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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 316



Santa Monica Daily Press

HARD TIMES FOR SANTA ANITA
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE POURING OVER RESUMES ISSUE

City Hall moves forward with AMC negotiation

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN An exclusive contract negotiation between City Hall and AMC over the development of a new cinema is expected to commence soon after the movie house giant confirmed its ability to shut down one of its existing theaters on the Third Street Promenade.

The question of whether the Kansas City-based company could shut down Broadway 4 if a new cinema opened on Fourth Street was raised during a City Council meeting in September when city officials expressed concerns about the potential oversaturation of theaters in Downtown. The council directed its staff to confirm whether AMC can promise that Broadway 4 will not come back to life as a movie theater and if so, allowing the negotiations for the development of a 12-screen cinema at the site of Parking Structure 3 to continue.

"Essentially we would now quickly negotiate an exclusive agreement which provides the time frame for AMC to secure entitlements from the city," Andy Agle, the housing

SEE THEATER PAGE 9



WHAT AN ENTRANCE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

People at Palisades Park watch as groom Ramit Varma takes a ride on Tai the elephant down Ocean Avenue on his way to his wedding on Saturday night.

Pier to be named official end of Route 66

BY DERRICK OLIVER
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN It seems locals and tourists alike will now be officially "getting their kicks" all the way down to the Santa Monica Pier.

After years of being dubbed the unofficial end of the famous Route 66, the pier will be officially named the western end of the historic route by the Route 66 Alliance on Wednesday, the 83rd anniversary of the highway's inception.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with a procession of 66 vintage cars and motorbikes that will begin at Santa Monica and Lincoln boulevards and end at the pier. People will meet up with the motorcade and a ceremony will follow with live music featuring the unveiling of the long-lost Route 66 "End of the Trail Sign."

Although its true origin is unknown, many believe the sign, which marked the unofficial end to the highway, was placed at Santa Monica Boulevard and Ocean Avenue overlooking the Pacific Ocean as a prop for a movie shoot, said Dan Rice, CEO and founder of the 66-to-Cali apparel shack on the pier.

Approximately 50 years ago, the sign mysteriously vanished, only adding to the folklore, mystery, and public appeal that has shrouded the entire highway.

The highway was eventually dedicated to Will Rogers in 1952, with City Hall placing a commemorative plaque at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, further solidifying the location as the unofficial terminus of Route 66.

The Route 66 Alliance, an organization that aims to preserve and promote the highway, has worked closely with the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., and 66-to-Cali, to lead the effort in naming the pier as the official terminus.

"There has been a question over the years, especially foreign tourists, as to where to end [their] trip. [They ask,] 'Where do I go?' " said Jim Conkle, chairman of the Route 66 Alliance and one of the planned speakers at Wednesday's event.

Conkle feels that the new official end is solely for the benefit and convenience of the tourists.

"We aren't trying to rewrite the history books. The accepted end or beginning is going to be the Santa Monica Pier; it gives a tourist and tour groups a place to start and finish," said Conkle.

SEE 66 PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Movie Showing
Main Library: Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Enjoy a screening of the classic film "Show Boat." The musical stars Howard Keel, Kathryn Grayson and Ava Gardner and details life and love on a gambling riverboat. The score is by Jermone Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II. The event is free. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Technology Class
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Learn how to edit and upload your digital images so that you can share them with friends and family. The class is free, but advanced registration is required. Please visit the Reference Desk or call (310) 458-2608 to get one of the 12 spaces.

Concert
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1301 11th St., 11;15 a.m,
Experience the musical styling of Yulia Kozlova as part of the Eclectic Concert Mix Series. Kozlova with lecture as well as play the piano. The event is free, but call (310) 434-3000 or visit www.smc.edu/eventsinfo for more information.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009

Lecture
Santa Monica College's Bundy Campus, Room 217
3171 S. Bundy Dr., 6:30 p.m.
Come attend this free lecture on "Our Electric Transportation Future." The talk is part of the college's fall "Environmental Issues Lecture Series." Call (310) 434-4743 or visit http://www.smc.edu/ceus for more information.

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009

Free Tour
Westside HIV Community Center
2012 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Come take the Westside HIV Community Center Tour, provided by Common Ground. The event will allow participants to learn about HIV prevention and treatment programs and talk to professional staff and volunteer. The event is free, but please call (310) 314-5408, ext. 120 to make a reservation. Visit www.commongroundwestside.org for more details.

Reading
Beyond Baroque
681 Venice Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Come enjoy a reading by Amiri Baraka, one of the leading figures in poetic and political culture of the United States as she participates in Beyond Baroque's 40th Anniversary Reading. Tickets are $10. Call (310) 822-3006 or go to www.beyondbaroque.org for more information.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNTYWIDE

IRS wants to give you money

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 4,606 Los Angeles County taxpayers who are due to receive a combined $5.2 million in undeliverable tax refunds. These are refund checks that were returned to the IRS by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors.

Nationally, IRS is looking for 107,831 taxpayers who are owed a combined $124 million. In addition, more than 15,000 California taxpayers are owed $16.6 million, or about 13 percent of the total.

All a taxpayer has to do is update his or her address once. Some taxpayers are due more than one check.

"We are eager to get this money into the hands of taxpayers, so don't delay if you think you are missing a refund," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "The sooner you update your address information, the quicker you can get your refund."

Average undeliverable refunds rose by 16 percent this year to $1,148 from $990 last year, which is in line with the 16 percent rise in average refunds for all tax returns as of Oct. 16, 2009. Several changes in tax law likely played a role in boosting refunds, including the First-Time Homebuyer's Credit and the Recovery Rebate Credit, among others.

The vast majority of checks mailed out by the IRS each year reach their rightful owner. Only a very small percent (.29 percent this year) are returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable.

E-file and direct deposit

Taxpayers can avoid being on this list by filing electronically and choosing direct deposit for their refunds. Choosing direct deposit puts an end to lost, stolen or undeliverable checks. As of Oct.16, 2009, more than two-thirds (67 percent, 94 million) of all individual returns were e-filed while nearly two-thirds (65 percent, 72 million) chose to receive their refunds directly into personal savings or checking accounts. Treasury issued 110 million total refunds thus far in 2009.

Taxpayers can update their addresses and check the status of a refund using the "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov. One must submit his or her social security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2008 return. "Where's My Refund?" will provide the status of the refund and in some cases provide instructions on how to resolve delivery problems. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling (800) 829-1954.

DAILY PRESS

KEN EDWARDS CENTER

Free flu shots

The Santa Monica Chapter of the American Red Cross, City Hall and WISE & Healthy Aging will host a free "seasonal" flu shot clinic on Friday, Nov. 13, from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth Street in Downtown. The free flu shots are made possible through Los Angeles County Public Health.

Because a large number of people were unable to get their annual flu shots earlier in the season due to cutbacks by the county that reduced the usual number of flu clinic locations, this supplemental seasonal flu clinic was made possible through the combined efforts of the Red Cross, City Hall and Wise & Healthy Aging.

Flu shots are recommended for the following: If you are pregnant, and adult 50 years of age or older; a health care worker; have a chronic condition such as asthma, HIV, heart or lung disease, kidney disorder or diabetes; are a caregiver of children six months and younger or have household contacts with high risk individuals. If you're allergic to eggs or have any other serious illness, consult with your doctor before obtaining any flu shots.

Limited free parking is available. The building is also wheelchair accessible. The Ken Edwards Center can be reached on the Big Blue Bus, lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9.

For additional information or to inquire about other programs or assistance, Phone: 310-394-3773 or go online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

DP



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

CREATING MORE REAL ESTATE: **City officials are considering removing some service roads at the Woodlawn Cemetery to make room for more burial plots.**

Spending eternity in Santa Monica isn't cheap

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Not only is the cost of living considered high in Santa Monica, but so will the afterlife.

A new rate schedule for interment at Woodlawn Cemetery will go before the City Council tonight for approval, raising fees in some cases to nearly six times that of current prices. The matter will be presented as part of the council's consent agenda, which includes a more than $1.8 million spending package.

The proposed fee structure is part of Woodlawn's new 30-year plan for the cemetery to achieve financial sustainability, calling for a new marketing strategy to reach out to residents and increasing rates to bring prices more in line with competing cemeteries in the area. The rates have not been reviewed in more than 15 years.

The cost for a grave will increase from a flat $5,683 to a price range between $9,000 and $14,000. A family estate, which currently does not have a price, will be set at $59,000 to $88,500.

SEE **CONSENT** PAGE 8

SMC no. 1 in transfers again

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

For the 19th consecutive year, Santa Monica College sent more students to the University of California system than any other transfer institution, college officials said Monday.

The community college was also the leader in transfers to the UC-Cal State systems combined, as well as the number one transfer school for African Americans to the UC system.

And that's not all. SMC also had more students transfer to USC than any other transfer

SEE **SMC** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Worth every penny

Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor, Lisette Gold gave her opinion that a parcel tax would not reduce class size at our schools ("Not happy with supe's salary," Nov. 6). Since at least $12 million of more cuts to education are coming down the pike from the state, I think we can say for certain that's true. A temporary, emergency parcel tax would not reduce class sizes. However, without increased revenues to meet the cavernous deficit, we can be certain that our class sizes will go up and services and personnel to which we have grown accustomed and find essential to a well rounded and rigorous education – librarians, smaller learning communities like Samohi's successful House system, the arts, etc. – will fall away.

