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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 310



Santa Monica Daily Press

KIDS AND CREEPY CRAWLERS
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE COVER YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU COUGH ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PAYING RESPECTS: **Parishioners attend morning mass at St. Monica's Catholic Church during All Souls' Day on Monday. All Souls' Day is a Roman Catholic day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away. This comes from the ancient Pagan Festival of the Dead, which celebrated the Pagan belief that the souls of the dead would return for a meal with the family. Candles in the window would guide the souls back home, and another place was set at the table.**

Landlords busted by city task force

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Just because apartment units are legally removed from the rental market doesn't mean they're not being illegally rerented.

That's what a city task force recently learned after investigating nearly 60 properties that were withdrawn from the rental market under the state Ellis Act but had not been accounted for by City Hall afterward by demolition permits or changes in use. The Ellis Act allows landlords to go out of the rental business and evict tenants, usually for redevelopment and condo conversions.

"The basic rule is that by an owner withdrawing their property from the rental market, they are leaving that business and understanding the property will not be rerented to new tenants," Adam Radinsky, the head of the Consumer Protection Unit with City Hall, said.

The Ellis Task Force, comprised of staff from the City Attorney, Rent Control, Code Compliance, Santa Monica Police and Planning and Community Development Departments, began meeting last year in response to claims by some evicted tenants that "Ellised" properties were being illegally rerented without City Hall's consent.

The task force found 59 properties — representing 245 units — that had not been demolished or converted, approximately 42 of which were occupied without a required reoccupancy permit. A city ordinance requires that any property that is Ellised after December 1989 and reoccupied — whether it's for rental purposes or not — receive a reoccupancy permit.

About a half dozen of the properties were excused because of subsequent demolition or because they were withdrawn from the rental market before the reoccupancy permit ordinance. Another nine owners applied for reoccupancy permits when contacted by staff while five have retained counsel and are contesting City Hall's request. Approximately three owners who have not responded to requests are being pursued with enforcement.

Ten owners have claimed exemptions or have agreed to apply for a permit.

Under the Ellis Act, withdrawn units

SEE ELLIS PAGE 8

No appeal for Malibu High field lights

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS There will be no appeal filed to bring back temporary lights for Friday night high school football games.

School district officials decided recently they will not ask the California Coastal Commission to reconsider its denial last month of a request to allow temporary lights at Malibu High School for 16 nights a year. The deadline to file is Friday.

Board of Education President Ralph Mechur said on Monday that the district will instead work with Malibu city officials who are in the process of petitioning the commission to amend its Local Coastal Plan (LCP) to conditionally allow temporary field lights so that the night games could resume.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District considered appealing the commission's decision because they altered their initial proposal to install permanent field lights at a later date as part of a Measure BB construction project at Malibu High. By removing the proposal, district officials were hoping to ease concerns brought by opponents who believe permanent lighting not only pollutes the famously clear evening sky in Malibu, but also adversely impacts the wildlife in surrounding areas.

Mechur said the commission would not have heard the request for a reconsideration until January and if authorized to move forward, a new hearing would most likely not be scheduled until the late spring or early summer 2010.

"We felt that it makes more sense to work more closely with the city in redefining what our appropriate uses are at our school sites and have the Local Coastal Plan amended," Mechur said.

Superintendent Tim Cuneo said that the cost also played a factor in the decision to forgo the appeals process, which could cost upwards of $50,000.

But the process of amending the LCP could also take up to a year, having to go through the Zoning Ordinance Revisions and Code Enforcement Subcommittee, the Planning Commission and City Council

SEE LIGHTS PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009

Environment Talk
Santa Monica College
Science 140, 1900 Pico Blvd.,11:15 a.m.
Dr. Sean Anderson, the assistant professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management at CSU Channel Islands, will present his lecture "After the Rivers Run Dry: Lessons From Phased Ecological Restoration Experiments." The talk will focus on the results of efforts to restore damaged ecological systems. Admission is free. Call Grace Smith at (310) 434-4003 for more information.

Opera Performance
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Juan Diego FlÓrez, the bel canto tenor of choice in many of the world's major opera houses, will sing selections from Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti in a performance sponsored by the Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation. The Peruvian singer has performed around the world to critical acclaim. Call (310) 434-3412 for more information.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009

Movie Screening
AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade, 9 a.m.
Come to a free screening of "Cherrybomb" starring Harry Potter's Rupert Grint. The screening will be part of the American Film Market festival being held in Santa Monica from Nov. 4 — 11. Contact Jo Galloway at (713) 582-5535 to sign up. Space is limited!

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

Sustainable Eating
Santa Monica Main Library
MLK Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Learn about the "nose to tail" movement at Santa Monica Farmers' Market: "Eating the Whole Farm." The discussion will cover how farmers, customers and chefs are working together to revitalize traditional farming and cooking methods by growing and eating everything on the farm. Panelists will include chefs and farmers alike, as well as Evan Kleiman from KCRW's "Good Food." Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Literary Lecture
Santa Monica College
HSS 165, 1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m.
Percival Everett, distinguished professor of English at the University of Southern California, will be lecturing on his book "When It's Torture." Everett is an award-winning novelist and author of fiction. The event is free. Call (310) 434-4003 for details.

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.

New phone app saves lives, raises money

BY DERRICK OLIVER
Special to the Daily Press

MID-CITY Lives can be saved or lost in a matter of seconds.

Often times, in an attempt to make the most appropriate medical decisions during emergency situations, paramedics can spend those critical seconds and minutes gathering unknown medical information.

However, MyRapidMD seeks to save both time and potentially more lives by revolutionizing emergency medical care. MyRapidMD, a developer of Meaningful Personal Mobile Content (MPMC) for cellular phones, has created the Emergency Service Profile (ESP). This new application transforms a person's cellular phone into a personal medical record, containing vital medical histories and emergency contacts. Fire departments, EMTs, police officers, or other first responders will now have the opportunity to have quick and easy access to vital medical information at the scene of an emergency.

To bring more public awareness about this new potential life-saving application, MyRapidMD has now partnered with the American Red Cross of Santa Monica.

"We're thrilled to be working with the American Red Cross and look forward to strengthening and building upon this relationship as our business grows," said Mark White, founder and president of MyRapidMD. "We too saw this as a natural fit for our company and the opportunity to get involved and help one of the globe's most giving organizations was as obvious to us as it was to the Red Cross."

In addition, this new partnership will also help the Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross raise money for their many disaster relief programs.

Using a special promotional code, ARCSM, not only will the people who sign-up receive a 20-percent discount, but the Santa Monica chapter will also receive a donation equivalent to 20 percent of the price of the application.

The ESP application installation price is $30, which includes a year of service. After the first year, a $9.95 annual service fee will then be charged.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica feels that this new cellular phone application is invaluable, and will be incorporating it into their various emergency preparedness training programs.

"Emergency preparedness is our business and the more people that put MyRapidMD's ESP application on their (phone,) the better prepared we will all be," said John Pacheco, executive director of the American Red Cross of Santa Monica.

To sign up for MyRapidMD's ESP application, go to: www.myrapidmd.com.

news@smdp.com

Sirhan Sirhan is moved to new site

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES An attorney for the man who assassinated Robert F. Kennedy said Monday his client was transferred from a prison that houses high-risk offenders to a new facility where his life could be in danger.

Attorney William F. Pepper said Sirhan Sirhan opposed the move from the state prison in Corcoran, which houses high-risk prisoners such as Charles Manson, to

SEE **SIRHAN** PAGE 10

Jerry Brown's spokesman resigns after taping calls

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The communications director for California Attorney General Jerry Brown resigned Monday after it was revealed he had secretly recorded telephone conversations with reporters.

Scott Gerber, 33, wrote in his resignation letter that he let down the attorney general's office and himself when he recorded phone interviews with reporters without seeking their permission.

