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Santa Monica Daily Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2010

Volume 9 Issue 78



Santa Monica Daily Press

STONEWALL TACTICS
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE LOVING THE WEST COAST ISSUE



RARE SIGHT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains stand in the background as the weather returned to normal on Wednesday.

Parlor prepares for legal battle

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Well-known Santa Monica attorney Chris Harding has entered the drama surrounding The Parlor, a restaurant and bar on Wilshire Boulevard that has attracted City Hall scrutiny and angered homeowners who claim it's a nuisance.

Accused of operating without proper permits and bringing drunken late-night crowds to the surrounding residential neighborhood, the bar located at 1519 Wilshire Blvd. is facing the possibility of reduced operating hours and a lower maximum occupancy — restrictions the bar's owners have said could run them out of business.

The Planning Commission recommended imposing the restrictions last year, but City Hall has postponed enforcing them pending an appeal to the City Council. The appeal was originally scheduled to be heard In December, but was put off until Feb. 23, to the chagrin of many residents. Now, the hearing has been pushed to March 9 after Harding, who represents the property owner who leases space to the bar, requested a postponement.

In a letter to Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor and City Manager Rod Gould, Harding requested delaying the appeal hearing for at least three months, arguing that City Hall should step in to facilitate a dialogue between residents and The Parlor before allowing the appeal to be considered.

"We suggest that a 'cooling off' period to facilitate additional community process, including a city-sponsored community meeting, would be constructive," Harding wrote.

Gould, though, said he believed a two-week extension was long enough for attorneys working on the appeal to prepare their case.

"We think that the residents have waited long enough — that they deserve a decision here," he said.

In an e-mail on Wednesday, Harding indicated he's still working on getting City Hall to agree to a longer extension.

"We remain interested in mediation of the issues that have arisen and a community meeting process, which will require more time," he said.

If the council decides to uphold the

SEE PARLOR PAGE 10

Pier museum hearing delayed

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL At least for now, plans for a museum at the end of the Santa Monica pier have been placed on hold.

The Pier Restoration Corp. had planned to ask the City Council for $5,000 at its Tuesday meeting to begin planning the museum but decided at the last minute to pull its proposal from the agenda.

Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the PRC, said he wanted to contact members of the California Coastal Commission, which also has to agree to allow the museum, before asking the council for money.

The proposed museum would be located in a 775-square-foot space known as "the west end public viewing deck" that sits above Mariasol restaurant at the end of the pier. The deck has no doors and is open to the public 24-hours a day, so using the space for the museum would require some renovation. The Coastal Commission has to sign off on the idea because it involves limiting access to a public space that offers an ocean view.

Exhibits at the proposed museum would include artifacts from the pier's 100-year history, including dance tickets from the La Monica Ballroom, a venue that dates to the 1920s, and gambling chips from the S.S. Rex, a floating casino that was anchored in Santa Monica Bay in the 1930s.

Setting up the museum is expected to

SEE PIER PAGE 9

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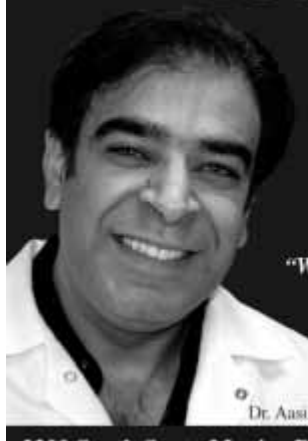
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Tree talk
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
A panel of experienced fruit tree growers and experts will be on hand to discuss how to protect flavor and quality when trying to grow "the perfect fruit." Tree growers of all experience levels are invited to come attend the discussion, which is part of the Santa Monica Farmers' Market 2010 Quarterly Panel Series. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

King of hearts
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
The romantic comedy "King of Hearts," which became a cult classic following its 1966 release, will be shown in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium and is sure to provide entertainment. The movie will be shown in French, German and English, but will have English subtitles.

Getting to know you
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
1234 6th St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
New members of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce are invited to learn strategies and techniques that will help make the most out of a chamber membership. Attendees will also receive an information packet that includes a benefits check list. The event is free, but exclusively for members of the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Member Services Manager John Madigan at membership@smchamber.com.

Friday, Feb. 12, 2010

ICE extended
Arizona Avenue at Fifth Street
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — and create new ones — as you slice through the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer and balmy ocean breezes. The ice rink has been extended to Feb. 15. Admission is $10 and includes skate rental. The rink is periodically cleared for short periods to groom the ice. If raining, the rink will remain open in light rain or drizzle conditions, closing only for heavy downpours. For more information go to www.downtownsm.com.

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.

Rescue workers release pelicans after treatment

SUE MANNING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES California brown pelicans have recently been dying in large numbers for reasons wildlife officials don't yet fully understand.

Organizations like the International Bird Rescue Research Center are maxed out, with no more room and little money left to help, spokesman Paul Kelway said.

There are usually about 400 pelicans among the more than 2,000 birds the San Pedro center takes in every year, but it has received more than 300 pelicans in the last three weeks. About 100 sick pelicans from Santa Barbara were sent to the IBRRC's Northern California center, and a quarter of all the pelicans received at the two centers in the last three weeks have died, Kelway said. A number of pelicans were recovered along the Santa Monica Bay in recent weeks.

"Many of them were severely emaciated and hypothermic, and we couldn't get to them in time," Kelway said.

The Southern California center released 14 pelicans Wednesday afternoon to make room for more of the ailing birds. At Royal Palms State Beach in San Pedro, rescue workers lined the pet kennels along the rocky shoreline and opened the doors. The pelicans flew right out.

The Coast Guard reported a group of sick birds in the Los Angeles Harbor on Tuesday. Rescue workers found around 30 dead birds and rounded up 30 more that were sick and wet.

Biologists point to several reasons why more birds need help.

"This is an El Nino year. The weather is topsy turvy. Storms are forcing the fish deeper into the ocean, or the fish are in different places than they normally would be. The pelicans are not finding food and they are starving," Kelway explained.

"Something is also contaminating their feathers and stopping them from being weatherproof," he said. "The storms have been the final nail in the coffin."

Some parts of Los Angeles County have received close to 12 inches of rain in the last few weeks. The birds, already weak from lack of food, have gotten soaked, and in the ocean they've found themselves bathed in a murky runoff goo that has coated their already faltering feathers with a layer of grease.

SEE **PELICANS** PAGE 10



HANG TIME

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica's Soloman Singer attempts an acrobatic shot during a 63-42 win at home on Tuesday. The win gives Samohi a perfect 9-0 Ocean League record.

Serial murder suspect denies killing girl

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA A serial murder suspect accused of five slayings in the late 1970s acknowledged Wednesday that he planned to leave California in the weeks following the youngest victim's death and lied to his employer and friends about where he was going.

Rodney James Alcala, 66, is charged with five counts of first-degree murder in the slayings of four Los Angeles County women and a 12-year-old Orange County girl between 1977 and 1979. Prosecutors say he raped, tortured and robbed some of the women before killing them. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Alcala, a photographer and UCLA graduate, has pleaded not guilty to all charges and is representing himself in the case.

Prosecutors began cross-examining Alcala on Wednesday after he wrapped up his defense a day earlier by showing a video of himself on a 1978 episode of "The Dating Game." Alcala claims the video proves his innocence in the murder of one of the alleged victims, 12-year-old Robin Samsoe.

Samsoe disappeared on June 20, 1979, while riding a friend's bike to ballet class in Huntington Beach in Orange County. Her body was found 12 days later, but investigators couldn't determine the cause of death or if she had been sexually assaulted because of the condition of the remains.

Alcala says the game show clip proves that nearly a year before Samsoe's death, he owned a pair of earrings prosecutors used to tie him to her.

Orange County prosecutor Matt Murphy questioned Alcala Wednesday about why he moved his belongings to Seattle after Samsoe's murder and why he lied to his friends about where he was going.

Alcala said he quit his job typing classified ads for the Los Angeles Times and told them he was moving to Fremont, Calif. He told family and friends he was moving, too, but named four different locations, including Hawaii, New Mexico, Dallas and Chicago.

