount, "reflecting conditions in the sub-prime mortgage market," according to a statement released last spring. Fremont officials at the time estimated the sale of the sub-prime

loans would result in a pre-tax loss of approximately \$140 million.

In selling off the real estate lending portion of the business, Fremont officials were acting in response to a cease and desist order issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which criticized the company for lacking proper risk management policies regarding its sub-prime residential and commercial real estate loans. The company consented to the terms of the order without admitting to the allegations. Fremont Investment & Loans was operating its busi-

ness and providing mortgage loans to customers with bad credit in a way that increased the possibility that the borrower would fail on their end of the bargain, the order alleged.

The company reported approximately \$8.8 billion in total assets as of Sept. 30, 2007.

news@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



NICE FORM

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom throws it down at the Super Bowl-A-Thon XII at the AMF Bay Shore Lanes on Pico Boulevard on Friday, Feb. 1. Teams featuring elected officials, city staff and police officers and fire fighters raised funds for the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



THIRD STREET

Dodger caravan hits SaMo

The Los Angeles Dodgers will begin their annual caravan today by having a group of present and past players and announcers signing autographs and fielding questions from fans in Santa Monica.

Catcher Russell Martin, pitchers Brad Penny and Takashi Saito, and second baseman Jeff Kent are scheduled to sign autographs at Yankee Doodles on the 3rd Street Promenade from 5:30-6:30 p.m., along with former Dodgers Lou Johnson and Wes Parker and announcers Jaime Jarrin, Fernando Valenzuela and Charley Steiner.

Autographs will be limited to the first 150 fans who receive wristbands.

The two-day caravan will conclude Wednesday when Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda, outfielders Andre Ethier and Matt Kemp, infielder Nomar Garciaparra, newly signed pitcher Hiroki Kuroda, first baseman James Loney, former players Bobby Castillo, Eric Karros, Kenny Landreaux and announcer Pepe Yniguez will serve lunch at Panda Inn in Pasadena and sign autographs at Universal City Walk from 4-6 p.m. Autographs will be limited to the first 150 fans who receive wristbands.

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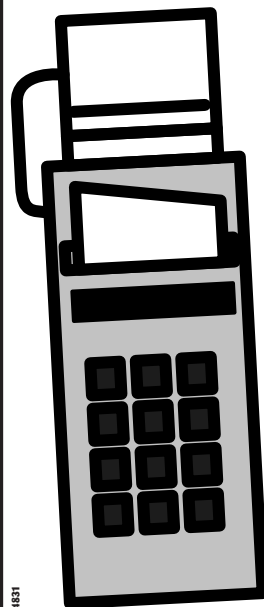
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Parking woes? Go Blue

Editor:

In response to the letter from Bonny Hsu ("Parking is a pain," page 4, Feb. 2-3) I just want to say this; "Boy are you lucky !" The parking signs posted that say the parking is for two hours or three hours mean just that. Not for you to replug the meter all day. It means you need to move your vehicle to a different spot and allow others to utilize the one you planned to hog all day.

Has car pooling not occurred to you? Use the buddy system and ride the bus with others, this way you will not be so afraid of the "vagrants" that seem to terrorize you (Just to let you know, they are there all day, every day, not just when you get off work at dusk). Look at every option and do not remain so self centered and closed minded. Go green, ride Blue.

Elaine Lasseter

Brentwood

Good schools are worth the money

Editor:

Regarding Mat Millen's editorial opposing Measure R ("R seeks parcel tax for a very long time," page 5, Jan. 30) my view is since both our country and our state have converted to the 'credit card' system of financing government, and it will be left to our children and their children to pay off the debt anti-tax fanatics like Mat Millen have left to them. It seems the very least we can do for the kids is to give them the very best education money can buy, because they're going to need it when it comes time to pay our bills.

Mr. Millen wrings his hands over the \$29 a month homeowners will have to pay, but please – if you can own a home in this area but can't afford the \$29 a month for a school system that adds far more than \$29 to the value of your home, then maybe it's time to move to a more affordable area. Millen implies our schools already have all the money they need and Measure R funds would be used for administrators and employees, as if these are things schools don't need.

Does Measure R go on for a very long time as Millen charges? It can always be voted out, but why? Aren't schools a permanent part of our community and isn't one generation of students succeeded by the next?

Mr. Millen complains of a lack of accountability on the part of the school board. Doesn't he vote? What better accountability is there than free and open elections?

My daughter went through this system and got a first-rate education from it. From Kindergarten to high school I went to every parent's night, and met every one of her teachers, and I can tell you without reservation, this school system is as good as it gets. Despite what some will tell you, there are things in this world more important than twenty-nine bucks, and this is one of them.

Michael Everett

Santa Monica

Indian gaming is not a sure bet

Editor:

Gambling ruins the infrastructure of society and the family, so why is Gov. Schwarzenegger promoting Indian gaming propositions 94-97? Gambling is a disease much like the addiction to drugs is a disease. How do I know; I've experienced both. Who benefits from 17,000 more slot machines? The gambling industry. Who pays for Indian gaming palaces? Californians to the tune of billions of dollars. Vote No on Propositions 94-97.

Ron Lowe

Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Some people aren't meant for college

TODAY AS WE GO TO THE POLLS TO VOTE, we will decide an issue of immense importance, we will be determining an issue that will echo for years. Our meager efforts here will be felt for generations — no, I'm not speaking of Hillary v. Obama, but rather of Measure R.

This is the local measure that is on the ballot to determine whether or not property owners will continue to fund the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District with a special parcel tax. The measure is important because we as a society are better served by having excellent schools.

Better schools are important because they translate into better educated people, and the more educated the populace, the better society we have.

I have mixed feelings about Measure R. As a homeowner, I would really like to not have to shoulder the burden of greater taxes, which is what this is, call an assessment, a user fee or a "convenience fee"; at the end of the day it is a tax that I have to pay in order to keep my home.

As a single man with no children, and none in the foreseeable future, frankly schools are not the first place that I want to spend my money. However, I have to interact with people all day long. They are the cashier at Starbucks, the plumber, the roofer and carpet layer. They are my clients and my compatriots.

Because they play a role in my life, and I in theirs, I recognize that it is an investment in the future good of our society.