It is important to note that California is a shameful 47th in the country in per pupil spending. And while we are fortunate indeed to be in a city that supplements public school funding, even the city's very generous support will not allow our schools to remain unscathed through this crisis. Painful cuts must be made, new sources of revenue explored, and yes, perhaps a temporary emergency funding measure is necessary to get us through the crisis; the value in sustaining our public schools is immeasurable.

I encourage all those interested in education to check out the great work being done by attending "The State of Our Schools" presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Muir Elementary School Auditorium, 2526 Sixth St.

Those who wish to have an influential voice should also take the time to familiarize themselves with district finances, and go deeply into costs at each school site. One could attend school board meetings and PTA meetings. See how parents at each school site must raise thousands of dollars for teacher aides, reading specialists, supplemental arts specialists, and even classroom supplies. Read financial reports (found on the SMMUSD Web site). Volunteer with real children in actual classrooms. The pressing needs of our school children must compel us to work toward finding new revenue streams, and to support local funding measures.

And in response to critique of the superintendent's compensation package by Gold, and by Jim Jaffe in an earlier letter to the editor: I have been at numerous gatherings for years where people around me have bemoaned that teachers and school administrators are sadly underpaid. We have all said, "Those educating our children should be more highly compensated." Therefore, the backlash against a very typical CEO compensation package is surprising, particularly since Mr. Cuneo is responsible for 10,500 students in 16 schools.

I have seen our hardworking superintendent at work, with multiple meetings every night of the week, and the stringent demands placed on him – first from a wide-sweeping financial crisis which requires prudent management and surgical wizardry to keep the majority of the cuts away from the children, and second from a politically savvy community desiring participation and input into most discussions and decisions. It's clear – Mr. Cuneo earns every penny.

The previous superintendent turned out to be not such a good fit for our community. Mr. Cuneo came as a temporary solution – a proven and seasoned interim administrator with the wisdom and experience to take us to the next level. He brought stability to the district, and his work with special education should be particularly lauded. We were fortunate to be able to hire him, and still more fortunate to have done so before the bad news of the state cuts came to light. We now look to Mr. Cuneo and his team to update our district's strategic plan, incorporating community input and values, to achieve the widely shared goal of educational excellence for all our students.

Patti Braun
Santa Monica



Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Walking in the Sonoran Desert

RECENTLY, I HAD A CHANCE TO SPEND A couple of days exploring Arizona's Sonoran Desert. It's truly amazing to see how all the different animals use the desert to make a living.

The Sonoran Desert is spread across 106,000 square miles with about 40 percent of it in the U.S. and 60 percent in Mexico. It ranges in elevation from near sea level to over 3,300 feet along the eastern edge of Arizona. In Arizona it receives both winter and summer precipitation with an annual average of about 13 inches.

It is the most biologically diverse of the four big North American deserts. In fact, there are more than 1,000 species of solitary and social bees in the Sonoran Desert — more than anywhere else on the globe.

Being trained as a tree root physiologist, I'm always curious about what's making a living on the ground. Digger bee holes are very evident with a quarter of an inch hooked-top chimneys dotting the earth. The hooked chimneys are believed to thwart the attempts of parasitic hoverflies, who are known to flip eggs into bee holes — their eggs attach themselves to the bee eggs, once hatched they devour bee eggs.

Digger bees are solitary and the female will lay one egg with a packet of honey and pollen in up to 18 cells in one below ground nest consisting of 7 feet of tunnels.

Nearby the digger bee holes, I noticed a circular hole about an inch-and-a-half wide covered with silk; just outside the hole were some loose barbed, dark hairs — indicating a tarantula burrow.

Tarantulas are one of the most recognized residents of the southwest desert. These nocturnal hunters often wait at their entrance holes for beetles and grasshoppers that pass by. Upon entering their hole after a night of hunting they weave silk at the den entrance. The silk has at least two purposes: It keeps the burrow dry by holding humidity and it carries vibrations down to the spider allowing it to know what's occurring above the ground.

Tarantulas defend themselves from foxes, coyotes, raccoons and skunks by rubbing their legs against the abdomen to loosen their barbed hairs, which are designed to severely irritate the eyes or nasal cavities of predators.

White-nosed coatis, a much larger relative of the mink and closely related to raccoons, are known to grab tarantulas, roll them vigorously on the ground, dislodge their barbed hairs and then feast upon them.

In a sparse clump of grass about a mile away from the tarantula den I spotted a hole in the ground about an inch-and-a-quarter wide, sitting nearby I waited for its occupant to surface. Soon a fierce little predator, a grasshopper mouse, appeared. These diminutive yet tough critters hunt lizards, grasshoppers, beetles, scorpions and even other mice.

Grasshopper mice cooperate by raising their young and teaching them to hunt. Young mice learn how to bite the stingers off scorpions before eating them, and how to disable stink beetles — inch-long bugs that defend themselves by performing a headstand and spraying a fetid smell from their posterior.

One of the more eerie desert sounds at night is the high-pitched howl of grasshopper mice. If cornered by a predator this miniature beast will drop a runny, very smelly bowl movement in a last ditch attempt to escape — an uncommon trait for a mouse.

One of the most fascinating and easily my favorite animals of the Sonoran Desert are the Couch's Spadefoot toads. They are the largest native toads in the U.S. measuring a whopping 7 inches in length.

These incredible animals sleep for almost one year in the earth. The vibrations of the first summer thunderstorm awaken them and they burrow their way to the surface where they congregate in temporary rain pools and puddles in desert washes, irrigation canals or ponds.

Because water is so scare in the desert, they breed immediately and females lay eggs within 24 hours. Tadpoles must race to become toadlets before the ephemeral pools dry up — from egg to toadlet in less than 14 days.

Adult Spadefoot's are insectivores with termites being their preferred prey. An adult requires just two meals on termites, then with their hard keratinous spade-like pad on their hind legs they bury themselves in the ground. This exceptional desert dweller can live for over 10 years.

Burrowing owls are the only owl or raptor (bird of prey) to den and nest in underground digs. Excellent eyesight helps them spot predators. They prey on rodents, beetles, moths, scorpions, grasshoppers, prairie dog pups, toads, young snakes and other reptiles.

Snakes, badgers and coyotes preyed upon burrowing owls. Mature burrowing owls have developed an intriguing defense mechanism — they imitate the sound of a rattlesnake, which often frightens predators away.

Arizona's Gila monster is one of the most unusual reptiles in the world and one of only two venomous lizards (the other is the Mexican beaded lizard) known on the globe.

Gila monsters spend 90 percent of their lives in natural crevices under boulders or rocks.

This beauty of a beast can eat 35 percent of its body weight in one meal and store excess as fat in its tail. You can't miss its bright black and pink coloring, and beaded skin.

These shy animals release their venom by biting down on the victim with needle-sharp teeth hidden by the gums when not in use.

Gila monster venom may very well become the next blockbuster drug; currently it's being studied for treatment of high blood pressure that afflicts over 73 million Americans.

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

Reflections of a dog walker

I DIDN'T KNOW HIM. I NEVER MET HIM. But I was there the night Richard Juarez was killed. The sea of red and blue lights was cutting through the fog in an eerie way that is both enchanting, like being on a dance floor in high school, and scary in that you know that something terrible has happened.

It was an odd night, foggy, but slightly warm at the same time. Virginia Avenue Park was very quiet as the groups of people talked in the hushed tones of those who are in shock, and scared. On the north side of the park were the older neighbors, the people who are parents of teens, and are anxious to know what happened, and why.

On the south side were the youngsters. The kids from the teen center, some counselor types, and a few of the neighbors. There was a burly black teen who could barely contain his pain, and as his Hispanic friend came up to him, they hugged. I saw tears in their eyes as they tried to blot out the horror of the night. I thought to myself how touching to see these two men of different races share their joint pain. I wonder why it takes loss to see love.

No one has any information, only questions. The worry is that it is a gang-related shooting. The fear of it surrounds and permeates like the fog.

As I make my way around the park the next morning, the police are still there, fewer of them, but still they are working. One man is cleaning up. From behind the yellow tape line, I see his bright blue latex gloves, and note the brush in his hand. I know what he is cleaning up. It makes me feel sick.

I feel for the family that must be in terrible pain right now.

My thoughts are all over the place. I don't understand why things like this happen. So many lives are shattered. For what possible gain? Four lives ruined, four families traumatized — all for nothing.

The violence seems so out of place to me. I am in that park twice a day, or more. I see the groups of young men and women who hang out there. I watch the young interracial couples, and think, "we're making progress," people are getting along better. There's less racial tension. Blacks date Hispanics, whites date Asians, and all the combinations you can come up with. We're getting to be the multicultural melting pot that we've claimed to be for hundreds of years. Then this happens.