"My purpose wasn't to play gotcha but simply to have an accurate record of official, on-the-record statements on matters of pub-

SEE **RESIGN** PAGE 10



FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Fabian Lewkowicz *Fabian Lewkowicz.com*

Mary Blackmon admires a vintage pendent belonging to actress and model Trudy Marshall during OPCC's 'Vintage Off the Vine' silent auction fundraiser at the Annenberg Community Beach House on Sunday, Nov. 1. The annual fundraising event included a silent auction, vintage jewelry boutique, entertainment, food and blind wine tasting. This event raised funds and awareness for Turning Point Transitional Housing. Turning Point Transitional Housing is a 55-bed shelter for homeless men and women that offers housing and supportive services for up to nine months. The project seeks to break the cycle of homelessness and to integrate homeless individuals back into the community by providing comprehensive, individualized services designed to address their physical and emotional needs. In addition to an individual sleeping area, three meals a day and clothing, Turning Point provides intensive case management, counseling and support groups, specialized programs such as job counseling, money management, health education, computer classes and independent living skills.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A long way from home

Editor:

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority on Oct. 28 released its 2009 Homeless Count. There was remarkable news – the total number of persons counted in this latest survey decreased by 38 percent compared to the total number of homeless persons counted in 2007.

Among the 48,053 homeless individuals in the Los Angeles County continuum of care, the survey identifies 4,885 individuals in 1,840 homeless families in our community, reflecting a stunning 70 percent drop in homelessness among families with children during the last two years.

As agencies that advocate for and provide housing and services to homeless families throughout Los Angeles County, we have a unique perspective on these numbers.

The results of the survey suggest that our concentrated efforts and focus on successful strategies is making an impact on reducing the number of homeless families throughout Los Angeles. ...

However, we feel that the 2009 Homeless Count substantially understates what those of us on the frontlines of addressing family homelessness are seeing on the street. A sampling of data from providers that focus on family homelessness indicates a 40 percent increase in family homelessness between 2007 and 2009. Confirming this perception, the Los Angeles County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) recognized 7,500 homeless families in January 2009, the same month the count was conducted, a 49 percent increase from April 2008.

Families who are homeless have been referred to as the hidden homeless: they typically are less visible than chronically homeless adults. They may live in an automobile or on a friend's living room floor, and spend the day at the mall or a city park. With a child in a stroller, the family's homeless condition is less noticeable to the public, or even to outreach workers. These are some of the reasons families are under-represented in the Homeless Count.

We fear these numbers will likely get worse before they get better. Family homelessness tends to lag behind unemployment by six to nine months. As we endure the worst economic plunge since the Great Depression and the unemployment rate soars past 12.7 percent across the region, we are bracing to support a surge in the number of homeless families.

If homelessness was truly decreasing in our community, we'd be the first to celebrate. However, our experiences on the frontlines indicate that the problem is getting worse.

For this reason, the release of the 2009 Homeless Count should be a call to action to continue investing in solutions that work. We need resources to dramatically accelerate the pace of affordable housing development and to provide more Section 8 housing vouchers for families. We need additional resources to help families who are currently homeless and those who are at risk of losing their housing in the near future. Most importantly, we need a regional, collaborative and aggressive approach to end family homelessness.

Despite surging demand and diminished resources, agencies across the county ... remain dedicated to battling this crisis. Let the Homeless Count be a call to all of us in Los Angeles to rededicate ourselves to addressing this unconscionable crisis once and for all.

David Snow
Executive Director
Upward Bound House

Devorah Brous
Executive Director
Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness

And others



Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The heart of the oak

THE MIGHTY OAK IS TRULY A REMARKABLE tree. Oaks have sustained humans for more than 6,000 years. Oaks have often been referred to as generous, hospitable, scholarly, surveyors and long-lived.

From Vancouver to Caracas, from Miami to Dublin, from Lisbon to Jakarta and from Seoul to Tokyo there are about 425 species of oaks. Their lineage dates back some 65 million years. They are genetically rich and an incredibly flexible genus surviving geologic upheavals and many climate changes.

Oaks can tolerate fire, the onslaught of repeated insect infestations and prolonged periods of drought. And some oaks can live well past 1,000 years. Within the life of an average oak tree it will grow over three million acorns — its seeds. A mature tree will support over 500 million living root tips.

Some oaks are deciduous while others are evergreen. They rely upon wind not insects or birds to spread their pollen — an ancient characteristic more common to the conifers rather than the angiosperms.

Oaks and jays have evolved together. These birds depend upon acorns as a food source. They cache them throughout the forest. Oaks depend upon jays to disseminate their seeds. Those acorns that aren't eaten eventually become trees.

A mature oak tree can grow 121 feet tall supporting a crown 121 feet wide and provide habitat for over five thousand different species of plants, animals, insects, fungus and bacteria. Including 40 species of wasps — cynipines — that create Ping-Pong ball-sized growths or galls on oak branches. These wasps have been associated with oaks for the past 30 million years.

Six thousand years ago foresters discovered that when an oak is felled its root system responds by shooting up four or sometimes six new trees from the base of the cut stump. This form of natural regeneration is called coppice. Every five to 25 years it yields a new crop of trees.

The founding forestry textbook "Sylva" was written by John Evelyn in 1664 and it focused on oak trees. Essentially, foresters were trained to be in tune with the health and shape of trees just as a physician is to that of the human body.

For thousands of years people and cultures have depended upon oaks and their acorns as their staple food source. In Tunisia oak means meal-bearing tree. From Iraq to Korea to the Native Americans of California they all collected acorns, soaked them, mashed them and made cakes or soups. One mature white oak tree can throw between 302 to 500 pounds of acorns per year. Records from the early 20th century show that Iraqis consumed more than 30 tons of this cake each year.

Human beings learned from the woods around them. Oak forests made roadways, frames, doors, palisades, barrels, coffins, henges, boats, tanning and ink.

Fire made human civilization possible. Charcoal — lumps of almost pure carbon — was the fuel that ended the Stone Age enabling the smelting of bronze found in iron. Charcoal is smokeless, it burns more efficiently and it burns hotter. It took, however, 8 pounds of oak to make 1 pound of charcoal; an eight to one ratio.

The role of oak was pivotal in boat building. The Vikings and their legendary longships were the finest, sleekest crafts ever created. Whether sailing of rowing these boats carrying 40 tons were able to arrive on foreign shores unheralded.

Later, Western European countries built huge oak boats weighing the equivalent of a 40-roomed wooden mansion. They could carry 397 tons of cargo. Those boats required wood from at least 62 acres of mature oak forests.

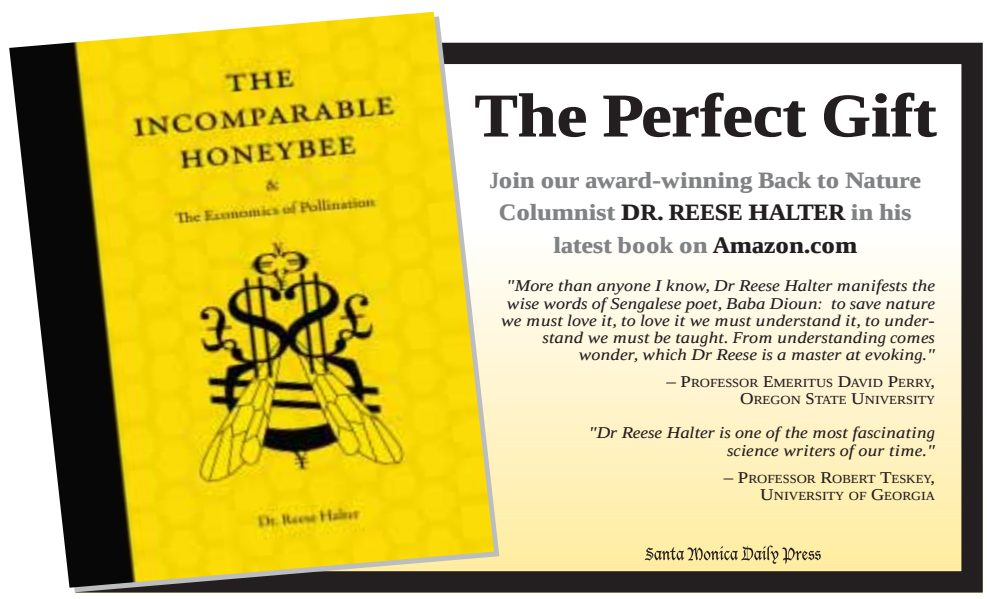
The greatest work of art from the European Middle Ages was the 600 tons of oak that framed the roof of Westminster Hall. Architects, engineers and scholars marvel at Hugh Herland's use of joints, scarfs and mortise-and-tenon joints in the post, beams and arches created for King Richard II in 1397 AD.

Ink derived from oak galls was used by Leonardo da Vinci in his notebooks, by Bach in his scores and by van Gogh in his drawings.

