

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In October, The Washington Post reported the growing movement among psychiatrists to call compulsive buying a separate, identifiable disorder and recounted this 62-year-old “shopaholic’s” therapeutic conversation with herself: “I would say (to the jewelry she felt compelled to buy), ‘You are so beautiful, I can’t live without you, I love the way you sparkle.’ The jewelry would say back, ‘You need me. You look pretty when you wear me.’ I would say, ‘I do need you. I can’t possibly think of being without you. But something has to change. I need to stop this. I can’t afford a penny more.’” The patient said she eventually came to believe that her compulsion stemmed from her relationship with her mother.

■ According to 2005 transcripts made public by The Wall Street Journal in September, a British Airways 747 flew its entire 10-hour-plus route from Los Angeles to Manchester, England, even though the pilot knew that one of its four engines had caught fire and burned up 30 seconds after take-off. The pilot surprised the Los Angeles tower by radioing his decision to fly on “as far as we can” (after checking with BA headquarters, which might have been mindful that returning to Los Angeles would have meant dumping \$30,000 worth of fuel and possibly incurring \$275,000 in European Union fines for the delay). The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration initially proposed a fine for BA but recently closed its investigation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 328th day of 2006.
There are 37 days left in the year.

- 1963** Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.
- 1784** Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, was born in Orange County, Va.
- 1859** British naturalist Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species,” which explained his theory of evolution.

WORD UP!

mollify *ˈmɒl-uh-fy*
1. To pacify; to soothe or calm in temper or disposition. 2. To reduce in intensity; to temper. 3. To soften; to reduce the rigidity of.

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It's a package deal

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Getty Modica (left) and Randy Cannon, of the Big Blue Bus maintenance department, apply a decorative holiday ‘wrap’ to a bus on Monday. The vehicle, sponsored by the radio station K-Mozart, was adorned in a theme called ‘Reindeers Going to the Beach.’

Thanks a lot: SMC to increase parking capacity

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — The students here might have to find another excuse as to why they’re late to class.

A 250-space parking lot for Santa Monica College students could soon be in the works after the Board of Trustees authorized the college president to enter into an agreement to purchase a 2.35-acre lot on Exposition Boulevard.

Using money from Measure U, a \$160 million bond measure that voters passed in 2002 for capital improvements to SMC, the college is expected to purchase the property at 2909 Exposition Blvd., about 1.2 miles from the main campus.

President Dr. Chui L. Tsang expects to execute the contract with Verizon, the property owner, in December for approximately \$17.3 million.

See PARKING, page 9



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

BURNING IT UP: Consumers are being warned to go easy on the plastic this season.

Steep price to pay

Taking on debt becomes a holiday rite

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — ’Tis the season to stay out of debt.

As the holiday shopping season officially kicks off today, so does the season in which millions of consumers across the country tend to accumulate debt.

See DEBT, page 9

Stores go back to Black

KA-CHING: Eager shoppers will have plenty of company

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET — Janet Jauregui can identify with the woman in the Mervyns holiday ads who stands outside in the dark, her face pressed against the glass storefront as she chants, “Open, open, open” in anticipation of a big sale.

A bargain hunter who has nearly dispensed with her Christmas list, Jauregui has also anxiously waited outside malls at midnight so that she can grab the latest trends at a substantial discount. With an extended family that includes nephews to spoil, Jauregui needs all the bargains she can find during the holiday rush.

“Are you kidding? The sales at midnight, right after Thanksgiving, those are the best,” Jauregui said Wednesday afternoon as she enjoyed lunch on Third Street Promenade. “You can leave the kids at home with the husband, and after a long day of cooking, go out and get a lot of your shopping done before they even get out of bed.

“And, of course, you hook yourself up too,” Jauregui said with a smile. “You know you’ve always got to get yourself something when you’re out Christmas shopping.”

While she doesn’t plan waking up before dawn this time around, Jauregui will join the 137 million other shoppers around the country who will head to their local retailers this weekend for the official kick-off of the holiday shopping season.

The Friday following Thanksgiving, commonly referred to as “Black Friday,” is when retailers begin to reap large profits. For mom-and-pop outfits, a prosperous Thanksgiving weekend can often

See BLACK FRIDAY, page 10



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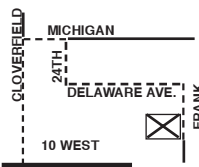
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WESTSIDE TODAY

IT'S WHAT'S GOING ON, SANTA MONICA

Friday, Nov. 24, 2006

Fitness Class — Mambo Mania
Santa Monica, 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
Join us for the newest craze in fitness — Latin Style Aerobics!

Taijiquan
Santa Monica, 7:30 a.m. — 9:15 a.m.
A healing class taught by Helene Bouboulis who has been practicing Taijiquan for eight years.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive
Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
New, unwrapped gifts of any size or value are being accepted at the Winterlit Playhouse on the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade and at Guest Services at Santa Monica Place, from November 24 through December 21.

Shop to live music by Elevators
Wild About Music, 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Put a little soul into your holiday shopping. Shop to live music at Wild About Music.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre
Santa Monica Playhouse, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
An entertaining, enriching, and educational 90-minute weekday Mommy (or Daddy) and Me theatre experience for kids ages 3 to 5 and their parents, with story-telling, sing-a-longs, handicrafts and enactment of a fairy tale.

Santa Monica Rotary
Riviera Country Club, 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
With over 160 business and professional leaders who live or work in the community, the Club has long enjoyed a reputation as being the hub for Westside men and women dedicated to improving their local and worldwide communities.

Self Healing Community Class
Santa Monica, 5:30 p.m. — 6:45 p.m.
The class that incorporates Tanden breathing, microcosmic meditation, Qi Gong, eight steps Brocade, Ampouku (abdominal massage) is simple, holistic, gentle and effective.

Winter Wine Samplings
Sheraton Delfina, 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Come join us for a weekly wine seminar taking place every Wednesday during the month of November.

Santa Monica Fitness Group for Women
Santa Monica Fitness Group For Women, 6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Santa Monica based women's group that meets every Monday and Wednesday night for either running, hiking, rollerblading, Santa Monica stairs and power walks.

Invitation to Groove
Sheraton Delfina, 7 p.m. — 12 a.m.
Join us every Friday in the Lobby Lounge for a night of dancing.

Dixie Chicks Accidents & Accusations Tour 2
Staples Center, 8 p.m. — 12 a.m.
The Dixie Chicks, the biggest-selling female group in history having sold more than 30 million CDs, are coming to The Staples Center.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006

XTERRA Topanga Turkey Trot Scramble
Trippet Ranch in Topanga State Park, 7 a.m. — 12 p.m.
The final event of the 2006 XTERRA Scramble Series takes place on the scenic trails at Trippet Ranch in Topanga State Park on Saturday with three distances to choose from: a 5K, a 10K or 15K.

Mar Vista Farmers Market
Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Fresh produce, prepared foods, organic and more.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive
Third Street Promenade 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
New, unwrapped gifts of any size or value are being accepted at the Winterlit Playhouse on the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade.

And Aaaaay We Go To Wonderland
Santa Monica Playhouse, 12:30 p.m. — 1:45 p.m.
Take a musical journey to the land of fairytales and help rescue such beloved heroines and heroes as Alice, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and many, many more in this captivating Rudie-DeCarlo Family Theatre Musical for Kids 2 to 102.

Santa Monica's Top Model Search
Santa Monica Place Mall, 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Winterlit invites all aspiring young models — ages 7-18 — to audition to be one of 20 finalists for the Winterlit Holiday Fashion Show.

Red Chief! — Children's theater in Santa Monica
Third Street Promenade, 3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
West of Broadway presents "Red Chief!" a modern adaptation of O. Henry's classic short story, "Ransom of Red Chief."

Cinderella
Santa Monica Playhouse, 6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.
A delightfully romantic original Rudie-DeCarlo musical, featuring a charming prince, zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters, zealously well-meaning stepmother and Cinderella.

Audition! The Musical
Santa Monica Playhouse, 7 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.
Movie stars, music, suspense, hilarity, pathos, and the truth behind the Hollywood mystique, as told by those who've been there and done that!

Invitation to Groove
Sheraton Delfina, 7 p.m. — 12 a.m.
Join us every Friday in the Lobby Lounge for a night of dancing.

Debbie Merrill's Learn To Inline Skate Group Class
Perry's Cafe, 1 — 2 p.m.
Beginner and advanced beginner class.

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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.

Designers dabbling in discount retail chains

BY SOLVEJ SCHOU
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — Wild-eyed, almost frothing with glee, actor-model Xander Tarigo stood in the middle of the store clutching a pile of pants by Viktor & Rolf for H&M as other shoppers swooped past him.

He looked triumphant. His friend, looking exhausted, sat on the ground, overloaded with limited-edition shirts and dresses by the famed high-end designers, made exclusively for the Sweden-based retail chain.

"Shop till you drop! It's shopping madness!" Tarigo howled. Swarms of heads hovering over tables and racks turned for a second and quickly went back to scavenge.

Dutch design duo Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren are just two of the latest couture designers to hop on the cheaper retail chain bandwagon, offering up limited-edition glimpses of fashion fantasies at a smidgen of the price of their regular collections.

Such fashion events draw droves. Eager shoppers stood in line shoulder to shoulder, on a mock red carpet, to wait for the grand opening of the H&M store at the Beverly Center mall in Beverly Hills, and for the debut of Viktor & Rolf's romantic heart-adorned collection, available in only 12 H&M stores nationwide.

On the other side of the country, at a store in New York, women tugged at sweaters at each end, yelling, "Let go; it's mine!" and pulling beige and black A-line trench coats off hangers with the speed of professional athletes.

That was Nov. 9. H&M spokeswoman Lisa Sandberg said Monday that almost all of the Viktor & Rolf collection has sold out in stores domestically. She didn't have a percentage.

Last year, Stella McCartney's H&M collection sold out in two days. Karl Lagerfeld's in 2004 sold out worldwide in mere hours, said Margareta van den Bosch, head of design for H&M.

