



Santa Monica Daily Press

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Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE KEEPING PLUMBERS ON THEIR TOES ISSUE

Gone Fishing

Anglers still flock
to the Santa Monica Pier,
they just don't always
eat the fish.

Story by
Kevin Herrera

Page 14

Photo by Frank Capello ; Illustration by Frances Casareno



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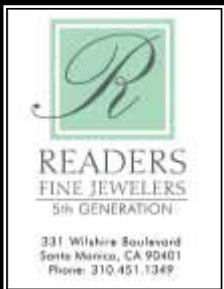
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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, NOVEMBER 24-25, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Happy Holidays



Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.
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**WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE**

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones — as you slice through the ice. Admission is \$10; including skate rental.

‘42nd Street ‘

2627 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

“Come and meet those dancing feet,” when the Youth Education/Entertainment Series at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre performs its 12th annual youth musical — “42nd Street.” This full-length musical, inspired by Busby Berkeley’s 1933 movie, is a show-within-a-show featuring 35 talented local youth, ages 9 to 19, singing and tap-dancing for your enjoyment. \$15 for reserved seats. Reservations are recommended. To purchase tickets or for information, call (310-828-7519), or visit www.morgan-wixson.org.

Santa Monica Downtown walking tour

1436 Second St., 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

In two hours and six blocks, this docent-guided tour explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history. Tours depart every Saturday from Hostelling International. Tickets are \$10 for the general public; \$5 for Conservancy members. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 496-3146 or visit www.smconservancy.org.

Candid Claus

1300 block of Third Street Promenade, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Take a moment out of the Black Weekend massacre to visit with Santa Claus who will sit still for some candid moments with the kiddies.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007

The other Zimmerman

3101 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.

Roy Zimmerman will perform tonight at McCabes Guitar Shop to promote his new CD, “Peacenik,” which satirizes the pain, irony and absurdity of the holiday season. Holiday attire optional. For ticket info, visit www.mccabes.com.

Jiffy Lube loves you

2344 Pico Blvd., 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Jiffy Lube customers who take their car in for service on Guest Appreciation Day will enjoy Baja-style tacos, soft drinks, balloons and music from JACK 93.1 radio.

Winterlit ‘Best Gift Ever’ Challenge for Pal

Drop off an unwrapped gift for a kid, ages 6 — 17, who’s enrolled with the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). Donations will be accepted at the Winterlit Gift Wrap Station on the 1300 block of the Promenade, at Santa Monica Place Guest Services, or at a local Starbucks. For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com.

Griffith Park Light Festival

4730 Crystal Springs Dr., L.A., times vary

Walk or drive through this annual festival, which turns the north side of Griffith Park into a monument of light displays created by Department of Water and Power employees. Local attractions like the Hollywood sign, the L.A. Zoo and Staples Center are celebrated, along with traditional seasonal imagery. For more information, visit www.dwplightfestival.com.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the “Events” tab for the given day’s calendar.



Tree-sitters looking to branch out

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY While Santa Monica officials continue their tussle with the activist group Treesavers over the fate of more than 20 mature ficus trees slated to be relocated from downtown, a legal ruling here may have provided a precedent should a showdown with the environmentalists take place.

University of California officials have won the legal right to oust a band of tree-sitters who've taken up residence in an oak grove standing in the way of a planned sports center.

But how do you uproot a tree-sitter in Berkeley, one of America's most politically correct cities?

"Extremely difficult," acknowledges campus spokesman Dan Mogulof.

As the protest nears its one-year anniversary, plenty of people have suggestions: Fire hoses, skunk spray and tranquilizer darts are among the thorny ideas Internet posters have planted.

So far, the university has moved cautiously.

The university wants to remove dozens of the picturesque trees, called evergreen coast live oaks, to build a \$125 million training facility for its Golden Bears athletic teams.

There have been scuffles between police and tree-sitters; and campus officials have put up chain-link fences around the grove. University lawyers have told a judge they are considering pruning lower branches — to make it harder to ferry supplies up to the protesters.

Both sides say they don't want a treetop confrontation.

"It's not an easy thing to do, to climb up into a tree, first of all," said Doug Buckwald, member of a group that supports tree-sitters but doesn't join them. "If you're climbing up into a tree to try to wrestle with somebody and drag them down, you are taking on a high level of risk."