Today oak is used by mankind for furniture, flooring, timber frames, basketry; and the nose of every space shuttle is coated with cork, from the bark of the cork-oak tree, because it provides unparalleled heat resistant protection for the shuttle's re-entry to Earth's atmosphere.

The compliment "you have a heart of an oak" is a splendid tribute to this exquisite genus of trees.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and conservation biologist. His most recent book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No shame in asking for help

"I JUST GOT SERVED WITH A RESTRAINING order. I can't go to my house, see my kids, or get my clothes. What do I do?"

'Tis the season for family fights, lovers' quarrels and the annual issuance of Domestic Violence Protective Act — Temporary Restraining Orders. Each year around this time, we begin to see more and more of these situations where one party has become angry at the other, they high-tail it down to the courthouse and fill out the paperwork for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and before you can say "Welcome to Santa Monica," someone has been issued a court order.

By their nature, TRO's are short, usually lasting less than three weeks, because by law, a hearing must be held within 20 days of issuance and can be obtained by any family member, romantic partners whether or not they live together, or co-parents, by showing "abuse."

"Abuse" has an amazingly wide definition and is so large that you could fly a 787 through it. The courts define it as "sexual assault, violence resulting in injury, or acts or statements causing fear of imminent physical injury." The courts are necessarily liberal in their definition because they want to protect people, and the philosophy is to keep the situation as calm as possible, which is done by keeping people apart.

The problem with this, that I see, is that it is very easy for anyone to stretch the truth or outright lie to get a TRO. Because the courts will issue a temporary order on just one side's statements, it makes it easy for a party to use a TRO as leverage in a family fight. When you consider that one party could get a "kick-out order" based merely on a statement to a judge that they "saw my roommate break a glass in anger, and I was afraid they were going to attack me," it becomes clear how easy it is to manipulate the law.

People sign declarations "under penalty of perjury" that what they are telling a judge is true. This means that the judge then must accept as fact what is in the declaration, at least for the issuance of the TRO phase. Hard as it is to believe, people will lie under oath.

This is not a gender issue, both men and women are completely capable of lying under oath, and do so with surprising regularity. It is a sad truth that people who are angry become irrational, and when in that state, they will do anything. When humans are in fear we are capable of doing the most horrific of acts against others.

That fear can lead to abuse of another type of protection order, one that is less frequently used, it is the Emergency Protective Order. When one party is being physically abused, or faking it, they can call the police. The police are the only ones who can provide this short term protection, but it must be requested by the victim. The responding officers will then speak to a judge and if the judge then finds that there is "reasonable grounds to believe that an immediate and present danger of domestic violence exists and that the order is necessary to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of domestic violence, he can order an EPO, which is good for five court days or seven calendar days, during which time the victim must apply for the DVPA TRO.

OCCASIONALLY WE SEE IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND, BUT FOR THE MOST PART, MEN DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE ASKING FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF THE POLICE OR THE COURTS. IT HAS TO DO WITH THE POWER DYNAMICS OF RELATIONSHIPS AND THE ROLE THAT MEN PLAY IN SOCIETY. MOST MEN WILL FEEL EMASCULATED ASKING FOR THIS TYPE OF HELP.

So who gets these orders? Usually women are seeking them against the men that I see in my office. Occasionally we see it the other way around, but for the most part, men do not feel comfortable asking for the assistance of the police or the courts. It has to do with the power dynamics of relationships and the role that men play in society. Most men will feel emasculated asking for this type of help. They think that they don't need someone else to protect their rights. It's that whole macho ethic of being able to take care of myself. Sadly his strength is frequently what attracted these couples to each other, and then when the relationship sours, his great strength is his biggest weakness.

Most of the men that come to me after they have been served with a TRO have had more than enough reason to seek their own TROs, but haven't done so, as they feel that it is "not manly" and makes them appear weak.

I just don't agree that getting help makes a man less masculine. The best athletes in the world need coaches, the president has his cabinet, and most superheroes have a partner.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Parking perks

City officials are considering a proposal that would introduce parking validation to the city's many garages.

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

Do you think that parking validation is a good idea, and why?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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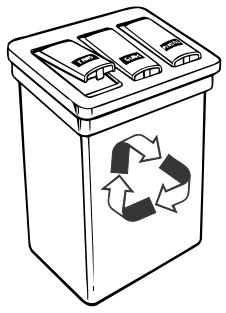
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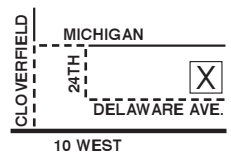


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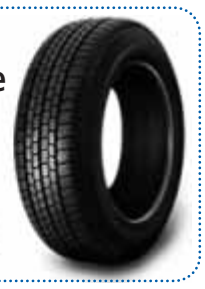
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The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The unseen world of giants

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks – Rusty, Richard and Sydney – from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

IT HAD TAKEN MONTHS AND A LOT OF blood (ouch, my smashed thumb), sweat, (whew-ee, that would be all of us) and a few tears of frustration as we worked to get Great Grandpa Quacker's 1934 Woody Wagon up and running again, but we did it.

For years, every time we opened the garage, that Woody Wagon stared at us with those big round headlights begging us to take it out, just one more time, on a surfing safari. Rusty said there were only two choices, quit opening the garage or fix the Woody Wagon.

Rusty got us moving. We changed out the old engine for a new one that runs on bio-fuel. Then we repaired, sanded and polished every inch of that car until it gleamed like new.

Rusty took the wheel and we hit the road ready to re-live Great Grandpa Quacker's awesome surfing safari adventures. We tooled up the coast, surfboards hanging out the rear window, styling in our classic Woody Wagon and ready to hit every surf spot from Santa Monica to the Oregon border.

The surfing was spectacular, the scenery dazzling. From Malibu to North Beach it was exactly as Great Grandpa Quacker had described it. We were living his stories.

When I mapped out the route for our safari, I discovered we would be traveling through one of the most precious natural wonders of the world, the ancient coast redwoods. The coast redwoods are the tallest and possibly the oldest, most massive living things on Earth.

I read everything I could find on the redwoods. When I learned that 150 years of logging and real estate development had left only 5 percent of the original 2 million acres of coast redwood forest, I knew I could not pass up the opportunity to see the redwoods in person and learn more about them.

Many of the articles I read mentioned Dr. Stephen Sillett, botany professor at Humboldt State University in Arcata who specializes in old growth (ancient) forest canopies. As an expert on these rare, massive giants, I had to talk with him. I took a chance, called and he agreed to meet with me.

Unsure of how my brothers might react and hoping it might help my case, I waited until we were surrounded by the serene beauty of the massive redwoods on U.S. Highway 101's "Avenue of the Giants", and then I told them. Richard was immediately agreeable. Rusty, saying the purity of the surfing safari had been compromised, gave me the silent treatment for miles.

I told Richard how Dr. Sillett was the first scientist to enter the upper layer of the spreading, branchy, redwood canopy. There he found an unseen world, an entire ecosystem, hundreds of feet up in the air.

Rusty kept me on ignore until I began talking about Dr. Sillett's method of moving about the canopy, called "skywalking."

Our meeting went well. Rusty, of course, couldn't wait to hear how Dr. Sillett skywalked in the trees. He told Rusty that first he set a climbing line using a rubber tipped arrow. Then, using a modified, arborist–style safety swing, with ropes, harnesses and pulleys, he ascended into the canopy. The skywalking actually occurred once he was in the canopy by using motion lanyards on a web of climbing robes. Rusty was heartbroken to hear that he would have to become a graduate student at the university to climb with the doctor.

With rapt attention, we listened as Dr. Sillett described the aerial gardens of the redwood canopies. There are colonies of fungi that play an import role in this ecosystem. They help plants absorb nutrients and water. They also help produce the rich soil mats that support earthworms, bugs and barely visible crustaceans, called copepods. Leather ferns dangle from branches and Sitka spruce and western hemlocks sprout from the soil. We all laughed at the picture he created describing chickadees, ruby-crowned kinglets and brown creepers, 300 feet in the sky, gorging themselves on the thickets of red and black huckleberries growing there.

THIS LUSH, CLIMATE CONTROLLED REFUGE IS ALSO HOME TO SEVERAL VARIETIES OF MAMMALS INCLUDING THE CALIFORNIA MYOTIS, BIG BROWN BAT, RED TREE VOLE, THE NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL AND THE TOWNSEND CHIPMUNK.