I also like the fact that good schools help with property values. Not that there is really any danger of property values in Santa Monica or Malibu dropping drastically, but the fact that we have great schools helps keep the values up, and that translates into a more stable society.

Measure R keeps the current assessment at \$346 per parcel, adjusted upwards for the Consumer Price Index. It is a combination of Measures S and Y, and re-incorporates them. The Measure is supported by a host of Santa Monica Luminaries — Dr. Michael Gruning, Tom Larmore, Esq., and Dennis Zane all support the measure.

Those opposed say that it is rewarding bad management, that the school board writes checks it can't cash and then comes to the voters for more money. This may or may not be true, but since I don't have the time or the energy to devote to scrutinizing each and every act the school board does, I'm going to err on the side of caution and say that they are overall doing a decent job.

There are changes that I would like to see in the school system. I would love to see more trades represented. I would like to see more people realize, and accept the fact that all

kids are not designed for college, and that by telling them they are, we are in fact doing them a disservice. We are setting people up for low self-esteem when they wash out, or can't make it. We are creating a society that has an undercurrent of resentment by the have-nots, against the haves, not because of the differences in the balance sheet, but in the unmet expectations that we have unfairly created. We will be better off when we recognize the differences and accept them, and let each person develop their strengths.

AS A SINGLE MAN WITH NO CHILDREN, AND NONE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, FRANKLY SCHOOLS ARE NOT THE FIRST PLACE THAT I WANT TO SPEND MY MONEY.

My law partner is a 135 pounds. He has a 28 inch waist, and has not gained an ounce since he graduated college. I am a barrel chested bear of a man, I once had a 28 inch waist, and will in all likelihood, barring a fatal case of cancer, never see 28 inches again. I can spend my days pining for the 28 waist, bemoaning how unfair it is that I have to watch what I eat and work out in order to maintain some semblance of height and weight proportion, while my partner never does a sit up; or I can recognize the difference and move on. I can put on muscle by barely trying, he can't. C'est la vie.

We need to be aware that people have different makeups. Some will go on to Harvard, Duke, UCLA and even Notre Dame. Some will go to Santa Monica College and some will go to trade schools. We need all of them in our society, and we would serve them better by recognizing that the differences are not bad, but necessary. We should have programs in place to let them explore whether or not they want to be carpenters, mechanics, welders, painters or artists, chefs or beauticians.

But all of it starts by having good schools.

DAVID PISARRA is a Family Law Attorney in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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Visit us online at smdp.com



The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A. Members of CNPA, AFCC, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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EVERY YEAR CITY HALL'S SURVEYS RANK homelessness, traffic and parking as the biggest concerns residents have about life in our town. But while recently our government has laudably tried new approaches to reducing homelessness, city officials have shown no such vision about traffic.

That's why I'm one of the three proponents of the Resident's Initiative to Fight Traffic (RIFT), a local ballot measure proposed by the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City (SMCLC). This initiative will cut in half the rate of commercial growth, which creates three to four times the traffic of residential projects. It exempts residences, schools, hospitals, affordable housing, and other desirable development from its limits. I fervently believe it is a moderate, thoughtful and long overdue measure that empowers residents to take control of traffic in our city.

Street congestion has worsened dramatically in Santa Monica, creating pollution, hazards for pedestrians and cyclists, cut-through traffic in residential neighborhoods, burdens on the local economy, and enormous stress. Yet here are a few examples of the ways in which city policies have failed to manage traffic:

■ Ignoring its own projections for growth, City Hall approved nine million square feet of commercial projects over 27 years while our resident population stayed the same. The result is that we import massive numbers of commuters to fill all those commercial buildings, reversing the historic traffic flow on the freeway and clogging our streets.

■ Twelve years ago our City Council passed a law that required developers to pay fees to mitigate traffic when they build new buildings. It was a great idea and one that many other cities have implemented. The only problem in Santa Monica is that City Hall doesn't actually collect the money that is supposed to be used to enhance mobility in Santa Monica.

■ City Hall's Sustainable City Plan calls for a 1:1 balance of jobs to housing as a tool to reduce traffic. But since the plan was adopted, city officials have neglected this goal and the imbalance of jobs to housing has gotten worse as commercial growth exceeded residential development, thus increasing congestion.

Lately, city officials have uttered some token rumblings about coping with traffic. Their plan seems to be two-fold, to rely on a new citywide plan for development and transportation (due in 2004 and now likely to be completed in 2009) and the extension

of the Expo light rail to Santa Monica, last projected to be completed in 2015.

I greatly admire Planning Director Eileen Fogarty and her vision for our city, but there's absolutely no way to assure future leaders at City Hall will adhere to her blueprint for growth. It's too easy to disregard these plans, as our history has proven.

And while the Expo light rail will be great if and when it's built in an era of uncertain government finances, it will only alleviate pressures on roadways between Santa Monica and downtown and do nothing about car trips to and from the Valley, Manhattan Beach or Malibu. It will help, but it's not the solution.

Instead, the answers to our traffic woes require the sort of tough stances our local and regional politicians thus far are unwilling to undertake, such as setting reasonable limits on the kind of new development that generates the most traffic — commercial buildings.

Already big developers and their allies are lining up to challenge RIFT. Developer attorney Tom Larmore, currently the chair of the Chamber of Commerce, has called our initiative "ill-conceived," even though RIFT addresses the traffic woes which impact businesses as much as residents. For instance, the Los Angeles Times reports that "the region's chronic congestion wallows the economy to the tune of about \$12 billion a year in lost wages, productivity and fuel." And certainly local businesses, especially the small ones, would benefit from RIFT as fewer of them would be displaced by large developments that uproot existing establishments and replace them with chain store competitors.

There's no doubt there will be more of these attacks on RIFT in the future from deep-pocketed developers and special interests who seek profits in Santa Monica without regard to the quality of our lives.

Meanwhile, those of us who crafted RIFT have nothing to gain from it other than saving the community we love from even greater traffic woes. That's why it's critical that residents rally behind this initiative.

If you want to fight traffic, please visit www.smrift.com. We need volunteers to gather signatures to place this measure on the November ballot and we need donations to fend off the moneyed interests who would defeat it. It's time to take back our city.

