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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

Volume 7 Issue 79



# Santa Monica Daily Press

A FEMALE POPE?
SEE PAGE 6

*Since 2001: A news odyssey*

THE KEEPING IT LOCAL ISSUE

# Samohi football coach comes home

**BY DANIEL ARCHULETA**
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The new head coach of the Vikings knows a thing or two about winning and Santa Monica.

Travis Clark, who was named the new head football coach late last week, not only played for Santa Monica High School, but he also helped the school win a California Interscholastic Federation championship in 2002 as an assistant coach under then head coach and current Athletic Director Norm Lacy.

His hiring comes less than two months after previous coach Zach Cuda resigned to further his teaching career. The Vikings finished last season 8-3 after losing in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight season.

"I can't believe this is actually happening," Clark said. "This is a dream come true."

His path to becoming head coach at Samohi included a standout career as a wide receiver at the school. He graduated in 1986 and headed to Utah State where he became a two-time All-Big West defensive back. After college, he worked for a few years as a camera operator, but said that coaching was something that always intrigued him.

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 10



**MOVING EXPERIENCE**

Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

**Broadway Gym instructor Elaine C. Russell (right) on Wednesday demonstrates an exercise for a group of sixth graders from John Adams Middle School at a YWCA-sponsored event celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.**

# Rejection is an everyday thing for missionaries

**BY KEVIN HERRERA**
Editor in Chief

THIRD STREET PROMENADE The way people treat them, you would think they were begging for loose change instead of trying to bring peace and love to the world.

These missionaries with the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification have heard it all. Some they approach politely decline to participate, while others get angry and call their church a cult before storming off.

That's how life is for these followers, who can be seen nearly every day on the Third Street Promenade with a small, laminated card in hand, approaching strangers to see if they believe in a higher power and are interested in spreading the mission of the Unification Church and its founder, The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who created the federation in 1996.

"It's not so easy to approach people these days," said Karina Chaves, a missionary and spokesperson for the federation's

SEE CHURCH PAGE 11

# Parking puzzle comes together

**BY MELODY HANATANI**
Daily Press Staff Writer

FIFTH STREET One of the final missing pieces in a plan to improve public parking in Downtown will soon fall in the hands of City Hall.

With the authorization of the City Council last week, officials are moving forward with the purchase of a two-story commercial building at 1334 Fifth St., acquiring property that will give City Hall a cumulative 67,500 square feet on the block to create more parking.

The 7,500 square foot property, which will be purchased for $5 million, is currently owned by Sunnyside Group and houses two tenants — Hershey Associates, a communications firm that operates both a for and nonprofit branch, and Ezai Florist.

Hershey Associates' lease is set to expire at the end of 2012 while the florist is on year-to-year terms.

The building will be purchased as part of the Downtown Parking Strategy, a three-year-old program that seeks to meet the parking needs in Downtown for the next 10 years by seismically upgrading existing public structures, demolishing and reconstructing three garages along Second and Fourth streets, and adding new spaces.

City Hall has over the past two years purchased a number of properties in the 1300 block of Fifth Street, including approximately 52,500 square feet for $30.9 million in September 2007 and a 15,000 square foot

SEE PARKING PAGE 13

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# WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS




### Robbie Kaye photo exhibit

Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave. Call for times
A retrospective of vintage and antique dolls, mannequins, ceramics, glass and other materials will be the centerpiece of this new exhibit. Robbie Kaye is a native of New York and has focused her recent work on Santa Monica's seaside vistas, buildings and fauna. For more information, call (310) 828-4001.

### 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.

### Laugh it up

Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — 12 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.

### 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.

## Friday, Feb. 6, 2009

### Salsa the night away

Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Learn or improve your salsa moves at Isabelle Pampillo's salsa socials. $20 buys a 90-minute class, social hour, and practice. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

## Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009

### 'A Little Princess'

Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Come watch a play based on Frances Burnett's timeless story of a very different type of princess whose generous spirit is undimmed by dark circumstances. This play is not just for girls! Donations of new or gently-used books in English or Spanish ages 0-10 will be accepted and forwarded to the Venice Family Clinic. Reserve seats for $6-8 at (310) 828-7519.

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.

# Calling all artists

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

The Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. once again invites talented student, amateur and professional designers to submit entries for its annual poster contest.

The winning design becomes the primary communications piece for the 25th Annual Twilight Dance Series, used in display advertising, posters, flyers, banners and more.

This year is particularly special with it not only being the 25th year of the series but also the pier's centennial anniversary. Artists are encouraged to keep these milestones in mind while creating their entries, PRC officials said.

The artist who creates the winning design will receive $750 and their design becomes a collector's item and keepsake from the series. In addition, the winner will receive a VIP package for the summer including a backstage pass to the series.

All designs will be displayed on the pier from March 20 through April 10 to recognize the hard work of all the entrants, PRC officials said.

All entries are due on March 6. This year's winner will be chosen via a secure Internet poll on www.santamonicapier.org. Visitors to the site will only be able to vote one time, for one poster. Voting will take place throughout mid-March and early April.

Past winners include Ginna Hepp with Summer Pier Nights and three-time winner Jeff Verges' A Tribute to the Classics, Surf's Up in Santa Monica and Summer Siren.

Contest rules, design specifications and entry forms are available at www.santamonicapier.org. A gallery of past posters is also available for reflection and inspiration. Entries are due at the pier's offices. More information is available by calling (310) 458-8901.

news@smdp.com

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**FEELING PINCHED** Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

**Santa Monica High School's Orhan Basank (center) goes up for a jump ball against a pair of Inglewood High School defenders Wednesday at John Adams Middle School. The Vikings won the Ocean League game, 4-3, in overtime. With the win, Samohi is now 9-3-3 overall and 4-1-2 in league play. Also, the win was the Vikings' fourth in a row.**

# Protecting your pets

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica and City Hall, in conjunction with Santa Monica Organizations Active in Disasters (SMOAID), are offering a free "Emergency Preparedness Training Seminar for Pet Owners," Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The pet owners seminar will be held at the Santa Monica Red Cross at 1450 11th St.

Preparing for a disaster such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane means having enough non-perishable food, water and important supplies on hand to sustain a family for a week. An important part of any family emergency plan should include needs for family pets. The seminar will feature a presentation by Capt. David Havard and Dr. Karen Halligan of the SPCA-Los Angeles. Halligan is also author of the book, "What Every Pet Owner Should Know." Havard and Halligan have been involved in animal rescue following Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Halligan also appears on the Animal Planet cable television show "Groomer Has It." There will also be a roundtable discussion for residents, emergency planners and others concerned about meeting the special needs of pets at a time of disaster.

Founded by City Hall and the Red Cross, SMOAID brings together numerous members of the community including nonprofit service providers, response agencies, schools, religious institutions, businesses, residents, neighborhood organizations, government agencies and others. SMOAID was created immediately following Hurricane Katrina in September 2005, to meet the needs of the 250 families and individuals who evacuated from the Gulf Coast to Santa Monica and environs.

SMOAID's purpose is to assist people in the Santa Monica community in preparing, surviving and recovering from disasters by working together and sharing resources and expertise.

The seminar intends to share information in disaster planning in relation to pets and their needs before, during, and after a disaster.

Lunch and parking will be provided. Do not bring pets to the seminar. Advance reservations are required. No walk-ins. RSVP by Feb. 13, to Lynda Jackson, (310) 458-2221 during business hours or by e-mail to: Lynda.jackson@smgov.net.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

### The choice is clear

**Editor:**

I join a growing list of Santa Monicans who support the appointment of Ted Winterer or Susan Hartley to the vacant City Council seat, based on their runner-up status in the just held election.