This lush, climate controlled refuge is also home to several varieties of mammals including the California myotis, big brown bat, red tree vole, the northern flying squirrel and the Townsend chipmunk.

We decided our favorite canopy resident was the wandering salamander who lives high above the forest floor in salamander paradise. He sleeps on a comfy, thick soil mat that is also full of tasty insect treats that he enjoys while sitting 250 feet in the air out of reach of ground dwelling predators. Ah, the good life.

When our time was up we vowed to share all we had learned. We thanked Dr. Sillett and with great reluctance got on our way.

The safari was like a nice big chocolate cake — wonderful. Seeing the giant redwoods and meeting Dr. Sillett put the icing on it.

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com. The Quackers have a new, amazing Web site! Stories, pictures and a blog at www.thequackers.com.

Santa Monica From A to Z

Melissa Rader and Alisandra Rand
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Adventures in arachnophobia

FOR A LITTLE POST-HALLOWEEN CREEPY, crawly fun, we decided to explore the Spider Pavilion at the Natural History Museum near USC. It was a surprise. We expected box after box of big hairy arachnids. Instead, housed outside the museum in the site of the Butterfly Pavilion, the spiders were left free to roam the bushes and build their webs around a winding path. It was so much fun for Dash to run from one web to the next, finding spiders, and making us take a picture of each one. There was also a mud puddle for Zora to jump around in. Ah, to be 2 again. A few big hairies were in some terrariums right outside the pavilion.

After seeing the spiders in action, we took the kids inside the museum to the Discovery Center. It houses a veritable terrarium city, hosting not only tarantulas, but scorpions, humongous cockroaches and other things that make you want to reach for a broom. The Discovery Center also has many hands-on exhibits for the kids, as well as animal presentations on the weekends.

Dash enjoyed uncovering dinosaur bones with a brush in the paleontologist pit. Zora enjoyed disassembling a life-size dinosaur skeleton puzzle using actual bones for pieces. There are also geodes, furs, animal skulls, and shells for children to touch and compare. Animal lovers will find turtles, fish and a giant stuffed polar bear — Addison's favorite.

In preparation for your visit, the Natural History Museum's Web site profiles some of the spiders you will see — www.nhm.org/site/explore-exhibits/special-exhibits/spider-pavillion. I'll tell you now that the giant wood spider lives up to its name. On the way into the pavilion, there are examples of all the different kinds of webs spiders spin, including funnel, orbs, and domes. See backyardnature.net/spid-silk.htm for more information and pictures. For some fun after your visit, check out some Web sites listing local spiders and go on a neighborhood bug hunt. Just be on the lookout for black widows, our local poisonous arachnid.

The pavilion was pretty empty when we arrived, but a large (and very noisy) middle school group was heading in as we left. Ample parking is available in a lot next to the museum for $8. The cafeteria was closed on the day of our visit, but there is a McDonald's, Taco Bell and small café in the Science Center next door.

The pavilion is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Nov. 8. Tickets for the Spider Pavilion are $3 for adults, and $1 for children. Admission to the main museum is $9 for adults, $2 for kids from 5-12, and children under 5 are free. FYI, the museum is free for everyone on the first Tuesday of each month. Museum members are free of charge so you might want to think about getting an annual family membership for $70.

Find more information, links, and details about Addison's, Zora's and Dash's adventures at smatoz.blogspot.com.

Tips on applying for college

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK If you're throwing around the term "app" a lot but it has nothing to do with iPhones, you must have a high school senior in the family working on a college app.

Application, that is.

For those of us who grew up in an era when parents had virtually nothing to do with the college application process, it can be downright bewildering. Suddenly the family calendar is covered with scribbles about campus tours, standardized test dates, financial aid workshops and application deadlines.

Marie Carr has been through all this three times, and this year she published a book about the process, with her three daughters' help, called "Sending Your Child to College: The Prepared Parent's Operational Manual."

"It's not about nagging," she said. "It's about trying to help them organize and prepare, and scale this big project down into manageable bits."

One approach to keeping track of all the options and deadlines is to create a graph, spreadsheet or folders that you can look at together.

Carr's book has sample checklists and charts that you can use or adapt, but if you're making one up from scratch, be sure to include teacher recommendations, resumes, essays, interviews, test dates, application deadlines and other requirements for each school on the list. Every time a task on the chart is completed, "putting a check in that box can be very rewarding," said Carr.

A wall chart or computer spreadsheet also gives you a neutral way of talking about a looming deadline or an undone task.

Be sure to emphasize that money spent on late fees for missed deadlines is money that won't be available for other family expenses, Carr said.

And don't forget that filling out the financial aid forms is your job.

By now, college-bound seniors should have all their letters of recommendation lined up, but if some are missing, "your child is going to have to nag the teacher," Carr said.

You might suggest that your child compile some notes the teacher can refer to in writing the letter. Was there a project the student took a leadership role on, or a challenging assignment that earned a high grade, or a topic your child absolutely loved learning about? Providing information like that could make it much easier for a busy instructor or guidance counselor to complete the missing reference letter.

But what if your teenager resists your efforts to help? Should you back off or go into overdrive with a kid who skips a test or just won't finish that 500-word essay?

"Personally I wouldn't back off but I don't think you can nag either," she said. "Open as many doors as you can and let them walk through the door. You come up with a plan and the child either follows the plan or they don't. You can't write the essay for them."

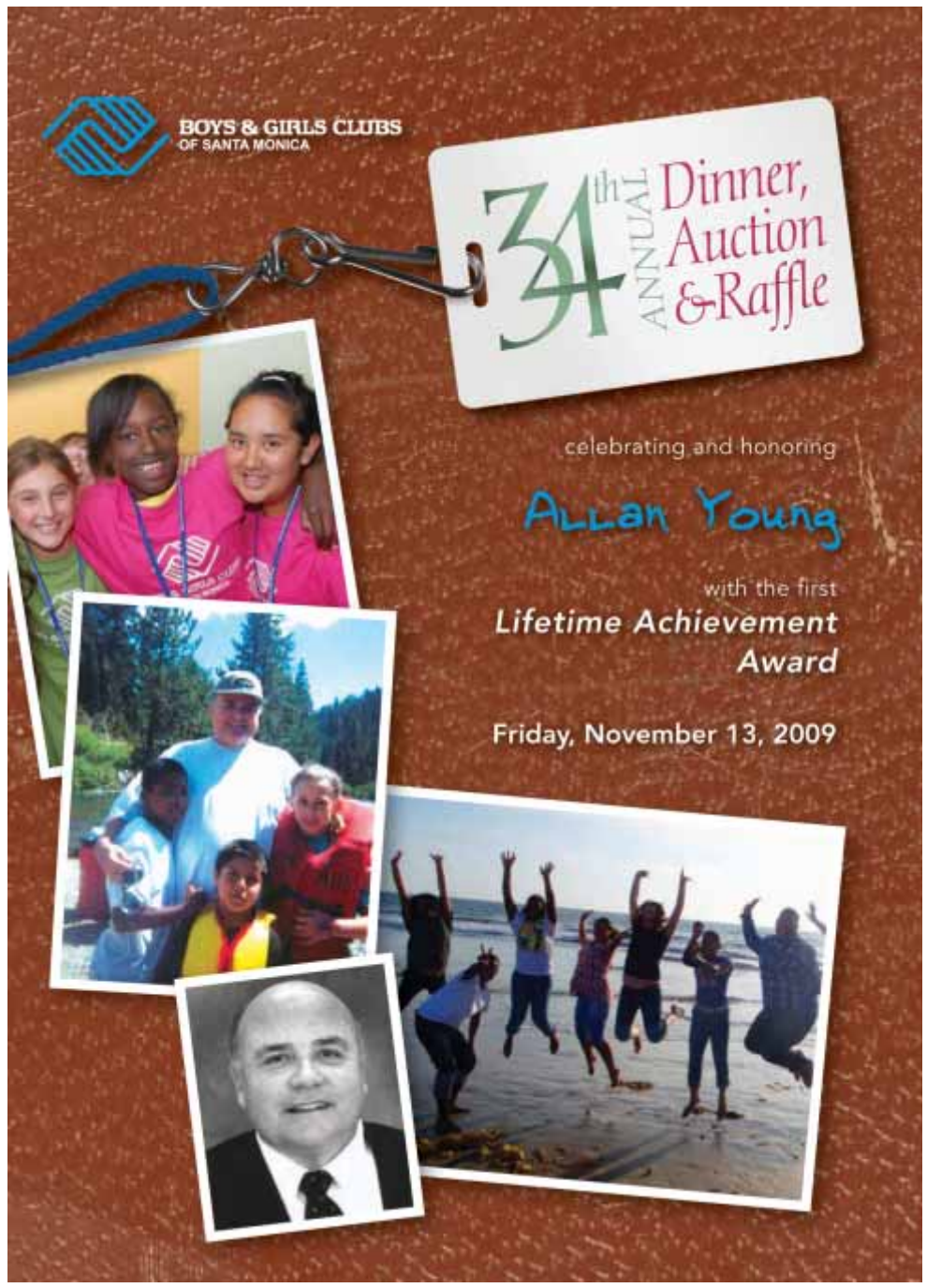
If your child doesn't want you to see what he's written, encourage him to meet with a teacher, a counselor or some other adult who can provide feedback and make sure all spelling and grammar errors have been caught.