"Isn't it true that you were telling people you were going to different places because you were going on the lam and you didn't want them to be able to tell police where you were?" Murphy asked.

"I was thinking about going on the lam," Alcala replied, adding that he intended to go to Chicago for a photography conference and return to Los Angeles. He was arrested on July 24, 1979.

SEE **TRIAL** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

School is for learning

Editor:

The primary mission of the Santa Monica-Malibu School Unified School District is to educate children. There is no other purpose for its existence. So how can SMMUSD cancel school for a week? Time to vote for a new school board, who remembers the word "School." You know, that place where kids learn.

Dr. Lisette Gold
Santa Monica

Do the right thing on health care

Editor:

The recent federal study showing the current and expected unconscionable costs of health care should be clear to everyone who cares about their families, their communities and their country. Just as President Obama has been telling us, we cannot afford to wait to solve this problem. The health insurance companies must be brought into line with real controls. The plans before Congress are not perfect but they are a very important beginning and constitute major social legislation not seen in this country in far too long. It is reckless, indeed, to fail to act – and now. Congress, please do the right thing!

Mary Arutunian
Santa Monica



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The Soap Box

Bennet Kelley

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stonewall Shelby and the party of 'no'

AS WASHINGTON IS PARALYZED BY THE "snowpocalypse" and another storm coming, images of the city's majestic monuments in a sea of white snow bring back fond memories of my years there. Eventually Mother Nature or the D.C. government will clear away the snow, but even then Washington will remain paralyzed by something far less endearing than even yellow snow — Republican nihilism.

Last week, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) used a parliamentary tactic known as a "hold" to block confirmation of all 70-plus Obama nominations currently pending — including key national security positions. This tactic is not even in the Senate rules but has long been used by senators to block a single bill or nomination and can only be overruled by 60 votes. The use of a blanket hold for all nominations is unprecedented, having been used only one once before by former airport bathroom tap dancer Senator Larry Craig (R-ID).

And what was the weighty issue leading to the Shelby Stonewall? It is pork barrel politics pure and simple. Shelby wants President Obama to force the Air Force to reverse the award of a $100 billion contract to Boeing through a competitive bid process and instead award the contract to a foreign company that has some operations in Alabama; and also move forward on a $45 million project Shelby earmarked in 2008. For that, the business of governing the nation must come to a halt.

This is just the latest is a long list of tactics used by Republicans to turn what was once known as "the greatest deliberative body" into a legislative mosh pit through tactics such as requiring Democrats to read bills as long as 767 pages out loud; boycotting committee hearings to prevent a quorum; and filibustering funding for the Defense Department because it would delay consideration of the health care bill.

Have Republicans simply become the party of "no?" In fairness, I went to GOP.com and looked with amazement at the Republican's list of accomplishments. The first is the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, something today's Republicans would dismiss as "waste and pork-barrel spending" as they have with high-speed rail funding in the stimulus bill. Similarly, the site touts the creation of the Federal Highway System, but the party has done little since then as the system has fallen into disrepair.

The Republicans also include a list of civil rights achievements, including calling for integration of the military and supporting civil rights legislation. The list abruptly ends in 1957 since Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush both opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and almost all Republicans in today's Congress get an "F" on the NAACP report card.

The party that first called for integration of the military is now using the same arguments made by those opposing integration to block elimination of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The Web site also takes credit for the fact that Republican Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion in Brown v. Board of Education, despite the fact that for half a century Republicans have railed against him as the poster child of "judicial activism."

Yes, there was a time when Republicans stood for something and made difficult decisions that only history would fully reward but which were necessary to move this country forward. The biggest takeaway from the Web site, however, is that was 50 years ago. When was the last time the Republicans made a difficult decision that truly benefited the nation?

What has followed is "cake and eat it too" politics, giving away billions in tax cuts to the rich while leaving Americans to believe that somehow money would grow on trees to fill the gaping fiscal hole it caused. The Web site praises the Reagan and Bush tax cuts, but does not tell you that President Reagan signed a record tax hike to mitigate the fiscal damage done by prior tax cuts. That is something today's Republicans would not even consider; instead they would rather let the Democrats make the hard choices to clean up their mess, so they can run against the pain caused by any sacrifice required. If the ship of state should run aground because of their obstructionism; all the better. That is what is at the heart of Senator Shelby's move.

America faces the most challenging times since the Great Depression and in past crises members from both parties have risen to the occasion to do what was needed to be done. The Shelby Stonewall only highlights the fact that today's Republicans will merely sink to new depths for pure partisan gain.

Fortunately, Senator Shelby may have overreached and illustrated what is truly wrong with Washington today. We can only hope that Shelby's Stonewall becomes the GOP's Pickett's Charge; since by exposing their obstructionism Shelby may actually give the party in power the rare opportunity to run as Washington outsiders fighting for the people against the party of "no."

BENNET KELLEY is an award winning political columnist and commentator, former National Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm and is founder of the Internet Law Center.

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Soon-to-be classic tales of love

IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS LEADING UP to this Sunday's Valentine's Day, a smattering of real life romances have emerged as potential threats to outshine some of the classics like Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall ("Casablanca"), Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward ("The Long, Hot Summer"), and Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown ("Being Bobby Brown").

Last Friday, the estranged wife of South Carolina governor Mark Sanford spoke to Barbara Walters on ABC's "20/20" about her new book, "Staying True," in which she tenderly describes her husband as a frugal, empty-eyed politician who, when she was pregnant, thoughtfully declared he wouldn't join her in Lamaze class because it was a waste of time. Instead, he adorably told her what every pregnant woman longs to hear from her husband:

"I've spent many long nights helping cows give birth and I know what to do when the baby gets stuck."

While admitting she didn't always feel loved by her husband throughout their marriage, when asked how she felt about his refusal to pledge his fidelity during their wedding ceremony, Jenny Sanford fondly told Barbara, "It bothered me to some extent ... but I got past it, along with other doubts I had."

It's those kind of sweet nothings that have the rumor mill in high gear. Twentieth Century Fox is reportedly attempting to fast track Jenny and Mark's 20-year heroic love story onto the big screen in time for a Thanksgiving weekend opening. The film is expected to be a cross between "The Way We Were" and the Titanic (the actual story, not the movie).

And because Governor Sanford has been lucky enough to have lightning strike twice, Paramount Pictures is said to have started casting for its own Sanford romantic drama about the governor and his mistress, "From the Appalachian Trail to Argentina: Soul Mates 4EVA."

Another Carolinian whose love life is seemingly ripped straight from a Hollywood flick — or a Lifetime made-for-TV movie — is John Edwards. A new book out by ex-aide Andrew Young, "The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down," details the former presidential candidate's heartwarmingly risqué trysts with new age-y videographer Rielle Hunter, including in the same bed he shared with his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth, while his children were home.

The book also describes how John Edwards tried to get Andrew to convince Rielle to lovingly abort his child and help fake a paternity test. Rielle's sister told the Edward R. Murrow and Peabody Award-winning "Inside Edition" that the star-crossed lovers still believe they'll end up together.

DreamWorks Pictures is hoping they can commission Joe Klein of "Primary Colors" fame to adapt the ballad of John, Elizabeth and Rielle for the silver screen. If they can reach an agreement, the film is predicted to do for Kaopectate what "The Notebook" did for Kleenex

Then there's Charlie Sheen and his third wife, Brooke Mueller. Fresh from an alleged stint in rehab to treat addictions ranging from pills to crack cocaine, the mother of the actor's infant twin boys appeared in court in Aspen this week to try and get the mandatory protection order against the drug and alcohol, prostitute and porn enthusiast Charlie lifted (stemming from a Christmas Day incident in which she jovially called 911 to report he endearingly held a knife to her throat and affectionately threatened that "he had ex-police he could hire who 'know how to get the job done and they won't leave any trace.'").