The day after the shooting, I walked past his picture, I stare at the roses and mums that surround it. There are people preparing for a memorial. Two young boys, who are barely 14 years old, are curious about the macabre site, it holds their fascination for a moment, then they are off to go play. They have no sense of the size of the loss that has happened. Young girls cling to each other as they try to make sense of it all. Orange butcher paper is set out for people to write their condolences, wishes and pain.

LIFE GOES ON. IT FEELS STRANGE. THE DISSONANCE FOR ME OF BEING SO CLOSE TO A PLACE WHERE SUCH HORROR OCCURRED, AND THEN A FEW STEPS AWAY, THE FRESHNESS OF NEW YOUNG LOVE AND LUST. I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S A POINT TO ALL THIS. THEY ARE JUST THE THOUGHTS I HAVE AS I WALK MY DOG AND WONDER WHY.

Two days later and a scrap of yellow police tape remains on a pipe next to the children's playroom. It seems an odd reminder to me of the furious activity from just a few nights prior. Like a fading echo, it is a faint reminder of what happened. I'm shocked at how quickly everything returns to normal, yet this piece of plastic reminds me that for some families, life will never be normal again.

The aroma from the burning candles wafts through the cool morning air. Wilting flowers pay tribute to the love he experienced. Wax from the candlelight vigil cakes the ground, reminding me of the tears that were shed at the loss of a young man's life.

As I make my way through the park, I watch as a couple of teens do that teenage dance, they are incapable of keeping their hands off of each other, yet they try to establish the boundaries of relationships. The boy always pushing for more, as the girl practices being coquettish.

Life goes on. It feels strange. The dissonance for me of being so close to a place where such horror occurred, and then a few steps away, the freshness of new young love and lust.

I don't know if there's a point to all this. They are just the thoughts I have as I walk my dog and wonder why.

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

Just compensation?

A recent survey showed that SMMUSD Superintendent Tim Cuneo is one of the highest paid in the county. Cuneo's contract has been criticized by some parents and the local teachers union.

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

Does Cuneo deserve this pay, and will it have any impact on whether or not you would support another parcel tax to fund local schools?

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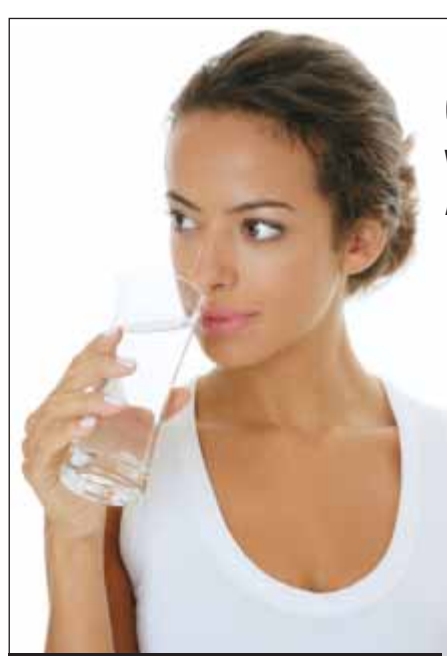
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Santa Monica From A to Z

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

ICE offers a taste of tradition

SOME OF MY FONDEST CHILDHOOD memories are of winters in Boston, sledding in the Boston Common, skiing along the Charles River, and ice skating on the duck pond in the Public Garden.

Ice skating for me was a big part of growing up. My mom taught me how to skate before I could walk. My brother and I spent countless hours with our friends practicing figure eights and playing pick up hockey. I can't really imagine a childhood without skating.

But now we live in Santa Monica and it's 75 degrees and sunny most of the year. While it's certainly not the duck pond in the Boston Public Garden, I'm excited that this year ICE at Santa Monica has added a tot spot adjacent to the main rink, so I can get Addison out on the ice.

We were so excited in fact that we went to the grand opening and had hot cocoa and cookies and watched Randy Gardner and his troop of ice dancers perform with Scrat. We were also there to witness the breaking of the Guinness world record for tallest ice sculpture but nothing could compare to seeing Addison take her first step out onto the ice.

Except she didn't. Both she and Zora balked and cried "nooooo" at the double runner skates we tried to attach to their shoes. They were more interested in using the benches and railings as a makeshift jungle gym, which was probably just as well since Grandmarie put the kibosh on skating (seems my brother and I didn't actually skate until we were 3 and 2 1/2 respectively and well after we'd learned to walk). She quickly pointed out the rubber mats offered better protection than most playgrounds. Zora did enjoy putting her hands on the ice and exclaiming, "It's very cold!"

Klara Molack had better luck with her son Lucas. At 2 1/2 Lucas is already a seasoned skater and has turned in his double runners for big boy skates. After taking a spin around the main rink, he and his mom tested out the tot spot, a 20-by-20 foot rink where Mike Lucas tells us kids of all ages are welcome to learn (as long as they are under 48 inches tall). Lucas was later joined by his buddy Ella Brands (almost 3) and from the looks of things they were all having a ball. Dash also loved to skate at that age, although he spent most of the time falling. That's why we were thrilled to see an area set aside just for tots. Now we don't have to worry about the big kids running us over when we crash.

During the day the rink is nice and open, but Assistant Rink Manager Pierre Upshaw tells us things start to really pick up after school when you see kids dragging their parents out onto the ice. Upshaw said the crowds disappear around 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., but he recommends stopping by in the evenings. "The conditions are better, and it's nice and festive with all the holiday lights," he said. Of course, weekends are packed.

The Gay Café, a nonprofit coffee truck, offers hot dogs, pre-packaged baked goods and specialty coffees. I sampled the coffee, which was delicious. Naturally, their biggest seller is hot cocoa. Proprietor Charlie Rice boasts they sold over 1,000 pounds of chocolate last year.

There are also tents where people can host parties or seek shelter from the elements. Zora had a very successful baby naming party at the rink. The tent was a great place to hide from the sun and nosh on snacks between turns on the ice. There are also several Port-a-Potties.

ICE at Santa Monica is located at 1324 Fifth St. (at Arizona Avenue). It's open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to midnight until Jan. 31. The café has the same hours. Admission is $10, including skate rental. They have skates for toddlers size eight and up and double runners for smaller feet.

Find a local calendar, helpful links, and more adventures of Addison, Zora, and Dash at smatoz.blogspot.com.

Handling gender disappointment

ANGIE WAGNER
For The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS My good friend just found out she is pregnant with a boy. It is her first child, and instead of celebrating the good news, she cried during her ultrasound.

That's because she really wanted a girl.

Good mothers are supposed to say they are happy with a boy or a girl, as long as the baby is healthy. But gender disappointment is a very real and heartbreaking issue that affects many pregnant women.

Christine Lich of Lindenhurst, Ill., always assumed she would have a girl. Instead, she got three boys. She wanted to appear to be the perfect mother, so she never let anyone except her husband know her disappointment.

"And they tell you it's a boy, it's like, ahhhh. For that short moment, you're kind of bummed in the back of your mind. There's not going to be any pink dresses. There's not going to be any scrapbooking. That's not going to happen," she said.

Lich gets tired of people making comments such as: "Are you going to try for the girl?" or "You need to have the girl."

Even now, four years after her third child, she can't bring herself to buy clothes for a little girl's birthday because she just can't look at the outfits.

Joyce Venis, a psychiatric nurse in Princeton, N.J., who works with women suffering from gender disappointment, said it is not really discussed because other people would perceive the disappointment as being ungrateful. Venis said the problem mainly involves women who wanted a daughter.

Just because a woman has a gender preference does not mean she is a bad mother or that she doesn't want the child, Venis said.

"They have the right to want the certain sex," she said.

Venis suggests women find out during the pregnancy what sex the baby is so they can deal with any disappointment before the birth. She said women should find someone to talk with, and if the woman is depressed, she should talk to a therapist.

Katherine Asbery was so depressed that her third child was a boy, she wouldn't even say the sex. She called him "not a girl," and spent hours crying.

She and her husband had even tried different techniques that promised to yield a girl.

"That dream of what you wanted is gone, and you have to learn to live with that," she said.

SEE GENDER PAGE 7

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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Name calling feels good

I ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR THE WORD, "Mommy" and know it was directed at me.

When I was a child, it was just me and my mother, "Mommie" as I call her, or as she sometimes signed her notes, "Mom E." (Her name is Eileen.) And so to me, Mommie meant life, home, support. Love. It was where I got everything. When my mother calls today, I still call her Mommie, with a bounce in my voice.

It is a great word. I love the sound of it. I love how when you are in a public place and you hear children call for their mom, each mom knows which "Mommy" is directed at them.

The word carries several meanings. It can be filled with distress, amusement, joy. I have heard every emotion when my son calls for me with his Mommy!

When he experiments and calls me mom or mama, it does not feel right, like when a new friend calls me Rach. It seems off.

And so now that Mommy is my name, here's what I have learned. It is a beautiful word, true, but two things have really taken me by surprise.

The first is how overwhelming it can be. At all hours coming at me.

"Moommmyyy!" At 3 in the morning.

"Mommy," whispered in demands for more back rides.

"Mommy?" From his bed demanding water.

"Mommy!" He needs more snacks.

"Mommy?!" Did I hear him?