Behnaz Sarafpour debuted her two-month line of skirts, blazers and dresses for Target on Nov. 1. London designer Sophia

See DESIGNERS, page 8



Paying respects

A passerby takes in the makeshift memorial for former UCLA football standout Marcus Cassel at Pacific Palisades Park on Wednesday. Cassel was killed early Friday morning when his sport utility vehicle slammed into a tree in the park just off Ocean Avenue.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Outpost out to alienate

Town's new law puts the onus on immigrants to learn the language

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press Writer

PAHRUMP, Nev. — Retiree Sam Jones wakes up each day and puts his graying hair in a ponytail, a .45-caliber automatic on his right hip and the U.S. Constitution in his back pocket.

He is a man who knows how to make a statement.

So for Jones, and others like him in this desert outpost, it was a no-brainer when town leaders wanted to send a message to its growing immigrant community.

"This is America, and in America we speak English," Jones, 55, said of his interpretation of Pahrump's new "English Language and Patriot Reaffirmation" ordinance. "Old Glory has got to be flown on top."

By approving the new law this month, a town best known for its proximity to legal warehouses thrust itself into the nation's immigration debate.

The burgeoning bedroom community 60 miles down a two-lane road from Las Vegas made English its official language and barred residents from flying a foreign flag by itself.

The new ordinance does little, if anything, to change business in Pahrump. But it has done much to reveal frustrations simmering beneath the surface of a town in transition.

"This isn't just about Hispanics, it's about anyone who is different, anyone who comes from a different community," said 23-year-old Henry Amaya, a Hispanic-American who recently moved from to Pahrump from California. "People should be able to speak whatever language they want to."

Since the debate over federal immigration reform fired up last spring, several local governments have taken their own first steps. English is now the official language of Taneytown, a central Maryland town of 5,000, and Farmer Branch, a Dallas suburb. Earlier this month, voters approved a measure making English the official language of Arizona.

Opponents liken the measures to Jim Crow laws, which were used in the South to segregate blacks.

"Language is linked to race and culture," said Anita Revilla, an assistant professor of women's studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "This is a civil rights issue."

Supporters of Pahrump's new law say its intent is to encourage assimilation, although

See ENGLISH ONLY, page 8



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GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Net neutrality vs. Internet freedom

America's leading Internet service providers (ISPs) have spent many years and billions upgrading their transcontinental networks, which constitute the backbone of the Internet. Now they are eager to profit by offering new, compelling services. One plan is to give certain Web sites high priority on their data, so as to guarantee "quality of service" — the speed, frequency and reliability with which data is delivered. This would enable content providers to offer high-quality live TV and videoconferencing or advanced remote medical monitoring, without the delays and unreliability that plague the Internet today. Unfortunately, data prioritization is fiercely opposed by advocates of "Net Neutrality," who claim paradoxically that freedom and innovation demand that companies not be free to make this innovation.

Net neutrality is the idea that ISPs should not be able to favor some types of data over others; their networks must be "neutral" among all the data they carry. Net-neutrality supporters claim that if ISPs are free to give preferential treatment to certain Web sites' data, they might drastically slow down un-favored or less-wealthy Web sites, diminishing their ability to offer content and make innovations. A prominent net-neu-

trality coalition cautions: "If you are an aspiring entrepreneur, you may be impeded from providing the 'next big thing' on the Internet."

But such scenarios are nonsensical. For any of the nation's competing ISPs to offer customers slow, patchy, let alone nonexistent access to the Web sites they seek to visit, would be commercial suicide. As for innovation, Web sites are free to continue using standard, non-prioritized Internet service. The fact that this would be slower than premium service does not mean that it would be slow, just as UPS' decision to offer overnight delivery did not lead them to suddenly degrade their ground shipping. Premium Internet services would enable, not stifle, innovation, by giving Web sites creative options they did not have before.

The specter of ISPs offering glacial access to certain Web sites is a smokescreen, designed to obscure the net-neutrality movement's goal: preventing anyone from having superior, unequal access to customers. In the minds of net-neutrality advocates, the Internet is a collectively owned entity, to which all Web sites have an equal claim and are entitled "equal access." As the title of a leading net-neutrality group proclaims: "It's our Net."

But it isn't.

The Internet is not a collectivist commune; it is a free, voluntary and private association of individuals and corporations harmoniously pursuing their individual goals. (While it began as a government-funded project, the Internet's ultra-advanced state today is the achievement of private network builders, hardware companies, content providers, and customers.) Because the Internet is based on voluntary association, no one can properly compel others for their ad space, bandwidth, publicity — or data prioritization. Those who create these values have the right to use and profit from them as they see fit. Google has no more right to demand that Verizon be "neutral" with its network than Verizon has a right to demand that Google be "neutral" with its coveted advertising space.

The only thing equal about the participants on the Internet is that all have equal freedom to deal with others voluntarily. This means they are equally free to compete for the bandwidth, dollars, and talents of others — but not entitled to an unearned, equal portion of them.

It is the freedom of participants on the Internet to offer and profit from whatever products, services, or content they choose that has made it such a phenomenal source of con-

tent and innovation. Net neutrality would deny ISPs that freedom. It would deny their right to engage in creative, innovative and profitable activity with those networks — in the name of those who demand their bandwidth, but are unable or unwilling to earn it in a free market.

The widespread support for net neutrality among successful Internet companies — including Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, eBay, and Amazon — is short-sighted and contemptible. These companies, which have benefited greatly from the unimpeded freedom of the Internet, are now trying to deny the same freedom to innovative ISPs and ambitious competitors under the egalitarian banner of "equal access." This is an invitation for any clever moocher to demand "equal access" to their hard-earned resources; indeed, Google is already being sued because its proprietary search engine allegedly gives "unfair" rankings to certain companies.

The Internet is one of the great bastions of freedom and innovation in our civilization. Let us keep it that way by rejecting "net neutrality."

Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, CA. Contact the writer at media@aynrand.org.



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A child is calling for help.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Not the kind of secret Victoria would like

MONDAY, NOV. 20 AT 8 P.M.
Santa Monica police responded to the 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade — Victoria's Secret — regarding a man masturbating in a dressing room. When officers arrived, they spoke with employees at the lingerie store who said they saw a man enter the building, remove several items from the sales rack and then entered a dressing room. A short time later, employees heard noises coming from the dressing room. When they looked over the door, they could see the man was masturbating in "plain sight," police said. Police were notified and found the man still in the dressing room masturbating. The man, a registered sex offender, was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for indecent exposure and violation of his probation, police said. The suspect was identified as Orlando Watson, 25, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$10,000.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19 AT 5 P.M.
Officers responded to the 300 block of Santa Monica Boulevard — Bay Cities Beauty Supply — regarding a report of shoplifting. When officers arrived, they spoke with employees at the store who said a woman walked in with a large shopping bag and began to put shampoo and body lotion into the bag. She then started to leave and was approached by store security, police said. When security attempted to retrieve the items, the suspect allegedly became combative and fought with employees. She was eventually detained and held until police arrived. The suspect was arrested for robbery. She was identified as Judith Rosita Hunsicker, 42, of Simi Valley. Her bail was set at \$50,000. The items that were recovered were valued at \$55, police said.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18 AT 9:30 P.M.
Officers responded to the 200 block of Cloverfield Boulevard regarding an assault that had just occurred. When officers arrived, they spoke with a man who said he had been hit in the head with a frying pan by a friend after the two had been involved in argument over an e-mail. The man said he was visiting his friend's apartment when the fight broke out. The suspect fled following the fight, which resulted in the victim's head swelling up where he was hit. Officers located the suspect at his girlfriend's house in the 2400 block of Kansas Avenue, where he was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as Jeffrey Grant, 29, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$30,000.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16 AT 3 P.M.
Officers from the narcotics division responded to the 1500 block of Yale Street regarding a report of drug activity in the area. When officers arrived, they made contact with two men who looked to be under the influence of methamphetamines. Upon further investigation, officers discovered methamphetamine on one of the suspects. Both were arrested. Suspect Ethan Lee, 30, of Santa Monica was booked for possession of a controlled substance and for being under the influence. His bail was set at \$11,174. The second suspect, Norberto Novaro, 26, of Carson, was charged with being under the influence. His bail was set at \$1,000.

MONDAY, NOV. 13 AT 6:50 P.M.
Officers responded to the 300 block of Broadway — Macy's — regarding a shoplifting suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they spoke to store security who said a man had walked into the department store and took several items off of the sales racks and tried to cut off the security tags using wire cutters. When he was unsuccessful, the man then took the items into the dressing room. A short time later, he left the room without the items, which appeared to have been placed in a bag. Once the man left the store, he was confronted by store security. He was detained and more than \$400 worth of merchandise was recovered along with the wire cutters, police said. The suspect was booked for burglary and possession of burglary tools. He was identified as Thomas McMonigal, 18, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

MONDAY NOV. 13 AT 9:30 P.M.
Officers responded to the corner of Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a report of an assault in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with a victim who was bleeding from his face. The victim said he was walking with a friend down the promenade when they came in contact with an acquaintance. The two began to argue over a cell phone which the suspect claimed the victim took from him. A fight ensued and the victim was thrown to the ground, where he was punched and kicked several times. Witnesses restrained the suspect, who claimed to hold a black belt in karate. The suspect fled on foot and was detained a short time later in the 200 block of Broadway. The suspect was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and for possession of ninja throwing stars. He was identified as Eric Jamarr Nash, 19, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$30,000.

The Q-Line

Shukran gazilan, Dank je wel, Merci beaucoup, Danke schön, Domo arigato, Gratiias, Sha sha, A dank aych ... Thanks.

In addition to preparing for Black Friday and beyond, there is a little holiday this week called Thanksgiving that will bring together families and friends across the nation for food, football and reflection. In Santa Monica, following months of campaigning and calls for change, voters overwhelmingly opted to re-elect incumbents, leading observers to draw the conclusion that things in Santa Monica aren't so bad. At the end of the day, the city contains more than its share of wealth, culture and natural beauty.

So this week's q-line question asks:

What about Santa Monica are you thankful for?

Why do you choose to live here? Explain.

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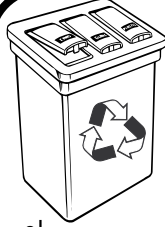
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Tribe holds beach access as leverage for land grab

BY RACHEL LA CORTE

Associated Press Writer

LA PUSH, Wash. — The small Quileute Indian reservation sits on a shoreline of storm-tossed driftwood and pebble beaches, with dramatic views of rock formations rising out of the Pacific Ocean.