A judge ruled last month that school officials would be within their rights to oust the protesters. Mogulof declined to comment on what tactics campus police might use but said they are "not currently contemplating a forcible removal." It's unclear exactly how many tree-sitters there are, or whether they are students or outsiders.



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

WHEN BLACK FRIDAY COMES: Hordes of shoppers swarmed Santa Monica stores on 'Black Friday,' so-called because many retailers start to turn a profit during the bustling holiday shopping season. The National Retail Federation projected that up to 132.9 million Americans would shop during this three-day weekend.

The color of money

Shopping frenzy takes hold of SM during 'Black Friday'

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Curing a turkey and pumpkin pie hangover is as easy as swiping a credit card.

The 2007 holiday shopping season officially kicked off on Friday as hordes of shoppers swarmed Santa Monica stores, grabbing hot items offered at atypically discounted prices on an annual occasion commonly referred to as "Black Friday," so-called because it's the time of year when many retailers turn a profit to make up for losses accumulated over the year.

For many shoppers that came out of their tryptophan-induced comas, the day began early as consumer looked to take advantage of "doorbuster sales" — excep-

tionally reduced priced items offered to the first few customers in line.

Though customers had mixed results shopping in Santa Monica on Friday, the majority seemed pleased with their purchases, tapping into their inner bargain-hunting skills.

Esther and Estela Hernandez arrived at the Old Navy store on the Third Street Promenade at 6 a.m., one hour after the popular clothing retailer opened its doors

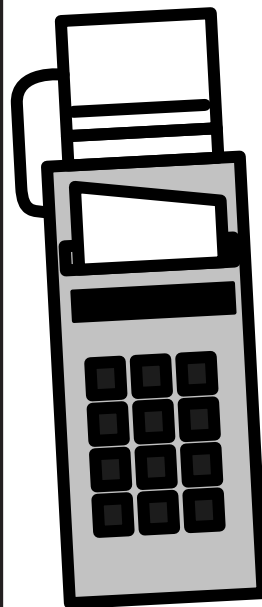
SEE BLACK FRIDAY PAGE 16

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

City's Web site really bytes

Editor:

Contrary to the hype in this article ("Digital feed-back," Nov. 20), the city's Web site is one of the slowest loading on the face of the earth. I have been trying to pay my utility bill online, as mentioned in Kevin (Herrera's) article, for four days, to no avail. Their site (http://santa-monica.org/billpay/utility_bill.htm) tells us that it is down for "maintenance."

In 11 years on the 'net, I have never come across a site that was down this long. City Hall is filled with a bunch of state-of-the-art digital braggarts who have honed their self-promotion skills to the cutting edge! Digital jeers.

Steve Keats

Santa Monica

Fog ushers in scary times at airport

Editor:

(Re: "Dense fog delays flights at SM Airport," Nov. 21)

It is interesting how different the FAA views how the fog affects Santa Monica Airport compared to the view of those residents living close to the airport. The article does not mention that there were, what appeared to be, at least a dozen missed approaches by jets Monday, from 10 a.m. until dark.

Eventually, they stopped trying to land, due to an even thicker marine layer.

Exactly what is a missed approach and how do they affect the impacted community? A missed approach is when an aircraft attempting to land at the airport is off course and cannot visually locate the runway to land. This happens when the marine layer rolls in and forces approaching aircraft to fly lower in their attempt to land. When they finally realize that they are off course and will not be able to safely land, they have to power up their engines and circle around to try again to line up properly to land. The noise impacts from these maneuvers are frightening and severely stressful for those going about their daily routines. The extreme noise from these missed approaches is not recorded by the lonely noise monitor far enough away from the noise source not to register it as noteworthy. Therefore, these noise impacts from missed approaches are not included, with regard to noise measurements, by either the FAA or the city of Santa Monica.

At times, even on their second attempt, aircraft cannot find the airport. As each aircraft circles around again, they fly low over neighborhoods to either the north or south, depending on their circle direction, and they are cause for alarm to many surprised by these unusual occurrences. Residents observe that it is the jets that fly off course, adding still another safety – as well as health and quality-of-life – concern regarding the jet traffic at Santa Monica Airport.

Martin Rubin

Director, Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzoo



U.S. Department of Transportation



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who cares about the environment?