"Mommy!" He wants a show.

"Mommmmyyy … ." He wants everything and then everything again.

Sometimes, I admit, a break from hearing this name I so deeply desired would be nice.

The second thing, and what has been the most surprising, is that it is not the most powerful or the loveliest word in our house. For me, that word is "Daddy."

I have been so taken by how much I love the sound of Daddy. Daddy was not a word in my childhood home other than talking about a man who had died way before his time. It was a sad word. It was spoken, we did not shy away from talking about him, but always with a slight pause right before. It did not roll off the tongue. There was nothing organic about it for me and when I heard someone else use the word nonchalantly while greeting or referring to their own father, I noticed and was jealous. When my mother remarried and he even went on to adopt me, becoming my father, he was never Daddy. For by then, I was too old to take on the term.

So now to hear Daddy screaming through my house on a daily basis is a pure delight. And not just because it is an unfamiliar term, but because my husband is quite the daddy.

"Where's Daddy?" is a daily, often hourly, refrain.

"At work," I respond.

"I want to wait for Daddy on the porch."

And so we wait. And then he comes home and Benjamin squeals and runs and puts books out in his room to act as bases and plays baseball with his Daddy and then golf and then books and then trains and then more golf and then bedtime with Daddy as the special closing storyteller, until they are both exhausted.

This morning, when Jay went to take a shower, Benjamin kept trying the handle, fiddling with it, trying to get it to open, demanding, "Daddy! I want to come in. Daddy! Daaadddy!" And he didn't stop. "Daddy!"

I was not jealous of this demand for the other parent. I was thrilled (first a little of the burden on me was lifted, but also because Benjamin imbues the word with such affection and wonder). And so I went and sat on the floor with him and waited. I remembered when I was younger when my father was still alive, and taking my pillow and my pink satin blanket and making a makeshift bed outside my parents' bedroom, waiting for both of them to come out, with me there to greet the day. And as I waited, this time with my son for his father on the floor looking up from this angle, I was reminded of the awe children see in their parents. And to our son, right now, Mommy and Daddy are awesome. I know that will not last, so I am reveling in it just a bit.

The word Daddy, which was tinged with regret and history of a troubled man has been replaced for me by the word Daddy, one full of play and love and stability. I very clearly know that they are not the same men nor do they fulfill the same roles for me, but their names, Daddy, overlap now.

Mommy is the name I worked very hard to come to, but Daddy is the term that has the sweetest sound.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

Finding out sex early can help

FROM **GENDER** PAGE 6

Asbery, who has a masters degree in clinical psychology, started sharing her story on mommy message boards, and later decided to write a book called "Altered Dreams: Living with Gender Disappointment."

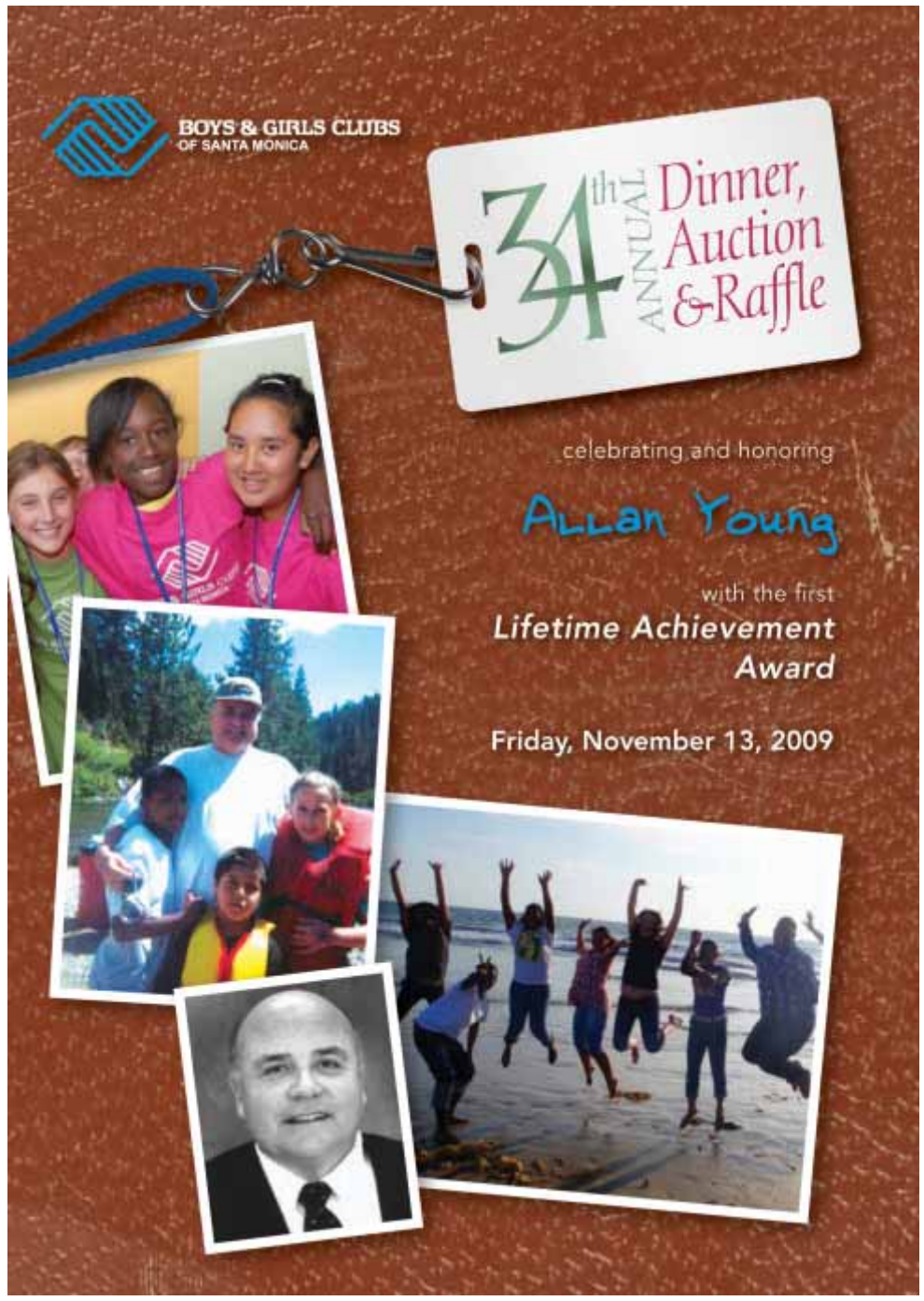
She turned to her faith and drew strength from talking to others who felt the same way. She said it's important for people to understand that mothers suffering from gender disappointment want their children and are not bad moms. It's just the plan they had for their family has changed.

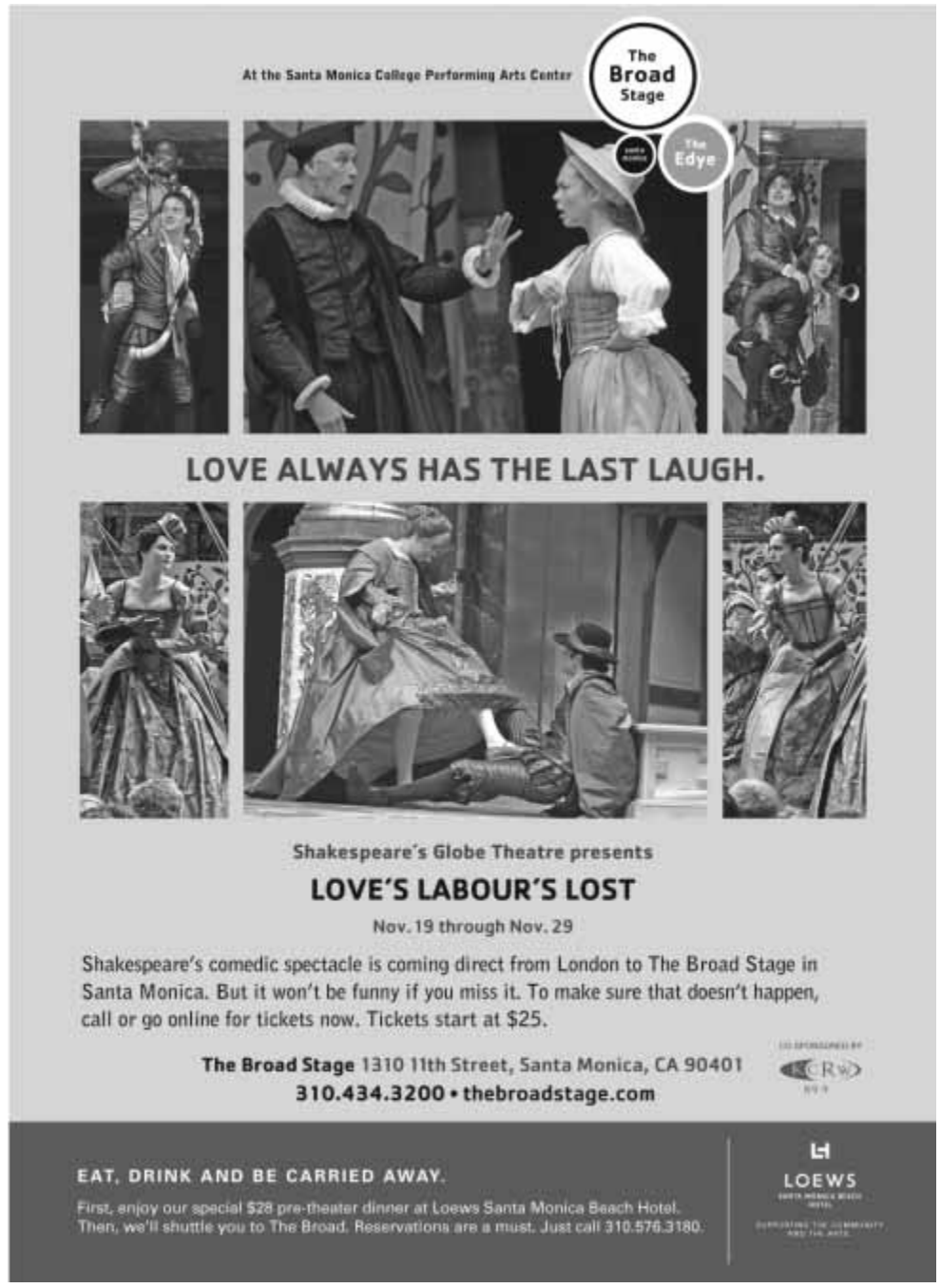
Her third son is 3 years old now, and Asbery admits she still has some pangs of sadness. She sometimes looks at her son and wonders, just for a moment, what he would look like as a girl. She and her husband are not going to have more children. Their family is complete, she said, and she doesn't feel like someone is missing anymore.