"They had a bad night and want to get beyond it," Brooke's attorney said. "In the end, though, I'm confident you'll see theirs is a real love story. Kind of like Claus and Sunny von Bülow in 'Reversal of Fortune.'"

And Tiger Woods finally left a sex addiction treatment facility in Mississippi and is now taking a few weeks before he heads back to the PGA Tour to try to patch things up with his wife, who only has to get over 14 or so mistresses and newspaper headlines like, "I'm a Cheetah" and "Texting Tiger's Titillating Talk," in order to make their happily ever after a reality.

"Scarlett and Rhett, Romeo and Juliet — they have nothing on us," Tiger and Elin shouted with glee last week as they looked over the rims of their aviator sunglasses at the paparazzi while exiting the Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Service arm and arm at sunset.

"It's a romance for the ages," gushed screen legend Warren Beatty to a reporter from the Hattiesburg American. "Just in time for Valentine's Day."

More on and from **MEREDITH** at www.MeredithCarroll.com.

The Q Line

On the tracks

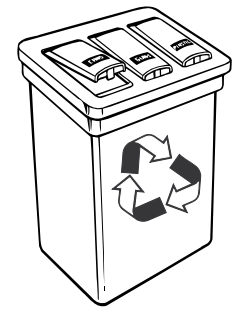
The board of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority approved the final leg of the long-awaited transit line last week. The proposed route has the project traveling down Colorado Avenue to Fourth Street in Downtown.

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

Does the Colorado alignment make sense to you or would you like to see another route?

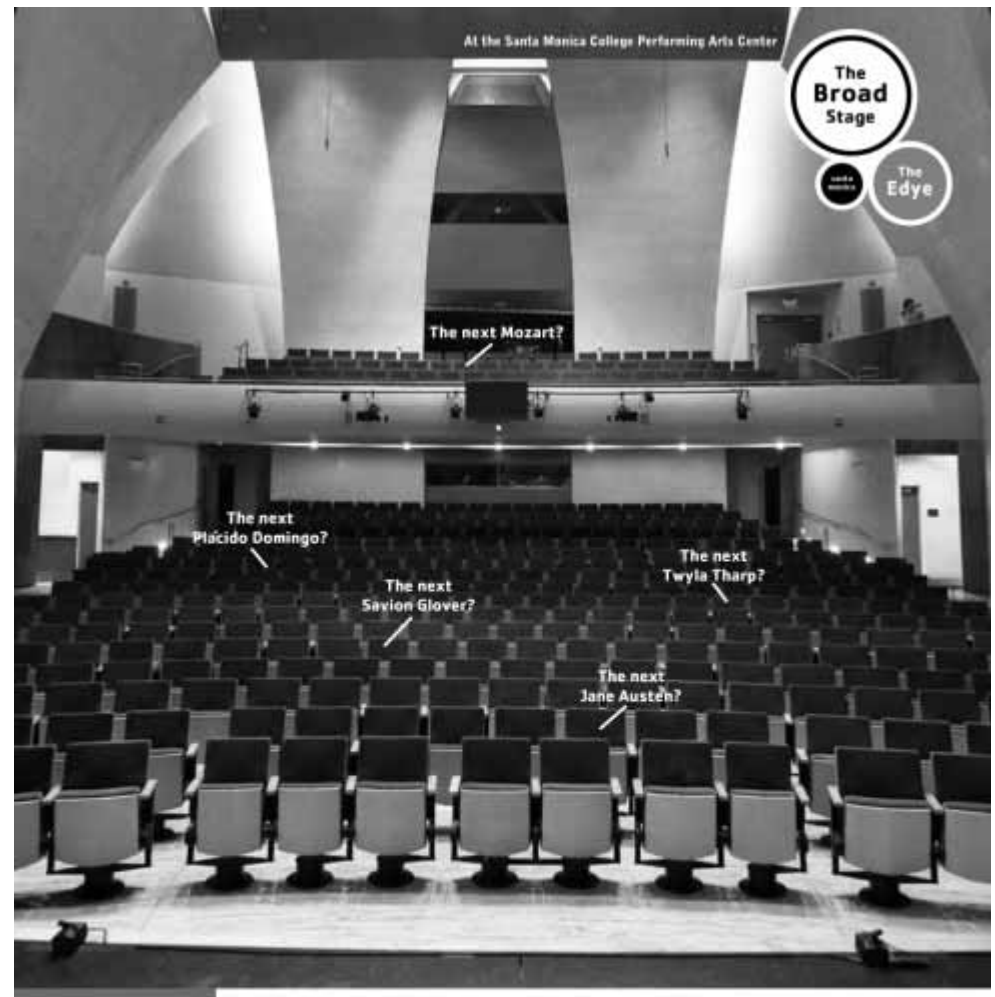
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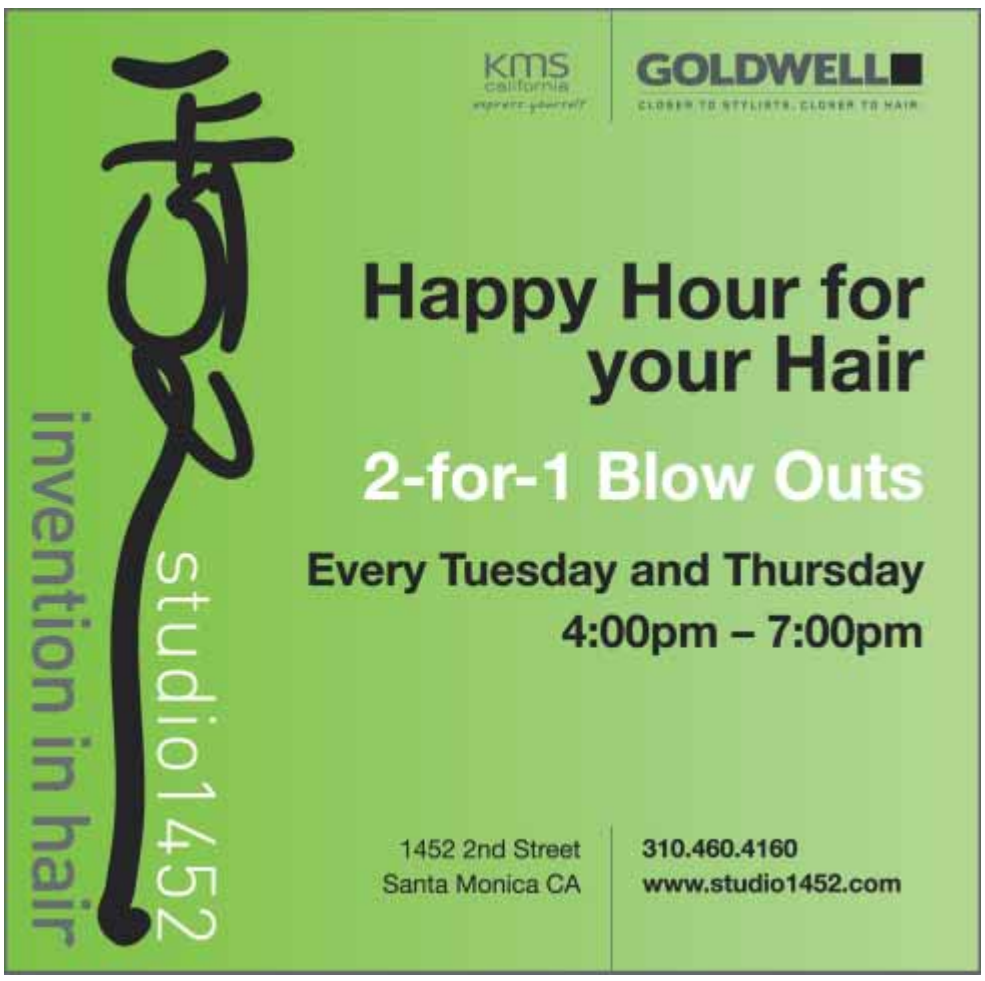