WHAT IF THEY GAVE A PRESIDENTIAL debate and nobody came? This almost happened last Saturday. All of the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates were invited to participate in a forum on global warming, energy independence and the environment. Only three Democrats showed up — Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich. Is the future of our planet just not that important to the other five? And what about the Republicans? Not one Republican showed up. Does this mean that they don't care about the environment? Or were they just too busy?

Maybe it was a mistake to schedule this forum on the same day that there were so many big football games on TV. Could anyone blame Mitt Romney if he decided to watch the Michigan-Ohio State game? And I'm sure Mike Huckabee was interested in the Arkansas-Mississippi State game. Connecticut's trouncing of Syracuse was probably thrilling for Christopher Dodd.

But I doubt that all the candidates were watching football. Maybe Fred Thompson was auditioning for some TV show. Perhaps Barack Obama was holed up somewhere, asking himself, "Why am I so good at long speeches, but not so good at short answers?" Joe Biden may have spent the day looking at his new, improved hair, and Rudy Giuliani might have been practicing saying, "9/11, 9/11," over and over again.

Candidates have to make choices about which functions to attend, which speeches to make, etc. They're all working hard, and they can't go to everything. But this absence was a bit glaring. The Republican Party has been knocked for years as not caring enough about the environment. Consider what great publicity one Republican candidate would have gotten if he had shown up for this forum. He'd appear to be the one Republican candidate who cared about what's happening to our planet.

There are several reasons why some candidates choose not to speak about environmental problems. For one thing, those who are contributing the most to global warming might also be contributing the most to campaigns. Big business and big oil will have to make some changes to help the environment.

Also, for some time, there have been people on the right who haven't accepted global warming as a reality. Now most people — including President Bush — have accepted that reality. But there are still some who haven't. Perhaps the three Republican candidates who said they don't believe in evolution — Brownback, Huckabee and Tancredo — also don't believe in the science that has demonstrated that global warming is real.

(There is no truth to the rumor that these three guys also don't believe in gravity).

One reason that the environment and climate change don't get the "traction" of other issues is that they're a bit elusive. Was the hot spell you had in your town last summer just an ordinary hot spell, or was it related to global warming? Nobody can give us exact answers on why it might be warmer today than it was twenty years ago on this date, or why you had to shovel less snow last winter than in previous years. However, scientists can tell us that the global climate is definitely changing.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY SOME CANDIDATES CHOOSE NOT TO SPEAK ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. FOR ONE THING, THOSE WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING THE MOST TO GLOBAL WARMING MIGHT ALSO BE CONTRIBUTING THE MOST TO CAMPAIGNS.

But I think the big reason for the poor attendance at the forum is that the environment is just not a "sexy" or "hot-button" issue. When the campaign is finally narrowed down to one Democrat and one Republican, they won't be talking much about what we can do to make us less dependent on foreign oil and how we can slow down global warming. As usual, they'll be talking about who should get drivers' licenses and who should be allowed to get married.

It's ironic that this presidential candidate forum was held on the same day that a United Nations panel warned of the growing threat from climate change. Most of the world sees this threat as serious. Isn't it about time that all of our presidential candidates took it seriously, too?

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“I’m happy to have gotten it off my chest and to have expressed it to Caroline.”

— Singer Neil Diamond, announcing that Caroline Kennedy is the source of inspiration for his hit song “Sweet Caroline”

“Ninety-eight percent of the principles [in Scientology] are identical to the principles of the Bible ... I don’t think that because the word someone uses for spirit is ‘thetan’ that the definition becomes any different.”

— Actor Will Smith, defending his decision to study Scientology

“Employing someone so willing to please that they would be subservient to a B-lister for the sake of being able to say they work for a B-lister seems pretty sad.”

— Ken Tarr, film writer for the Santa Monica Daily Press

“Let’s walk!”

— Singer Alicia Keys, inspiring a crowd of striking WGA writers to walk, before walking to her car to leave

“We don’t question where he’s at; we don’t question what he believes. He’s one of us.”

—Matt Reisetter, a young evangelical leader, who’s campaigning for presidential candidate Gov. Mike Huckabee. The former Baptist preacher’s gaining ground in Iowa with evangelicals

“The Landmarks Commission was formed to enforce the guidelines and protect the historic district. If they’re not going to do that, then why do they exist?”