But the same ocean that crashes daily on these beaches could roll ashore and sweep away the tribe's lower village in a tsunami. That fear is stoking the fire under a long-simmering boundary battle between the Quileute Tribe and the National Park Service. The tribe has closed public access to one beach, and threatens to close another if they don't get additional land on higher ground.

The tribe has offered a land swap — it will hand over eight acres of disputed land at Rialto Beach and reopen access to Second Beach if the park cedes — or buys for the tribe — enough land to more than double the size of the reservation.

"We don't have anything against the public," said James Jaime, the tribe's executive director. "It was the only way to get the federal government's attention."

The reservation is bounded on one side by the ocean and three sides by Olympic National Park. The tribe wants to move its school, senior center, tribal offices and some housing to higher ground as well as expand its reservation to build more housing developments.

Of the more than 700 members of the tribe, 350 live on the reservation — 250 in the flood zone.

"Our primary concern is the health, safety and welfare of not only the tribal members, but the entire community," said Jaime, noting that during the summer, thousands of tourists flock to the area.

Tribal leaders originally sought 1,200 acres, but are now asking for about 800 acres to add to their one square mile reservation — 309 acres of park lands, and another 480 acres of private land that it wants the National Park Service to purchase for them.

The Quileute reservation was established in 1889 at the mouth of the Quillayute River; Olympic National Park has bordered the reservation since 1953. The tribe and the park have been debating the boundary at Rialto Beach for decades. The tribe argues that it owns most of Rialto Beach, but the park has built a parking lot and a restroom at the edge of the beach and both sides are disputing eight acres of land there.

The dispute came to a head last year after a tribal member was cited for collecting firewood near the disputed boundary. While charges were ultimately dropped, Jaime said that the tribe needed to take action.

To get the government's attention, the tribe closed off access to one of the most beautiful sections of Washington state's Pacific shore, Second Beach, in October 2005. The beach is public, but the parking lot and access to the trail to the beach is on tribal ground.

"This was the one that actually brought them to the table so we could start some serious negotiations," Jaime said.

Judge rejects a proposal to expand helicopter skiing

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — A federal judge has denied a Jackson helicopter skiing company's request to expand its operations in the Palisades Wilderness Study Area.

Idaho U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ruled Tuesday that allowing increased helicopter skiing in the area would hurt the wilderness characteristics of the land.

The judge's ruling comes in response to a lawsuit filed in January by a coalition of conservation groups. The groups had challenged a decision by the U.S. Forest Service to allow High Mountain Heli-Skiing of Jackson to fly one helicopter tour per day to drop skiers off in the wilderness study area.

The area spans the Wyoming-Idaho state line south of Jackson and includes lands in the Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee national forests.

The judge agreed with the coalition that the Forest Service decision failed to comply with federal environmental laws and violated the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. The helicopter company now has the option of entering into negotiations with the conservation groups.

Lloyd Dorsey, spokesman for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, said his group is happy with the judge's ruling.

"We are glad that the judge decided that increased use in the Wilderness Study Area is not acceptable," Dorsey said. "In the near future, we're eager and willing to sit down and hammer out a well-balanced

solution to this issue."

Fred Smith, spokesman for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, also said the decision is a welcome victory.

"We're pleased that the judge agreed with our claim that a huge expansion of motorized activity in a Wilderness Study Area is unacceptable," Smith said. "We are also pleased that the judge agreed with our suggestion to see if the parties could reach a negotiated settlement."

Jon Shick of Jackson, operator of the helicopter skiing company, said he plans to discuss the judge's ruling with his lawyer.

In his ruling, Winmill said motorized use in the area should be maintained at 1984 levels.

"This provision of the Wyoming Wilderness Act is written clearly, without ambiguity," Winmill wrote. "It requires the Forest Service to administer the Palisades WSA to maintain the opportunities for solitude or primitive and confined recreation that existed there in 1984."

Since 1984, Forest Service administrators have permitted a steady increase from the 400 helicopter skiing days that were then allowed in the area. A skier day means that a helicopter skiing company provides skiing for one client for any portion of one day.

Last year's Forest Service decision granted High Mountain Heli-Skiing a permit for 1,200 skier days. According to court documents, that translates to about 86 days of helicopter skiing, or 56 days if two helicopters are used on some days.

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Keepers, nut growers face pollinating crisis

BY SUSAN WOOD

Associated Press Writer

STATELINE, Nev. — Beekeepers and California almond growers are hoping for solutions to ease the sting of a pollinating crisis plaguing the Golden State's almond crop.

Apiarists from across the nation converge on California each February for the almond bloom, with the \$2.3 billion business dependent on pollinating bees.

But a parasitic mite has made the bee population decline from 8 million U.S. colonies in 1960 to 2 million. That drop concerns the California Farm Bureau, which is trying to save the crops these busy bees help harvest.

"We're the No. 1 almond producer in the nation," said Farm Bureau spokesman Dave Kranz. "Those trees depend on bees for pollination."

Pollination and the bee crisis were among topics discussed at the California State Beekeepers Association's 117th annual convention, held this month at the MontBleu Resort & Casino in Stateline.

The bee shortage has been significant enough that honey bees had to be imported from outside North America last year — the first time since 1922 when the Honeybee Act banned such imports for fear they would introduce nonnative pests, the National Academy of Sciences reported.

The problem has prompted the American Beekeeping Federation to establish a research and education foundation to collect

private funds for bee research.

Two thirds of the nation's bees called the European honey variety come from California.

But the shortage has prompted scientists to explore using other wild bee species, such as bumblebees, or to consider substituting butterflies, bats and hummingbirds to fly in to help the almond crop, experts said.

That crop is responsible for three-quarters of the world's supply.

For Bruce Beekman, beekeeping is a family tradition.

Beekman manages 1,500 colonies near Modesto, Calif. His son and nephew also work in the business that Beekman's father got him into after being encouraged by a neighbor in upstate New York.

"I've been doing this all my life," said the 65-year-old beekeeper, who admitted to being stung many times but said he has never run from his bees.

Beekman also worked as an agriculture chemical salesman. Being in the field has enlightened him about the parasite plaguing the industry, and he said it's hard to figure out a solution.

"It's not easy to get an insect off another insect's back," he said.

Other bees are brought in from out of state.

Dean Voss of Michigan has worked as a beekeeper for 33 years after marrying a beekeeper's daughter. He handles an average of 2,000 hives.

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English is spoken here

ENGLISH ONLY, from page 3

they acknowledge it's more symbolism than substance. The ordinance provides exceptions for any communication that the federal government requires to be translated, meaning few, if any, changes.

The county sheriff said he won't enforce the law.

"You've heard of a paper tiger, this is paper kitten. You can't enforce it," said Nye County Sheriff Tony DeMeo. "The flag has been considered a statement of freedom of expression. If someone wants to fly one there's not too much you can do to tell them to take it down."

But it's the subtext that troubles the town's Hispanic community.

Media attention has some here confused and intimidated, said Carmen Ruiz, a local real estate agent. The phrase, "English only," has people wondering if they can speak Spanish on the streets, she said.

"The law doesn't bother me, but it's what people are saying about it. What bothers me is that people who don't speak the language, they feel threatened and afraid," she said.

About 11 percent of Pahrump's 33,241 residents are Hispanic, according to state figures.

The number has been growing steadily, like the town, as retirees and young families cross the desert looking for a better life at a cheaper price. They come from Las Vegas and California. They find inexpensive homes and a quieter lifestyle.

Driven by the housing boom in Pahrump, Nye County was the sixth fastest-

growing county in the nation last year.

There are growing pains, DeMeo said.

Nye County had long clung to its dusty Western roots. Prostitution is still legal in what for years had been a farming and ranching outpost and a refuge for loners who disdained the city. It's not uncommon for some here to carry guns openly.

DeMeo, a New York transplant, said county leaders are seeing a clash of old priorities with demands of new necessities.

"We're at a tipping point in the Pahrump Valley," he said. "The voices that were loudest for a long time, their voices are slowly being silenced by people who are interested in the well-being of the whole community, in schools and safe neighborhoods."

But DeMeo said it's a mistake to portray the new immigration ordinance as the work of a dying fringe group, as some have tried.

Three members of the board that voted for the measure were not elected, but appointed by a Republican governor to replace members who had retired, or in one case, stepped down after being convicted of shoplifting at the local Wal-Mart.

Michael Miraglia, the ordinance's chief backer, was one of those appointed. The 67-year-old retired Illinois state worker, said the idea for the measure had been percolating for years. Television images of Hispanic protesters carrying Mexican flags at May Day rallies caused him to boil.

He said he believes Hispanic immigrants are different from people coming from other countries, they seem to resist assimilating.

"I don't know why, maybe pride, maybe they don't want to give up their culture,

maybe they don't want to become Americans," he said.

When he was appointed to the town board, Miraglia's first move was to search the Internet for models of other anti-illegal immigration ordinances. He proposed a measure prohibiting businesses from accepting foreign identification, offering housing, or loaning or giving money to undocumented immigrants. He submitted his first draft with supporting materials that linked illegal immigrants to sex crimes.

Miraglia said he had no idea the issue would spark controversy, but fellow board member Richard Billman, an opponent, said he had no illusions.

"My first reaction? Well, it's probably not repeatable, certainly not printable," Billman said. "I knew the backup material ... would be something that would polarize the issue."

The measure was watered down after the business community objected. A section barring the city from providing social services to illegal immigrants, a moot point because the county provides nearly all such services, is the only mention of illegal immigration. The measure was dedicated to U.S. servicemen and women who lost their lives in battle.

But the tone lingered, Billman said.

The measure was approved at a contentious Nov. 14 meeting attended by only a few Hispanic residents. Some cried as the measure passed, 3-2.

"It's an approval for people to say vile and degrading things to Hispanics. It's one of those things that cannot be tolerated," said Fernando Romero, a political activist.

Designers put lines in retail stores

DESIGNERS, from page 3

Kokosalaki's monthlong collection for shoe chain Nine West ends Nov. 30.

Last month, in a scene 180 degrees from hordes of crazed shoppers, Horsting and Snoeren attended one such fantasy-fueled party at a Bel-Air mansion to showcase their H&M clothes.