TED WINTERER is a resident of Ocean Park. He can be reached at TedwRIFT@aol.com

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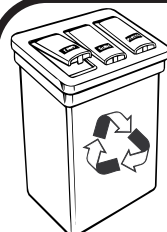
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The Q-Line

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Standing with the ban

Does your favorite restaurant still use Styrofoam? The city recently introduced a ban on the ecologically unfriendly packaging, but it will take a while before it begins enforcing the new ordinance.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Would you stop going to your favorite eatery if they don't comply with the Styrofoam ban sooner than later?

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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Feds promise more funding

By Daily Press Staff

SACRAMENTO Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday announced that California will see a dramatic increase in port security funding as well as millions more for transit security under allocations by the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The governor and his Office of Homeland Security (OHS), led by director Matthew Bettenhausen, have been heavily involved in pushing Congress and DHS for California's fair share of this funding for port security, considering California ports handle nearly half the nation's containerized goods.

"I applaud the federal government's action to more than double the funding for port security in California," Schwarzenegger said. "We must continue our efforts to upgrade the state's security infrastructure and ultimately protect the lives and property of Californians. Federal officials clearly understand the unique risks facing our state and recognize the significant work that has been done in California so far."

California's share of the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) for fiscal year 2008 increased to almost \$65 million, up dramatically from \$32 million in 2007. The state's share is about one-sixth of the total national

allocation of \$388 million dollars.

Funding from the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) for California also saw a significant increase. California will receive more than \$41.5 million dollars in fiscal year '08, up \$6 million from \$31.5 million in '07. In addition, transit agencies in San Diego and Sacramento will be eligible for a portion of \$38 million in available grant funding.

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also announced grant guidance for several other programs. Of note is the addition of the Riverside standard metropolitan statistical area (including the cities of Riverside, San Bernardino and Ontario) to the list of urban areas eligible for Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funds, which total \$781 million. Tier One cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco will compete for a portion of \$430 million, while Tier Two cities (53 total, now including the Riverside area) will compete for a share of about \$352 million.

The Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas are also eligible for additional funding this fiscal year under the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant program (RCPG).

"This additional program will certainly advance our mission and ability to deter, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from

any incident of terrorism, natural, or other man-made disasters," Bettenhausen said.

Specifically, the port areas of Los Angeles-Long Beach, San Francisco, and San Diego will receive \$64.8 million combined for port security improvements.

eligible to submit projects to compete for \$38.8 million in available funding nationwide for these smaller mass transit systems.

California has used such grant funding in the past for increasing the number of urban search and rescue teams, swift water rescue



WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE STATE'S SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND ULTIMATELY PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF CALIFORNIANS."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

- Los Angeles-Long Beach: \$36,390,481
- Bay Area (San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Stockton): \$25,533,655
- San Diego: \$2,898,611

In addition Port Hueneme is eligible to apply for grant funding from a national total of \$19 million.

In mass transit grants California systems in the Bay Area and Los Angeles-Orange County received the following allocations:

- Bay Area \$28,259,722
- Los Angeles / Orange County Urban Areas \$13,333,679

Systems in San Diego and Sacramento are

teams, enhancing and protecting critical infrastructure such as the Trans Bay tube and disaster medical assistance teams that were of vital importance and assistance in last year's wildfires.

Since its creation in 2003, OHS has administered over \$1.6 billion in homeland security grants. All of California's 58 counties have received homeland security funds to purchase equipment, provide training and develop strategies and plans to both prevent acts of terrorism and respond to emergencies, according to the governor's press office.

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Alcohol content could rise in Utah

BROCK VERGAKIS
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY The same state that's on a path to banishing wine coolers from grocery stores and requires anyone who enters a bar to have a paid membership is now considering offering stronger liquor drinks so Utah won't appear so odd to the rest of the country.

Utah has some of the nation's strictest liquor laws and weakest drinks.

Drinks can have no more than 1 ounce of liquor in them, and bartenders are prohibited from serving doubles. Tourists and locals alike have complained for years that drinks here are watered down.

"You really can't make a real drink with 1 ounce of alcohol," said Tom Guinney, an owner of the Gastronomy restaurant chain that's advocating changes in state law. "It is one of our quirky laws that does a great disservice to the citizens of the state of Utah and the tourists — it's financially abusive. People are getting ripped off."

State law allows for customers to order a second shot of liquor — known locally as a sidecar — that they can pour into drinks themselves, doubling the drink's potency.

On Monday, Sen. Dan Eastman, R-

Bountiful, was granted permission by the Senate to open up a bill file that would eliminate sidecars and increase the size of a standard shot from 1 ounce to 1.5 ounces — the general standard used elsewhere.

Guinney said bar owners and restaurants misled the state decades ago when they reported to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control that a standard shot was 1 ounce in an effort to increase their profits. He said some bar owners are opposing larger shots of liquor and the elimination of sidecars because they're afraid it would cut into their profit margins.

Eastman's proposal would not order stiffer drinks, but many customers would expect the larger dose of alcohol everywhere they go.

Eastman needed the Senate's permission because the deadline to request that a bill be written had already passed.

While Eastman's proposal would make standard liquor drinks stronger, it would also weaken others like margaritas and Long Island ice teas.

That's because under current law, drinks can have an additional 1.75 ounces of what the state calls flavored spirits. Eastman wants to reduce that amount to .5 ounces, which would

mean certain drinks could have no more than 2 ounces of liquor, down from 2.75 ounces.

Lawmakers supporting the effort that's backed by Republican Gov. Jon Huntsman say the proposal is aimed at improving public safety.

"The governor really made a good case that we have a provision in our liquor laws that's actually encouraging consumption by encouraging people to buy sidecars," said Senate President John Valentine, R-Orem.

The willingness of the Republican-controlled Senate to consider a request to serve stiffer drinks without extensive study is virtually unheard of in Utah.

While about 62 percent of Utah's population are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, about 90 percent of Utah lawmakers are.

The church has opposed every effort to make alcohol more accessible in the past decade and supports sending drinks like Zima and Mike's Hard Lemonade out of grocery stores and into state-controlled liquor stores.