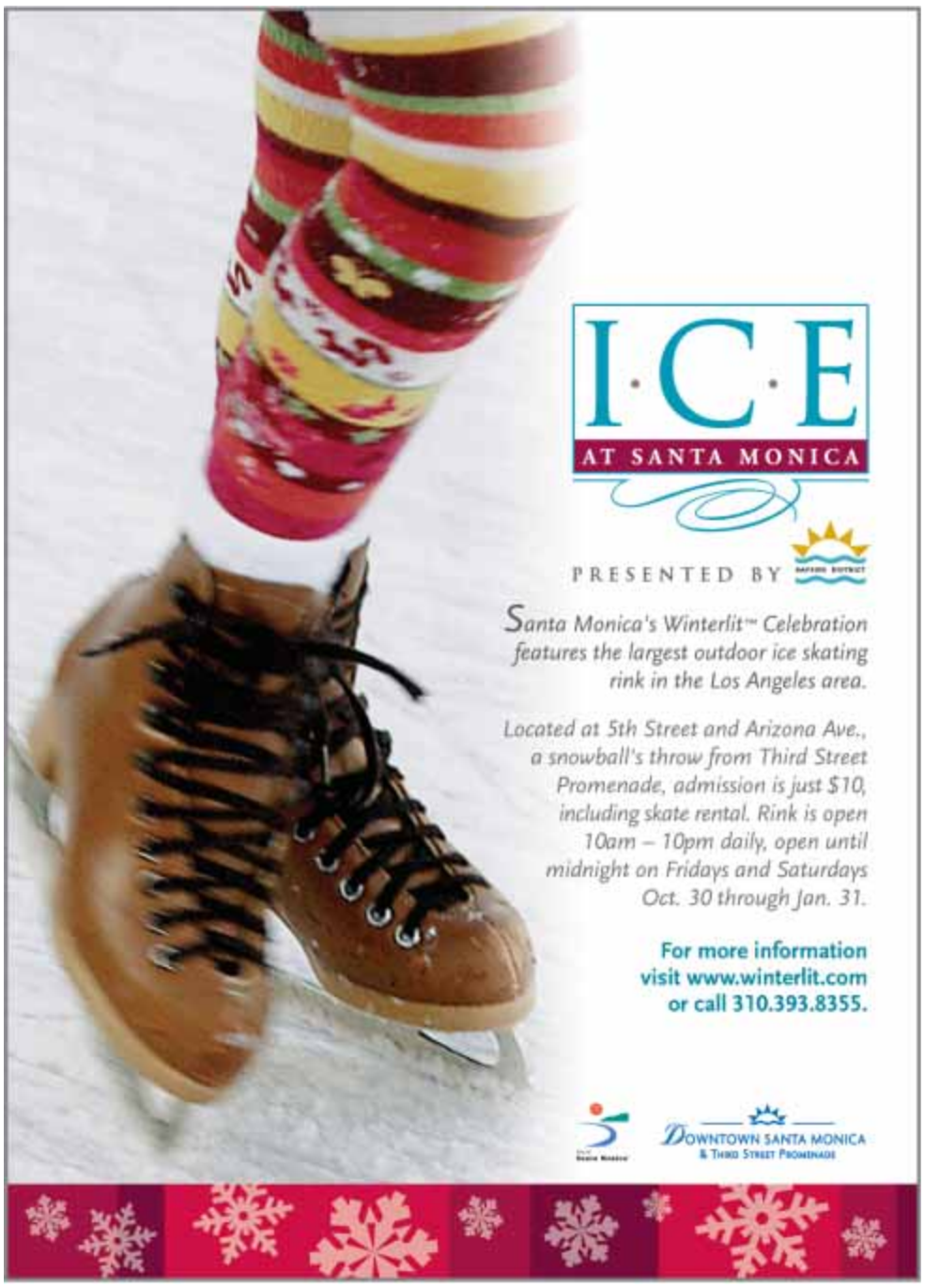
What she most wants mothers to know is this:

"It's normal. And they shouldn't feel like a freak," she said. "It is a normal process of when a dream has changed. You just have to relearn a different dream."

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New software makes plan check process friendlier

FROM **CONSENT** PAGE 3

Cremation graves, which currently costs $861, will be priced between $3,000 to $4,500.

A single crypt, which today ranges from $5,552 to $10,002, will increase to $7,500 to $15,000.

The business plan also includes a 5 percent discount offer for residents and individuals who work in the city. The cemetery will also institute a financing plan for individuals to pay for their plots over a period of up to 60 months.

"The discount offer would likely increase local resident use of the cemetery as well as those who work here," a staff report to the council said.

City Hall purchased the cemetery in 1897 and the mausoleum in 1972, both of which together have more than 60,000 former residents interred on the 26.6 acre site. There are less than 60 graves available for sale.

Woodlawn officials are expected to ask the council to convert certain streets on the cemetery grounds into burial space, providing for approximately 2,123 casket spaces and generating more revenue. Portions of Ivy Avenue, Rose Avenue and Myrtle Avenue will be vacated.

"Vacating portions of non-essential roadway within the cemetery is necessary for the development of additional interment grounds associated with the implementation of the cemetery business plan," the staff report said.

NEW SOFTWARE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Applying for construction permits in City Hall is about to become more manageable.

The council will be asked to purchase a new web-based application that will allow applicants and city staff to access project information through a centralized online location, keeping track of which plans have been submitted, reviewed, checked and approved.

AVOLVE Software will be tapped to provide the ProjectDox application for $298,000. The contract will include the purchase and maintenance of the software.

The application will automatically send e-mails to developers when their plans have been approved or noted for correction and re-submittal. City staff will also be able to track comments from colleagues and compare different versions of projects submitted.

"ProjectDox provides an improved plan check process by enhancing communications among city staff and the public," the city staff report said.

Also coming before the council will be a new five-year contract with Dell Marketing to provide Microsoft software licenses and upgrades for $1.3 million.

CLEANING RUNOFF SEWER DIVERSIONS

Keeping the Santa Monica Bay clean also means keeping the sewer diversions and treatment systems for urban runoff clean.

The council is expected to approve a three-year, $300,000 contract with General Environmental Management to service sewer diversions for separating and treating urban runoff from the Montana, Wilshire, Santa Monica Pier and Pico Kenter drains. The treatment system at Mar Vista Park in Los Angeles is also included in the agreement.

"These units must be serviced and cleaned periodically to continue efficient operation," the city staff report said.

City staff perform routine maintenance but the depth of some vaults exceed the reach of city equipment.

"Relieving city staff of this task will allow more attention to sewer and storm drain cleaning and maintenance," the report said.

PARKING FOR COURTHOUSE

An agreement with the county of Los Angeles to lease approximately 325 spaces in the Civic Auditorium parking lot or structure will continue for another year, bringing in approximately $583,599.

City Hall has leased a portion of the parking lot to the county for the Santa Monica Courthouse since 1989, originally providing spaces for 450 cars and later trimming the number down to 325 when numerous services, including criminal cases, were transferred to other jurisdictions.

The current public daily parking rate is $8. The contract with the county will provide the spaces for $7.27 each.

melodyh@smdp.com

UCLA most popular destination

FROM **SMC** PAGE 3

college, sending 173 students to the renowned private university.

SMC sent 919 students to UC campuses in 2008-09, far outdistancing the number two and three feeders, with 675, and 634, respectively.

Combined UC-CSU transfers totaled 1,930, keeping SMC in the top spot, ahead of the next biggest feeder that sent 1,858 total.