Carr also made an observation that will ring true for many of today's parents: Constant distraction from text messages, electronic devices and the Internet makes it hard for teenagers to complete tasks that require hours of sustained attention — like filling out college applications.

Parents can help, not only by dividing the college app process down into small parts, but also by providing perspective.

"There are over 4,000 colleges out there, and it's going to be OK," Carr said.





Number of rental units withdrawn from market slowing down

FROM ELLIS PAGE 1

that are reinstated as rentals within two years must be offered first to displaced tenants at the rent level they paid at the time of eviction, Radinsky said.

There are several lawsuits that have arisen over the past few years because of Ellis Act violations, including one brought against the owners of a property on Ocean Avenue that resulted in a settlement of $100,000.

City Hall recently also filed a lawsuit against the owner of a four-unit property on Grant Street that was illegally re-rented. The City Attorney's Office is also claiming that the landlord is illegally harassing a new tenant of the building.

There were 513 Ellis withdrawals — comprising 2,461 units — from the inception of the state law in July 1986 to December 31, 2008, according to a report by the Rent Control Board in April. Approximately 110 of the units have returned to the market under rent control.

The number of Ellised properties has been declining in the past 2.5 years, which can be attributed to the downturn in the economy.

Tracy Condon, the Rent Control Board administrator, said that there was a giant wave of withdrawals when the Ellis Act was first enacted, slowing down in the early to mid 1990s.

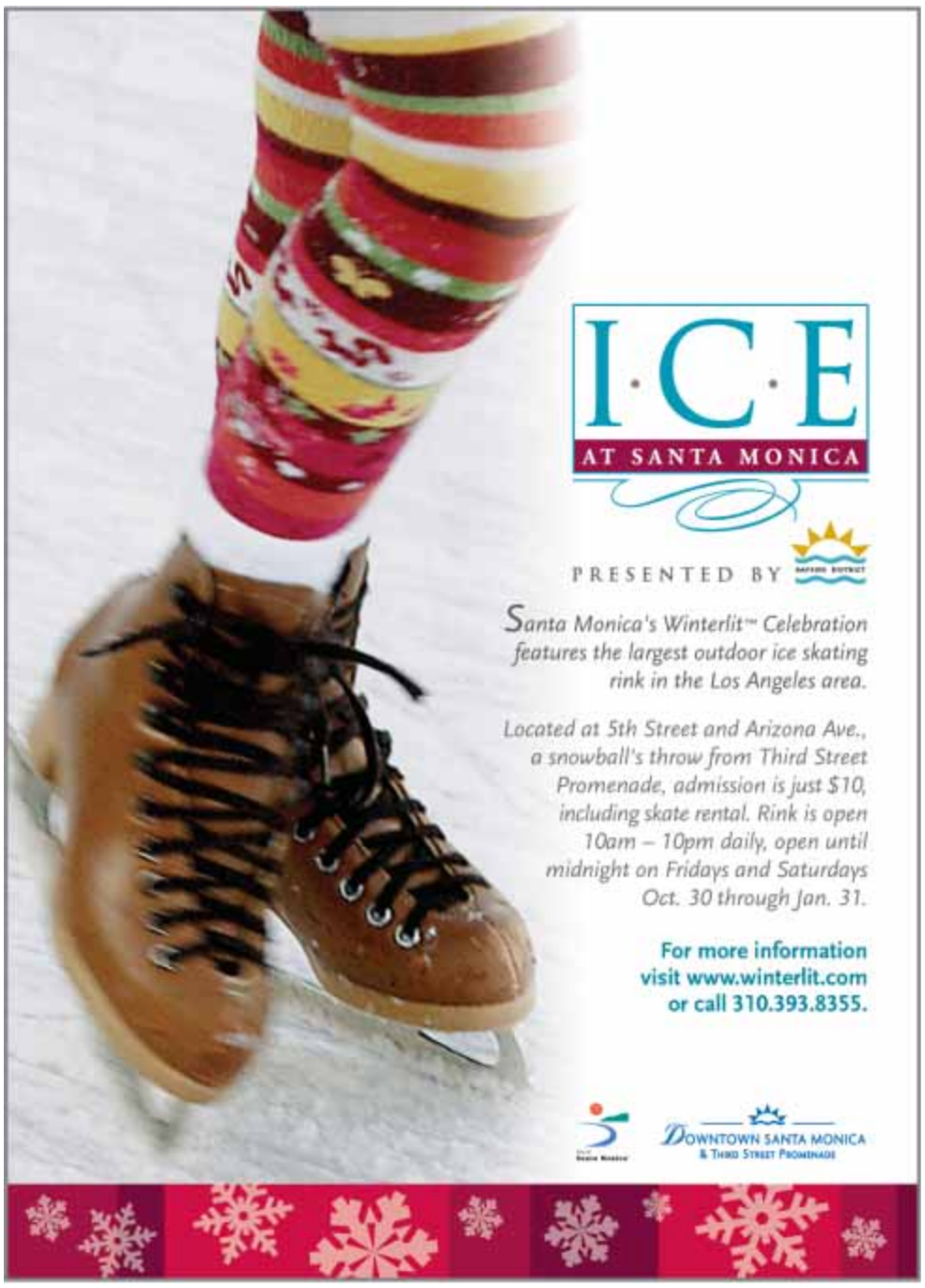
"I think that there are fewer withdrawals when the economic climate is not as conducive to development," Condon said. "That's also what's been happening the most recent year when we have seen a real reduction. We have also seen more units coming back into the rental market than are being withdrawn."

> **"THE BASIC RULE IS THAT BY AN OWNER WITHDRAWING THEIR PROPERTY FROM THE RENTAL MARKET, THEY ARE LEAVING THAT BUSINESS AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROPERTY WILL NOT BE RERENTED TO NEW TENANTS."**
>
> **Adam Radinsky**
> Consumer Protection Unit, City Hall

Condon said that her office does periodically receive complaints from tenants who have been evicted under the Ellis Act and are keeping a close eye on the property.

"That is one reason the Ellis Task Force was established to make sure these properties are not abusing the Ellis Act," she said.

melodyh@smdp.com









School district to work with Malibu to bring back lights

FROM LIGHTS PAGE 1

before heading to the Coastal Commission.

Cuneo said he plans to ask that the city portion of the review be expedited so that if the temporary lights are approved by the commission, they will be ready in time for the next school year.

"If not we will have to find other facilities for our Malibu High School teams to play in if they wish to play in the evening under the lights," Cuneo said. "The other alternatives is day games."

The varsity football teams have been playing their home games in the afternoon this year. Supporters of the temporary field lights said the evening football games were a popular Friday night event for the community, drawing in some cases several hundred students.

The commission in 2000 approved a coastal development permit to the SMMUSD to build a new gym, two-story classroom building and upgraded field facility/football stadium at Malibu High School, attaching conditions that held the district to a promise that it would not use field lights, whether they were temporary or permanent.

While the stadium upgrade project did not call for field lights, the commission felt it was necessary to attach the ban to protect nearby scenic areas and native wildlife from disturbances related to night time uses of the athletic facility.

The district submitted a written agreement acknowledging the conditions but it has operated temporary field lights at the football field for the past six years, according to a commission staff report. In its recent request, the district asked that the coastal development permit be revised to remove the condition restricting field lighting.