When the church speaks, lawmakers tend to listen. Senate Majority Leader Curt Bramble, R-Provo, said he didn't expect the church to oppose the measure but had also

not gotten an official statement. Senate Republicans are expected to meet behind closed doors Tuesday to discuss the proposal.

Huntsman has said for years that he would like to see the state's liquor laws loosened, but lawmakers have scoffed at the idea. He has said he would support stiffer liquor drinks because it would bring the state closer to 'normalcy' in its liquor laws.

This fall, Senate President John Valentine, R-Orem, said any changes to the state's liquor laws would probably need to come all at once and only after significant discussion.

But on Monday, Valentine changed his tune and helped allow Eastman to open up his bill file.

Eastman said that by offering stronger drinks, Utah would be more competitive with other states in the region.

"A request has come from a number of individuals, including our governor, to help normalize the liquor laws in the state of Utah," Eastman said.

Since Huntsman came into office, Utah has placed an increasing focus on improving the state's tourism industry. Tourism officials have fought for years to fight the perception that it's difficult to get a drink in Utah with little success.

Study: Babies exposed to toxins found in products

BY LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO Baby shampoos, lotions and powders may expose infants to chemicals that have been linked with possible reproductive problems, a small study suggests.

The chemicals, called phthalates, are found in many ordinary products including cosmetics, toys, vinyl flooring and medical supplies. They are used to stabilize fragrances and make plastics flexible.

In the study, they were found in elevated levels in the urine of babies who'd been recently shampooed, powdered or lotioned with baby products.

Phthalates (pronounced thowl-ates) are under attack by some environmental advocacy groups, but experts are uncertain what dangers, if any, they might pose. The federal government doesn't limit their use, although California and some countries have restricted their use.

Animal studies have suggested that phthalates can cause reproductive birth defects and some activists believe they may cause reproductive problems in boys and early puberty in girls.

Rigorous scientific evidence in human studies is lacking. The current study offers no direct evidence that products the infants used contained phthalates, and no evidence that the chemicals in the babies' urine caused any harm. Still, the results worried environmental groups that support restrictions on these chemicals.

"There is an obvious need for laws that force the beauty industry to clean up its act," said Stacy Malkan of Health Care Without Harm.

The study's lead author, Dr. Sheela Sathyanarayana, a University of Washington pediatrician, said, "The bottom line is that these chemicals likely do exist in products that we're commonly using on our children and they potentially could cause health effects."

Babies don't usually need special lotions and powders, and water alone or shampoo in very small amounts is generally enough to clean infant hair, Sathyanarayana said.

Concerned parents can seek products labeled "phthalate-free," or check labels for common phthalates, including DEP and DEHP.

But the chemicals often don't appear on product labels. That's because retail products aren't required to list individual ingredients of fragrances, which are a common phthalate source.

The Food and Drug Administration "has no compelling evidence that phthalates pose a safety risk when used in cosmetics," spokeswoman Stephanie Kwisnek said. "Should new data emerge, we will inform the public as well as the industry."

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the health effects in humans are uncertain.

The new study, which appears in February's issue of the journal Pediatrics, involved 163 babies. Most were white, ages 2 to 28 months and living in California, Minnesota and Missouri.

The researchers measured levels of several phthalates in urine from diapers. They also asked the mothers about use in the previous 24 hours of baby products including lotions, powders, diaper creams and baby wipes.

All urine samples had detectable levels of at least one phthalate, and most had levels of several more. The highest levels were linked with shampoos, lotions and powders, and were most prevalent in babies younger than 8 months.

John Bailey, chief scientist at the Personal Care Products Council, questioned the methods and said the phthalates could have come from diapers, lab materials or other sources.



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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

STILL STANDING: A developer has plans to turn the apartments at 301 Ocean Ave. into condominiums, raising concerns amongst rent-controlled tenants.

Apartment complex could be replaced by condominiums

FROM DEVELOPMENT PAGE 1

have seen the designs call it "modernist," some feeling it would be out of sync with the overall landscape of the Ocean Avenue corridor.

Jagdish Taylor, who has lived in a second-floor unit with her husband for 16 years, said she is concerned with the changing face of Ocean Avenue, once a street packed with multi-family complexes, now interspersed with high-rises.

"We're concerned with what's happening to Santa Monica," Taylor said. "We're going to end up looking like Redondo Beach."

Taylor said she and her husband, Titus Wapato, have received a move-out agreement of \$14,000 and are currently mulling it over, though they seem inclined to reject the offer.

"Santa Monica is one of the few places that do not look like Miami Beach," Wapato said. "A glass concrete monolith on this corner will disrupt the flow (of mainly multi-family houses)."

The design of the proposed condominiums, which will include environmentally friendly elements, will be inspired by the architecture of similar buildings along Ocean Avenue, Ames said. The building should also stay within the scale of the surrounding complexes, he added.

Some residents seem less aggravated by the development.

Juliet Mittlemann has lived in the building for three years and in the same unit for the past six months and said she has mostly been in the dark about the proposed project, just hearing rumors from her neighbors about when they have to move out or when the project will break ground.

"Moving period is an inconvenience," Mittlemann said. "It's not like I'm being uprooted from my life."