The (Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights) majority on the council recently denied Kevin McKeown and Bobby Shriver their fair turn at the mayorship, despite both being top vote-getters in their last respective elections. The common perception is they were bypassed because of their past support for Proposition T. That perception will become reality if Mr. Winterer or Ms. Hartley is not the nominee.

The argument that we should negate the election due to the 5,000 vote difference between fourth place (elected), and fifth place (first runner-up), does not hold water. After all, Ken Genser became mayor when he finished 5,000 votes behind Shriver, by far and away the winner.

In the recent City Council discussion of uncollected traffic mitigation fees, Mayor Genser aptly pointed out that it was time to move forward. I completely agree, and hope he does exactly that.

**Robert J. Scura**
Ocean Park

### Grateful for EPA study

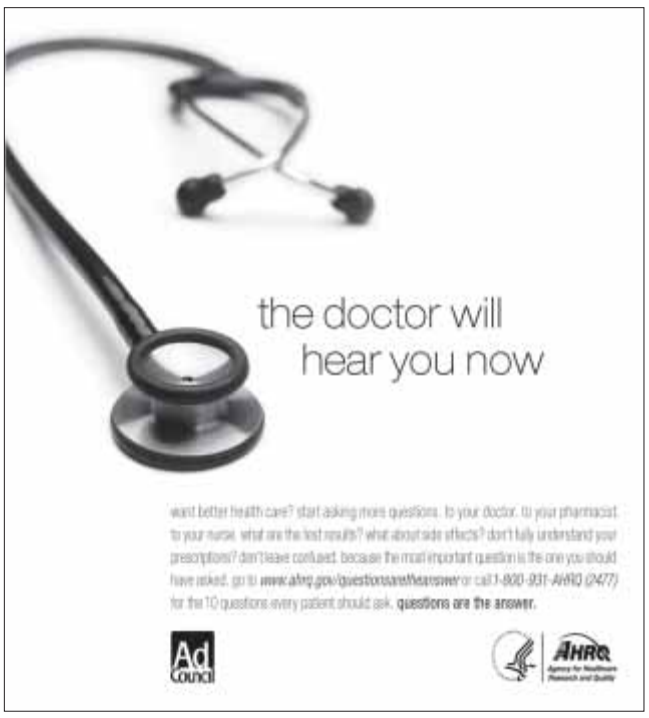
**Editor:**

Regarding: Jan. 30, 2009 letter to the editor, "The sky isn't falling."

By attending Santa Monica Airport Commission meetings, the author might get a more factual understanding of the various concerns regarding the relationship between Santa Monica Airport and those whose lives are impacted by the airport's operations. Recently, the U.S. EPA has made much stricter standards for acceptable levels of ambient air lead. Leaded aviation gas used in piston-engine aircraft is the largest source of lead emissions in the U.S., accounting for 45 percent or about two times more than any other source. Lead absorbed into the bloodstream can affect many of the body's organ systems.

Although, unlike the author suggests, Santa Monica Airport neighbors did not ask the U.S. EPA to take another look at the lead impacts from the airport's operations, but we are grateful and comforted by the fact that they have chosen Santa Monica Airport from the more than 19,000 private airports and heliports nationwide as the test ground for improving their modeling methods. Had the U.S. EPA taken a close look at the emissions from the jet traffic at Santa Monica Airport when corporate and fractional jet operations skyrocketed, airport neighbors might be breathing easier today.

**Martin Rubin**
Director, Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution




## Your column here

**Dr. Warren Willey** — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

# Sticking with it when others fail

GYM MEMBERSHIPS SEEM TO BE THE easy answer to losing weight since money will be withdrawn from our accounts whether we show up or not. It helps us formulate a habit of exercising if we can just stick with it for a few days, and the environment lends itself to success. (Who wants to look like the Michelin Tire Man around all of those hard bodies?) Many of us join, particularly at the beginning of the year, with the best of intentions.

But, as anyone in the health club industry will tell you, membership falls off by the end of March when new members have become discouraged by their failure to meet their weight loss goals. That's unfortunate since it doesn't have to be the case. Here are three ways to stick with your gym membership when others are quitting — and reap the benefits of good health for life:

1. Understand the role of your diet in weight loss. Exercise alone is not very effective for weight loss. You need to learn how to eat. The real reason the dreaded scale does not budge with your serious exercise endeavor is the fact that our bodies are homeostatic wonders.

They will find balance no matter what we do to them, to what environment they are exposed, or what stressors they are placed under. With the induction of exercise into a daily regimen, calories are utilized (as we hoped and wished). We have been repeatedly informed that weight loss is a function of calories in to calories out. You are bound to gain weight with more calories being consumed than utilized, and you will lose weight when caloric expenditure exceeds intake — i.e. the purpose of our gym membership.

Unfortunately, our bodies quickly figure this out and subconsciously (or not) start to consume more calories to make up the difference. Homeostasis is one of nature's durable laws — like taxes, it is unavoidable. Your body's ability to maintain its current condition is surprisingly powerful. Unless you work on your diet, you'll lose your motivation to continue your exercise because you won't get the results that you seek. You need to understand how food impacts you in terms of total caloric intake, the macronutrients involved (protein, carbohydrates, and fat) if you really want to reach your weight loss goals.

2. Find an "accountabilabuddy." A friend, a loved one, your co-worker, a personal trainer may be conscientious for your success. We all know the strength in numbers. This most certainly applies to exercise as well. Long term compliance to exercise protocols has demonstrated that support network and/or group participation are essential for success.

3. Monitor your progress correctly. Trusting the scale as the only measure of your success (or failure) is like asking your doctor to fix your toilet. He or she might be able to do it, but you can certainly be more prudent in your choice. With your new found exercise effort, you need to follow both objective and subjective data. Objective data is information that is impartial or independent of the user's frame of mind or input. This would include blood pressure, cholesterol levels, cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, how your clothes fit, blood sugar, and most importantly, body composition (lean mass and fat mass).

A lot of us tend to gain weight with an exercise program. Are we getting fatter, or leaner? Is that weight muscle or fat? Tracking your body composition is an excellent way to differentiate the two and allows you to see your progress on a more objective level. Subjective data is information that is biased or inclined by the user's state of mind or perception.

**... AS ANYONE IN THE HEALTH CLUB INDUSTRY WILL TELL YOU, MEMBERSHIP FALLS OFF BY THE END OF MARCH WHEN NEW MEMBERS HAVE BECOME DISCOURAGED BY THEIR FAILURE TO MEET THEIR WEIGHT LOSS GOALS.**

This set of data includes energy levels, cognitive abilities, moods, hunger, how one is sleeping, sexual vigor and satisfaction, etc. If you monitor your exercise labors by following this information, you are much more likely to stick to your gym membership for the long run.

Once you've understood the role of your diet in weight loss, found someone to share your exercise with and correctly track how it is impacting you, you'll find yourself meeting with successes that you can measure and appreciate. These will come in the form of not only the attainment of the body you desire, but the health you have sought as well. You'll find that your gym membership becomes a necessary and enjoyable part of taking care of yourself now, and for the future. And you'll become as committed to that gym membership as you are to every other important relationship and responsibility that are part of your life.

DR. WARREN WILLEY is the medical director of the nationally recognized, physician directed, Walk In Weight Loss program and author of "What Does Your Doctor Look Like Naked: Your Guide to Optimum Health." Visit him online at www.walkinweightloss.com, and www.eatright4u.com.

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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 LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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## Meredith Pro Tem

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

# Flight of the newborn

LAST WEEK I NEARLY SUFFERED A migraine by convincing myself (via a Google search) that my daughter's ear-tugging and drool were signs that she was on the verge of cutting her first tooth.

It wasn't so much the thought of her being in pain that upset me as much as the notion that she might be in pain on a plane. (Although just for the record, Children's Protective Services, the thought of her in pain, in general, did upset me, too.)