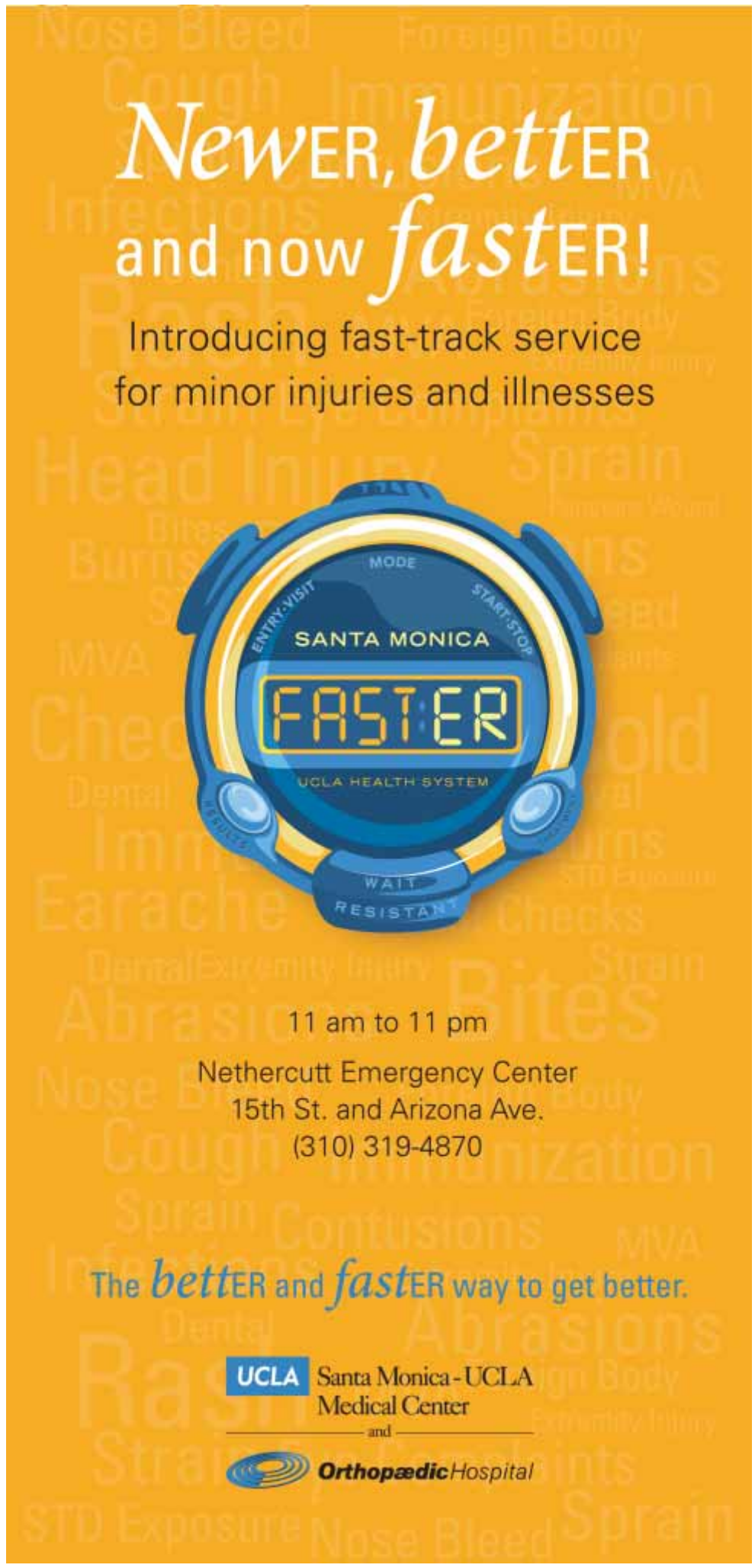
Malibu parents Laura Rosenthal and Colleen Baum, informed the school community about the district's decision not to file for reconsideration on Friday.

> **"IF NOT WE WILL HAVE TO FIND OTHER FACILITIES FOR OUR MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS TO PLAY IN IF THEY WISH TO PLAY IN THE EVENING UNDER THE LIGHTS."**
>
> **Tim Cuneo**
> Superintendent

"We hope that the city and district start working together immediately to craft this amendment so that the MHS community gets back its Friday night lights!" they said through the Malibu High School e-mail distribution list.

melodyh@smdp.com







Lawyer wants to reopen case

FROM SIRHAN PAGE 3

Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga.

"Our main concern is for his safety," said Laurie Dusek, an associate of Pepper. "We are not sure that Pleasant Valley has the ability to protect him. He is a target."

Pepper said he has new evidence and wants to reopen Sirhan's case.

Oscar Hidalgo, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said Sirhan, 65, had requested the transfer and wants to stay in Pleasant Valley.

"After discussing his hesitation with prison officials at Pleasant Valley, Sirhan Sirhan indicated he wanted to stay at the new facility after all," Hidalgo said. "He can indicate if he feels unsafe at any point and the department will respond appropriately."

Sirhan is serving a life sentence for the 1968 killing of Kennedy. He had been housed for years in the protective unit at Corcoran, one of the most isolated units in the state prison system.

Pepper said neither he nor Sirhan had requested the move and neither had received notice until Sirhan was actually moved last Thursday.

Hidalgo countered in a written statement that the move followed numerous requests by Sirhan to be transferred from Corcoran.

"His movements there have been extremely controlled and his exposure to others extremely limited," Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo could not immediately give details of Sirhan's new living arrangements or how much contact he has with other prisoners.

He said Sirhan's lawyers were notified of the move, but both Pepper and Dusek said they were not told of the transfer.

Dusek said she had contacted prison officials, checking on a report from Sirhan's brother that he might be moved. Authorities denied any knowledge of such a change, she said.

Brown considering run for governor

FROM RESIGN PAGE 3

lic concern," Gerber wrote. "It is clear now I made serious errors in judgment."

California is one of 12 states that require notification of all parties before a phone call is taped.

Gerber's letter was addressed to Chief Deputy Attorney General James Humes. Humes and Jonathan Renner, a senior assistant attorney general, were being interviewed by a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle during a call Gerber said he recorded.

The attorney general's office has said Humes and Renner did not know the conversation was being recorded without the reporter's knowledge.

State law says anyone who "aids and abets" the violation also can be subject to punishment, which includes a fine up to $2,500 and a year in jail for the first offense.

Gerber, who worked for Brown for about a year, said in his letter that neither Brown nor any other attorneys in the office knew he was recording the calls without permission.

He apologized to the attorney general and to the "few reporters in the calls" he taped, saying they probably would have agreed to let him tape the calls had he asked.

Brown's office is still investigating how many other calls were recorded and intends to notify any other reporters involved, press secretary Christine Gasparac said.

Brown, a Democrat and former California governor, has formed a committee to explore a possible run for governor next year.

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Inquiry of 6 bodies in Ohio focuses on 8-9 women

THOMAS J. SHEERAN
Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND Investigators trying to identify the bodies of six women found in the home of a convicted rapist are focusing the inquiry on eight or nine missing women, the coroner said Monday.

It could take days or weeks to identify the bodies using dental records or DNA mouth-swab samples from relatives. Cuyahoga County Coroner Frank Miller said his office has begun the "arduous" process of collecting materials from dentists and relatives.

The six women were black and five of them had been strangled, authorities said. The cause of death of the sixth hadn't been determined.

The investigation will pay close attention to missing women who were living alone, were homeless or had drug or alcohol problems, Miller said.

The bodies were discovered last week after a woman reported being raped at the east-side home of 50-year-old Anthony Sowell.

Armed with search and arrest warrants, police went to the home Thursday to arrest Sowell on a rape and felonious assault warrant. He wasn't there, but police found two bodies. Police found the other remains on Friday and arrested Sowell on Saturday.

Sowell hasn't been charged in the rape investigation or in connection with the bodies. Court records and jail officials had no information about whether he had an attorney. Police typically have 72 hours — in this case it would be until Tuesday — to charge or release a suspect.

Detectives will seek a warrant to take a DNA sample from Sowell in connection with the homicide investigation, police spokesman Lt. Thomas Stacho said Monday. Investigators also will track his residence history back four years to the time of his release from serving a sentence for rape.

Police will look at unsolved homicides with similarities to see if there are connections to the case, Stacho said.