Models strutted past a huge white wedding cake, down a white runway, near buckets of white roses. The designers, known for their tongue-in-cheek humor and decked out in the line's wedding-themed tuxedos, accompanied a model wearing a white flowing wedding dress, retailing for \$349. It's now going on eBay for upward of \$1,000.

"A wedding dress is a symbol of exclusivity, but also ironic. This is a wedding, but it's also a divorce, and that's fine with us," Snoeren said, smiling, of his H&M line being a one-time gig.

Viktor & Rolf fans at the Beverly Hills H&M store opening agreed, citing the collection's limited aspect and heightened value as inspiring them to sleep overnight and/or wait in line for the clothes.

"It's great that we can work for a bigger audience," Horsting told The Associated Press. "At the end, it's good that it's limited. It makes it more fashionable."

AP writer **Jacky Myint** contributed to this report.

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Experts caution consumers to pay credit cards on time

DEBT, from page 1

Shopping debt is common around the holidays for a variety of reasons, but most commonly because living with high debt has become an acceptable social norm, according to representatives at LendingTree LLC.

Parental guilt is also a major culprit, with many families feeling the need to purchase expensive gifts for their children who want to dress to impress, said Nigel Taylor of Taylor & Associates, a financial planning and asset protection firm on Third Street.

“(One reason is) peer pressure, where children just won’t be happy with anything less than A&F (Abercrombie & Fitch) jeans or the latest Nike shoes, fearing they’ll be ostracized forever,” Taylor said on Tuesday.

Other causes behind reckless spending are the desire to impress distant relatives with expensive gifts, and stuffing stockings with “marginally useful items,” Taylor added.

Codie Dicus, 15, of Culver City, believes many consumers face holiday debt because they spend to get more in return from family and friends.

Shopping with her friend, Brooke Cary, 15, of Westchester, at Third Street Promenade on Wednesday, Dicus said in the past she’s had the feeling that she overspent for the holidays, though she’s never been in debt since she charges most of her purchases on her debit card or her parent’s credit card. Dicus said she does not outline a financial plan before the holidays, and makes purchasing decisions based on whether the recipient will enjoy the gift.

But if Dicus sees two equally good gifts, she will most likely choose the less expensive option.

Cary, meanwhile, said she feels obligated to buy gifts for friends to avoid leaving someone out.

“My friends will get mad if I buy a gift for someone and not the other,” she said on Wednesday.

Staying debt-free during the holidays isn’t easy, but it is possible, said Allison Vail, senior public relations manager for LendingTree LLC.

The common sense way to stay out of debt is to budget and not to overspend. The way to prevent overspending is to avoid using a credit card, Vail said.

“Don’t try to keep up with others,” Vail

said. “If you have friends that give nice gifts every Christmas, set up the birthday rule where you only give gifts to one another for your birthday.”

Vail also suggests home-made gifts like cards with family photos and food baskets made from favorite recipes.

Create a financial plan, Taylor suggests, that takes into account income after taxes and deductions, monthly expenses, and Christmas-related expenses such as travel, decorations, postage and party food and drinks.

“If your credit cards are the evil uncontrollable demons, not you, get a plastic dish, fill it with water, drop your credit and debit cards in and place in the freezer,” Taylor instructs. “This gives you 24 hours to think things over since microwaving the dish will ruin the cards.”

Financial planning is the practice of choice for Sara Kang, 26, of La Cañada, who outlines her purchases a month before she heads to the stores.

Kang is never surprised to see her holiday gift expenses when she receives her credit card bill in January. However, she is surprised to see her expenses for holiday dining with friends.

“Me and my friends go to dinner more than exchange gifts,” Kang said on Wednesday afternoon, as she sat outside Santa Monica Place.

The holidays were more difficult to manage financially, said Kang, when she was working in a corporate atmosphere and felt obligated to purchase gifts for all of her colleagues.

If holiday debt is inevitable, Taylor advises against ignoring credit card bills and making late payments because of the high late-fees that credit card companies charge. At the very least, make the minimum payment. Check to see which credit cards have higher interest rates and pay those off first, he said.

It is important to be mindful of credit card interest rates, according to Vail. If a consumer pays \$50 a month for a \$500 bill at 20 percent interest a month, it will take that person 12 months to pay off the bill, she calculated.

“Just in time to do it all over again,” she said.

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Dearth of parking an issue

PARKING, from page 1

The new lot is expected to alleviate a long-standing parking problem at the college, which has leased a city-owned satellite lot on Barnard Way, south of Lincoln Boulevard near the beach, since the summer of 2005.

Approximately 7,000 students purchased the \$75 permit to park at the commuter school for the fall semester. Unlike other schools in the area with parking shortages, such as UCLA, where the coveted permits are granted on a needs basis, SMC sells the rearview mirror ornament to any student who wishes to purchase one.

Students have access to approximately 2,000 parking spaces during the day and about 2,500 spaces at night on the main campus. There are also 1,400 additional parking spaces available at the satellite lots. Though 7,000 students do have permits, not all of them park on campus at the same time.

The new lot is seen as attractive because of its location in an industrial area close to the college.

“The disturbance to neighbors will be minimal,” Tsang said on Wednesday. “It will also shorten the distance a shuttle bus would have to travel.”

Since most students travel from the east end of the city, the location of the new lot would be more convenient than the beach lot located further west of the campus.

Since Verizon uses the lot to store its trucks, there will be very minimal, if any, changes to the layout of the lot. As of now, the lot would be used for surface parking and there are no plans to build a structure, Tsang said.

“We haven’t heard any concerns from residents,” Tsang said.

It’s a different story from when the college first began leasing the beach satellite lot in Ocean Park, causing neighbors in the area to voice concerns about the increase in traffic.

During the busy times of the day, the shuttle stops by the beach lot every 15 minutes.

See PARKING, page 14

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File photo

IN THE BAG: Shoppers do what they do best last year on Black Friday in downtown Santa Monica.

Local retailers pulling out all the stops this weekend

BLACK FRIDAY, from page 1

make or break them.

"This is where a lot of small retailers move from making red ink entries into their books and start using black," said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

About 30 percent of the retail industry's profits come out of the Christmas season, which traditionally run from the end of October to Christmas eve, but with the increased popularity of gift cards — \$30 billion in sales in 2005 — the season has been extended to January, and sometimes February.

Last season, retailers of furniture, apparel, electronics and other merchandise saw sales of more than \$239 billion, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC).

"But this is more than just about retail stores," Kyser said. "Yes, we are selling things, but we're making things too. We have a strong apparel industry here, furniture and other home decorative items. It works at every level for us. In the month of October, the port of Los Angeles handled over 800,000 containers, a record for any U.S. port. To move that much of merchandise means you have a variety of people doing a variety of things."

The average household is expected to spend \$449 on gifts during the holidays, down moderately from last year's estimate of \$466, according to The Conference Board, a research organization specializing in consumer confidence. Slightly more than 31 percent of households will spend \$500 or more, with 36 percent spending \$200 to \$500 and the remaining 33 percent planning to spend less than \$200.

Online purchasing will rise, the board found. About 35 percent of all consumers will buy holiday gifts on the Internet, up from 33 percent a year ago. Books top the list of online gifts, with 40 percent saying they will purchase them over the Internet. Toys and games came in second, followed by apparel and footwear. Music and DVDs will also be popular items.

That may sound promising, but last year's sales were down because of the devastating affects of the "three ugly sisters, (Hurricanes) Rita, Katrina and Wilma," said Ken Goldstein, an economist with the board.

"Last year was nothing to write home about, especially if your paycheck depended on the retail trade," Goldstein said. "Consumer confidence is still high, in the low 90s and not down to the 60s like on the brink of a recession, but there is still some concern that the economy is not getting any better. The fear is we've slowed and we're not going to see any improvement for a while so people are going to be frugal."

"You are definitely going to see smarter shoppers this year who may in fact wait until the last minute for the best deals," Goldstein added.

With a low unemployment rate of 4.4 percent and a gradual growth in wages and disposable personal income, sales could be robust, however, Goldstein points to a lackluster job market, a cooling housing market and unstable gas prices as deciding factors.

Others believe consumers will spend this season.

"We're expecting a lot of shoppers (Friday)," said Jennifer Nemanich, an assistant manager of Barnes & Noble Booksellers

See BLACK FRIDAY, page 11

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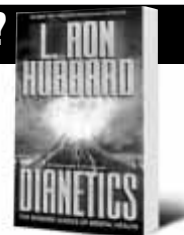
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Stores open early

BLACK FRIDAY, from page 10

on the promenade. “This last week and weekend we’ve seen a huge flow of foot traffic and we are expecting an excellent season. Gift cards are more popular now so we really won’t know the impact until later but people have been buying a lot of box sets, a lot of DVD collections for TV like ‘Seinfeld’ and ‘Family Guy,’ and then there’s the big coffee table books.”

Patrice Duker with the ICSC said while Black Friday will be busy, “if it doesn’t go fantastically, it doesn’t mean the season is over.”

With Thanksgiving coming earlier this year, the traditional shopping season has been expanded to 31 days, considered by industry insiders as a long season, Duker said.

“It’s a long weekend, a great weekend to shop, but in reality it makes up only 9 to 10 percent of total holiday sales,” Duker said. “So far shoppers haven’t cut back on spending throughout the year so there is no sign that will stop now.”

Rob York, a consultant for the Bayside District Corp., the entity which manages downtown with City Hall, believes Santa Monica will perform well overall, with City Hall collecting large sums of sales tax revenue to help fund city services.

Last year, City Hall collected nearly \$32 million in sales tax, making up just over 14 percent of the general fund, which supports police, fire, street cleaning and other services.

“We’ve got some new players in town, a very strong mix of uses,” York said. “I think downtown will do well. It is a different animal than the other shopping districts in town like Montana (Avenue) or Main Street. It really is a regional draw with a strong local following.”

There is some concern about Santa Monica Place. The Frank Gehry-designed mall lost a major anchor in Robinsons-May earlier this year and has several empty stores as it goes through a long, and drawn-out redevelopment process.

“We still feel we have a lot of quality stores here like Forever 21, Bath & Body Works, Macy’s, that we will be able to offer something for everyone,” said Victoria Trimble, a spokesperson for the mall. “We have some pretty fantastic programs going on this year that are really focused on the community.

I’m hoping this will garner interest.”