melodyh@smdp.com

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■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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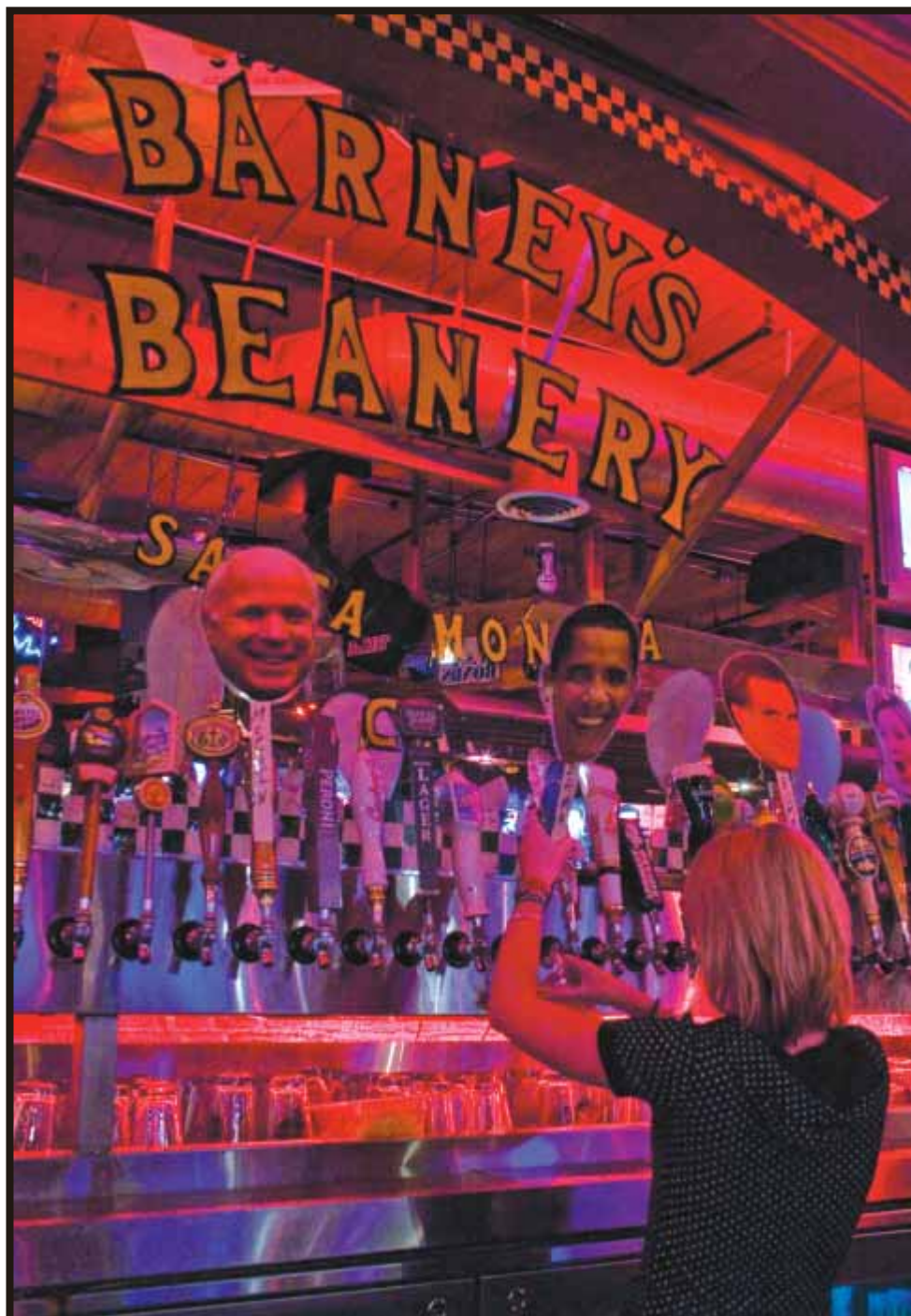
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FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Manager/bartender Tracy Coleman pulls Barack Obama's picture to serve a glass of beer at Barney's Beanery on the Third Street Promenade. Barney's is having a "Roadhouse Official Beer Vote" with the faces of the top presidential candidates on the beer taps. The event started on Monday and will end with the election today.

Parents begin collecting signatures

FROM SPLIT PAGE 1

tures, more than half of which are eligible and valid signatures from a similar secession campaign in 2004.

The parents will need about 25 percent of the more than 8,300 registered voters in Malibu to sign the petition in order to get the feasibility study started. Rosenthal stressed that signing a petition isn't necessarily an endorsement of a secession.

"When you sign the petition, you're not saying I want to be our own district," the former PTA president of the Point Dume Marine Science School said.

Aside from the polling locations today, parents will be out gathering signatures at grocery stores and community events, Rosenthal added.

The petition process received a unanimous support of the Malibu City Council last month, though councilmembers have not formulated an opinion as to whether they would support a split.

"That is the point of gathering the petition so we can get an analysis of whether it's a good thing or bad thing," said Mayor Jeff Jennings.

Reorganizing a school district begins with a petition that includes the signatures of 25 percent of the registered voters residing in the area proposing its own school district, which leaves Santa Monica voters out of the mix. Once the petition is submitted, the signatures must be validated within 30 days of receipt.

The petition then moves on to the Committee on School District Organization, an 11-member county committee that is charged with reviewing applications for reorganizing districts. The application could sit before the committee for about 180 days, a process filled with public hearings and a feasibility study that examines the financial and educational impacts to schools in both municipalities, according to county officials.

If the committee makes a favorable recommendation, the application moves on to the state Board of Education.

Since the state board meets only five times a year, handling the educational issues of 58 counties in the state, there is no set timeline as to when it would have to review the district reorganization proposal. The California board would also have to conduct its own feasibility study as well as an environmental impact report. If the application receives a favorable response by state board members, it would go before Malibu voters for approval.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM BEACH

Stay out of the water until Thursday

Due to current rainfall, run-off is likely to enter ocean waters in the Los Angeles County area. Because of this, county public health officials are advising residents not to go into the ocean either to swim, surf, or play in the waves for at least 72 hours after rainfall ends.

That is because discharging storm drains, creeks and rivers that lead to the ocean carry run-off from urban and wilderness areas containing high levels of bacteria and other germs. The risk is elevated in all beach areas but is highest where the storm drains and creeks enter the ocean. These elevated bacteria levels may cause some people to become ill.

This advisory will be in effect until Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:00 a.m. This advisory may be extended should rainfall continue later this week.

DAILY PRESS

CULVER CITY

Construction closes Sepulveda Blvd

For four consecutive nights beginning tonight, Sepulveda Boulevard will be closed between Braddock Drive and Culver Boulevard for construction work, according to Caltrans.

The closures will be in effect from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each weeknight, said Judy Gish of Caltrans.

The work, which involves installation of a drainage system along Sepulveda Boulevard near Culver Boulevard, is connected to the \$167 million High Occupancy Vehicle project on the San Diego (405) Freeway in both directions from the Marina (90) Freeway to the Santa Monica (10) Freeway, Gish said.

The most recent call for an examination of a split came after the district's Board of Education decided to allocate \$13.5 million of Measure BB construction funds to Malibu High School to Samohi's \$57 million, sparking accusations of favoritism toward Santa Monica, shortchanging Malibu residents as a result.