Police don't believe the Sowell property has more bodies, but Stacho said investigators would send a cadaver dog to the house.

Sowell served 15 years in prison for choking and raping a 21-year-old woman in 1989.

He was a registered sex offender and, after his release from prison, was required to check in regularly at the sheriff's office, which said he complied. Officers also visited his home, most recently on Sept. 22, just hours before the woman reported being raped there.

The three-story house sits in a crowded inner-city neighborhood of mostly older homes, some of them boarded up. Some neighbors said a bad smell came from the house several months ago, but they thought it might just be natural gas.

Sowell often asked for money and scoured the neighborhood for scrap metal to sell, neighbors said.

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INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 13!



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 60°

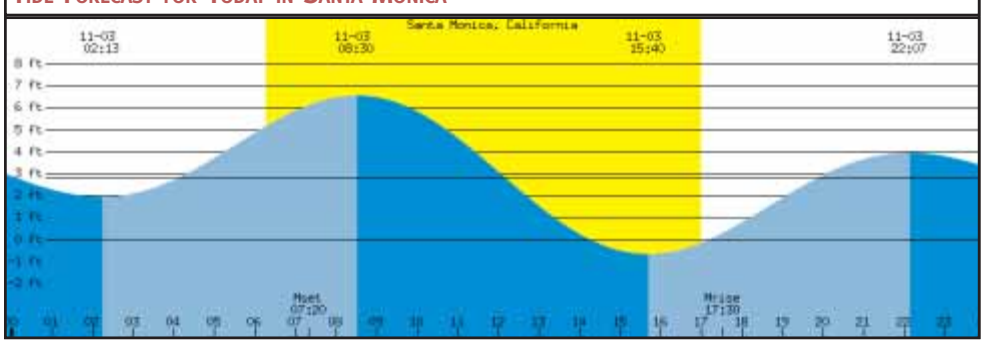
Swell Forecast

NW swell should peak with waist to maybe chest high waves around west facing breaks. Winds should be lightly offshore in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon 8-12 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

NW swell should back off to around waist high or so for west facing breaks. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon 8-12 mph.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



Becks to AC Milan

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILAN David Beckham will return to AC Milan on loan in January after the Italian club reached an agreement with the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer.

The England midfielder played for Milan for six months in the first half of the year. He scored two goals in 18 games and has won back his place on England's national team.

"I need to give myself the best chance possible to make the World Cup squad and playing for Milan on loan will help me to do that," Beckham said in a statement. "I genuinely enjoyed my time at Milan and I look forward to meeting the players and staff again."

AC Milan and the Galaxy came to an agreement Monday after weeks of negotiations.

"We are delighted to see David Beckham back in the red-and-black shirt after his splendid experience last season," AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani said on the club's Web site.

"We are sure that this period in Europe will help him make it to the next World Cup, and after that his career with Los Angeles Galaxy. We must thank them for agreeing to this deal."

The Galaxy is currently making its first postseason appearance since Beckham joined the team. Following the conclusion of its season, Beckham will join the Galaxy for its postseason tour that ends Dec. 2.

Beckham will join AC Milan on Dec. 28 and remain with the team through the end of its season on May 16. He will rejoin the Galaxy when the summer transfer window opens in July.

"I'm committed to LA Galaxy and MLS in the long term and remain as passionate as ever about growing the game of soccer in America," Beckham said. "I'm completely focused on ending this season on a high note with my club by winning the MLS Cup."

The Galaxy and Chivas USA played to a 2-2 tie in their opening playoff game Sunday.

In March 2009 against Slovakia, during his time with Milan, Beckham became England's second most capped player when he broke Bobby Moore's record of 108 international appearances.

Currently, Beckham has played 115 internationals, with only former goalkeeper Peter Shilton ahead of him with 125.

It was England manager Fabio Capello who pushed Beckham to join a European club on loan in early 2009 to maintain his fitness during Major League Soccer's offseason.

Originally, it was scheduled to be a three-month agreement until the start of the MLS season. But such was his success that both Beckham and Milan sought to extend the loan period until the end of the European season.

Having helped Milan reach the Champions League, Beckham returned to the Galaxy to receive a hostile reaction from some supporters and be criticized in print by teammate Landon Donovan.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder did little to smooth relations when confronted by some abusive fans during games.

Since then, Beckham has won over supporters by helping Los Angeles into the playoffs and he patched up his differences with Donovan.

If the 34-year-old Beckham does make it to next year's tournament in South Africa, it will his fourth World Cup.

He was made the scapegoat for England's exit in the round of 16 at the 1998 tournament in France after being sent off before the penalty shootout loss to Argentina.

Four years later in Japan and Korea, Beckham was recovering from a broken metatarsal and criticized for jumping out of a tackle just before Brazil equalized in England's quarterfinal loss.

In 2006 at Germany, Beckham finished the tournament in tears after injury meant he was unable to play a part in the latter stages of England's penalty shootout defeat to Portugal in the quarterfinals.

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 **October 14, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 2
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 9

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
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+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	C	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
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+	ns
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+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	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	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NHL

Ducks D Wisniewski suspended for hit

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO Anaheim Ducks defenseman James Wisniewski was suspended for two games because he hit Phoenix's Shane Doan in the forehead with his arm.

The NHL announced the suspension Monday, two days after Wisniewski delivered the blow to Doan's head in the first period of the Coyotes' 3-2 shootout win Saturday night.

Wisniewski, who didn't receive a penalty on the play, will also lose more than $28,000 in pay for sitting out Tuesday night against Pittsburgh and Thursday night against Nashville.

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AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (R) 1hr 27min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 10:10

Capitalism: A Love Story (R) 2hr 7min
4:10, 9:45

The Invention of Lying (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:40, 7:10

A Serious Man (R) 1hr 45min
2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05

Whip It (PG-13) 1hr 51min
4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 1hr 21min
2:20

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

Paranormal Activity (R) 1hr 39min
1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 9:30, 10:05

Astro Boy (PG) 1hr 34min
1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00

Zombieland (R) 1hr 21min
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG-13) 1hr 48min
2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00

Saw VI- Digital Presentation (R) 1hr 31min
12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

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

Amelia (PG) 2hr 5min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

The Maid (NR) 1hr 49min
1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35

Bronson (R) 1hr 47min
1:30, 7:00

New York, I Love You (R) 1hr 58min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

The Fall (NR) 2hr 13min
4:00, 9:25

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

Couples Retreat (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Law Abiding Citizen (R) 1hr 48min
12:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 7:40, 9:20, 10:30

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 2hrs 1min
11:30 (am), 12:00, 1:00, 2:10, 2:50, 3:50, 4:50, 5:40, 6:40, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:20

The Stepfather (PG-13) 1hr min41
1:30, 6:50

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

Take it easy, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Opportunities appear, but don't milk a situation for more than it's worth. Be generous, or you could get a sudden backfire. Others don't see the same end results as you do, so verbalize, listen and communicate. Tonight: Just be nice and easy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might be so upbeat and happy that you barely have a chance to stop and worry about a lingering issue. Others surprise you with their reactions. You discover that what was a given no longer is. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Continue to maintain a very low profile. Don't overthink an issue, and stay centered. You will find a change coming in the near future. What is now, might not be later. Reach out for someone at a distance. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Zero in on what is important, knowing full well what works for you. As you focus on details and know what you want, you are able to crystallize an idea. A partner might not get the gist of a friend's message. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be wondering when you can dump some of the responsibilities that have fallen in your lap. You could be tired and withdrawn. Know when to say enough, though you could be surprised by someone's actions if you do. Tonight: A must show.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Read between the lines, and you will be able to understand what is happening within your immediate circle. The unexpected occurs out of the blue. Creativity emerges when facing daily life issues. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Work with a partner directly, and you'll come up with solutions. Realize what is going on between you and another person. Do you want this lack of connection or confusion to continue much longer? Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Defer to others, even though you might really disagree. Just register your opinion, but allow events and plans to unfold. You might be surprised by what comes down, as well as your reaction. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You can accomplish a lot if you don't allow a personal issue to float through your professional life. You might be confused by a conversation. Recheck what you think you have heard. Verify and confirm! Tonight: Sort through suggestions first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to approach a situation far differently than in the past. Your perspective could change as the day proceeds. Others can do a great job of confusing finances -- for better or for worse. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Stay anchored, knowing what you want to accomplish and where you are heading. You could be exhausted by everything that occurs, and need to call it an early day. If you can, work from home. You will accomplish more. Tonight: What you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might change your mind and want to reverse directions out of the blue. Hang in there and explore your options with several different people. Your instincts might be right but difficult to act on. Tonight: Hang out.