Many retailers are pulling out all the stops to attract shoppers, offering larger discounts and store credit along with free gifts and extended hours.

“The difference this year (than last) is we have more shopping centers opening early,” Duker of ICSC said. “Especially in the world of outlets, stores are opening up on midnight on Black Friday. Most malls are having early openings, like 5 or 6 a.m. Some folks tried this last year and it obviously proved successful so we are seeing it across the board.”

“This is where a lot of small retailers move from making red ink entries into their books and start using black,”

JACK KYSER
CHIEF ECONOMIST

Along the promenade and in Santa Monica Place several stores are opening an hour early — 9 a.m. — to accommodate an anticipated rush of shoppers. Banana Republic is giving customers a \$25 gift card for every \$150 people spend in the seven days following Thanksgiving. At Santa Monica Place Bath & Body Works is opening the doors at 8 a.m.

At Circuit City on Fourth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, doors will open at 5 a.m., an hour earlier than last year. Flat-screen televisions, video games and other electronics will be on sale.

Despite the deals, Joanna Jeffs said she will probably spend the weekend at home with family.

“Perhaps it’s my English background, but I don’t really put much of an emphasis on buying gifts,” Jeffs said. “We’re still planning on spending about \$40 to \$70 per person on our list and we have about 15 people. It’s a lot of money, but its not spending on a gargantuan scale. Our finances are OK, but you don’t want to over do it.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following request:

SUBJECT: Consideration and Recommendation to the City Council Regarding an Ordinance That Would Exempt 100% Affordable Rental Housing Projects of Not More Than 50 Units from the Development Review Requirement in All Multi-Family Districts. The Proposed Ordinance Would Also Exempt 100% Affordable Rental Housing Projects of Not More Than 50 Units From the Requirement to Obtain a Conditional Use Permit in the CM, C5, And M1 Districts. Amendments to the City’s Zoning Ordinance will be considered including but not limited to: SMMC 9.04.10.14.050 (Exemptions from development review thresholds), 9.04.08.28.040(w)(x) (CM District), Part. 9.04.08.24. Related to Permitted and Conditionally permitted uses (C5 District), Part. 9.04.08.34. Related to Permitted and Conditionally permitted uses (M1 District), 9.04.08.06.060(h) (R2, R3, R4 Districts), 9.04.08.62.060(h) (R2B District), 9.04.08.64.060(i) (R3R District), 9.04.08.48.060(j) (OP-D District), 9.04.08.50.060(l) (OP2 District), 9.04.08.52.060(l) (OP3 District), and 9.04.08.54.060(l) (OP4 District)

APPLICANT: CITY OF SANTA MONICA
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 213
SECOND FLOOR, SANTA MONICA CITY HALL
1685 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City of Santa Monica
City Planning Division
ATTN: Peter D. James, Associate Planner
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401



MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project please contact Peter James at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at peter.james@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City’s web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



Hollywood’s Christmas Parade marks 75 years of strutting

By Daily Press staff

It may not be as big as New York’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, but Hollywood has held its own for 75 years.

In a special celebration of the Hollywood Christmas Parade’s landmark 75th anniversary, broadcasting icon Regis Philbin has been named the Diamond Jubilee Honorary Grand Marshal for this Sunday’s event, the first time such an honorary position has been added to the parade lineup.

George Lopez will serve as Grand Marshal. The heart and soul of the parade festivities, Lopez will join a grand tradition of entertainers such as Jimmy Stewart, Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Hope, Ron Howard and Arnold Schwarzenegger — all of whom have served in the parade’s starring role.

“The parade is a celebration of Hollywood and the community. George Lopez is not only an incredibly gifted entertainer, but is deeply committed to his work with charitable organizations to better the communities of his native Los Angeles,” said Leron Gubler, President and CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. “He was a natural choice for Grand Marshal and we are thrilled to welcome him.”

On Sunday, Nov. 26, the parade route will begin in front of the famous Grauman’s Chinese Theater and continue along a 2.3-mile route that includes Hollywood Boulevard, Vine Street and Sunset Boulevard, ending in front of Hollywood High School. The parade attracts an estimated 500,000 people and features a cavalcade of celebrities from movies, music and television, exotic cars, star-studded floats, marching bands and musical performances.

Topping the performance list this year are teen pop artist Brooke Hogan — daughter of wrestler “Hulk” Hogan — and singer Michael Bolton. Other celebrity appearances include Shawn and Marlon Wayans and the cast of “High School Musical.”

“Hollywood is the hottest spot in Los Angeles, its thriving nightlife drawing young talent and celebrities,” said Gubler. “The parade, an integral part of the fabric of the community, is enjoying this renewed enthusiasm ... of the legendary Hollywood Christmas Parade.

“Young Hollywood is rekindling the excitement and glamour of the town in its heyday.”

Grandstand tickets for the Hollywood Christmas Parade may be purchased over the phone by calling 1 (866) 727-2331. For more information, visit www.hollywoodchristmasparade.org.

Ford’s photography opens new art gallery

By Daily Press staff

Former actor Terence Ford, who was in “every soap opera ever shot in LA,” and then became a Hollywood refugee in the Napa Valley “because acting is not something grownups should do,” will exhibit his newest photographs — “1/8 of a sec. Slow Speed in the Fast Lane” — at the opening of the Deborah Page Gallery in Santa Monica.

Ford, an acclaimed commercial and fine art photographer who has carried a camera since studying at the London Film School in 1969, has shot everything from annual reports to Playboy layouts. He was assistant director on “Blade Runner” and worked for more than a decade as an actor, often playing a divorce attorney, to his dismay.

Deborah Page Schneider is an art consultant and curator of the artwork for CordeValle Resort, the Calistoga Ranch and many private collections, including those of Rene di Rosa and Danielle Steel. She created the acclaimed sculpture garden at the Auberge du Soleil Resort in Napa Valley with partner Susan Brandt, and she likes to discover and promote emerging artists.

The Deborah Page Gallery is located at 1028 Montana Avenue.



SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE

MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

Shopping with an artful eye

BY HAMP SIMMONS

Special to the Daily Press

I hope everyone had a terrific Turkey or Tofu Day! As we all know, the three days after Thanksgiving are the busiest shopping days of the entire year. You probably don't want to, but inevitably, someone is going to drag you shopping with them this weekend. But don't despair! If you can manage to keep them in Santa Monica, there are quite a few quiet respites available to calm your nerves and help you refrain from strangling that person at the cash register who has just had two credit cards declined and is searching for a third while loudly discussing intimate family secrets with their Aunt Agnes on a cell phone.

Oh, and by the way, why would you be shopping anywhere but Santa Monica?

GRACIE — Shop Artistically at Bergamot
GRACIE: Shop/Storage/Installation
Bergamot Station, G1
2525 Michigan Avenue
(310) 586-6488

The best way to deal with holiday shopping stress is to do all your shopping this year at the Santa Monica Museum of Art's GRACIE. This terrific museum boutique is the perfect place to find vintage style T-shirts and sweaters designed by artist Raymond Pettibon, one-of-a-kind gold and silver necklaces, bracelets, and other jewelry, hard-to-find art books and catalogs, artist-designed chocolates, and much more. GRACIE is Santa Monica Museum of Art's multifunctional exhibition, bookshop, storage, and reception area conceived by Rome Prize-winning artist and architect Allan Wexler. I found this terrific flocked-red skull piggy-bank for my grandson there that will convince him that Santa Claus is as crazy as his grandfather.

And best of all, if you go there this weekend, once you're done shopping, you can visit the amazing exhibitions of work by Miriam Wosk, Mark Dutcher in the Project Rooms and the Philip Guston and Giorgio de Chirico exhibit in the Main Gallery. The last day the exhibits will be up is on the 25th, so be sure and swing by.

Art Along the Promenade
Arthouse Gallery
416 Broadway
(310) 393-0901

One of Santa Monica's newest galleries, The Arthouse, mixes art, culture and commerce to create a unique space that manages to be a gallery, a film/video venue and a high-end electronics store all in one. This weekend, there's a group show featuring 10 artists including Gary Frederick Brown, Dafne Gilboa and Mary McGill. It's just far enough from the promenade to be off the beaten path, but definitely close enough for an easy stroll.

PUPPETOLIO!
Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
1255 Second St.
(310) 656-0483
All Seats: \$7.50

If you're towing a youngster around with you while shopping the promenade, give him or her a break at Puppetolio. Suggested for children ages 3 and up, this is a great place to give the kids a chance to laugh and shout at the antics of Fred, the ventriloquist dummy and his friends.

Ten Women on Main Street
Ten Women Gallery
2651 Main Street
(310) 314-9152

The original Ten Women Gallery was formed following the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. With their studios in disarray, a group of 10 women embarked on an endeavor that would provide both an outlet for their art and help them develop their skills as businesswomen. The gallery offers jewelry, painting, photography, and ceramics, but despite the name, it now shows the work of 11 artists. And it's full of really cool stuff that you'll never find at a mall.

Check Into The Victorian Hotel
The Powerhouse Theatre Company
3116 Second Street
(310) 396-3680
Pay what you can, Nov. 25, 2 p.m.
General admission \$25

And if you're out and about on Saturday, there's a Pay-What-You-Can matinee showing at the Powerhouse of The Victorian Hotel, an over-the-top comedy thriller not suitable for children, but perfect for adults looking for creepy, naughty, campy fun — a welcome break from filling shopping bags! It'll also be playing at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

In conducting research for Creative Capital, our new cultural plan, we learned that Santa Monicans are huge arts consumers. Did you know that 82 percent of our population attends concerts, 83 percent visit art galleries, 61 percent go to museums, 69 percent attend theatre and another 69 percent participate in festivals? These are numbers far greater than those of the average American citizen — we're a pretty smart and sophisticated bunch of people! So, if anyone needs something to be thankful for this year, I think we can all be thankful we live in such a terrific community!

Hamp Simmons is the cultural affairs coordinator for the City of Santa Monica. Send comments or suggestions for the Palette to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net.