Among the most vocal critics has been Malibu City Councilmember Andy Stern, who suggested last year that many residents in Malibu would be less inclined to support Measure R, the parcel tax measure on today's ballot.

"I think their recent decision concerning Malibu has been tragic," Stern said. "There is this enormous distrust and a loss of any feeling of good will at the moment."

Malibu parents remain divided on the issue of secession, some, while saying that there has been a disconnected relationship between the two municipalities, feeling that a split isn't the best way to go.

"I just think that would be too disruptive and destructive," said James Baird, whose son graduated from Malibu High School. "Our kids have enough to deal with and I don't think they need the uncertainty of what the future would be like if the district were to split up."

The Malibu parent added that his son received a quality education and doesn't feel the existing system needs to be changed.

Stacey Cummings, a mother of two, echoed the sentiment, believing there is strength in numbers.

"I think it makes sense for Malibu to stick with Santa Monica because it makes us both stronger," she said. "Some say that Santa Monica is treated better because the district is sort of centered there, but I don't really see it that way."

But other parents feel a split would be beneficial for Malibu because of the lack of representation on the Board of Education.

"It's almost like we're out of sight, out of mind," said Rodger Hines, a father of three children. "All of the decisions are made down in Santa Monica and it feels as if we have no say."

Hines also pointed to the fact that the district headquarters are in Santa Monica, as well as two out of the three Board of Education meeting locations.

"Right now, if you want to get involved, you have to drive down to Santa Monica and the reality is many parents can't make that drive because they have other things they need to be doing at home, like making sure their kids finish their homework."

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✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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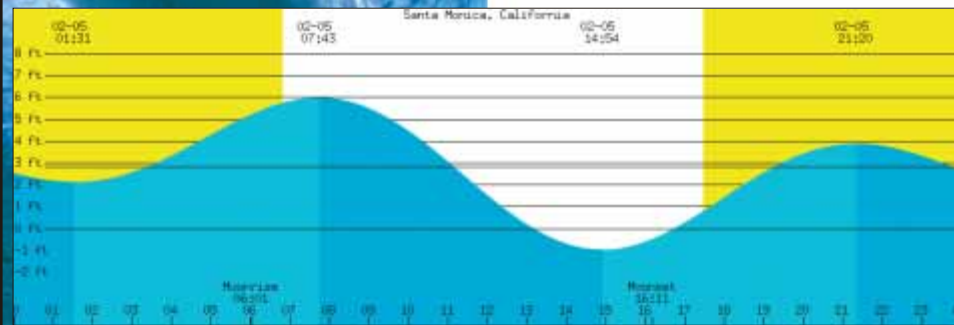
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SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)

Today the NW wind and ground swell combo should back off as some southern hemi SW sticks around. Most all breaks are looking at waist to at times chest high surf. Winds should turn lightly offshore in the morning Tuesday; although, some spots could see some ENE winds to 12 mph with the afternoon calming before a light onshore flow comes in.

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS

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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

January 29, 2008

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 -- 15

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 10

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 33

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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NFL

Judge: Vick can keep bonus cash

BY JEFF BAENEN
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS Jailed quarterback Michael Vick can keep all but \$3.75 million of the nearly \$20 million in bonus money he received from the Atlanta Falcons following a ruling Monday by a federal judge.

The Falcons sought to recover the bonuses after Vick pleaded guilty to federal charges in a dogfighting operation. The bonuses were paid from 2004-07.

A special master ruled in October the Falcons were entitled to recover the bonuses. The Falcons argued Vick used proceeds from a contract he signed in 2004 to finance his illicit activities.

But U.S. District Judge David Doty of Minneapolis ruled that recovery of most of the bonus money by the Falcons would violate the NFL collective bargaining agreement. The agreement does not allow roster bonus money to be forfeited once it's been earned, the judge wrote.

Vick received a 23-month jail sentence and entered a minimum-security prison in Leavenworth, Kan., last month. The league has suspended Vick indefinitely without pay.

"It makes no sense that an individual who willfully violates his contract is entitled to be paid tens of millions of dollars even though he is in jail and providing no services whatsoever to his employer," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Vick's personal attorney, Lawrence Woodward Jr., said Vick was happy with the ruling but understands there could be appeals.

"He's grateful for some good news but he realizes he needs to keep doing all the right things to get back to playing football," Woodward said.

At a November hearing, union attorney Jeffrey Kessler contended Vick's "roster bonus" should be treated the same as a "performance bonus," which can't be forfeited under the agreement. The league maintained the roster bonus should be treated like a "signing bonus allocation," which could be forfeited.

Doty ruled that once Vick made the

Falcons' 80-man roster, he earned the bonus money and the team cannot demand forfeiture. However, he wrote, the Falcons can recover \$3.75 million of his 2006 signing bonus, which is governed by other rules and is something the union did not challenge.

"The Players Association is obviously delighted with the result," Kessler said. "It vindicates our view that a clear deal was made — that once players earn their compensation that it is no longer subject to being taken back."

HE'S GRATEFUL FOR SOME GOOD NEWS BUT HE REALIZES HE NEEDS TO KEEP DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS TO GET BACK TO PLAYING FOOTBALL."

Lawrence Woodward Jr.
Vick's personal attorney

While the distinction about whether Vick's roster bonuses were guaranteed or not guaranteed may be important for salary cap purposes, Doty wrote, "it does not dictate the outcome in a forfeiture context."

Any money recovered would be credited to Atlanta's future salary cap.

Doty also ruled the Falcons may not use state law, even in a grievance procedure, to try to recoup Vick's bonus money.

Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay said the team is disappointed with the ruling, but it won't affect the Falcons' salary cap for the 2008 season.

"Any potential recovery would have only affected our 2009 salary cap," McKay said. "As to our future legal strategies, we will meet with our legal representatives to more fully understand our options before making that determination."

Superbowl a big hit but can't top 'M-A-S-H' finale

BY DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK The New York Giants' thrilling win over New England was the most-watched Super Bowl ever with 97.5 million viewers, a total that is second only to the "M-A-S-H" finale audience, Nielsen Media Research said Monday.