"In these difficult times, it's great to see the transfer option is viable and supported by SMC's class offerings and student support services," said Dan Nannini, SMC Transfer Center coordinator.

IN ADDITION:

• SMC transferred 32 African American students to UC.

• SMC transferred one student in fall 2009 to CalTech, which accepts only about six community college students a year. In addition, the college sends about 15 students each year to Columbia University in New York.

UCLA continues to be the most popular destination for SMC students, with more than half of the UC transfers — 516 — going to the Westwood campus. San Diego, Berkeley and Irvine, in that order, were the next most popular destinations in 2008-09, college officials said.

Nannini attributed SMC's strong transfer record to a wide range of factors: keeping SMC's transfer reputation in the spotlight, recruiting good students, giving strong academic counseling to students that helps make them attractive to admissions offices, and outstanding professors.

In addition, Nannini pointed out that the college's Transfer Center hosts one of the largest college fairs in the state. This fall, representatives from 110 colleges and universities throughout the nation came to the SMC Transfer Fair to recruit students.

SMC's Transfer Center also conducts workshops, holds weekly visits from four-year institutions, and has a close working relationship with UC and CSU to make sure SMC students get credit for their classes.

news@smdp.com

AMC committed to closing Broadway 4

FROM THEATER PAGE 1

and economic development manager for City Hall, said.

Any agreements would need approval from City Council.

AMC and Metropolitan Pacific Capital are proposing to develop a new 12-screen, 2,167-seat theater at 1320 Fourth St. The project also includes shutting down Broadway 4 in the 1400 block of the promenade and renovating Santa Monica 7 in the 1300 block, the latter of which would see the number of seats decrease by at least 475. The result will be nearly 1,600 fewer seats from existing AMC facilities in Downtown.

A representative for AMC was not available for comment.

AMC is currently negotiating with the property owner of Broadway 4 to terminate the lease, which would preclude its future use as a theater. The existing lease runs through Oct. 31, 2014 and comes with three, five-year options for extension through the end of 2029.

"While we are hopeful that a suitable agreement with the landlord will be negotiated, we are not relying on such an agreement to accomplish the closure of the AMC Broadway 4 facility," Tom Hudak of AMC and John Warfel of Metropolitan Pacific Capital said in a letter last month to City Hall.

If negotiations are unsuccessful, AMC plans to close Broadway 4 for at least a year before the new cinema opens, removing all equipment and furnishings such as screens, seats and projectors, allowing the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the property to operate as a theater to expire.

"You need a CUP to operate as a movie theater and if somebody comes in within that one-year time frame, they can start a movie theater without getting a CUP," Agle said. "After a year, that operating right has terminated and (a new theater operator) would have to get a new CUP."

City Hall received proposals from AMC and Pacific Theaters, which were essentially identical except Pacific offered about 10 percent more in land rent but was not able to make assurances that an existing theater in the area would be taken offline. Pacific does not operate a theatre in Downtown.

The council in September asked that city staff return with a counterproposal from Pacific Theaters if AMC was unable to make assurances about Broadway 4.

Upgraded theaters have long been considered essential for the promenade to maintain its competitive edge. While the promenade has remained a vibrant shopping and dining destination on the Westside, its cinemas have been lacking, particularly compared to other theaters in the area that offer more screens, comfortable seating and better technology.

melodyh@smdp.com

New ending offers more scenic view

FROM 66 PAGE 1

Rich in history

Often referred to as "America's Main Street," Route 66 officially opened in 1926 and spanned from Chicago to Los Angeles. Unlike many of the highways at that time, the non-linear setup of Route 66 connected rural towns to metropolitan areas. Farmers in the smaller regions of the Midwest were now able to transport and sell their goods to the bigger, more populated cities.

John Steinbeck famously referred to the highway as the "Mother Road" in his 1939 classic "The Grapes of Wrath," highlighting the over 200,000 people who traveled to California to find work during the Great Depression.

During World War II, the highway served as a vital means of mobilization for the military.

With the institution of the Interstate Highway System through the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 under President Eisenhower, Route 66 became increasingly obsolete. In 1985, Route 66 was removed from the highway system.

Since the termination of the highway, there has been some controversy surrounding the historical ending of Route 66. Before it became discontinued, the highway officially had two endings. It first terminated in Downtown Los Angeles, but was later moved to the intersection of Olympic and Lincoln boulevards, a segment of Highway 1 in 1936 to comply with federal regulations.

Conkle feels the new ending will allow tourists a more scenic and fulfilling end to their 2,500 mile journey across the highway.

"If you go to Olympic and Lincoln, would you not go a mile away and see the Pacific Ocean?" said Conkle.

Conkle recognizes the new terminus doesn't change the official historical end of the route, so no city codes or regulations had to be dealt with in the official naming of the pier.

Even after its formal removal, the history and the tradition of the highway continues to attract locals and tourists from all across the world

Route 66 has significantly helped the local economy and has drawn a large amount of tourists for years, said Alison Best, vice president of sales and services for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Any given week you can go to the visitor center on Ocean where there is a Route 66 sign, and there are so many people who request to take a picture," said Best. "The [new terminus] creates an end, brings people to the pier, and lets [tourists] get out of their car and experience the beach and pier."

For Rice, who has traveled along the highway throughout his life, it is an old-school lifestyle of the people along Route 66 that has continued to intrigue him.

"I've made so many friends on Route 66," he said. "These people seem to be taught in the decency and the kindness of 50 years ago. Their interest in you as a person was beyond any place you could find. I just fell in love with the people."

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Attend one of these neighborhood meetings to get an update on neighborhood projects and discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities as the FY2010-11 budget planning cycle begins.

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 12
Grant Elementary School Auditorium, 2368 Pearl Street

Monday, November 16
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street

Tuesday, December 1
Montana Library, 1704 Montana Avenue

Wednesday, December 2
Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Building
2200 Virginia Avenue

Locations are wheelchair accessible. For additional disability-related accommodations or for more information about these meetings, please call (310) 458-8281.

City of Santa Monica

In partnership with:

Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Pico Neighborhood Association and Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition

Not able to attend in person? Visit www.smgov.net/budget for more ways to share your opinion.

Google snaps up mobile ad startup for $750M

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Google Inc. is buying mobile advertising network AdMob for $750 million, underscoring the Internet search leader's determination to ensure its marketing machine reaches the growing number of people surfing the Web on phones.

The all-stock deal announced Monday also represents the latest sign that Google's leaders are feeling better about the economy's direction, encouraging them to spend more freely after clamping down through much of this year.

Once it closes within the next few months, the AdMob acquisition would become Google's most expensive purchase since it bought online ad service DoubleClick for $3.2 billion in March 2008.

AdMob shares at least one similarity with DoubleClick: AdMob's system specializes in delivering more visual messages, known as display advertising. Google makes most of its money from text-based ads connected to search requests, but has been trying to become a bigger player in display ads — a format that tends to be favored by big-spending companies trying to promote their brands.

With the increasing sophistication of handheld computing devices such as Apple Inc.'s iPhone and Motorola Inc.'s just-released Droid, millions of people are regularly connecting to their favorite Internet services when they are away from their home or office computers.

The trend is opening new opportunities for advertisers to peddle their wares.

Research firm eMarketer Inc. expects U.S. mobile advertising to approach $1.6 billion by 2013, up from an estimated $416 million this year.

Although the traditional online ad market is far larger — estimated at about $23 billion this year — Google and rivals such as Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp. have all been jockeying to get an early start in mobile marketing.

Yahoo, Microsoft and AOL all have made acquisitions in the field since 2007. Meanwhile, Google has been building a mobile operating system, Android, to make phones more Web-friendly, largely because it hopes to plumb a new advertising channel.

Google's decision to pay such a rich price for AdMob is bound to trigger more acquisitions and investments in the mobile ad niche, predicted eMarketer analyst Noah Elkin. Other emerging mobile ad networks include JumpTap, Millennial, Mojiva, Mobclix and Quattro Wireless.

"I think Google once again is trying to step out in front of the rest of the market and take hold of it," said Bob Davis, general partner with Highland Capital, a venture capital fund that has invested in Quattro Wireless.

AdMob Chief Executive Omar Hamoui, 32, started AdMob less than four years ago while he was trying to get a master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He was frustrated because he couldn't find an easy way to display ads on a mobile Web site that he was trying to develop.

Now AdMob serves up hundreds of millions of ads each across roughly 15,000 sites accessible over mobile phones. Its advertisers include Coca-Cola Co, Ford Motor Co. and Procter & Gamble Co.



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Can't find the hot new toy? Experts blame the economy

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Robotic toy hamsters, the latest Barbie dolls and stylish boots are disappearing from store shelves as holiday shoppers start to get serious. But don't confuse this with the days of Tickle Me Elmo.

Instead of a throwback to great buying binges of the past, the empty shelves are just another sign of bad times.

The shortages come from stores that are terrified of ordering too much and are keeping their inventories thin.

"I guess if you see it, you should get it," said Martha Frey, who was surprised when she couldn't find a specific style of boots in a popular size for her 17-year-old daughter recently at a Top Shop in Manhattan's SoHo district.