For a child who's flown almost twice as many times as the number of months she's been alive, she's thankfully proven to be a blue-ribbon traveler.

On our first and second trips she slept from the moment we passed through security until deplaning. The third time she drifted off 30 seconds after takeoff, woke up for a mid-flight bottle and then promptly passed out after the milk was gone until we touched down. Her fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth flights were similarly without incident.

However, none of the smooth rides helped quell the anxiety I felt as we boarded each plane. Much like a Madoff Investment Securities statement, the baby is only as good as her current flight.

And for someone who prides herself on not caring (too much) what other people think, I get awfully concerned about the reaction from other passengers who might be less than thrilled to be seated near or next to a baby who has the aptitude to whine, cry or poop explosively while trapped in a pressurized cabin.

Thankfully I've been pleasantly surprised at how kind everyone has been. From the grandparents across the aisle on one flight who volunteered their seats as a changing table to the band of five women on another that silently arranged themselves into an assembly line to help me change a diaper and make a bottle less than 90 seconds before takeoff, flying with the baby has been generally banal.

In fact, the only slightly unpleasant encounter I had was on a flight when I tried to make eye contact with the woman sitting next to us so we could get the requisite acknowledgments out of the way (I'd say hi, she'd comment on my daughter's inner and outer beauty) and get on with ignoring each other thereafter.

But she was too busy from the get-go, taking out what can only be described as a portable apple box upon which to rest her feet, lest her 4-foot 11-inch frame feel self-conscious for being incapable of allowing its legs to touch the floor unassisted.

After she also took out an eye-gel mask and an inflatable neck pillow, she finally looked at me and then did a double take. Her eyes narrowed as she eyed the baby, silently yet unmistakably screaming, "The nerve of you to reproduce! Don't you know that the sleeping monster in your arms could conceivably upset the serenity of my flight?!"

It was precisely that kind of look that I have expected to receive from every passenger on every plane.

Which is what forced me to prepare for the five-hour flight last Thursday like I was responsible for keeping a cold war from escalating. (OK, the flight was actually three hours and 27 minutes. Apparently I failed to calculate the time zone difference or those fractional units that make up an hour. But come on, who has time for that kind of advanced math?) I had an almost 6-month-old whose teeth were threatening to make a break for the surface, and I just wanted to keep the peace for everyone's sake.

No one was presumed innocent on the flight. The flight attendant who issued the gate check tag for the stroller seemed suspiciously cheery when she told me we'd have a whole row to ourselves.

The 12-year-old girls sitting behind us were sized up for their likelihood to kick the back of the baby's seat and/or wake her from her sweet slumber with their tween squeals. The woman sitting across the aisle could easily have been disguised as a professional baby hater.

As it turns out, however, the flight attendant volunteered to watch the baby if I needed a break. So did the 12-year-old girls. The woman across the aisle gushed when we landed about my good fortune to have a baby who resembled an angel not just in her looks, but her aura, too.

An angel, by the way, who still has no visible teeth.

No matter that the ninth flight was uneventful though. We fly again in 23 days. Fortunately my husband will be with us, and it's finally his turn to worry about the quality of the baby's, my and everyone else's in-flight experience.

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

## The Q Line

**More control?**

The City Council recently released over $800,000 to the school district that it was withholding due to problems with special education. As part of the discussion, some called for the council to wield more control over the district.

**So this week's Q-Line question asks:**

Should the council have more control over the school district as part of the joint-use agreement, which is currently being renegotiated?

**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.**









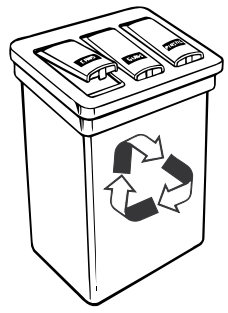
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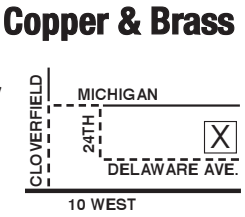


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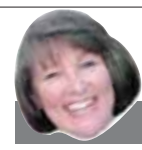
## Attention Businesses

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## Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Melinda McLeod/The Stella Adler Theatre

TRUE STORY? **Whitney Avalon (left) and Doug Barry star in Michael Butler's 'Pope Joan.'**

# The Pope is a woman!

IF A YOUNG VIRGIN CAN GIVE BIRTH TO the Son of God, perhaps it's also possible that an extraordinarily intelligent and ambitious young girl can become a monk, a cardinal, and, eventually, the Pope.

That's the premise of Christopher Moore's exhilarating new musical, "Pope Joan," now having its world premiere in Los Angeles. Based on a mediaeval "urban legend" that supposedly took place in – depending on whose version you believe – the 9th, 11th, or 13th century, the scandal has been whispered about for centuries. And while there are scholars who still believe that the story chronicles actual events in the life of the woman who became Pope John VIII, most historians are convinced that there is no credible evidence to confirm it.

Moore, who wrote the book, lyrics, and music for "Pope Joan" doesn't take sides. He tells the story in a straightforward narrative that is embellished by a dazzling cast of 26 outstanding singers and the innovative direction and choreography of Bo Crowell.

Set in the days before clerics were sworn to celibacy, the play claims that Pope Joan had a lover: King Louis, the Holy Roman Emperor. (Historically, she was believed to have had one lover/companion for many years or, conversely, a whole string of lovers.) And she was able to continue to hide her womanhood from her fellows by binding her breasts and by never bathing. (It was the custom in those days to wash only your hands, your face, and your feet.) Her term as Pope came to an abrupt and bitter end, however, after less than two and a half years, when she gave birth in a public street while leading a holy procession.

The controversy about her actual existence continues to this day. She is mentioned from time to time in various writings, and the people who believe that her story is based on fact claim that all real evidence was destroyed by the Catholic Church, much as the ancient Egyptian kings attempted to deface the statues and expunge the exploits of their predecessors.

Historical truth aside, the story that Christopher Moore has brought to sparkling life is an intriguing one. It is told in song: ballads in minor chords, spirituals with a whiff of Gregorian chants, and plaintive solos by Whitney Avalon as Joan, Doug Barry as King Louis, Cristina Dohmen as his lifelong nursemaid, Martine, Bryce Blue as Lucius, Joan's faithful acolyte, and Anthony Gruppuso and Fernando Orozco, Jr. as Nicholas and Anastasius, the cardinals-who-would-be Pope. There is also a mystical sorceress named Lucretia (Suzanne Nichols), a one-woman Greek chorus who belts out prophecies that rock the house. And a six-piece orchestra led by Brian Murphy, to the musical arrangements of Randy Bowser.

The principals are backed up by an ensemble that changes from a crowd of peasants to the entourage of a Pope in seconds, thanks to the brilliant costume design of Shon LeBlanc, whose innovative costumes have been a highlight of some 600 productions throughout the country. Jeremy Pivnick, who adds to the drama with his impeccable lighting, is also a much-celebrated designer. And Brent Mason has designed a massive set that fills the stage but doesn't crowd it.

"Pope Joan" will continue at the Stella Adler Theatre, upstairs at 6773 Hollywood Blvd., in Hollywood, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. through March 22. Call (323) 960-4412 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.



## The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Merv Hecht *news@smdp.com*

HIGH TECH: **Saluté features an automated wine dispenser, which is somewhat affordable.**

# Wine and dine

I GO TO A LOT OF RESTAURANTS AND WINE bars, both with friends and as required by my demanding editor. But, I rarely return to most of them. The exception — the new Saluté wine bar. I've adopted it and it's my official hangout. You can now find me there a couple of nights a week, because it's wonderful.

First, there's the modern, open (think really high ceilings) inviting décor with comfortable seating. Who wants to pay money to be squeezed into a tiny table surrounded by people you don't know — even if some of their conversations can be very interesting. Plus, the background music is mellow and soothing, not the Baptist choir revival-influenced music heard in so many restaurants.