If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Property across from Santa Monica Pier available for short-term lease for cultural/entertainment events

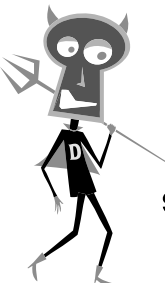
City of Santa Monica seeks proposals to lease portion of the Civic Center site (4-acre parcel bounded by Ocean Ave. to west, Main Street to east, Olympic Drive to south and 10 Fwy. to east) for purpose of providing cultural and/or entertainment activities (performances, exhibitions, etc.). The maximum lease term is July 16-November 15, 2007. Rental offer for site is a minimum of \$500,000 plus a proposed method for City participation in realized revenue generated by event.

Proposals due: December 8, 2006.
To request an RFP or for more information, please email: trinie.garcia-valdez@smgov.net



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Parking addressed

PARKING, from page 9

The shuttle operates for free for students on Monday through Thursday, from 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. The shuttle does not operate on Fridays, when the college only offers a few classes.

Parking has been an issue at SMC since 1988, when the city first implemented a residential street permit parking system in areas around the college, said SMC Public Information Officer Bruce Smith. SMC began offering a shuttle parking system at Santa Monica Airport until 1993, when a new structure opened at 16th Street and Pico Boulevard.

The parking situation seemed solved until the 1994 Northridge earthquake, when one of the parking structures on campus was destroyed.

"We went back to the airport shuttle lot system (after the earthquake)," Smith said.

When the city began plans to build a soccer field at the airport site, SMC began leasing the city-owned lot near the

beach at Barnard Way for \$6,400 a month.

Students who park at the 400-space parking lot reach the campus two miles away via shuttle, which costs the college approximately \$300,000 a year to operate. Though there are up to 400 spaces available, only about 250 students park in the lot at any one time.

The operating cost of the shuttle is not expected to change once the satellite beach lot closes and the new lot on Exposition Boulevard opens.

The college will examine ways to lessen the impact the new parking lot would have on the neighborhood and identify routes to avoid residential areas, said SMC Board of Trustees Chairwoman Nancy Greenstein.

"We're trying to arrange parking for the students in the least impactful way possible for the community," Greenstein said. "This hopefully is part of a long-term strategy."

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"This is great news," said Joel Brand, vice president of the Ocean Park Association, upon learning the news on Wednesday that SMC students will soon be driving their cars to Exposition Boulevard, not Barnard Way.

When the school first approached the city about leasing the beach lot, the neighbors were assured it would be temporary, for one semester. The lease was extended for an additional semester and the neighbors were once again told the students would be gone within months, Brand said.

That lease was then extended again.

In the meantime, the neighbors saw an increase in traffic to an area already crowded area.

"The college has taken a number of steps to help address those concerns, but it took a long time for the college to get to that point," Brand said.

The neighbors started seeing changes and improvements once Tsang became president of the college in February.

"Moving away from the beach and closer to campus makes a lot of sense, both in terms of the impact on the Ocean Park neighborhood, the point of view of the students at the college and the environment" Brand said. "It didn't make sense to have 1,000 students drive all the way through Santa Monica to be bused back to the college."

MELODYH@SMDP.COM

Santa Monica Daily Press

Restaurant Listing

SM's only local listing for fun eats


KAIDO
 Japanese cuisine

2834 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310)828-7582

The closest it comes to dining in Japan! This new restaurant features authentic Japanese dishes, a Tokyo trained sushi chef, and Asian fusion cuisine. The soft shell crab with ponzu sauce and broiled butter fish are must have appetizers. Enjoy the newly remodeled atmosphere and savory creations prepared by a true Japanese chef.

HOURS Lunch MON-FRI Dinner MON-SAT


Big Dean's Cafe
 AT SANTA MONICA BEACH

1615 Ocean Front
(310)393-2666

Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome.

HOURS MON-SUN 11am-Close



2020 Wilshire Blvd.
(310)829-1933

Club TwentyTwenty offers authentic mexican cuisine. Located conveniently on 2020 Wilshire Blvd. Doors open @ 8pm Thurs-Sat. Come enjoy dinner and drinks before dancing the night away. For more information or reservations, call or email us at info@clubtwentytwenty.com

HOURS THU-SUN 8pm-Close


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HOURS MON-SUN 11:30am-10pm



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HOURS MON-SAT 5:30am-8pm SUN 7:00am-8pm

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(310) 396-5353

This Mediterranean wine bistro has a shabby-chic vibe, offering exquisite tapas dishes and an extensive wine selection from varied regions of the world. **Happy hour** happens Sunday through Thursday from 5:30pm through 7pm.

HOURS MON-FRI 12pm-2:30pm DINNER 5:30pm


AT THE VICTORIAN

2640 Main Street in SM
(310) 314-3250

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HOURS MON-SAT 7AM-2PM SUNDAYS AT FARMER'S MARKET 8AM-2PM


violet
 casual fare

3221 Pico Blvd.
(310)453-9113

At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers.

HOURS LUNCH: TUE-FRI 11:30AM-2PM DINNER: TUE-FRI 6PM-10PM & SAT & SUN 5:30PM-10PM


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HOURS SUN-SAT 11am - Midnight



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FOOTBALL

Nolan's Niners finally can back his bluster

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike Nolan stays on message with a consistency that has even surpassed the Bush administration at this point. Come to think of it, the San Francisco 49ers' coach's public discourse sometimes sounds an awful lot like a presidential briefing. Whether reeling from a blowout loss or basking in a stunning win, Nolan always stands behind the official seal on his podium and says pretty much the exact same thing — all while wearing one of his many sharp suits, of course. His team will stay the course, he vows. He has unwavering faith in his oft-criticized assistants, and he has a strong mandate from the only fans who really matter: John York and Denise DeBartolo-York, the club's embattled owners. Nolan's 49ers, he promises, will set lofty goals, pay attention to details and meet any challenge.

During his first 1 1/2 seasons in charge, it was sometimes hard to take Nolan seriously when he parroted the same lines with no tangible evidence his plan had any hope of working. Oh, and he has also said some things with more bravado than brains behind them: Shortly after he took over a club that lost 14 games in 2004, he claimed the Niners should immediately challenge for the division title. Instead, his first team went 4-12 and finished last in total offense and defense. When San Francisco lost games by 41, 31 and 29 points in a brutal stretch earlier this season, the coach's steadfast faith in his plan started to seem a bit complacent and stubborn.

But it's a wonder what a few victories will do for a leader's credibility. With a three-game winning streak that has taken even some of his players by surprise, Nolan's 49ers are 5-5 and one game out of first place in the NFC West behind the Seattle Seahawks, who were beaten 20-14 at Candlestick Park last Sunday.

Though much of the sellout crowd Sunday turned out for Jerry Rice's official retirement ceremony, the 49ers gave a performance that was even more entertaining than the strange spectacle of their great receiver insisting on running off the dais to catch one last pass from Steve Young during halftime. Frank Gore rushed for a franchise-record 212 yards, largely behind Larry Allen and Jonas Jennings — two of Nolan's infrequent-but-judicious free-agent signings. The defense made three stops in the final 4 1/2 minutes, enthralling the crowd with each big hit and turnover.

The 49ers appeared to be ready for bigger things. The San Francisco fans with still-strong memories of the glory days can't wait to paint the erstwhile NFC doormats as a playoff contender.

And given Nolan's zeal for a consistent message of high expectations, it was surprising to hear a note of caution creep into his voice on Monday. "I really don't talk about (the playoffs) right now, because I don't think we've proven ourselves to be there," Nolan said. "It does not help our football team or help me to be jumping ahead. It will take care of itself. Right now, I'm all for the dreaming, but we've got teams to play that are in our way. We've got things to accomplish to make that happen." But here's the great thing about this lightning run of success: Even if the 49ers finish their season with six straight losses — a thought that still seems more likely than a playoff game in January — Nolan has proven he's on the right track. San Francisco has the league's attention for the first time in roughly four years, with Gore's run at the rushing title and Alex Smith's burgeoning maturity attracting the greatest interest.

Just three weeks after the 49ers' defense gave up 41 points in the first half of a loss in Chicago that dropped the club to 2-5, the concept of a playoff run in San Francisco is no longer far-fetched — it's real, starting with Sunday's road showdown with the Rams, their longtime rivals. That's no small achievement for a career assistant coach who was given total control of an NFL franchise — from personnel decisions and front-office hirings to acting as the club's public face while still running the defense — by a desperate owner clumsily attempting to replicate the successful power structures in New England and Philadelphia.

So while York catches the brunt of fan furor over the team's struggles, meager payroll and embarrassing ineptitude in the latest chapter of its bid for a badly needed new stadium, Nolan has become the face of hope for a city that hasn't had much ever since York took over.

Fans loudly booed the Yorks and their son, Jed, during Rice's retirement ceremony. Nolan, wearing his suit and tie during a game for the first time, got nothing but cheers when the 49ers finished off the win. Though Nolan's consistent message is now buffeted by caution, it's still a message worth hearing. The season's final six weeks could cement that progress or create more obstacles for next year — but at least for now, San Francisco is going crazy for its sharp-dressed man. "It's like being in the middle of the storm and not having radar," Nolan said. "You don't know which way it's going, or if it's going to pass. You're just kind of riding it out, and then you look back, and you'll know where you're at."



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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 64°

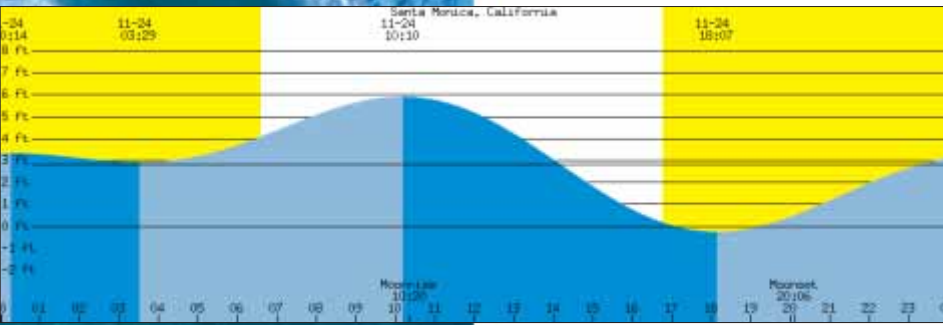
SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

Friday the 24th should still see some action from this NW swell, but we're only expecting the left over, lagging periods to leave chest to shoulder high surf.