Shoppers are spending a little more these days, but they aren't going on buying sprees. Stores, remembering how Americans snapped their wallets shut last holiday season, didn't order big piles of merchandise in the first place.

The result, with seven weeks to go before Christmas, is that popular toys are already hard to find.

In fact, the holiday season's early hit — the Zhu Zhu Pets hamster, an interactive mechanical rodent by Cepia Inc. that sells for $9.99 and is being compared to Furby a decade ago — is almost impossible to nab.

Other toys that are already becoming hard to find include Mattel's Mindflex, which measures brain activity through a helmet, a Nerf dart thrower called Nerf N Strike from Hasbro Inc. and Barbie Fashionista, who can twist her hips and strike other poses.

"Stores just underordered across the board," said Jim Silver, an analyst at Timetoplaymag.com, who predicted shortages of the top 100 toys by early December. In a typical year, only the top 15 are in short supply that early.

In recent weeks toy makers have dispatched executives to China to make sure they get enough products to keep shelves full, Silver said. But production times can be long, and chances look slim that people who put off buying a coveted toy until Thanksgiving will be able to get one by Christmas.

Shoppers are starting to notice.

Tami Megal, a 36-year-old mother of girls ages 5 and 9 from Melville, N.Y., had to go to Toys R Us five times before she got her hands on Zhu Zhu Pets a month ago. But she's having a hard time finding the accessories, like the car, pet carrier and bed.

"It's no use to just get the hamsters. You need the habitat," she said. Megal noted that overall worry about shortages has made her start her holiday shopping early. She's almost finished.

The barren shelves are in stark contrast to last year, when stores ordered too much and had to slap big discounts on merchandise as soon as it hit the floor. Holiday sales posted their biggest decline in at least three decades, and the results cascaded into poor profits and even the closings of prominent stores like Circuit City.

This year, inventory is 8 to 13 percent smaller for mid-price clothing, and 10 to 15 percent smaller for home furnishings, said Antony Karabus, CEO of Karabus Management, a retail advisory firm.

Stores would rather be out of stock than stuck with lots of leftovers. But they also know that merchants who carry goods shoppers want will have an edge.

"No one wants to leave money on the table," said John Long, a retail strategist at Kurt Salmon Associates. "No one wants to disappoint customers."

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2991: FURNISH AND DELIVER PLASTIC REFUSE CONTAINERS AS REQUIRED BY SOLID WASTE.

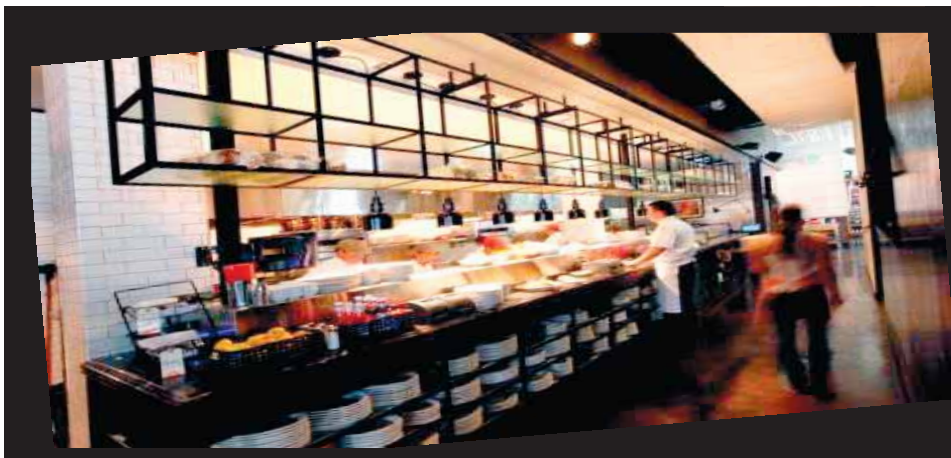
- **Submission deadline is November 23, 2009 at 3:00 PM PT.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8281 or by e-mailing your request to kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:

- http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/


IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!
The Santa Monica Chamber Of Commerce
Presents BUSINESS AT SUNSET MIXER
Wednesday, November 18th
5:30 – 7:30 PM At
LA GRANDE ORANGE
2000 N. Main Street FREE VALET PARKING AFTER 5PM
Join us at Main Street's newest addition, La Grande Orange. Come and enjoy drinks as well as a unique selection of Hors devours including Evil Thai Princess Lettuce Wraps, LGO mini burgers, Chicken soft tacos, and Asian spare ribs. Our mixers are a great way to network and make important business contacts, so enjoy a great setting and make some connections.
For tickets contact JERAH at the chamber, 310-393-9825
Or visit www.smchamber.com
Member pre-sale price $10 | Member Price at the door $15 | Non-members $20



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

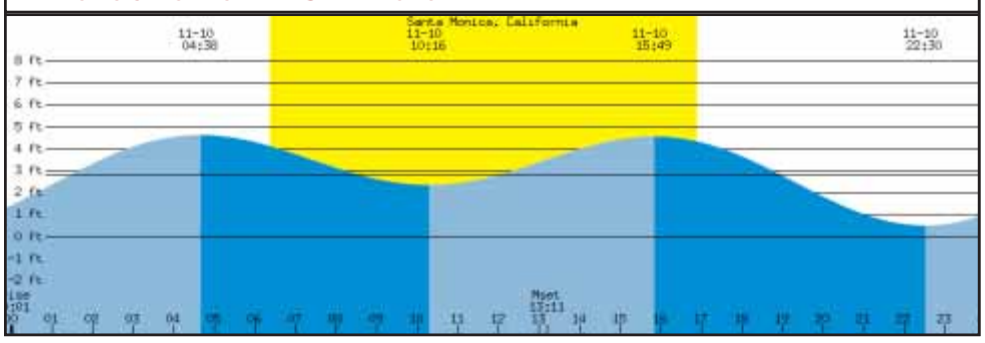
Swell Forecast

NW swell should back down further, perhaps just chest high around west facing breaks. South facing breaks are looking at waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks fairly small at this point, perhaps knee to waist high most everywhere.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **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 Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, simplehuman, Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa 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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

NCAA

Pac-10 reinstates Oregon's Blount

ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Oregon running back LeGarrette Blount, who was suspended for the season after punching a Boise State player in the wake of the season opener, has been allowed to rejoin the Ducks.

The university requested Blount's reinstatement, which was approved by Pacific-10 Conference Commissioner Larry Scott on Monday.

Blount will be able to play for the No. 14 Ducks on Saturday night when they host Arizona State. He missed eight games.

Blount issued a statement saying he was grateful to Oregon coach Chip Kelly for giving him a second chance.

"Now it is up to me to prove to people that their lasting impressions of me are not what they saw in Boise," he said.

Blount punched Byron Hout following the nationally televised opener, bringing the Broncos' defensive end to his knees. The next day he was suspended for the season by Kelly, but he was allowed to keep his scholarship and practice with the team.

Kelly later said that if Blount met certain academic and behavioral conditions, he would be allowed to return. The earliest possible date for his reinstatement was last Saturday's game against Stanford, but the Ducks waited until this week to bring him back. Kelly insisted there was no delay in Blount's return.

Kelly would not discuss the special requirements for reinstatement, calling it a private issue.

Kelly recommended Blount's return to athletic director Mike Bellotti on Sunday night. It was approved by university President Richard Lariviere before being turned over to the conference for approval.

"After a thorough review of the situation, I am convinced LeGarrette Blount paid a significant and appropriate price for the mistakes he made on the field, and that he has learned important life-long lessons," Scott said.

Blount and Kelly addressed the team on Monday morning.

"He just apologized to them again for the incident," and told them he was anxious to rejoin the team," Kelly said. Blount practiced with the team afterward.

Struggling economy blamed for Santa Anita declines

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARCADIA, Calif. Attendance was down 11 percent and on-track wagering declined 16 percent during Santa Anita's recently concluded 31-day Oak Tree meeting.

Track officials blamed the struggling local and national economy for the downturn in the meeting that ended Sunday. Wagering from all sources was down 15 percent.

The meeting ended on a high note with the two-day Breeders' Cup, which attracted 96,496 fans on Friday and Saturday — a 17 percent increase from a year ago when 82,578 attended the world championships at Santa Anita.