Second, I love the food. As promised by the chef-co-owner Marco, the pizza is like the pizza in Naples. At Saluté I shared the wild mushroom pizza, made with the thin crust I prefer.

Unbidden, early-on the waitress brought to the table a dish of olives and Italian flat beans that went well with the wines.

The star dish of the evening: the warm poached figs and goat cheese on toasted walnut bread makes for a magnificent combination and was perfectly executed.

Available too: an excellent cheese service matched only in top restaurants. The epoise was runny like it is supposed to be, but rarely is. The other two cheeses, morbiere and petit Basque — each had strong, distinctive flavors. And to really make it special there were candied walnuts, honey and a balsamic fruit jam accompanying the cheeses and assorted breads.

When the three different salamis arrived, my friend Harvey said he felt like he was back in Italy. Although very tasty, it's not easy to find finocchiona (salami with fennel seeds) soppressata, and capicola on your neighborhood restaurant's menu.

Another somewhat unusual feature at Saluté is the wine service. When walking in the front door most folks notice the red lights on the wine dispensing machines that line one wall.

At Saluté, because of the layout and open space, it's a nice, pleasant walk to the array of wine machines. We bought a wine card which kept track of our purchases. I took recommendations from Tony. Also, and in concert with the general feeling of casual comfort, if you don't want to use the wine dispenser, there is a satisfactory wine list available from the waitress.

If you are a wine drinker, the machines offer a good opportunity to easily taste different wines. At the wine dispenser the price per 2 oz. pour is listed; many are priced between $2 and $4. Since in most restaurants a glass is a 6 oz pour, that's equivalent to $6 to $16 a glass.

I started with an Italian Cabernet Sauvignon from a producer I didn't recognize. At Tony's suggestion I moved on to another Italian Cabernet, from "Luisa," which had a slightly bitter aftertaste. Next I had a glass of Primitivo "Layer Cake" from Puglia that was fruity and slightly sweet. Although a relative of Zinfandel, it tastes nothing like a California Zinfandel. Finally I tried a glass of Bonardo from Argentina. While in the hills of northern Italy I've drunk many Bonardo wines, but this was my first from Argentina. The wine had a nice, mild fruity nose and a pleasant mild fruit taste. It whet my appetite for dessert.

In our family my wife handles the important matters. So she gets to select the dessert. There was no question in my mind that she would take the assortment of chocolates, and she did. This consisted of a traditional rich mousse with banana, a white chocolate "feather" that was a real treat, and an exceptionally good assortment of chocolate candies. I can't believe how good it was.

Even the service was above average. Both Jen, at the front door, and Elizabeth, our waitress, were friendly and efficient. Service was prompt.

So where can I find fault? Well, the wine selection could be improved. This is an Italian wine and tapas bar. And, in any Italian establishment of note I think that it's fair to expect to find the big four in Italian wines: Barolo, Barbaresco, Barbera and Brunello, as well as Dolcetto and a few Super Tuscans made primarily from Sangiovese. Ideally, it's nice to also offer a few lesser known wines and some French wines to give customers more opportunity to experiment. But with food of this caliber I expect the really good stuff. From talking to Tony I know he's working on this and I expect constant improvement over time.

Stop in and say hello. And look for me.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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**Federal Aid Project No. STPL – 5107 (020)**
**SP2084**

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, **not later than 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

**No jobwalk schedule for this project.**

**ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $685,000**
**CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 95**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,200 PER DAY**
**COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 PER DAY**

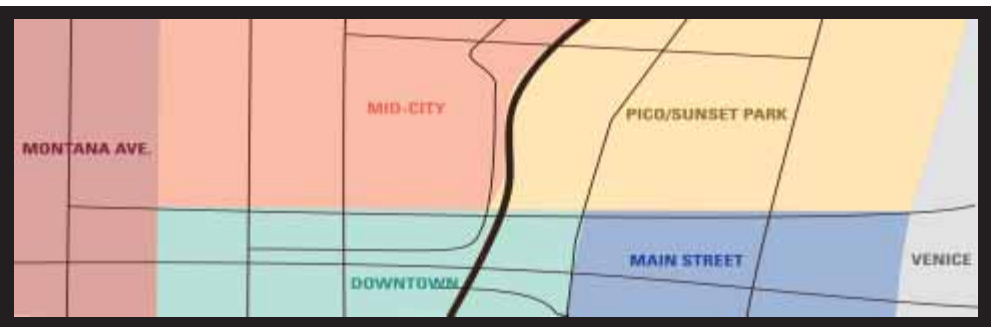
City of Santa Monica

Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be $148.17. Additional mailing charge shall be $39.50. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class A license at the time of contract execution.

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# westside DISH

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Rob Lawrence *news@smdp.com*

TAKING CHARGE: **Travis Clark is the new head football coach at Santa Monica High School.**

# New coach is a local

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 1

His first coaching experience came in 1996 as an assistant at St. Monica Catholic High School. After a couple of seasons working with the junior varsity team, Lacy, who knew him from his days at Samohi, asked Clark to move up to varsity where he would later help lead the Mariners to a CIF title in 1999.

He stayed on as an assistant at St. Monica for a season after Lacy left to become the head coach at Samohi. But, it wasn't long before Lacy came calling again, asking him to be the defensive backs coach in 2002. Again, the two struck gold and won yet another CIF title. His most recent coaching gig was at Ocean League rival Inglewood High School, where he was the defensive coordinator in 2006.

"He brings a wealth of enthusiasm to the team," Lacy said. "He's knowledgeable, which impressed everybody.

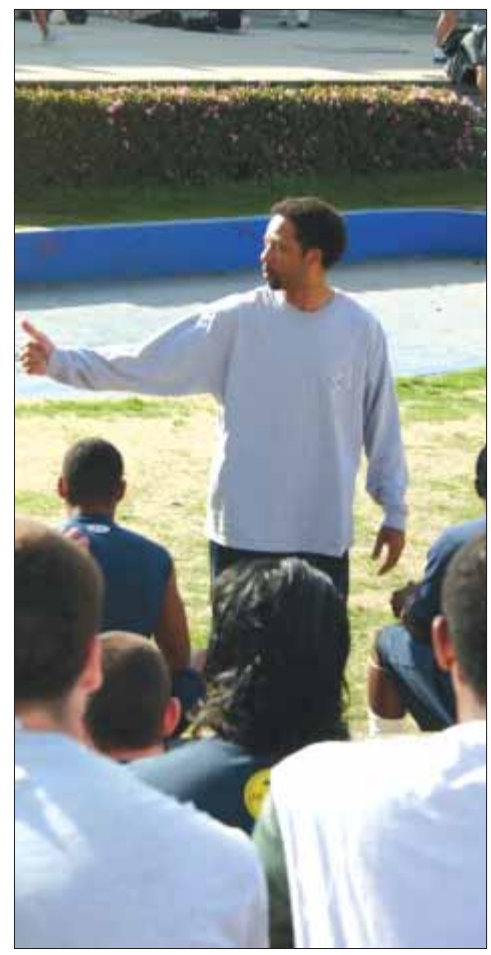
"He's a great teacher of the game."

Lacy and a small hiring committee selected Clark from a field of 35 candidates. That group was later whittled down to five before the committee agreed on Clark. Lacy said that he liked Clark's close relationship to Samohi and believes that will translate into success on the field.

Clark said that he wants to instill tradition in the team he is inheriting. He wants his players to be familiar with the greats of Samohi's past, to know the history of the young men who have worn blue and gold.

Clark, who was born and raised in Santa Monica, has already hit the ground running. He first met with his players late last week and began taking part in the off-season conditioning program, which is run by Cuda. He's been on campus all week and expects to visit at least once a day. His hiring does not come with a teaching position at the school, which means he will keep his day job working in the cable television industry.