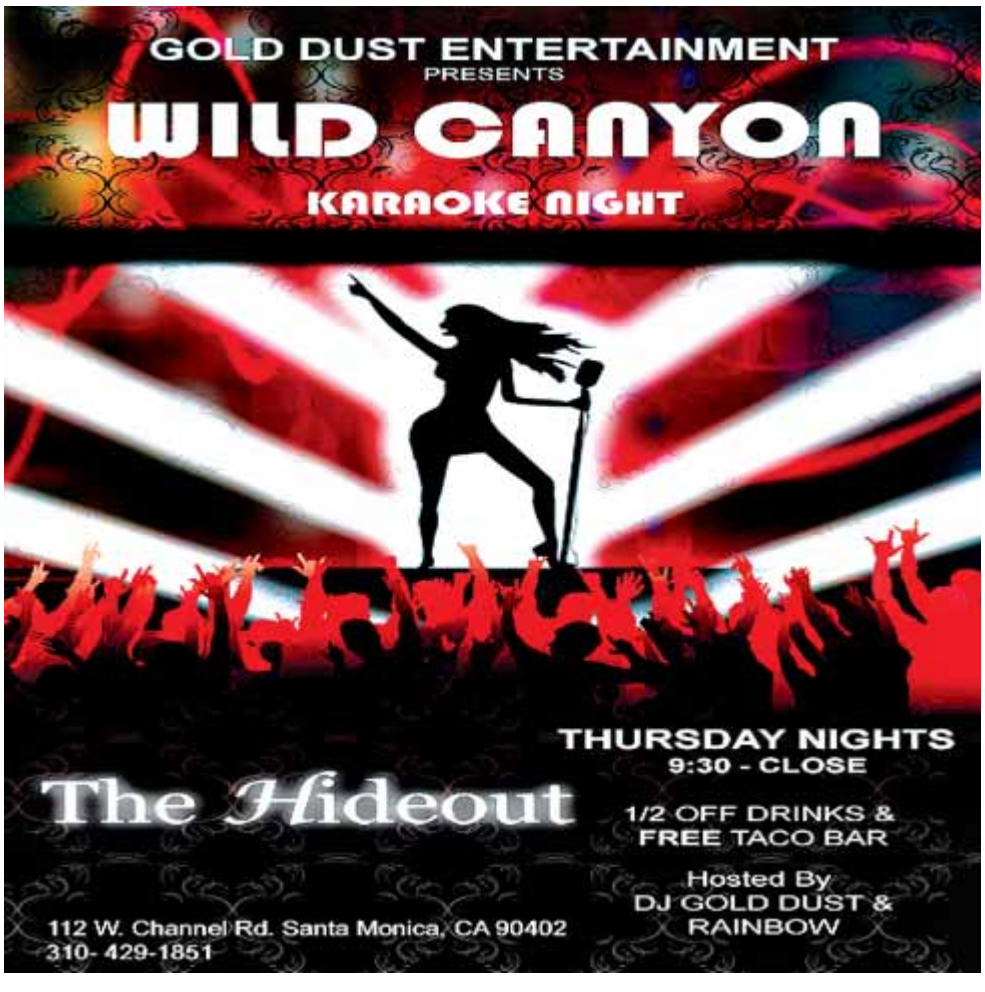
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Ristorante Vincenzo 714 Montana Ave. (310) 395-6619
Rosti 931 Montana Ave. (310) 838-4900
Spumoni 713 Montana Ave. (310) 393-2944
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Cafe L'etoile D'or 2311 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 315-4375
Chandni Vegetarian 1909 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-7060
Coogie's Cafe 2906 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 829-7871
The Corner Cafe 28th St. #121 (310) 452-2905
The Cutting Board 1260 15th St. #105 (310) 434-9924
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Lee's Chinese Food 1610 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 828-5304
The Lincoln 2460 Wilshire Bl (310) 828-2217
Lucys Lunchbox 710 Wilshire Bl #100 (818) 762-6267
Maya Japanese Food 2840 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 453-2612
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Nawab Of India 1621 Wilshire Bl (310) 829-1106
Networks Cafe 2700 Colorado Ave. #190 (310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant 2031 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica 1601 Lincoln Blvd (310) 395-6310
O' Briens 2226 Wilshire Blvd (310) 829-5303
Our Cafe 2104 Wilshire Bl (310) 828-5313
Overunder 1333 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 899-0076
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Santa Monica Pizza 1318 Wilshire Blvd (310) 393-4554
The Shack Restaurant 2518 Wilshire Blvd (310) 449-1171
The Slice 915 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-2367
Sizzler 2025 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-3250
Snug Harbor 2323 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-2991
Sunshine Cafe & Grill 2021 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 449-7777
Sushi King 1330 Wilshire Blvd (310) 395-0120
Tacos Por Favor 1406 Olympic Blvd (310) 392-5768
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Tazzina 1620 Wilshire Blvd (310) 413-4270
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Benihana 1447 4th St. (310) 260-1423
Bookmark Cafe 601 Santa Monica Bl (310) 587-2665
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Britannia pub 318 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 458-5350
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Brunos Italian Rest Deli 1652 Ocean Ave. (310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co 301 SM Pier (310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo 1442 2nd St. (310) 587-0771
The Cafe 445 Pacific Coast Hwy (310) 393-8282
Cafe Crepe 1460 Third Street Promenade (310) 576-0499
Cafe Paradiso 2408 Wilshire Blvd (818) 427-1796
Cafe Presto 2425 Colorado Ave. #107 B (310) 829-7757
Cafe Sol 2425 Colorado Ave. (310) 829-0031
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California Crisp 13 Santa Monica Place (310) 394-3800
California Pizza Kitchen 214 Wilshire Blvd (310) 393-9335
Callahans Restaurant 1213 Wilshire Blvd (310) 394-6210
Capo 1810 Ocean Ave. (310) 394-5550
Carousel Cafe 1601 Ocean Front Walk (310) 451-4277
Chez Jay 1657 Ocean Ave. (310) 395-1241
Comfort Cafe 420 Broadway (310) 395-6252
Cora's Coffee Shoppe L P 1802 Ocean Ave. (310) 434-2468
Crepes Company Inc 213 Arizona Ave. (310) 801-0670
Dennys Restaurant 1645 1560 Lincoln Blvd (714) 251-5409
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Il Fornaio 1551 Ocean Ave. (415) 945-0500
Infuzion Cafe 1149 3rd St. #100 (310) 393-9985
Interactive Cafe 215 Broadway (310) 395-5009
Ipanema Cafe 150 Santa Monica Place (310) 838-8586
Ivy At The Shore 1535 Ocean Ave. (310) 278-2908
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Leonidas 331 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 417-8851
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The Lobster 1602 Ocean Ave. (310) 458-9294
Locanda Del Lago 231 Arizona Ave. (310) 451-3525
Loews Santa Monica 1700 Ocean Ave. (310) 458-6700
Manchu Wok 11 Santa Monica Pl (310) 458-3558
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Michaels 1147 3rd St. (310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant 424 Wilshire Blvd (310) 576-6330
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Perrys Pizz 930 Ocean Front Walk (310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 2600 Ocean Front Walk (310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 1200 Ocean Front Walk (310) 458-3975

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Promenade Cafe 321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
R A W 609 Broadway	(310) 451-4148
Real Food Daily 514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard 522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Riva Restaurant 312 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-7482
Rustic Canyon 1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787

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256 Santa Monica Pier (310)393-PIERS