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Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 14, 2006**

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QUICK STATS

for the last 30 days

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33/35
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12/35

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sagitt Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lockess and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tenesca Canyon drain	A+	ns
Escorial Canyon at El Mendocino State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqui)	F	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain	A	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at San Blas County Beach	A	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Powers State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Powers Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Surfside Beach (former location) - daily	B	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topwell St.	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns	Marino del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19848 PCH stairs	D	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A	ns
Pose Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of B&W jetty)	D	ns
Tuna Canyon	ns	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Yapanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile west of Sunset 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.

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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 these areas surveyed. Our inspectors are happy.

Where the crowds are, Pisces

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★★ Positive
★★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Take charge and move forward. You have an unusually good year coming forth, as a major planetary change points to much more luck and opportunity. Consider travel, workshops and other preferred means of mind-opening experiences. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A partnership stands to enrich your next year. An associate's easier financial situation could benefit both of you. Think positively, and you will open up to change. Investigate a different approach right now. Tonight: Movie night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others appear to be far more in touch with your feelings. Finally, communication flourishes. In the next year, relationships warm up. If you are single, your status could change. Start noticing the transformation today. Tonight: Say yes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Let others do what they want, as you will not be able to influence them. Lighten up and understand what is going on. Emphasize routine and what you can accomplish. Say "no" more often to a sweet tooth. Tonight: Sort through suggestions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to change courses or do something very differently. Evaluate with an eye to possibilities and breaking past restrictive thinking. You might be surprised by what comes up for you. Allow your imagination to spin out. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Sometimes you don't realize what an edge you'd have if you'd allow resourcefulness to bond with your renown precision. You might be stunned by how well events and the quality of your life could be. Tonight: Fun and games.

Born Today

Composer, pianist Teddy Wilson (1912)

Actress Katharine Heigl (1978)

Singer Lee Michaels (1945)



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

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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You have the ability to make an imprint. Your style and way of handling a problem could dramatically change in the next few months. Better communication needs some tuning up. The opportunities will present themselves. Tonight: Happy at home. Call a pal to catch up on his or her news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Say what you mean and mean what you say. Learn to make choices that really reflect who you are. Start working on this process, knowing that it might take a while to infuse your life with more authenticity. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You are entering a year-long luck cycle that could be instrumental to your life. Curb a tendency to go to excess, as overindulgence seems to happen naturally. Deal with your finances with precision and care. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You feel like you're on top of the world. On some level, you will gain a greater sense of security in the next year. You might already be feeling the difference! You are full of personality and smiles. Tonight: As you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take your time making a decision — it might be slow to come right now. Friendship plays an important role in your decisions. Listen to someone you care about. Take your time, and if you need some space, make that OK. Tonight: Vanish with a special friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could easily be overwhelmed by your choices. Know that what you decide will encourage others to do the same. Be clear that what you do might make you happy, but it might not be the same for someone else. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

Happy Birthday

Lady Luck greets you this birthday year. You are starting a new luck cycle. Test out your ideas more frequently this year. Encourage friends to play devil's advocate. Enjoy a strong sense of direction. Learn not to spend without being conscious. Know what you want and be willing to make the necessary investment and adjustment. How you view others might be subject to revision, as you will change a great deal. Be willing to do needed internal reflection.

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In spin cycle

Entertainer Blaine scoping out a way to help children

DAVID BLAINE'S latest stunt is as much about charity as publicity. The 33-year-old magician stepped inside a gyroscope Tuesday in Times Square. His hands and feet will be shackled to the spinning scope Thursday afternoon. He will then have until Friday morning — a total of 16 hours — to make his escape.

If he's successful, Blaine will lead 100 children selected by The Salvation Army on a shopping expedition at Target. Each child will receive a \$500 gift certificate from the retailer.

Blaine said the stunt was particularly important since The Salvation Army had provided him with clothing while he was

growing up.

"This challenge is close to my heart," he said.

Several hundred people turned out for the start of the stunt, which was set up just a few blocks from the site where he once spent more than 60 hours inside a block of ice.

"This is more difficult than

anything I've ever done," Blaine said before he was loaded into the gyroscope, which was then hoisted 40 feet into the air. "I've not tested it much. I will be learning how to do this as I'm doing it."

The gyroscope, with three spinning steel rings, is said to be able to flip Blaine in assorted

directions as often as eight times per minute.

In May, Blaine spent some 177 hours underwater in one of his endurance stunts. Previously, he spent 35 hours balanced atop a 100-foot pole and was buried alive in a see-through coffin for a week.

Associated Press

Snipes says he's 'scapegoat'

WESLEY SNIPES has told a newspaper columnist he is being unfairly targeted by federal prosecutors who indicted him on tax fraud charges.

"It appears I'm to be the scapegoat, because there's more public interest in 'celebrities gone bad' than 'rich people being taken advantage of,'" Snipes wrote last weekend in an e-mail to Orlando Sentinel columnist Scott Maxwell.

An Oct. 17 indictment charges Snipes with fraudulently claiming refunds totaling nearly \$12 million in 1996 and 1997 on income taxes already paid. The star of the "Blade" trilogy and other films was also charged with failure to file returns from 1999 through 2004.

According to the indictment, Snipes had his taxes prepared by accountants with a history of filing false returns to reap pay-

ments for their clients. The firm, American Rights Litigators, would receive 20 percent of refunds from clients, according to the indictment.

If convicted, Snipes, 44, faces up to 16 years in prison.

"I will abide by the law, seek the protections the law affords me and, as always, seek the advice of competent council in effort to resolve this issue," Snipes wrote to the columnist.

"I'm not running, I'm not a fugitive, despite the misrepresentations in the press."

Snipes is said to be in Namibia filming a movie.

"There is no deal that has been worked out," U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Steve Cole said Monday. "The only thing we have discussed is coming back to face the charges."

AP

Crooner strikes platinum

GEORGE STRAIT has another hit album on his hands.

The singer, whose latest album "It Just Comes Natural" is a top seller on the country album charts, has scored another success with his Christmas album, which is being sold only in Hallmark Gold Crown stores.

The greeting card company announced Tuesday that his holiday CD, "Fresh Cut Christmas," was certified platinum (sold over one million copies) after just one week on its shelves. Its the latest made-for-Hallmark CD suc-

cess for the company, better known for its cards than for selling music.

"We are thrilled to play a small part in the enormous success of this artist, and we are honored to be able to add another platinum album to his collection," Ann Herrick, a vice president at Hallmark, said in a statement.

Among the other singers who have recorded special CDs for Hallmark in recent years are Michael McDonald, Martina McBride and James Taylor.

AP

THE NAKED TRUTH

There is no KEVIN FEDERLINE-Britney Spears sex tape, Federline's lawyer said.

Attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan issued the statement Tuesday in response to "reports rampant in the press and media regarding rumors of alleged attempts by Kevin Federline" to sell a purported sex video.

"While this is endemic of countless false and inaccurate stories that have made their way into the media regarding Kevin, his marriage to Britney, and the divorce proceedings which they are presently going through, I want to put this issue to rest once and for all," Kaplan said.

"There is not a sex video of Kevin and Britney in existence. It goes without saying that the stories of Kevin attempting to sell such a video are patently false and anyone who reports that they have information of such attempts is either lying or reporting the lie of someone else," he said.

The couple married in 2004, and Spears, 24, filed for divorce this month. Federline, 28, has counter-filed, seeking custody of their two children.

AP

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Friday Baraka
7:30

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Babel (R)
3:45, 4:30, 7:00, 7:45, 10:15
For Your Consideration (PG-13)
2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30
The Return (PG-13)
10:00

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

The Departed (R)
12:15, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20
Flushed Away (PG)
12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
A Good Year (PG-13)
2:05, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45
Let's Go to Prison (R)
1:25, 3:30, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25
Marie Antoinette (PG-13)
1:35, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G)
1:45, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13)
2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

The Last King of Scotland (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
The Prestige (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX

1332 2nd Street
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Copying Beethoven (PG-13)
4:00, 9:50
Fast Food Nation (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus (R)
1:00, 7:00
Little Children (R)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
The Queen (PG-13)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE

1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R)
11:50am, 12:20, 2:20, 4:50, 5:20, 7:20, 9:40, 10:20
Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:30, 1:20, 3:50, 4:40, 7:10, 8:00, 10:30
Happy Feet (PG)
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
Happy Feet (PG)
1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
Running With Scissors (R)
2:30, 7:30

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

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

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1/05

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Opening Lines, Pinky Probes and L-Bombs: The Girls & Sports Dating Playbook is available at: www.girlsandsports.com/book. Mention this newspaper for a free gift!

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

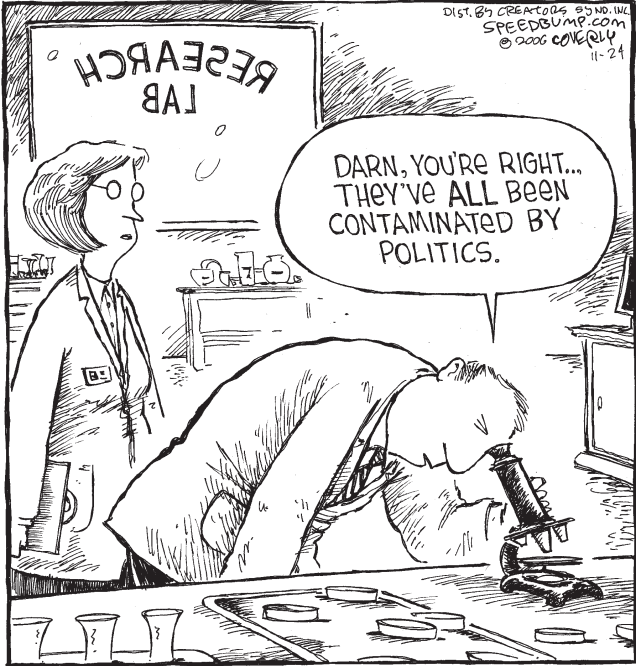
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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 - 6 Fireplace stuff
 - 11 Mistreat style
 - 12 Victor
 - 13 Minimum amount
 - 14 Therefore
 - 15 Hockey's Bobby
 - 16 Draw
 - 18 Scottish river
 - 19 Auction action
 - 20 British co. abbr.
 - 21 Brief time
 - 22 "Blade" star
 - 24 Have a snack
 - 25 NASA, for one
 - 27 Massive amounts
 - 29 Indiana team
 - 32 Bank offering
 - 33 O'Hare sight
 - 34 Comfy home
 - 35 Pie dish
 - 36 Burma's first prime minister
 - 37 Swelled head
 - 38 Boston airport

- 40 Dance party attendee
- 42 Choose
- 43 Dress style
- 44 River part
- 45 Melodies

DOWN

- 1 Hawk's graspers
- 2 Fairy king
- 3 Film's Clarence, e.g.
- 4 Burro
- 5 Home-steader
- 6 Needed aspirin
- 7 Haggard novel
- 8 Charmer
- 9 Game hosts
- 10 Oration
- 17 Reply to a knocker
- 23 Machines with RAM
- 24 MOMA setting
- 26 Free of additives
- 27 Like lords
- 28 Colorful bird
- 30 King's stand-in
- 31 Saws wood
- 33 Coup group
- 39 Deed
- 41 Ring legend

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Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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11-24



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FOR ONLY
\$45

Run it until it sells!*



1964 Pontiac Catalina
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\$3,000 (310) 458-7737

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- Large format photograph.
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*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to annie@smcp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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Just like a new baby can have a tremendous effect on your life, even a few cigarettes a day while pregnant can have an effect on your baby. Smoking while pregnant reduces the amount of oxygen your baby receives. And it can increase the risk of premature delivery, low birthweight, childhood asthma, SIDS and other problems. Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you can do for your baby's health. We can help you learn to quit for good. Call 1-866-66-START or visit www.greatstartbabies.org.