Happy birthday

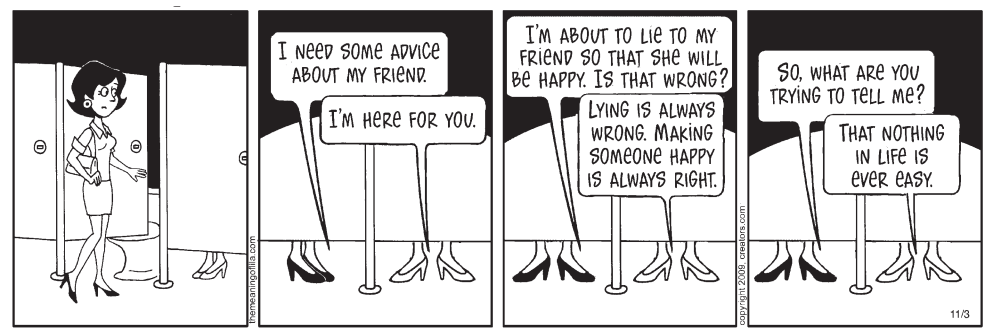
This year, you often find that you are looking at confusing situations laden with misunderstandings. Take your time clarifying, and try not to make any judgments. You'll quickly learn of others' intentions. Your creativity bubbles up out of the blue often when dealing with people in your daily life. You could discover certain skeletons in the closet within your family. You might be shocked at first, but not in the long run. If you are single, what you conjure up in your imagination might not be connected to reality. Take your time getting to know others. If you are attached, you could discover the importance of new plans and not sticking to a routine. GEMINI proves to be a good partner.

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

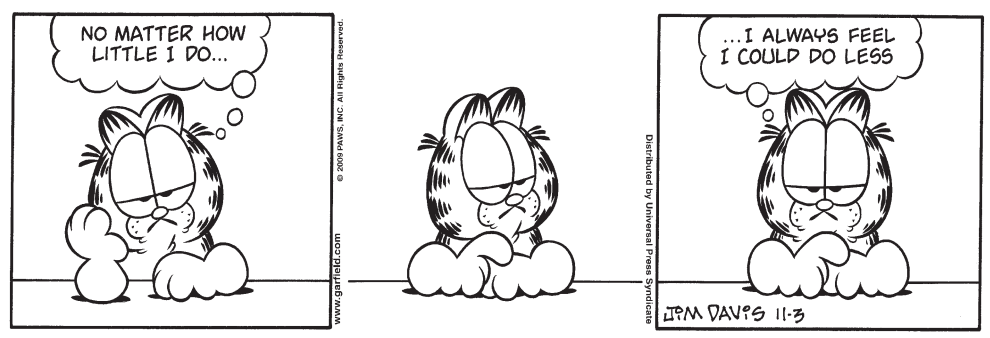
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Halvah base
7 Weary word
11 Steamy
12 Long skirt
13 Sociable diner
15 Battery end
16 Pert talk
18 Spheres
21 Cartoonist Walker
22 Welcomes
24 Alien carrier
25 Frank McCourt book
26 Sticky stuff
27 "The Omen" child
29 Small pie
30 Freeway exit
31 Skeleton part
32 Fable fellow
34 Low-flying plane
40 Lotion additive
41 Smitten
42 Musician's jobs
43 Requisite

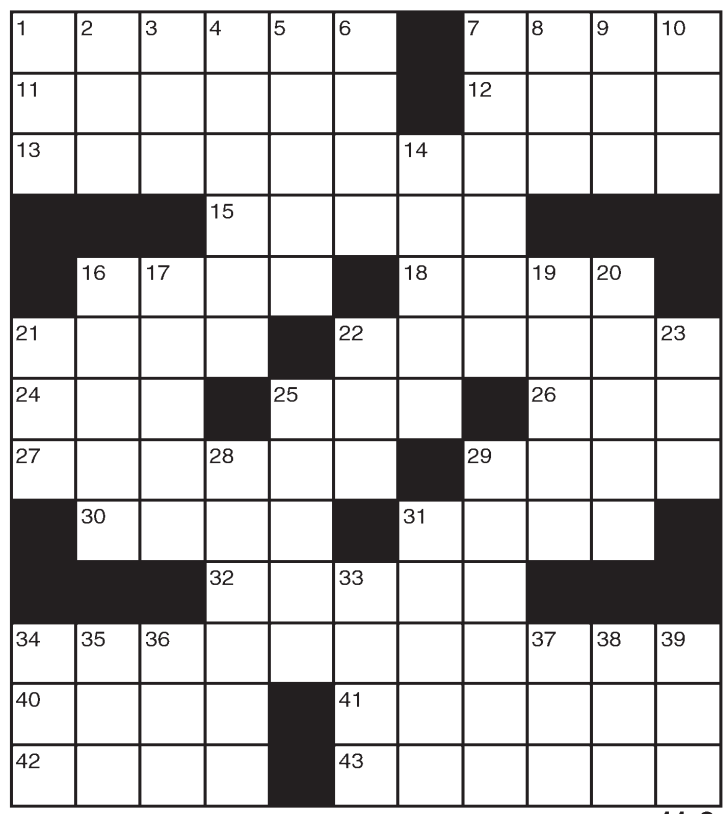
DOWN

1 Fixed
2 Historic time
3 Weep
4 Finally
5 Bearings
6 Cave sound
7 Current unit
8 Napkin site
9 Chopping tool
10 Polite address
14 Scents
16 Up to now
17 Scent
19 Kicked in
20 Emporium
21 Coffee, slangily
22 Martini base
23 Lush
25 Plains home
28 Mirror sights
29 Knock over
31 Wilderness Road blazer
33 Tibia's place
34 Crone
35 Quarterback Manning
36 Kennel occupant
37 Cacao container
38 Genesis name
39 Bloodshot

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

Yesterday's answer

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11-3

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Meganumber: 22
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FANTASY 5: 7 9 10 11 18

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 0 8
EVENING: 3 0 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:44.66

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

■ Recent Precision-Tuning of the Fruitfly Brain: (1) Scientists at England's University of Oxford know how to make fruitflies scared of things they weren't scared of previously -- by implanting artificial memories in their brains after somehow locating and managing the precise 12 neurons that enable the flies to learn things. The implanted "danger" (the smell of sweat-soaked athletic shoes) causes the flies to scatter at the first whiff. (2) Scientists at the University of Toronto know how to make fruitflies sexually attractive to flies of both sexes and to different fly species -- by removing the specific hydrocarbon brain cells that produce the pheromones thought to attract sex-specific mates. (Only the choice of partners was modified and not horniness level.)

■ Small-Town Mayors: (1) For three weeks in September, budget-conscious Mayor Sallie Peake of Wellford, S.C., barred the police from chasing perpetrators of crimes in progress, even if officers drove at the speed limit. Officers were instructed, instead, to arrest suspects later in their homes. (The mayor, under siege, rescinded the policy on Sept. 24.) (2) Mayor Stu Rasmussen, 61, of Silverton, Ore., elected last year even though he dresses openly as a woman, drew criticism from officials of a community group in July when he addressed students while wearing a miniskirt and a swimsuit top. Critics suggested he should dress at least in "professional" women's clothes when speaking to youth groups.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1982 The Salang tunnel fire in Afghanistan kills up to 2,000+ people.

1986 Iran-Contra Affair: The Lebanese magazine Ash-Shiraa reports that the United States has been secretly selling weapons to Iran in order to secure the release of seven American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

1986 The Federated States of Micronesia gain independence from the United States of America.

WORD UP!

truculent
\TRUCK-yuh-luhnt\ , adjective;
1. Fierce; savage; ferocious; barbarous. 2. Cruel; destructive; ruthless.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1725/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

1474 Crest Dr. upper 2+1 $1320 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, ceiling fan, garage space, no pets. $500 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1195, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1195/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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North of Montana	$2,800,000	$1,372,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,750,000	$898,000
South of Wilshire	$869,000	$607,500
Sunset Park	$1,274,000	$589,000
Ocean Park	$1,398,000	$995,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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