The game eclipsed the previous Super Bowl record of 94.08 million, set when Dallas defeated Pittsburgh in 1996. The final "M-A-S-H" episode, which drew 106 million viewers in 1983, is the only other show in American broadcast history watched by more people.

Sunday's game had almost all the ingredients Fox could have hoped for: a tight

contest with an exciting finish involving a team that was attempting to make history as the NFL's first unbeaten team since 1972.

But the Giants ended New England's bid for perfection, 17-14. Throughout the game, the teams were never separated by more than a touchdown.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning, who was to appear on David Letterman's "Late Show" on Monday, also won bragging rights over his brother: Last year's win by Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts was seen by 93.2 million people, now the third most popular Super Bowl.

Fox, a division of News Corp., charged \$2.7 million for 30 seconds of advertising time on the game.

Film in focus

SYLVESTER STALLONE says his latest "Rambo" film and its tag line are inspiring real-life opponents of Myanmar's military rulers.

"Either live for something, die for nothing – it's your choice," the 61-year-old actor-director

said Saturday in a phone call from Paris, where he is promoting the movie, the fourth in a series.

"Students have now used this film as a rallying point and are using the quote, thinking maybe the American military will intervene and save them,"

he said.

"Rambo" has the disaffected Vietnam vet John Rambo trying to find missionaries captured by Myanmar soldiers, who are shown razing villages and killing civilians.

Myanmar's military crushed pro-democracy

Stallone issues challenge to Myanmar officials

protests led by students and Buddhist priests last year.

Stallone filmed "Rambo," which has yet to be released in Asia, on a river bordering Myanmar and neighboring Thailand.

He issued a challenge to

the ruling military.

"If they think this movie is a fantasy, I welcome the opportunity to let me come over there and walk around the country without armed guards following me every inch of the way," he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ledger's hometown not happy



HEATH LEDGER'S hometown prepared Monday for the arrival of his remains, while locals expressed dismay at speculation in the media that the actor had used drugs.

Details of funeral arrangements for the late co-star of "Brokeback Mountain" have not been announced, but Ledger's family is expected to bring his body back to Perth this week. Family members have reportedly already attended two memorial services in Los Angeles.

The Australian newspaper reported Monday that Ledger will be buried next to two of his grandparents in a family plot in Perth. Ledger's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Ledger died in his New York City apartment Jan. 22 at age 28. Authorities suspect a drug overdose, but the cause of his death is still pending the outcome of toxicology tests. Police said several prescription drugs were found in

the apartment where the actor's body was found.

Residents of this idyllic city located on the western Australia coast expressed sadness at his sudden death – and outrage over rumors that he was a drug user.

"If a person dies, let him go in peace. All this rubbish they bring up about drugs and everything else, I think it's a lot of rubbish," said Margaret Byrne, a 58-year-old catering supervisor at Royal Perth Hospital.

Much of that speculation was fueled by video footage showing Ledger at a Hollywood hotel party where drugs were being taken two years ago. "Entertainment Tonight" decided against airing the footage after a Hollywood publicity firm that represented Ledger mounted a protest that included several A-list stars.

AP

CHAMBERS IN NEED OF ZZZS

JUSTIN CHAMBERS, who plays Dr. Alex Karev on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," has gotten real medical help.

Chambers, 37, voluntarily checked himself into UCLA Medical Center "to get help with a pre-existing sleeping disorder," his publicist, Danica Smith, said.

He entered the center Monday of last week and checked out Wednesday. Other details weren't provided.

Chambers "asks that the press respect his privacy and that of his family," according to a statement issued last Friday.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Check theatre for showtimes
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Atonement (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00
Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)
1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
1:30, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

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

27 Dresses (PG-13)
1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
Charlie Wilson's War (R)
1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
Cloverfield (PG-13)
1:15, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:15
The Eye (PG-13)
1:30, 4:05, 7:10, 9:40
Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D (G)
1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
There Will Be Blood (R)
2:55, 6:30, 10:05
Untraceable (R)
2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:15

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

The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Cassandra's Dream (PG-13)
11:40am, 5:20, 10:30
Mad Money (PG-13)
2:40, 7:50
Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
Michael Clayton (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:20
Rambo (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Strange Wilderness (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

More information email news@smdp.com

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

Happy Birthday!

You are full of energy, but you could find yourself barking up the wrong tree. Impulsiveness is a no-no this year. You easily could get into a situation you would prefer not to be in. Your career might be subject to some unanticipated changes that could point you in a new direction. Men might experience an identity crisis, whereas women might notice the men in their lives heading in a new direction.



Born Today

Slugger Henry "Hank" Aaron (1934)
Catholic priest Andrew Greeley (1928)
Comedian Red Buttons (1919)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Pay bills, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a development more, especially if it involves a group of people, a meeting or a key desire. Time is your ally; use it. If you honor potential changes, you might not move ahead. Tonight: Hook up with a friend via telephone or in person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your actions might surprise you, if not others. Listen to feedback you are getting. You might find a situation very different if you pull back and give yourself some time. Many responsibilities could be yours. Tonight: Step up to the plate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Look to the long term. You might want to attempt a different style or approach. Gather as much information as humanly possible. You could be overwhelmed right now. Look to new ideas. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Work with individuals rather than groups. You could be overwhelmed by what is going on. Try a different approach if someone isn't revealing what is going on with him or her. Tonight: Make time for a special friend or loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to take a leap of faith and trust someone you just met. Look at all the ramifications of a situation or investigate alternatives that surround a partner and important friends. Listen rather than determine. Tonight: Say yes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Plunge into work, and you'll get a lot done more quickly than you thought possible. Listen to someone who has a lot to share. Investigate possibilities with openness. Tonight: Relax and put your best foot forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your imagination could go a bit wild. Don't allow it to take you down the wrong path – you might not like the negative ramifications. Investigate and brainstorm, knowing there is certainly another way. Tonight: Fun and games.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ If you don't feel like making a move or doing anything out of the ordinary, make that OK. You could be under unusual pressure. Give yourself a few days, and you will be much happier. Think positively. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Speak your mind and share your ideas. You could be overwhelmed by what drops in your lap or what people share. Stall. Know that much could change in the next few days. Remain optimistic. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Speak your mind and share more of what you think and feel. Sometimes you easily become overwhelmed by everything that you have to handle. Though a financial matter will be on your mind, now might not be the time to decide. Tonight: Pay bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You are full of fun and liveliness. Others have a lot to share. Think in terms of gains or quick changes. You will see that much occurs in the next few days. Simply relax and go with the moment. Tonight: Focus on what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Slow down and take your time. You might make a quick decision or be impulsive – neither of which will feel right ultimately. Lie back. Be ready to play the role of an observer for the next few days. Take some time for yourself, walk or go to the gym.