Scarboni 312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
SONNY MCLEAN'S 2615 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 449-1811
Stefano's 1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
Sunset Bar & Grill 1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express 1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189
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Victoria Pizzeria 1607 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 394-6863
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Ye Olde Kings Head 116 Santa Monica Blvd	(310)451-1402
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Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
Ameci Pizza Pasta 2218 Lincoln Bl	(310) 314-0090
B B Q Garden 1707 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-6494
The Bread Factory Inc 1900 Pico Bl	(310) 434-4653
Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
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Cafe Bolivar 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 581-2344
Campos Mexican Food Inc 2008 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-4477
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The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
El Pollo Loco Restaurant 1906 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 392-9800
El Torito 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
El Texate 316 Pico Blvd.	(310) 399-1115
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Library Alehouse 2911 Main St.	(310) 314-4855
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Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St.	(310) 396-4122
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Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12	(310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
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Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
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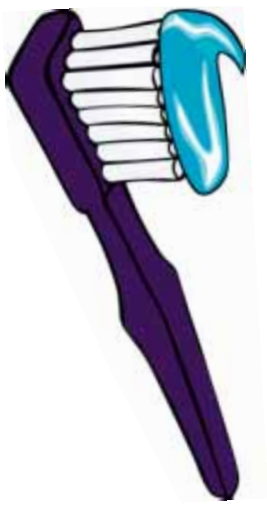
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The Re-View
Merv Hecht
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Keller arrives at Bouchon

THOMAS KELLER, THOUGHT BY MANY to be America's best chef, leads the French Laundry's restaurant team in Napa Valley. The people responsible for lists of the world's leading restaurants often include some subset of Keller's restaurants — the list of Keller's restaurants includes the very successful Per Se located in New York City; and as the song says "if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere." To get a bead on Keller, you need only to read through the French Laundry cookbook with its incredible descriptions enumerating the many steps he takes in the preparation of food to ensure both great taste and artful presentation.

And so it was with great expectation that local restaurant buffs awaited the opening of his first restaurant in Beverly Hills (he was a chef at the Checkers Hotel in the 1990s): Bouchon. So we went there with my famous sister and brother in law.

In the heart of Beverly Hills, en route from the car to Bouchon, we walked through a lovely park with gardens and a fountain alongside the Montage Hotel and Bouchon. The scene is very reminiscent of Santa Barbara. The restaurant's elegant entry hall opens to a winding staircase that leads to the reception area (the elevator is pretty well hidden). Once the hostess signaled that the table was ready we were escorted down a longish hallway. With each step the noise level rose until we reached the restaurant itself which is also elegant and beautiful, with colorful tiles, high ceilings, and French brasserie-type fixtures, including a raw seafood zinc bar.

It's not just the décor — the cooking is supposed to be brasserie style food, too. In some ways it is: at one meal I had a boudin noir sausage, with buttery mashed potatoes and glazed cubes of apple, and it was in fact just like a dish typically served in Paris. The popular steak frites is — well, steak frites. Bonnie's quiche was light as only a perfectionist can make it. The frisee salad was light and fresh — simple and direct as brasserie food should be.

The décor, the service, the menu, the wine list — all as good as it gets. Alex, the very capable wine steward, found us a delicious-tasting 2005 Bordeaux for the bargain price of $68. Our waiter, Noah, grew up in Minnesota, then migrated to New York City to become an actor, and recently moved to Los Angeles where, between acting auditions he worked at the wonderful BLT restaurant on Sunset Boulevard, where he was trained by Doug Johnson. Several of the staff migrated away from the Peninsula Hotel, and — perhaps by coincidence, the former manager of the Peninsula was there for dinner (visiting his old staff?) and stopped by our table to say hello.

The crowd seemed mainly to be the local Beverly Hills group. I don't think that money was any object for them, and at the prices at Bouchon that's fortunate. Haim Saban stopped at our table to say hello, and he can certainly afford to eat anywhere.

On the other hand, as perfect as it seems, there is something about it that would keep me from driving there very often. And I think I know what it is. When I go to a French brasserie I expect French brasserie preparation. But many of these dishes are really Keller's remake of the dish. I'm not going to go into great detail about what I find missing in the dishes except to give one example to make my point: when I think of the famous dessert, iles flottantes (and I sometimes do dream about it), I think about the beautiful ones I have eaten in France. A fluffy ball of soft meringue floating on a bed of yellow crème anglaise, with drizzles of caramel streaking over the top. At Bouchon I was served a small, condensed, extremely sweet disc of meringue in a pale crème anglaise, with an overly watery caramel sauce poured over the top. Some people might well prefer this dessert to the real thing, but this dessert didn't meet my expectations. Nor did the mussels, nor the preparation of the steak, etc.

For me, this restaurant reminds me of a great ballerina who is reduced to teaching dancing to school children. Yes Keller can do this, and he does it well. But he could do so much more. At these prices, in its beautiful setting, with well trained staff and with its well appointed kitchen we could be offered the kind of dishes that only a few chefs aside from Keller can do. Where are the dishes pictured in his cook books?

You have to go there and try it, even though for some of us it means driving east of the 405 freeway. Go when you can get a reservation, which might be a while. There's nothing wrong with it. It's just not what I expected and not what it could have been.

If you go

Bouchon
235 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210
(310) 271-9910

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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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HISTORIC SPOT: **A plaque on the Santa Monica Pier attests to its landmark status.**

Museum postponed indefinitely

FROM **PIER** PAGE 1

cost $100,000, half of which would be raised from private donors, Franz-Knight said.

The delay in bringing the proposal to the council came after Richard Bloom, a City Councilman and member of the California Coastal Commission, raised questions about the proposal.

In an article published in the Daily Press on Monday, Bloom said he had concerns about restricting access to a public space and wasn't convinced the site was a good place for a museum because of its remote location.

"I would be hesitant to spend a bunch of money out there ... if people don't frequent the facility," he said.

Franz-Knight said he's continuing to work on the museum idea and believes it would enhance the public's enjoyment of a little-used area on the pier.

He said there's no new date for the museum proposal to come before the City Council.

nickt@smdp.com

Prosecutors say proof is in DNA data

FROM **TRIAL** PAGE 3

Earlier, Murphy asked Alcala why he "radically changed" his hairstyle several days after Samsoe disappeared.

Alcala had his naturally curly, shoulder-length hair straightened three days after the murder and then cut short several days later. Prosecutors have argued that he made the changes so he would not be recognized after a police sketch was published on TV and in newspapers.

Alcala acknowledged the changes, but said they were not radical and were not related to the murder.

Murphy also questioned Alcala about his conversation with a 15-year-old girl he photographed near the beach on the day Samsoe disappeared. Alcala told the girl, who was wearing a blue bikini and roller skates, that he was taking pictures for a contest.

This case is the first to try Alcala in the deaths of four Los Angeles County women between 1977 and 1979.

Prosecutors allege DNA testing and forensic evidence in 2005 linked him to those cases.

Also murdered were Jill Barcomb, 18, who had just moved to Los Angeles from Oneida, N.Y.; Georgia Wixted, 27, of Malibu; Charlotte Lamb, 32, of Santa Monica; and Jill Parenteau, 21, of Burbank.