His first order of business will be assembling his coaching staff. His first hire will be Byron Jackson, who co-owns Sports Rhythm Skills Positions Football Academy along with Clark. Jackson is the older brother of the Philadelphia Eagles' DeSean Jackson. He also plans to include Petey Maiden, who played in the NFL, as an assistant on offense. Tony Gomez, who coached on Samohi's JV team last year, will work with defensive lineman.



Rob Lawrence *news@smdp.com*

GIVING DIRECTION: **New Samohi head football coach Travis Clark talks to his players.**

At least four assistant positions will be paid jobs. The terms of Clark's contract are still being hammered out.

The rest of the 12-man coaching staff is currently being sought, but Clark has an idea of what he wants from any candidate.

"I want to be a physical team," Clark said. "I want us to be a smart team."

daniela@smdp.com



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

REACHING OUT: **A member of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification approaches a shopper on the Third Street Promenade Wednesday. Missionaries with the federation, an arm of the Unification Church, are rejected constantly but continue to search for new members.**

# Missionaries selected the promenade for its diversity

FROM **CHURCH** PAGE 1

Principle Study Center, located on the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway, where new recruits and staunch believers gather to watch videos and read Rev. Moon's teachings.

"I feel that a lot of people have concepts about people who stand on the promenade, which is understandable these days," Chaves, 31, added. "People are weary about religion, or about groups, so it's sometimes difficult to get into a conversation."

The fact that most people on the promenade are more concerned about finding the latest threads at H&M than unifying the world's religions doesn't help either. Neither do the other solicitors, some of whom can be very aggressive.

"People in general have harsh feelings toward organized religion and that's understandable," said Luna Gomez, a 27-year-old transplanted New Yorker who joined the federation six years ago after she was approached by a missionary on the promenade. "We don't judge them. We try to be kind, positive, but it's hard sometimes. You get a lot of rejection."

One guy went so far as to take her card and throw it.

Gomez, a full-time missionary who receives a stipend from the federation, said she isn't on the promenade to debate the meaning of life. Either people believe it or they don't. If not, she moves on to someone else.

The strategy is simple. Missionaries hang out on the promenade and look for people who seem to be browsing and not running off to work. When they find a candidate, they approach and politely ask if the person is interested in a series of questions on a card. The questions are existential or spiritual in nature.

If the person seems interested, missionaries escort them to the study center to watch a few videos and learn more about the federation and the Unification Church, which is dedicated to restoring the family and traditional values, along with uniting religions in hopes of creating world peace, according to the federation's Web site.

Some critics have labeled the church and the federation a cult, creating more skepticism.

"Some people say, 'Are you going to jump me?'" said Gomez when asked about the reactions she gets when she leads people to the study center. Others ask if they are going to be brainwashed.

Volunteers with the study center, which has been located in Santa Monica since 1992, picked the promenade because it is a major attraction on the Westside.

"You have people from all over the world, different races, all ages, all lifestyles," said Chaves, who joined the federation nearly seven years ago after meeting a missionary on her way to work at Johnny Rockets on the promenade. "It's a good place to meet people and the weather is really nice, too."

Chaves remembers the question that stuck with her and led her to check out the study center. It was, "How can we build lasting relations or have true love?"

"That question really got to me," she said. "[The federation] changed my life and I've been working toward the goals ever since."

While dealing with rejection can take a toll on one's self esteem, Gomez said the emotional pounding is well worth it when she is able to reach someone.

"Now they are some of my closest friends," said Gomez, who, along with other followers, gathers for Sunday service at the senior center in Palisades Park. "I get the chance to see them become better people."

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# Property presents opportunity for more life on Fifth

FROM **PARKING** PAGE 1

parcel, which houses Carlson's Appliance and an adjacent parking lot, for $6 million in October of that same year. City Hall owns everything on the Westside of the 1300 block from the corner of Arizona Avenue to the Carlson's Appliance building, Miriam Mack, the economic development manager for City Hall, said.

"With the conclusion of escrow (for 1334 Fifth St.), we will own a good-sized parcel that will give the city flexibility in the future to plan and prepare and construct a project that might include parking or other public purposes," Mack said.

Mack expects to close on the building in the next two months. City Hall could also seek additional tenants on short-term leases, she said.

"It all depends on how soon planning begins on what is being planned for the property," Mack said.

Yen Nguyen, whose flower shop has been in the same location for more than four years, expressed concerns about whether her business will be invited to return if a new development with retail spaces is constructed, adding that she will look for a warehouse space if the rent is too high.

She added that most of her business comes from online and phone clients, not through pedestrian traffic, which she said is lacking on Fifth Street.

There are few retailers on the quiet street, including Whole Foods and The Acorn Store.

"I don't necessary need to be here," she said. "But right now the price is right and the location is good so that's why I stay here.

"For any other business, it's not a realistic location to be because the traffic is so minimal."

Christine Hershey, the founder and president of Hershey Associates, said she has yet to speak to city officials about her lease. Hershey Associates has been in the building for the past 12 years.

"From a renovation standpoint, I think the last thing Downtown needs is a big parking lot," she said.

City officials have yet to determine what will be constructed along Fifth Street and whether it will be just a parking structure or include a mix of commercial and public use.

Mack said she is hopeful that planning will begin in the next several years.

Whatever is constructed could have the opportunity to activate pedestrian life on Fifth Street, said Mayor Ken Genser, who suggested that a parking structure could be constructed beneath a town square, public park or retail spaces.

"It's not an interesting place for people to walk," he said. "Something like a town square or commercial frontage could be very nice."

He added that placing more parking spaces on Fifth Street would help disperse traffic on Fourth Street, which is home to three public garages.

"Another benefit … is we'll get more people to walk from the parking (structure) to the promenade and energize that part of Downtown," he said.

Portions of the Downtown Parking Strategy are currently underway at several of the structures on Fourth Street, which are being redesigned and seismically upgraded. City Hall is currently seeking a designer to head up the reconstruction of Structure 1 on Fourth Street and Structure 6 on Second Street. Demolition is expected to take place within the next two years. The Public Works Department is currently updating estimates, which are about two-years outdated, for the construction projects.