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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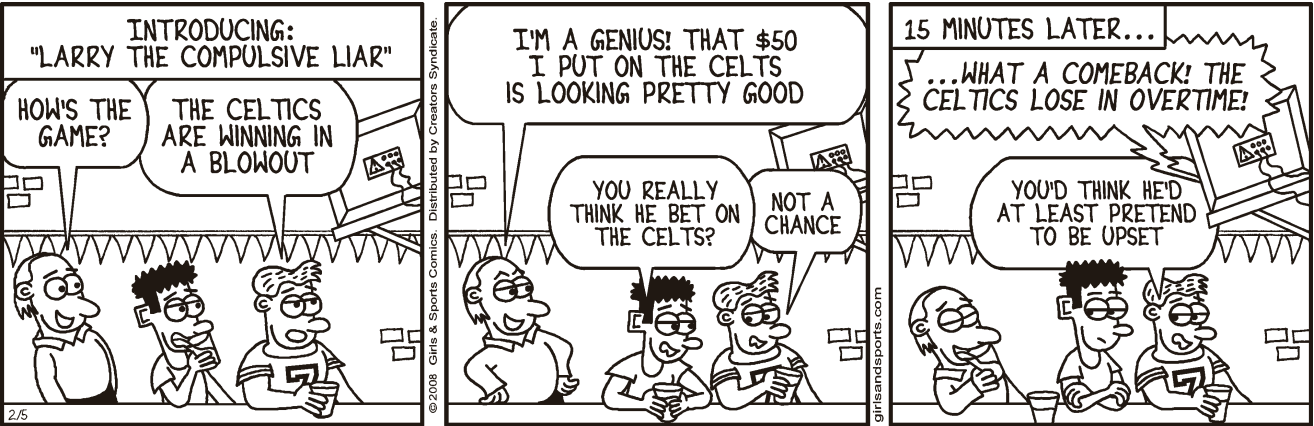
Residential

Interiors

Commercial

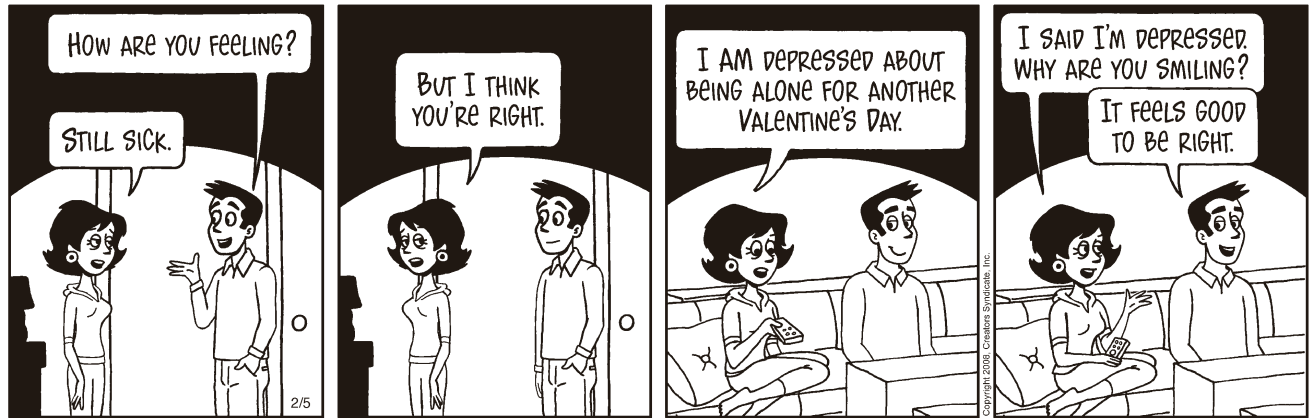
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



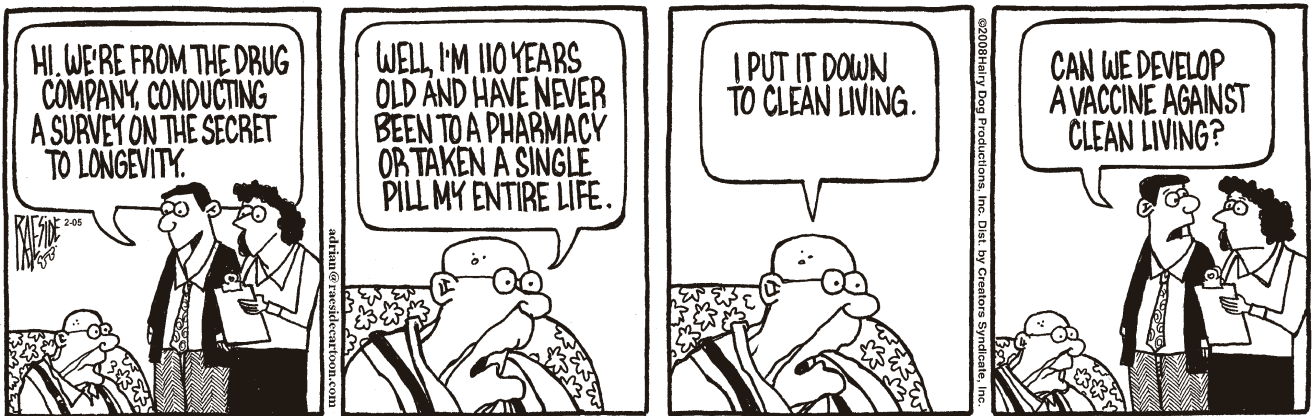
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



Santa Monica Daily Press

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		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,447,500	\$ 2,066,286
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,399,500	\$ 935,983
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,109,250	\$ 784,736
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,276,167	\$ 656,500
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,906,214	\$ 865,475

Statistics updated every Friday

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