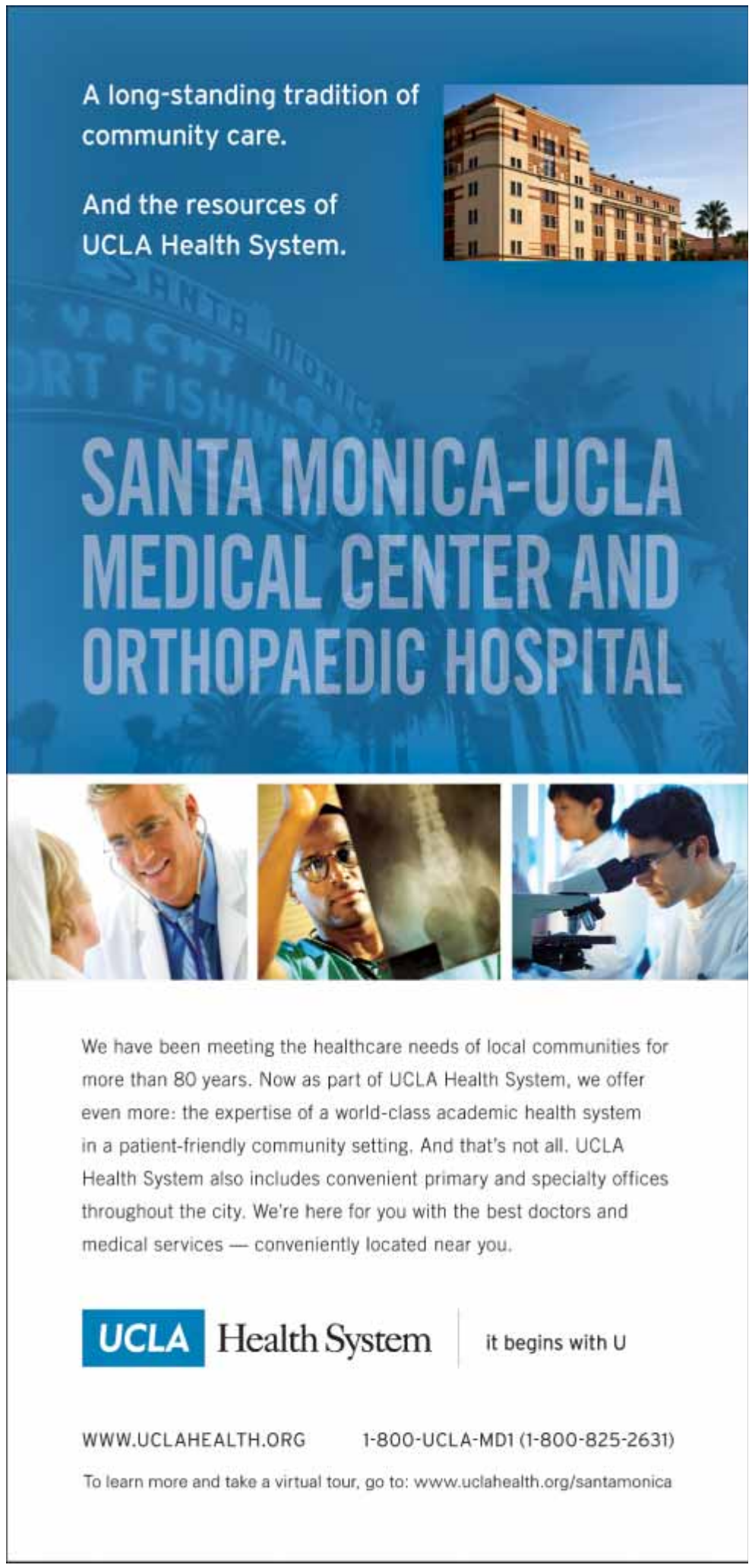


FINISHING STRONG

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica's Kristina Johnson dribbles past Culver City's Alexandria Lewis on Tuesday at home. Samohi won the Ocean League game, 72-56. The win improved the Vikings' record to 19-6 overall and 9-0 in league. Samohi finishes its season tonight at home against Hawthorne.





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Disgruntled residents eager for decision on restaurant

FROM **PARLOR** PAGE 1

Planning Commission's recommendations, the bar would have to close at midnight on weekends, instead of at 2 a.m., and would only be allowed to admit 135 people at a time, instead of 225.

Residents opposed to The Parlor's operating practices say holding more meetings is a waste of time.

The Parlor's operators attended a Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition board meeting in January to discuss concerns about the bar, but Valerie Griffin, who chairs the group, said little was achieved.

"It was as if they didn't understand that there are problems with the way they want to run their business," she said.

The Wilmont group sent an e-mail to council members supporting the Planning Commission's recommended restrictions and arguing against a further delay in the appeal process.

Far from calming the two sides down, the e-mail said postponing a decision while the bar continues to stay open until 2 a.m. "would serve to further 'heat up' the neighbors' outrage, increasing the conflict and emotion."

"If The Parlor were truly serious about a community process, they could have listened to their neighbors during the last two and a half years," the e-mail said.

Diane Krakower, who lives half a block from The Parlor, said the bar has transformed the neighborhood since it opened in 2007.

"It got to a point where I was afraid to walk my dog at night, quite frankly, because I would be running into a bunch of drunks coming down my street," she said.

She said residents in her neighborhood feel strongly that the bar needs to operate more like a restaurant in order for it to coexist with its neighbors.

"Bottom line is it's not a restaurant, it's a nightclub/bar. They may serve food but that's not the reason why people come there."

Several calls to The Parlor seeking comment for this story were not returned.

It's unclear what arguments Harding plans to present to council members to convince them the establishment should be allowed to stay open until 2 a.m. He declined to discuss specifics of the case this week.

> **"BOTTOM LINE IS IT'S NOT A RESTAURANT, IT'S A NIGHTCLUB/BAR. THEY MAY SERVE FOOD BUT THAT'S NOT THE REASON WHY PEOPLE COME THERE."**
>
> **Diane Krakower,**
> Santa Monica resident

A previous attorney who represented The Parlor's landlord, though, had said the self-proclaimed eatery did not need a "Conditional Use Permit" from City Hall because it had a grandfathered liquor license. Without the authority to require a CUP, City Hall couldn't enforce restrictions on operating hours, the attorney said.

That attorney, Stephen Jamieson, resigned shortly after the owner of the Gas Lite, another bar on Wilshire Boulevard, accused him at a December City Council meeting of violating conflict of interest ethics standards for attorneys because he had previously worked for her. It's unclear, though, whether the arrangement represented a conflict.

Harding is a veteran of many battles at City Hall, including a successful effort last year on behalf of a developer to overturn a ruling that declared the home of former Mayor Clo Hoover a historical landmark.

nickt@smdp.com

Pelicans were once nearly extinct

FROM **PELICANS** PAGE 3

Another possible cause is an algae bloom, Kelway said.

Feathers have been taken from the sick birds and sent to a lab, he said.

When there is no food in the water, the birds will look on land, Kelway said, and they're ailing in very public places — on piers, at restaurants, hotels, harbors and beaches.

"People are upset," he said. "They expect us to rescue these birds."

About 1,000 California brown pelicans stayed in Oregon this year instead of migrating south to breeding grounds.

It could be a natural pelican die-off, Kelway said, but biologists don't know yet.

The research center hopes to release several more pelicans over the next week. Warmer temperatures should help, he said.

It is costing the two centers about $3,000 a day to care for the pelicans, which eat around 1,000 pounds of fish each day.

The rescues will have to do some serious fundraising, pushing their "Adopt a Pelican" and "Pelican Partner" programs, Kelway said.

All of the pelicans are banded, so if they get in trouble again, there will be a record. Some of the birds recuperating at the centers have been at the shelters before, Kelway said, although none of those released Wednesday was a repeat customer.

The brown pelican nearly became extinct in the early 1970s because of the pesticide DDT — the birds ate tainted fish and laid such thin-shelled eggs that they broke during incubation. But when DDT was banned in 1972, the birds bounced back, and today the brown pelican is prevalent along the coasts of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, California, Washington and Oregon.

The brown pelican was taken off the federal endangered species list in November, and its global population, including the Caribbean and Latin America, is estimated at 650,000.

East Coast snow breaks records

NAFEESA SYEED
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Worst winter ever? The second blizzard in less than a week buried the most populous stretch of the East Coast under nearly a foot of snow Wednesday, breaking records for the snowiest winter and demoralizing millions of people still trying to dig out from the previous storm.

Conditions in the nation's capital were so bad that even plows were advised to get off the roads, and forecasters were eyeing a third storm that could be brewing for next week.

For many families, the first storm was a fun weekend diversion. People even went skiing past Washington's monuments. But Wednesday's blizzard quickly became a serious safety concern. The Pennsylvania governor shut down some highways and warned that people who drove were risking their lives.

"I've seen enough," said Bill Daly, 57, as gusts of wind and snow lashed his face in Arlington, Va., where streets were nearly empty just a few days after people had been playing in the snow.

"It's scary and beautiful at the same time. I wanted to shovel but thought if I had a heart attack it could be a while before anybody found me in this kind of weather."

Old-timers talk about a storm that blew through Washington in 1922, collapsing the roof on the Knickerbocker theater and killing more than 90 people. Their great-great-grandchildren will be able to describe the back-to-back blizzards of 2010, which were not nearly as deadly but set records for the snowiest winters ever in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Up to 16 inches fell in parts of western Maryland. Reagan National Airport outside Washington had nearly 10 inches by 2 p.m., and Baltimore got nearly a foot. That was on top of totals up to 3 feet in some places from the weekend storm.