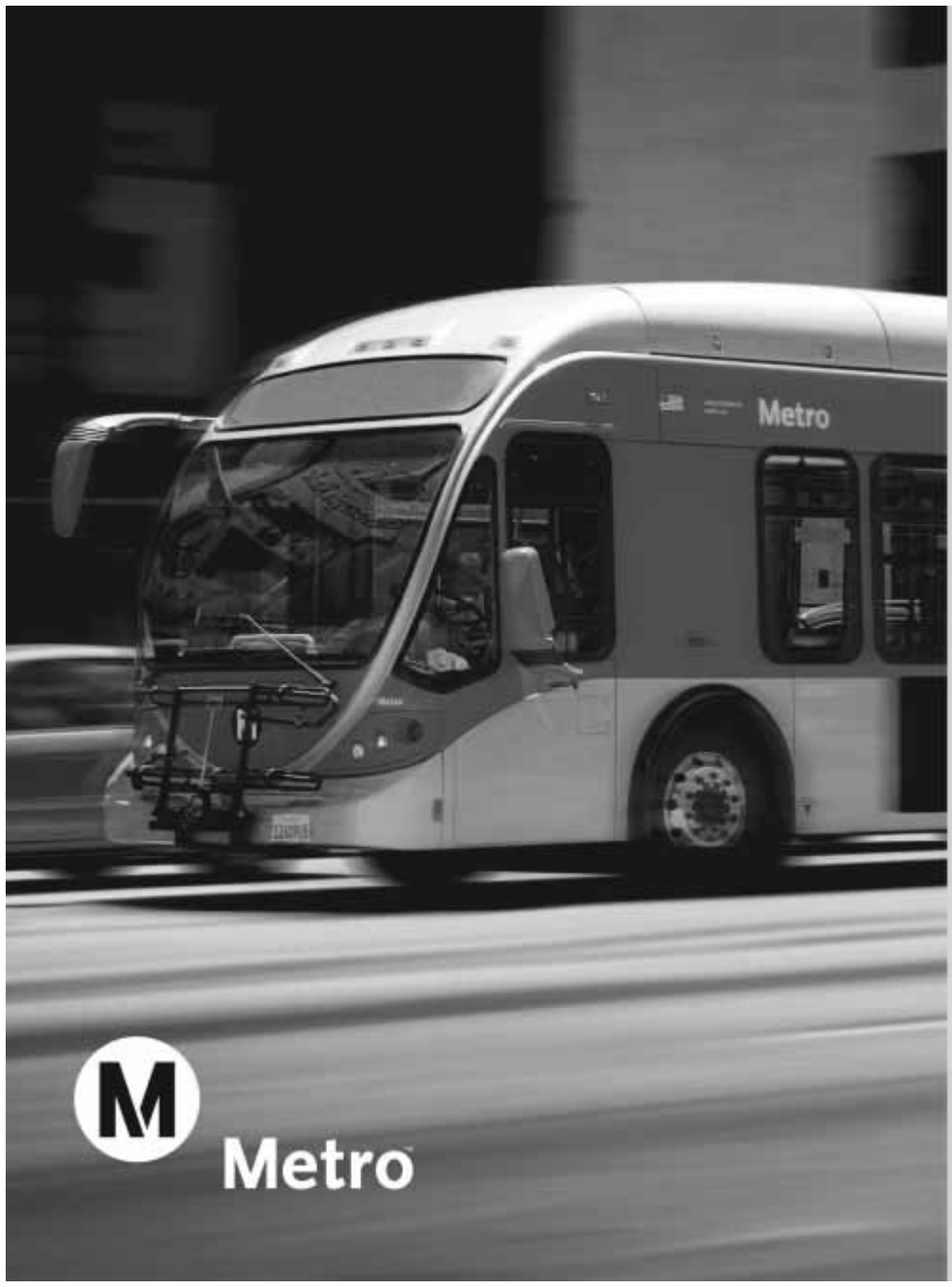
"We're going full steam ahead," Mack said.




Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

ADDING TO THE PORTFOLIO: **City Hall is in the process of purchasing this building, located at 1334 Fifth St., for $5 million as part of a comprehensive Downtown parking plan.**

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# Staying local for Oscar season

**BY SOLVEJ SCHOU**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Enjoying Oscars season in Los Angeles, especially during a recession, doesn't require a designer ballgown, diamond encrusted necklaces or a shiny, gilded statuette.

The Academy Awards, the entertainment industry's annual, ultimate ode to the movies, takes place Feb. 22 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, http://www.oscars.org. While celebrities spend thousands of dollars to prep for the lavish ceremony, travelers to the city can get a taste of the Oscars and movie history, plus glimpse celebs, without the big bucks or bling.

HOLLYWOOD: The Kodak Theatre sits in the middle of the expansive Hollywood & Highland Center, a sprawling entertainment complex at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. that includes clothing stores, a bowling alley, the towering Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and movie theaters adjacent to the famed, copper-tipped Grauman's Chinese Theatre, http://www.hollywoodandhighland.com.

About 300 bleacher seats along the red carpet at the Oscars become available during a one-week lottery in late September through the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. But revelers can still observe Oscar preparations at Hollywood & Highland until the center closes the night before the awards show.

For free thrills, stroll down the nearby Hollywood Walk of Fame, stretching down Hollywood Boulevard. Glittering stars on the sidewalk display the names of thousands of celebrities. Grauman's Chinese Theatre's forecourt showcases cement-steeped celebrity handprints and autographs, from Paul Newman's meaty palms to Marilyn Monroe's smaller ones. Impersonators dressed up as Superman, Monroe and others entertain on the street.

OSCAR EVENTS: People itching to get in on some thrifty pre-Oscars action can snap up tickets to events held in the five days before the show by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at its Beverly Hills headquarters, 8949 Wilshire Blvd. Note that tickets, which range from free to $5, become available Feb. 2, and go very quickly.

The events include symposiums with the current crop of makeup and hairstylist Oscar nominees, plus nominees in the feature animation and foreign language film categories. Film clips will also be screened, http://www.oscars.org/events-exhibitions/events/index.html.

Movie-lovin' fashionistas should go to the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising's 17th annual "Art of Motion Picture Costume Design" exhibit, 919 S. Grand Ave., where roughly 125 costumes from more than 20 films released in 2008 are on display.

The free exhibit includes a grip of current best costume design Oscar nominees: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "The Duchess," "Australia" and "Milk," http://fidm.edu.




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## Wanderlust

Dan Dawson

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Chris Falkenstein

ALIVE ON TWO FEET: **A snowboarder catches some major air at Badger Pass in Yosemite Valley.**

# Off-season wonderland

EVEN IF YOU'RE A FREQUENT VISITOR to Yosemite, seeing it in winter will be like seeing it for the first time. There is always a sunrise, a sunset, a lifting fog, a changing shadow and a wind driven snow that changes the landscape by the hour. And, if you haven't been there at all, winter is the best way to first experience this 1,200-square-mile wilderness park, the first created in the United States. The throngs of summer visitors and lines are non-existent and the park takes on a tranquil atmosphere.

Hiking the ancient, giant sequoias in winter is a peaceful experience you won't soon forget, and a perfect way to de-stress after the holidays. In fact, the moment you enter the park you can't help but feel a little calmer. But, don't let the fact the landscape is blanketed with snow fool you into thinking there is nothing to do.

The perfect winter escape starts by checking into one of the several lodges or inns found in the Yosemite Valley. While there are several that fit within most people's budgets, the Ahwahnee Hotel is the most spectacular. A National Historic Landmark, this massive, six-story structure was built in the 1927 and blends in with the backdrop of the mountains all around it.

Inside the towering ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows seem to bring the dramatic scenery indoors. Nowhere in the Ahwahnee is the study of size and grace more apparent than in the magnificent Great Lounge featuring fabrics with designs, colors and patterns reflecting the Native American heritage found in the hotel's original décor. The Great Lounge is 77 feet long, 51 feet wide and 24 feet high and is flanked by grand fireplaces on each end so large you can stand in them or sit on one of their built in benches to stay warm. There are 10 floor-to-ceiling windows, each with a top panel done in an original stained glass Indian design.

While you may be in a national park you certainly won't be roughing it while staying in one of the Ahwahnee guestrooms. Each room features specially designed headboards, storage chests and armoires and window treatments that frame the spectacular scenery visible from most rooms.

Whether you are just spending a day in Yosemite or several nights, it is mandatory to enjoy at least one meal in The Ahwahnee Dining Room, which has played host to presidents, royalty, celebrities, and countless visitors. It is often regarded as one of the most impressive dining rooms in the United States. Like the rest of the hotel the height of the room immediately impresses as it soars 34 feet overhead and is crisscrossed with logs of stripped sugar pine. Wrought iron candelabras hang from the timbers and gleam off the fine china giving the restaurant an elegant yet rustic feel that goes perfect with the mountain surroundings.

For all you foodies out there, winter offers a special time at the Ahwahnee. This year marks the 24th Annual Chef's Holiday held each January and February. Featuring some of America's most innovative and acclaimed chefs, this special package includes a "Meet the Chefs" reception, cooking demonstrations and behind-the-scenes kitchen tours of The Ahwahnee's cavernous 6,500-square-foot kitchen. On the final evening, the Gala Chefs' Dinner provides a fitting finale with a memorable five-course feast highlighting the specialties of the celebrity guest chef and paired with wine.