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Real Estate

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*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements. See complete conditions below.

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out **www.smdp.com** for more info.

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\$22,000 - LOVE PREGNANCY? Become a Surrogate! Make dreams come true. Carry someone else's baby who can't without help. Professional agency to support your journey. www.SurrogateWeb.com 1-800-877-4438. (Cal-SCAN)

Employment

ADVERTISING SALES.
Seeking an Advertising Account Associate with experience working with ad agencies and media buyers. Great opportunity. Must be a self starter and motivated to make \$\$.

CAREGIVERS, WE want you to join our winning team at Good Company. Live-in/Live-out, Full/Part-time. Competitive compensation. Two years minimum experience, verifiable references and valid SS#. Call today for your appointment: (323)932-8700.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings, day and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/ full time- up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telecommunications company specializing in enhanced phone services, hosted PBX and VoIP (Broadband phone service). Located near Pico and Sepulveda. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

DRIVER, MUST have clean DMV, mostly airport transfers. Call Ace Limo for appt. (310)452-7083

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER/COOK wanted. Live-out. Santa Monica. Good references and driver's license required. (310)453-4692

JAPANESE RESTAURANT server wanted. Dinner. P/T Kaido. Santa Monica. Call (310)980-0462 or (310)800-3248

BELLRINGERS WANTED. Salvation Army. Apply in person at 1533 4th Street Santa Monica (310) 451-1358 x118.

RECEPTIONIST -- 10-15 hours per week: This person has all the skills and charm necessary to relieve our "director of first impressions" for 2-3 hours per day at our 9th and Wilshire offices. This person would be our receptionist from 4-6pm. If you live close by and your schedule allows, we can add another hour for lunch. Send resume to: info@thephelpsgroup.com. No phone calls please.

SUPERVISOR, TEAM leader WLA professional home cleaning company has openings for bilingual supervisor with strong leadership and communication skills. Working with maids in a team environment cleaning homes. Call for interview. (310)280-0300 Valid DL required.

MUSIC DIRECTOR, Associate for post-production of recorded music projects. 4 yrs exp. Fax resume to Tall Pony Productions, Inc. c/o Gursej, Schneider & Co. LLP (310) 552-1836 or Email to HR@gursej.com

Employment

JOB TITLE: Journeyman Electrician
Work Schedule: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Rate of pay: \$18.91 per hour
Job description: Must be able to wire, test, repair, install, program and maintain new computerized electrical systems as follows: Homework by Lutron, Systems Vantage, "Graphic Eye" by Lutron, Lightolear, Touchplate, Radiora; transformer/motor controls/3 phase all types in new residential/commercial buildings, according to plan designs, lay-out, and instructions; must be able to work in attics, crawl spaces, and under buildings; measure, cut, thread, assemble and install all lines of conduit; familiar with NEC local codes, DWP reqs., So. Cal. Edison reqs., and local building regulations.
Education, Training, and Experience: High school graduate, California state journeyman certified, and no less than 5 years experience
Special Requirements: Must be bi-lingual in English and Spanish, must own tools and vehicle and be willing to travel 0-200 mile trips. Mileage compensated at .25¢ per mile; must be available to work weekends and holidays and 24 hour on-call.
Job Location: 1936 14th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404
NOTE: Job applicants should be instructed to reference the AJB Job Order Number and the ETA Case Number in their replies. Must include AJB Number and ETA Case Number for applicants to send resumes by fax or mail to: Attention: 35469899 ETA Case # 05119-84359 TR2-LW 700 North Pearl St., Suite 510 Dallas, TX 75201 FAX: 214-237-9116

AJB Job Order Number: 35469899
ETA Case Number: D-05119-84359

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LOUD FUNNY voice wanted. P/T Santa Monica. (310)998-8305 xt 86

PART-TIME POSITION (some personal assistant work) offered very nice person who wants to sell real estate, small salary + generous commission. Fax or call (310)820-6059

RN/CNA CAREGIVER Wanted, same day available. Good pay. For hospital and private patients. Loving Care Services, Inc. (323)799-1438

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TALENTFUNDING.COM SALES Rep. \$100/per sign up. (310)998-8305 xt 81

Help Wanted

21 CDL DRIVERS. 36-43 cpm + Sign On Bonus. CDL-A +3 months OTR. Local Orientation. 1-800-635-8669. (Cal-SCAN)

Help Wanted

A NATIONAL Sport and Fashion firm has immediate openings for sharp energetic people. Make great money and see the USA. Must be 18. Call 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

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DRIVER - EXPERIENCED & Trainees Needed. Earn up to \$40k+ next year. No experience required. \$0 down. CDL Training Available. Central Refrigerated 1-800-521-9277 x4779. (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER - GORDON TRUCKING - Get Paid for Your Experience- Up to 10 Years! Sign-On Bonus! Start up to \$.41 per mile! No-Down Payment Lease Purchase Program. 1-888-832-6484. www.GordonTrucking.com (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER- YOUR CHOICE: Temp Contol, Team Expedited (\$5k sign-on bonus). Dedicated (guaranteed miles), Regional (home weekly), Solos, Teams, CDL-A Grads, L/P, O/O, Covenant Transport 866-684-2519 EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER: DON'T Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! wgreen@crst.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER: TAKE CARE of your Family. Join ours. Consistent miles, regional and dedicated runs. Company paid Commercial Drivers License training. www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com 1-866-476-6828. EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

NATIONAL CARRIERS need Company Drivers for its Regional Operations in Southeast California. Excellent Benefits, Generous HomeTime & Outstanding Pay Package. CDL-A Required. 1 - 8 8 8 - 7 0 7 - 7 7 2 9 www.NationalCarriers.com (Cal-SCAN)

OTR DRIVERS DESERVE more Pay and more hometime! \$.41/mi. -1 year experience. More experience makes more! Home weekends! Run our western region! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. www.HeartlandExpress.com (Cal-SCAN)

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For Sale

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SPA/HOT TUB 2006 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950 (310) 479-3054

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FLAMENCO DANCE Classes in Venice, CA. for Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced levels. Inquiries: 323-333-7067, www.rocioponce.com, vivir_el_momento@yahoo.com.

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NEEDS SPACE with electric hook-up for 22 ft. camper \$300/exchange for P.A. duties/landscaping. (310)404-9145

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HUNT BIG GAME on our ranch Elk, Whitetail, Buffalo, Redstag, Boar. Check our website www.HighAdventureRanch.com Guaranteed Hunting License \$5.00. We have a No Game-No Pay Policy. Our season now -3/31/07. Call office 1-314-209-9800, Evenings: 1-314-293-0610. (Cal-SCAN)

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BRENTWOOD 11906 Goshen Ave, unit 7, \$1175/mo upper 1+1 bright unit, stove, fridge, dishwasher, blinds, fireplace, carpets, balcony, parking no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA/Culver City Adj. \$1725 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths. "Twnhs-Apt." Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 2-Car garage. No pets, 12048 Culver Blvd #202. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

MDR CONDO. Walk to Beach!! 2 bdrm 2.5 ba all redone large family room & living room. Granite counters, stove, microwave, dishwasher, pool, patio. \$3195/mo. (805)218-3451 (805)312-1841

PALMS/BVRLYWD-ADJ.\$725. Bachelor, Stove, refrigerator, utilities paid, NO PETS, 2009 Preuss Rd., #1. Los Angeles, 90034. Open daily for viewing. Additional info in unit.

SANTA MONICA \$1175/mo 1bdm/1bath, new carpets, parking, laundry-on-site, walk-in-closet, cozy kitchen, community courtyard, (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1200/mo 1bedroom/1bath, Cat ok, Carpet/Tile Floors, stove, refrigerator, Blocks to beach (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1300/mo 2bdrms/1bath, Hardwood Floors, carport parking, laundry-on-site, dishwasher, yard, hardwood cabinets (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2290/mo 3bdrms/2baths, Will consider small pet, Hardwood Floors, Parking, laundry, dishwasher, (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$565 SENIOR BUILDING. 4 blocks to beach, 2 BD + 2BA, shared by 2 seniors, 62+. Tel: 323-650-7988, M-F, 9-5

SANTA MONICA \$1195/mo 1bdm/1bath large bright upper, sparkling pool, laundry-on-site, parking, hardwood floors (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

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SANTA MONICA \$1700/mo 2bedrooms/1bath, Hardwood Floors, refrigerator, dishwasher, air conditioner, Close to Wilshire! (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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For Rent

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Date of Filing Application: NOVEMBER 8, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: BOURBON STREET SHRIMP & GRILLE INCORPORATED.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 10928-30 W PICO BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA 90064-2112.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
LA124060 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 11/17, 24, 12/1/2006

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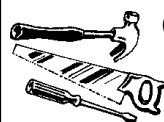
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