"I have never in my lifetime seen or heard anything quite like this," said D.C. Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin, who was born and raised in the District.

The previous records for snowiest winters were 62.5 inches in Baltimore in 1995-96; 54.4 inches in Washington in 1898-99; and 65.5 inches in Philadelphia in 1995-96.

On Wednesday, Baltimore had 72.3 inches so far this winter, the Washington area had 54.9 inches and Philadelphia had 70.3 inches.

Heavy snow also fell in New York and New Jersey. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights, and New York City's 1.1 million schoolchildren enjoyed only their third snow day in six years. The Washington area's two airports had no flights coming or going Wednesday.

The streets of downtown Philadelphia, which was close to setting its own snow record, were nearly vacant as people heeded the mayor's advice to stay home.

Entrance ramps to closed highways were blockaded, and the Pennsylvania National Guard had Humvees stocked with food and blankets ready to help anyone who got stuck. Earlier in the day, about 25 vehicles were involved in two separate pileups on snowy Interstate 80 in central Pennsylvania. One man was killed and 18 people injured.

"For your safety, do not drive," Gov. Ed Rendell said. "You will risk your life and, potentially, the lives of others if you get stuck on highways or any road."

Two other people were killed when their snowmobile struck a moving vehicle at an intersection in Lancaster, Pa. Michigan authorities said the storm contributed to at least four traffic deaths there.

In Virginia, where some areas had snow totals exceeding 30 inches from the two storms, winds were howling at 50 mph and temperatures were plunging. Gov. Bob McDonnell urged people to stay indoors.

"This snow reminds me of when I was driving tractor-trailers in Saudi Arabia, and the sandstorm starts and you can't see the roads," said Syeed Zada, 55, a plow driver for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Utility customers in western Pennsylvania said about 30,000 people were without power. Some never got it back after the last storm.

Glenn Harvey, 59, who has a lung problem and needs oxygen, had been staying at a Red Cross shelter in Bentleyville, Pa., since Saturday.

Firefighters brought him there after the storm knocked out power to his house Friday night. His wife stayed home with their dog, where she's using a kerosene heater to keep warm.

"It's not been easy on her," Harvey said.

In Washington, officials announced that federal agencies would stay closed for a fourth straight day Thursday. The longest weather-related government shutdown ever was in 1996, when employees did not have to go to work for a full week.

A Caribou Coffee shop in the capital was standing-room-only. Most people pecked away at laptop computers as snow fell steadily outside.

"Can't get to the office, but the work still needs to get done," said attorney Christopher Erckert.

Driving conditions got so bad that officials in Washington and some nearby suburbs pulled plows off the roads. In Baltimore, Pete Korfiatis dumped snow into the Inner Harbor with a front-end loader until city officials decided the roads were too slick.

"They just shut everything down," he said.

Heavy snow collapsed part of the roof and a wall at a Smithsonian Institution storage building in Suitland, Md. It was not clear if any artifacts were damaged.

The District of Columbia's representative in Congress asked the White House to declare a federal emergency to help the capital recover.

In New York, George and Natividad Sanchez trudged over slushy sidewalks in boots, parkas and scarves to take their 2-year-old daughter to see "Sesame Street Live: When Elmo Grows Up."

"I didn't want to disappoint her," George Sanchez said as the family arrived for the show at a theater in Madison Square Garden.

The news wasn't all bad. Washington has not had a homicide in a week. Ski areas were doing brisk business, when people could get to them. And private contractors were making money plowing driveways and parking lots.

But many people were just ready for the ordeal to end.

In a yard in Westmont, N.J., someone used bright orange paint to scrawl nature a message on a white backdrop: "Dear Mr Frost," it read. "We're good w/ snow."

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

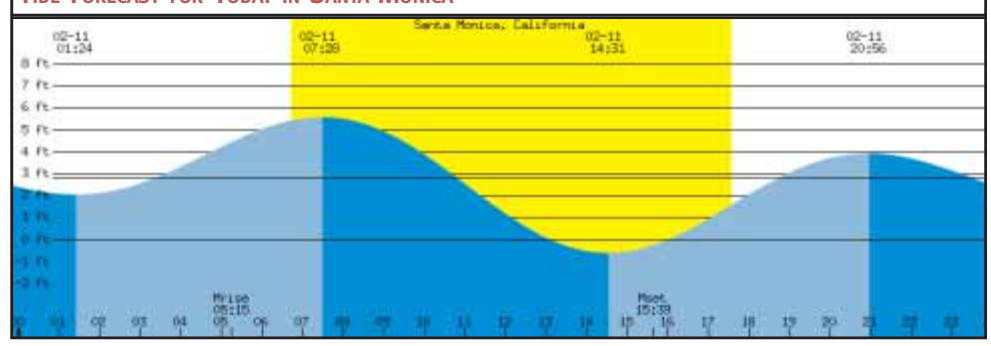
Swell Forecast

Steep angled NW swell should back down to around chest high max for west facing breaks. Winds should be lightly offshore for a good part of the day.

Long Range Synopsis

End of week looks very small as well.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **February 3, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 9
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 35

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature
Inherit the Wind (NR) 2 hr 8 min
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (NR) 1 hr 48 min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
3:35, 6:30, 9:25

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:40, 4:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:00, 7:05, 10:00

Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

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

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
1:30, 2:30, 5:00, 6:00, 8:30, 9:30

Edge of Darkness (R) 1 hr 48 min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

When in Rome (PG-13) 1 hr 31 min
1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20

Dear John (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:15, 2:10, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:00

From Paris With Love (R) 1hr 35min
2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45

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

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

Crazy Heart (R) 2hr 07min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Last Station (Ein Russischer Sommer) (R) 1hr 52min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

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

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
2:40, 7:40

The Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
12:50, 6:45

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
11:50am, 4:50, 9:50

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
3:50, 9:45

Frozen (R) 1 hr 34 min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30. 10:00

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

Put your feet up, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Take your time devising the right plan to create an important goal or scenario. You could be overly sensitive, and another's comment could get the best of you. Do remember your priorities. Tonight: Find your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Make an effort to communicate on a deeper or more effective level. Friendship plays more and more of a role in your life. Someone demonstrates his or her caring. Check in with a key associate or friend. Tonight: Could be a late night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ A partner or associate demands more and more of your attention. You might wonder about your own limits right now, as someone could be infringing on your boundaries. Be willing to go past your normal thought process. Find experts. Tonight: Put on a favorite CD.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others continue to dominate. You can understand a lot more if you kick back. Your understanding will evolve to a new level if you are willing to sit back. A family or domestic matter needs to take a higher priority. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Put forth your strongest effort, as it will make all the difference in the outcome. You can smile and let go of past concerns. Open up to talks. Someone clearly wants to dominate. Let him. Tonight: So many different options -- you choose.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Plunge into a problem with a new idea or approach. Others back off in admiration when witnessing the depth of your ideas, focus and abilities in general. You can win over many friends and associates. Tonight: Put your feet up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Stay in touch with your needs but also the needs of those in your household or immediate family. You are far more resourceful than others think. Let go of having others react as you wish. Tonight: Make time for a child or loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep communication flourishing and stay on top of your work. A child, loved one or creative project takes up a lot of your time. Don't even question the viability of this focus. Sometimes you are too focused on work. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be aware of your fiscal limits on your professional and/or personal budget. You might not have as much under control as you think. Take your time rethinking a situation. Ask questions and expect a more viable interaction. Tonight: A long-overdue chat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like to be. How you express your thoughts can and will make all the difference in another person's reaction. Tonight: Balance your checkbook and pay bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take your time rethinking a situation. Use your sixth sense, especially if you are looking at a money matter. Your answers aren't the only ones. Remain sure of yourself as you foster a new direction. Tonight: State your case.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Take a hint from Capricorn. Your naturally agreeable and vulnerable personality often makes friends and draws supporters. You alone can get desired results. Others simply don't have your personality. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