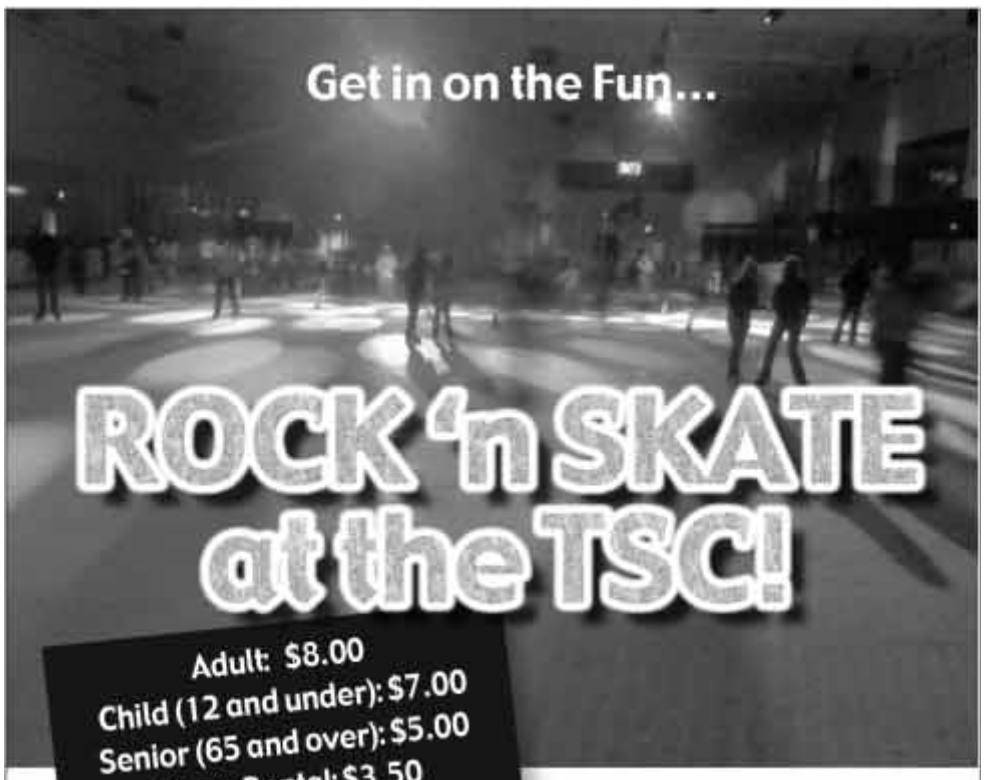
While there is a lot to marvel at and do indoors, the reason to come to Yosemite in winter is the outdoor wonder. For skiers, Badger Pass Ski area is California's original skiing spot established back in 1935. Today, it offers five lifts and 10 runs on 85 acres (35 percent beginner, 50 percent intermediate and 15 percent advanced). Badger Pass also has a day lodge, full rental shop, two fast food restaurants and a sports shop.

For those wanting a slightly slower pace, Badger also is home to The Cross Country Ski Center, which offers classes in cross-country skiing and guided trans-Sierra trips to Glacier Point Ski Hut. Cross-country skiers can enjoy 25 miles of groomed track and 90 miles of marked trail. But to really get back to nature take a ranger-led snowshoe walk. These beautiful treks take you to some enchanting spots within the park. For something really different, time your trip to coincide with the full moon and take the moonlight snowshoeing tour. Free shuttle buses transport skiers from Yosemite Valley hotels to Badger Pass twice daily.

Another winter activity is the beautiful ice-rink in Curry Village. Nestled in the shadows of two of Yosemite's most dramatic sights, Glacier Point and Half Dome Mountain, there simply couldn't be a more romantic place to skate. Every year between November and March since 1928 when the Winter Club flooded the parking lot, there has been skating here. Now the rink has all the amenities of a modern skating surface with skate rentals, a warming hut, and cubbies for shoes. For those who don't want to partake of the ice the best thing here is the outdoor fire pit. The store next door sells hot chocolate and the ingredients to make your own smores over the open fire.

Before you go: Between October and March, two-wheel drive vehicles require tire chains or bring a four-wheel drive vehicle and have chains available. For weather information, call (209) 372-0200, or visit www.BadgerPass.com.

DAN DAWSON is a travel journalist and dedicated world traveler who has written articles for many publications on adventures abroad. He is also the marketing manager for the Big Blue Bus. Tell him about your favorite vacation spot at www.WonderlustTravel.com




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# SURF REPORT

**Surf Conditions** **Water Temp:** 57°

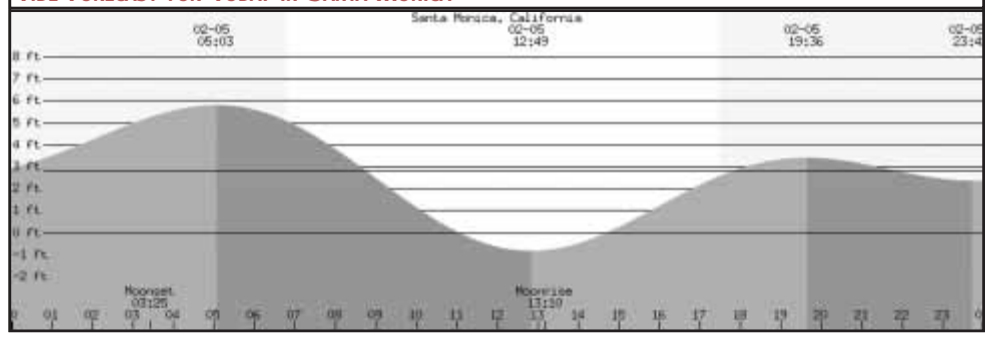
## Swell Forecast ( 1-8 FT )

We should see ground swell from the Kamchatka/Aleutian activity, coming in mostly from 290 degrees with 15-second periods. Swell is expected to build throughout the day.

## Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 6th it looks like wind swell will take center stage as the storm passes through.

## 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 27, 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 -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The 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 |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth | A+ | A+ |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth | A+ | F |
| 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+ | B |
| 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 | A+ | A+ |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach | A+ | A+ |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth | A+ | A+ |
| Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach | A+ | A+ |
| Puerco State Beach at creek mouth | A+ | A+ |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd. | F | F |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence | A | A+ |
| Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily | F | F |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east | A+ | A+ |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon | A+ | A+ |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero) | A+ | A+ |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs | D | B |
| Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach | A+ | A+ |
| Tuna Canyon | A+ | A+ |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth | A | B |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach | D | 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) | A+ | A+ |

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

## MOVIE TIMES

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

**Frankenstein (NR) 1hr 10min**
7:30

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

**Bride Wars (PG) 1hr 30min**
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45

**Yes Man (PG-13) 1hr 44min**
10:00

**Milk (R) 2hrs 08min**
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

**Inkheart (PG) 1hr 46min**
2:30, 5:00, 7:30

**Notorious (R)**
1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

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**
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

**New in Town (PG) 1hr 36min**
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

**The Uninvited (PG-13) 1hr 27min**
2:10, 4:55, 7:30, 9:40

**Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min**
1:30, 4:35, 8:00

**Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min**
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

**Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R) 1hr 32min**
2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00

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

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

**Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min**
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

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

**The Wrestler (R) 1hr 45min**
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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, 10:20

**Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min**
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

**Valkyrie (PG-13) 2hrs**
7:10, 10:10

**Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min**
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00

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

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

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

# Catch up on news, Aries

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You might be filled with energy and vivaciousness. Others don't know what hit you — or them, for that matter. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. Communication might need deciphering! Tonight: Chill with a friend. Catch up on news.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Expenses could startle you. Talk is cheap; dress as a cynic. Your creativity flourishes, especially when brainstorming with a friend or in a meeting. Feelings are intense and difficult. Tonight: Go with a last-minute invitation.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your spunk is admirable; you are on top of your game. Consider different options more carefully. Listen to your instincts with a money matter. Take time to assess the liabilities. Tonight: Let your hair down.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Mosey along at a slow speed. Don't judge yourself so harshly, and think positively. A partner could be testing your patience. New beginnings become possible. Tonight: Nap, and you will feel like a new person.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Aim high and know what you want. Investigate what is going on with others. A meeting lets them air out their opinions. How you see a situation could change once you gain understanding. Don't let your need for order damage a blooming bond. Tonight: Make it early.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might be pushing too hard and annoying an associate or someone in your daily life. You could wonder why you are behaving in this manner. Perhaps you are resentful of someone at work; it is coming off like this. Tonight: A must appearance.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Take the high road in any situation. When you deal with others in this manner, their response is off. Listen to news with openness. The question remains: Do you want to cross this line? Tonight: Expect to be up till the wee hours.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to approach a situation involving a key associate differently. Though you might not be as sure of yourself as you might like, you will be able to approach what up till now has been protected emotionally by another person. Tonight: Togetherness becomes a theme.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to take the lead, but find that others are faster, quicker or ahead of the game. Think in terms of a win-win. Carrying less responsibility might be nice! Tonight: Say yes.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Dig into a project as if there is no tomorrow. In fact, this much drive is unlikely to appear again for a substantial amount of time. Recognize a gift by acting on it. You might have a lot to consider right now. Tonight: A slew of invitations offers many possibilities. How nice.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Work? you ask. What is that? Whatever you choose to focus on becomes a major preoccupation. Enjoying the moment to this level is important to the quality of your life. Listen to others, and enjoy their differences. Tonight: Add fun into the mix.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Settle in and try to get a job or project completed. You just might need to close your door and screen your calls, then you'll get a lot done — and quite quickly at that. Tame a self-indulgent streak, or else you could be sorry. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

## Happy birthday

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

This year, the unexpected rides in from out of left field. You'll learn to deal with unpredictability well if you keep your eye on the big picture. Creativity fills in when you cannot find a solution. Many feel that you are ingenious in the way that you come up with solutions. Avoid high risks, even if you are lucky this year. Curb a sweet tooth. If you are single, you'll meet people with ease. Don't declare someone to be "it." Date for at least a year. If a relationship doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. If you are attached, the two of you could become much closer with secluded getaways and nurturing. Never forget your goals. CANCER makes a great healer.

## Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein




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




## Garfield
By Jim Davis




## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly




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# 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 ★★★

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

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 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** Small dogs, for short
**5** Student housing
**10** "The Doctor __"
**12** Blatant
**13** Consumerist Ralph
**14** Deceitful
**15** Luau strings
**16** Blow up
**18** Sense of taste
**20** — Aviv
**21** Helen's mother
**23** Shoebox letters
**24** Nerve
**26** "Shane" star
**28** Swindle
**29** Boo Boo's pal
**31** Sch. subj.
**32** Governor of Judaea
**36** Admire servilely
**39** Firewood unit
**40** Sun-powered
**41** Strictness
**43** Fill with joy
**44** Roofing material
**45** Challenges
**46** For fear that

**DOWN**

**1** Locker art
**2** Honshu city
**3** Runway worker
**4** Be litigious
**5** Remove
**6** Track
**7** Akin
**8** "The Avengers" hero
**9** "Remington —"
**11** In an unoriginal way
**17** Homer's neighbor
**19** Everybody
**22** North African city
**24** Venice boat
**25** Gaunt
**27** Suffer
**28** Put a stop to
**30** Choose
**33** Pond growth
**34** Horn sounds
**35** Wading bird
**37** Overdue
**38** God of war
**42** Unlucky

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | I | L | O | R | ■ | A | P | E | S |
| E | R | M | I | N | E | ■ | P | A | L | E |
| T | R | A | N | C | E | ■ | A | S | I | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | D | E | F | E | C | T | ■ | ■ |
| B | A | B | Y | ■ | ■ | S | H | I | P | S |
| A | D | A | ■ | M | O | S | E | L | L | E |
| B | U | S | ■ | O | N | E | ■ | L | I | E |
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2-5

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MEGA MILLIONS: 4 15 29 43 56
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $60M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 23 33 35 45
Meganumber: 14
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FANTASY 5: 13 15 20 26 36

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.41.46

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

■ Police in New Britain, Conn., arrested Joel Rubin, 42, in January and charged him with using a stolen credit card, but unanswered was why Rubin also tried to use his own store discount card to get a lower price on the merchandise. It was Rubin's name on the discount card that tipped off police, and it was not immediately clear why Rubin wanted to save a few bucks off a bill that would be sent to someone else.

■ Secondary-Level Questions: (1) In December, Pauline McCook of Britain's Isle of Sheppey reported the theft from her front yard of her life-sized glass statue of mobster Al Capone. It was not reported why McCook would have such a statue in the first place. (2) In Plant City, Fla., in December, Robert Thompson and Taurus Morris were charged with armed burglary after taking a woman's eggbeater from her at knifepoint. It was not reported why they wanted the eggbeater or why the victim had to be threatened at knifepoint to get it.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1917** Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an immigration act severely curtailing the influx of Asians. Mexico's constitution was adopted.

**1937** President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a Judiciary Reorganization Bill that included a provision to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court; critics accused Roosevelt of attempting to "pack" the high court with justices who would side with his New Deal policies. (The measure failed in Congress.)

**1973** services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for Army Lt. Col. William B. Nolde, the last official American combat casualty before the Vietnam cease-fire.

**1989** the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rearguard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

## WORD UP!

**virtuoso** \vur-choo-OH-soh\, *noun*, *adjective*;
pl. virtuosos, virtuosi:
1. a person skilled in the techniques of an art, esp. playing a musical instrument; by extension, a person with a cultivated appreciation of artistry

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Obituaries

JESUS A. GARCIA



JESUS A. GARCIA
Nov. 20, 1939 - Feb 1, 2009

Jesus was born in Tepatitlan Jalisco, Mexico and immigrated to the United States in 1961. He worked for Brentwood Country Club for 33 years prior to retiring.

Jesus enjoyed golfing, traveling, and most of all spending time with his friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Del Refugio of 51 years; his two daughters, Lucy and Yolanda; his five sons, Salvador, Jose, Jorge, Sergio and Ricardo; his twenty five grandchildren, four great grandchildren and a loving extended family. Preceded in death by his daughter, Cuquis.

Jesus was loved by many and will be greatly missed. He has left this world but will never leave our hearts.

A visitation will be held from 5 to 8pm, with a rosary at 7 pm, on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at Gates, Kingsley & Gates in Santa Monica, CA. A funeral mass will be held at 11 am, Friday February 6, 2009, at St. Joan of Arc, 11534 Gateway Blvd., W.L.A., CA. Interment will immediately follow at Woodlawn Cemetary, 1847 14th Street, Santa Monica.

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121: one to one ADN: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CID: crying in disgrace CNP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DQMOT: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTYEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you IYSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? L8R: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJIB: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now S4L: spam for life SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SHID: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STW: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TILII: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UW: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIBNI: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

**Every day, children are sexually solicited online.**

Ad Council
You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. So get involved. To protect your kid's online life or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators
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Or
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**Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early February 2009**

| | | Single Family Homes | Condos & Townhomes |
|---|---|---|---|
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| North of Montana | = | $3,475,000 | $995,000 |
| Between Wilshire & Montana | = | $1,995,000 | $799,250 |
| South of Wilshire | = | $799,000 | $799,000 |
| Sunset Park | = | $1,100,000 | $674,000 |
| Ocean Park | = | $1,695,000 | $803,125 |

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