Friday's attendance of 37,651 was a 20 percent increase over last year's one-day crowd of 31,257.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Astro Boy (PG) 1hr 34min
5:00

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (R) 1hr 27min
4:00, 7:15, 10:00

Saw VI (R) 1hr 31min
5:00, 7:30, 9:50

Zombieland (R) 1hr 21min
4:45, 7:45, 10:10

A Serious Man (R) 1hr 45min
4:30, 7:00, 9:40

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

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

Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) 1hr 36min
5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45

The Fourth Kind (PG-13) 1hr 38min
5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50

Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 30min
3:30, 5:20, 6:00, 7:50, 8:30, 10:20, 11:00

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

The Maid (NR) 1hr 49min
7:45, 10:10

New York, I Love You (R) 1hr 58min
7:50, 10:15

Irene In Time (PG-13) 1hr 49min
7:30, 10:00

Turning Green (NR) 1hr 41min
7:50, 10:10

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

The Box (PG-13) 1hr 56min
7:30, 9:20, 10:20

Couples Retreat (PG-13) 1hr 47min
6:30

Julie & Julia (PG-13) 2hr 3min
6:00, 8:45

Law Abiding Citizen (R) 1hr 48min
7:20, 9:50

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 2hrs 1min
6:50, 7:50, 9:30, 10:30

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

Be where the action is, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Get the job done through focus and direct action. A must appearance could baffle you. Out of the blue, you discover that others are changing their needs, thus impacting a project. Zero in on the long-term priorities, and you'll come out on top. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Let your imagination kick in when another solution obviously is needed. A brainstorming session could provide many answers or potential solutions. You might be wondering which way to go when dealing with a boss. Take your cue from him or her. Tonight: Be creative when deciding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might want to reconsider a decision and come from a fundamental base of understanding. Your ability to understand what others are doing allows greater flow. An offer will make life easier. Why not say yes? Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination and intellect meet, making it possible to deal with a wide range of issues and projects. You might even enjoy the variety that becomes possible. A partner tries to pitch in and be more supportive. Tonight: Change gears.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be aware of your spending and long-term desires. You will lighten up considerably if you relax and work with the moment. Extremes hit left and right as you attempt to juggle a lot more than normal. Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Put your best foot forward. Others cannot help but respond. Your enormous creative resources come forward. You seem to be able to handle more than your normal share. Your caring nature reveals itself more than ever. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back and understand what is happening. Much bubbles forth that is interesting but needs to be dealt with. You have imagination and ingenuity working for you. Use those assets. Be careful with spending. Tonight: Take some private time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Listen to news that is forthcoming. Understanding comes forward. You are coming up with ideas, and others see and understand your unique resourcefulness. Focus on your direction and goals. At least you will be pleased! Tonight: Wherever the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A must appearance is inevitable. You see a child or loved one from a new perspective. Your understanding evolves when dealing with others. How you handle a personal situation could change dramatically because of pressure. Tonight: A must show.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for others and get more information. You might be surprised by what comes up. Get past a problem immediately. Curb a tendency to give too much or spend too much. Tonight: Put on a great piece of music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Relate to others on a one-on-one level. This attention tends to help them feel secure and relaxed. In this atmosphere, much more will be gained by all parties. Listen to your inner voice on a money matter. Tonight: Make plans with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Togetherness isn't possible without you revealing more of your inner feelings. Reach out for someone at a distance who you care about. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Defer to someone else's ideas.

Happy birthday

This year, you make waves and gain understanding of people. Zero in on your goals, and when confused, stop and take a gander at your priorities. You will regain your centering quite quickly. The unexpected does occur, encouraging you to rethink situations more often. Your creativity kicks in frequently when facing challenges. If you are single, you will meet someone through a friendship, or a friendship could become more. If you are attached, the two of you need to socialize more as well as work on the quality of your friendship. You will bond more closely. VIRGO comes through for you.

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

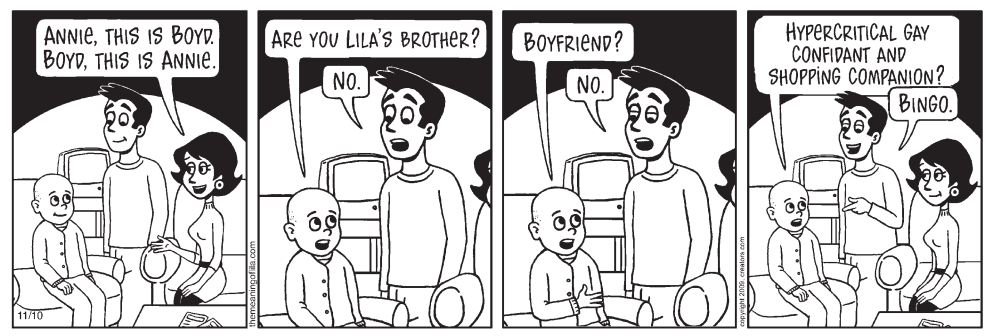
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



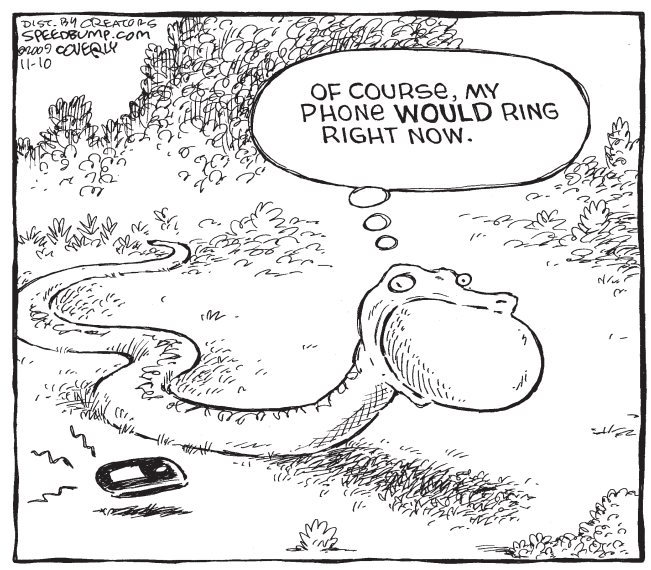
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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- Fun entertainment
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WISE & Healthy Aging

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1510 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA

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

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

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

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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 Sandbox toys
6 Museum piece
11 Top story
12 Wonderland visitor
13 Frank Capra movie
15 Secret agent
16 Ram's mate
17 Kitchen pest
18 Bouquet
20 Madame Curie
23 Bread-making need
27 Pinnacle
28 Karaoke need
29 Handed over
31 Not flimsy
32 Do a butler's job
34 Make a choice
37 Easter find
38 Roadhouse
41 Frank Capra movie
44 Puzzled
45 Oklahoma city
46 Paraphrase
47 Ranch critter

DOWN

1 Cronies
2 On the peak of
3 Minuscule
4 Blotto
5 Plan
6 Not often
7 New Haven student
8 Judy's daughter
9 Clickable picture
10 Small coin
14 Have debts
18 Some die rolls
19 Cleaner scent
20 Comic Bernie
21 Clumsy person
22 Roulette bet
24 Feel poorly
25 Enjoy Aspen
26 Slugger Williams
30 Platter spinner
31 What tourists see
33 Swelled head
34 General Bradley
35 Singer Seeger
36 Dick Tracy's love
38 Doing nothing
39 Face feature
40 At hand
42 Brewed beverage
43 Bolt partner

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

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

11-10

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 7 11 27 40 46
Meganumber: 8
Jackpot: $77M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 10 34 39 44
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $18M

FANTASY 5: 1 11 12 24 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 1 5
EVENING: 1 6 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.40.34

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

■ Procter & Gamble announced in October that it will once again create and host a public restroom for the holiday season in New York City's Times Square as a promotion for Charmin tissue. Last year's installation was merely specially outfitted toilet facilities, but this year P&G will upgrade by hiring five bloggers ("Charmin Ambassadors") to "interact" with the expected "hundreds of thousands of bathroom guests" and write about their experiences with Charmin tissue on the company's Web site (and include "family-friendly" photographs). P&G is calling the campaign "Enjoy the Go."

■ "Therapeutic" Sex: (1) The U.S. Tax Court ruled in September that William Halby, 78, owes back taxes because he improperly tried to deduct $300,000 over a five-year period for "medical" expenses that were merely purchases of sex toys and pornography and payments to prostitutes. Halby said the activities relieved his "depression," in that he had no other sexual outlets. The court reminded Halby (a retired New York tax lawyer) that prostitution is illegal in New York. (2) James Pacenza, 60, of Montgomery, N.Y., who was fired by IBM in 2003 after he continued to visit an Internet sex-chat room during work hours, renewed his challenge to the termination in September, telling a federal appeals court that his Internet sex "addiction" is a result of post-traumatic stress disorder from combat in the Vietnam war.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1918 The Western Union Cable Office in North Sydney, Nova Scotia receives a top-secret coded message from Europe (that would be sent to Ottawa, Ontario and Washington, DC) that said on November 11, 1918 all fighting would cease on land, sea and in the air.

1919 The first national convention of the American Legion is held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, ending on November 12.

1938 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, dies.

WORD UP!

fungible \FUHN-juh-buhl\ , adjective; 1. (Law) Freely exchangeable for or replaceable by another of like nature or kind in the satisfaction of an obligation.

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CORNERSTONE ONDEMAND Inc seeks Technical Consultant in Santa Monica, CA. MS + 3 yrs exp in job offered or as Programmer Analyst, Web Developer and/or related, or BS + 5 yrs exp. Reqs skill w/coding in C#, ASP.Net, T-SQL, Java, Javascript, VB Script, HTML and XML; oo patterns & analysis; complete SW devel lifecycle; stored procedures, views & indexing. Fax resume: 310-752-0199, attn: J. LeGassick. Reference job #IT272

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South of Wilshire	$899,000	$599,999
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$629,000
Ocean Park	$1,550,000	$1,022,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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