Happy birthday

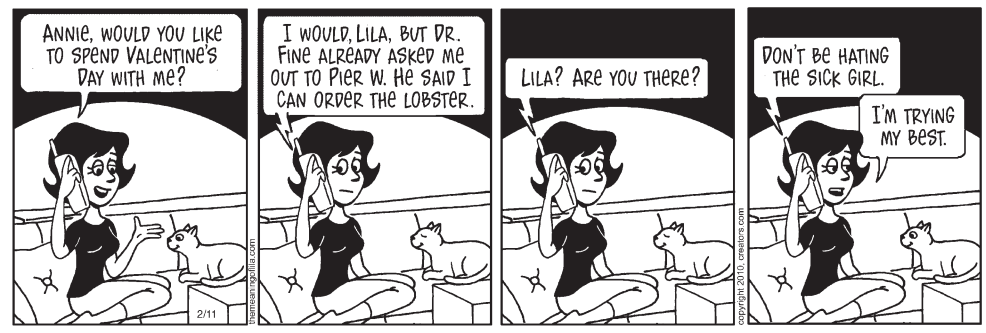
This year, you make a difference, especially if you tune in to your instincts. Your finances could improve considerably as a result of your ability to really understand your hunches and at the same time grasp trends. You could be overwhelmed by all the different opportunities that head in your direction. Toward fall, you will feel much more empowered and capable of manifesting your desires. If you are single, a friendship could be involved in the beginnings of a new romance. If you are attached, focus on your partnership more than your personal life. You discover the power of nurturing. AQUARIUS is a soul mate.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



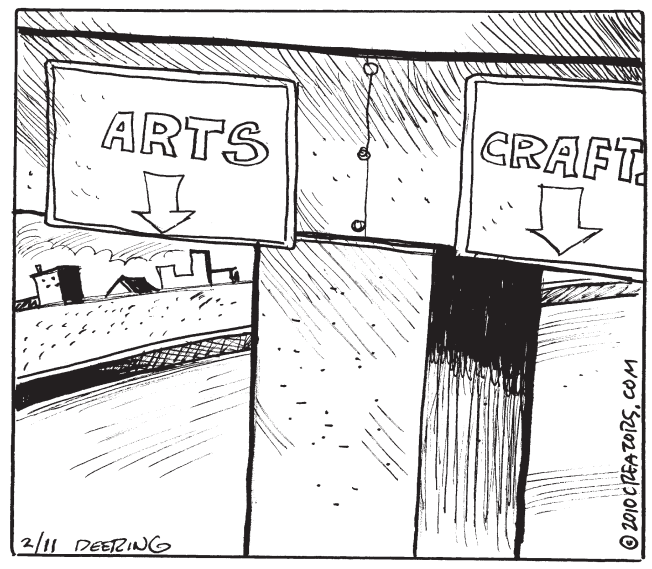
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



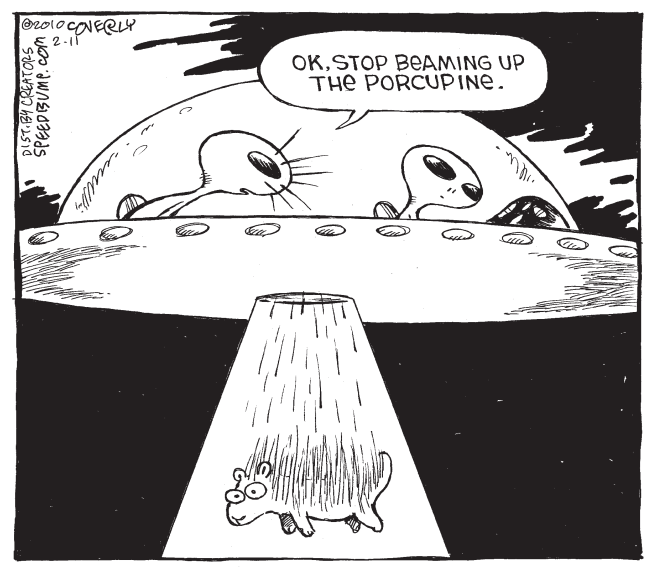
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

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

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

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bottom line
6 Tumbler, e.g.
11 Love to pieces
12 Math comparison
13 Get hitched anew
14 News subject
15 Queasy feeling
17 High hit
19 Search for gold
20 In what way
23 Keen perception
25 Arizona river
26 Coward
28 Composer Edouard
29 Harry of "L.A. Law"
30 One or more
31 Gun the motor
32 Flower visitor
33 Hastings, to Poirot
35 Improvise
38 Bakery buys
41 Recital sight
42 Map dots
43 Produce
44 So far

DOWN

1 Paving goo
2 Pindar product
3 Local thug
4 Neighborhood
5 Preceded
6 Inexperienced
7 Etna output
8 Had chow
9 Confession topic
10 Toper
16 Pourer's phrase
17 Eric Clapton hit
18 Shark's home
20 Yokel
21 Stan's pal
22 "The Duke"
24 UN labor agcy.
25 Ring feature
27 Munich's setting
31 Mechanical man
33 Coal source
34 Rock cover
35 Manhunt letters
36 Conk out
37 Fall behind
39 Gettysburg loser
40 Speedy jet

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

2-11

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 17 20 26 48
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $44M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 19 29 36 37 41
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 3 6 8 15 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 7 0
EVENING: 2 8 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.49.26

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

■ In 2008, Sweden, one of only seven countries with embassies in North Korea, began trying to coax that country into the global economy by encouraging the manufacture of jeans, which Sweden in turn would arrange for sale in high-end stores. After a series of awkward missteps (e.g., a textile manufacturer, unfamiliar with the concept of "jeans," said no, but the director of a mining company decided to accept the project), 1,100 pairs were finally shipped and priced at the equivalent of about $215 a pair, according to a December Reuters dispatch from Stockholm. (The "NoKo" jeans were initially given shelf space in at least one store, but now are offered only on the store's Web site.)

■ After the New York Post reported in December on the 175-square-foot Manhattan apartment recently purchased by Christopher Prokop and his wife (for $150,000, with $800 monthly in maintenance fees), residents of even smaller Manhattan digs told the Post they were unimpressed. For instance, Felice Cohen, 39, rents a 90-square-foot apartment ($700) with a loft bed, but admits that she must sit sideways on the toilet. Freelance event-planner Eddie Rabon rents a 55-square-foot palace for $800 a month (closer to midtown than Cohen's). He can almost touch both side walls simultaneously and cannot easily turn around while showering. Commented the residents, respectively: "We love it," "I love it," and "It's fantastic."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1531 Henry VIII of England is recognized as supreme head of the Church of England.

1659 The assault on Copenhagen by Swedish forces is beaten back with heavy losses.

1752 Pennsylvania Hospital, the first hospital in the United States, opens.

1790 Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, petitions U.S. Congress for abolition of slavery.

1794 First session of United States Senate open to the public.

WORD UP!

tarradiddle
\tair-uh-DID-uhl\ , noun; also taradiddle
1.A petty falsehood; a fib.
2.Pretentious nonsense.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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1+1, st, fr, ldry **$1100**
2842 Exposition Blvd, 'B'
2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

WEST L.A.
1920 Manning Ave #6
2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
1800 Kelton Ave, #5 & #7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1100**
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Sgl, st, fr, pkg **$875**

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WLA 1+1 2656 South Barrington Ave. unit 7, $1025. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate A & E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1200/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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1:00 - 4:00 pm



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Two-Story, Spanish
Hm in Gillette's Regent Sq
Easy to Show
Call for
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Contemporary, Spanish
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Fabulous, Top Flr Condo

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February 14th

1:00 - 4:00 pm



757 Ocean Avenue #205

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February 14th
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1:00 - 4:00 pm

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,650,000	$4,802,500
North of Montana	$2,800,000	$1,150,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,935,000	$739,498
South of Wilshire	$850,000	$653,000
Sunset Park	$997,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,750,000	$654,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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