— Candace Veach, a Third Street renter, questioning the commission’s decision to postpone discussion regarding a renovation project on one of the homes in the historic district

“For the first 42.5 years of my life, I would not have been caught dead doing yoga.”

— Former wrestler and current power yoga instructor Diamond Dallas Page, on the radical detour his life has taken

“I’ve become even more popular than I was playing Captain Kirk.”

—Actor William Shatner, venting about not being asked to participate in the upcoming “Star Trek” film

Quotations captured and compiled with care by Cynthia Vazquez.

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The QLine

SPEAKING OF HISTORY, THE DISTRICT FLAP FLOWS

This past week, Q-line asked:

Are angry homeowners overreacting or does something need to be done to preserve the neighborhood's classic style?

Here are your responses:

"THE NEIGHBORS ARE NOT OVERREACTING. Someone needs to speak up to defend what is left of classic, old Santa Monica. The rest of the city's recent buildings, including the cruddy looking library, are an insult and blight on our once charming, lovely little beach community – so very out of character, but big money wins. All you have to do is wave dollar signs in front of the classless blockheads on the City Council and you can buy anything. Look around you."

"I LIVE IN OUR HISTORICAL DISTRICT."

"THE ORIGINAL PLANS FOR OUR HYS-terical (sic) district were that non-contributing parcels were not to be subject to the stringent rules and added buildings were either supposed to be old historical structures that could be moved here or new construction that resembled old buildings. None of these criteria are being implemented. Instead, the two new houses planned for Second Street are just more ugly, modern, giant milk cartons on tiny lots. The Third Street house in question will ruin the character of the old home. At least they could try and make the outside look antique or we should just forget the historical district and go for landmarking individual structures instead."

"AS A DAILY READER OF THE SANTA Monica Daily Press and Q-line responder, I must say that daily stories and Q-line questions have a familiar storyline and question redundancy that are basically regarding out-with-the-old and in-with-the-new and other time-worn subjects. Those who respond to Q-line do so with hateful rhetoric, usually referring to the City Council as being mindless. Huell Howser of KCET enjoys visiting cities with both an old town and a new town. So do I. I also enjoy seeing an old vacant building given new life through renovation and often the interior is divided into small shops, while saving the outside, original appearance."

"IT'S CALLED AN HISTORIC DISTRICT, NOT a build-anything-that's-ugly-enough-to-make-you-happy-but-annoy-the-neighbors district, so this jerk should be forced to keep his property along the lines of everything else in the neighborhood and not build some hideous ugly thing that nobody else likes. I don't know why people build that kind of junk anyway. They have no taste."

"I'M SORRY, THE QUESTION IS A LITTLE confusing. Wasn't the historic district established to preserve neighborhoods' classical style? So I don't think homeowners are being angry. They are just going along with the classic style."

"I LIVED IN THE THIRD STREET neighborhood 35 years ago when Main Street was like the Wild West: Knifings in the Circle Bar, fist fights with bikers at the Oar House. That has changed, but not the pleasant neighborhood architecture, unlike everywhere else in Santa Monica. An example, the north of Montana McMansions with their nouveau riche phonies, the Mid-City almost endless glut of architectural condo blight, the Pico neighborhood's law abiding, but boring housing. Sunset Park still has a lot of one-story housing that looks very nice, but Third Street still retains the charm of an early Santa Monica beach town. The only unease I have is with another comrade committee dictating to private property owners. Still, if you buy into an historic district, and Ocean Park is the most charming in this town, you then must accept their terms and be happy that City Hall hasn't ruined another area of this town."

"THERE ARE TWO MODERN BUILDINGS in the works on Second Street and a third lot up for sale. All of the attention is being

given to the little house on Third Street while there goes the rest of the neighborhood. Maybe we could just leave Third Street and forget the rest since that is what is happening already."

"I VISIT MY FAMILY HERE OFTEN AND stay for extended periods of time. This has always been a gorgeous neighborhood and I believe that it is of utmost importance to keep it this way. It would be just in very poor taste to in regards to that Third Street neighbor that wants to make it quite different."

"NO, THE HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS in the Third Street historical district are not overreacting. We want the historical guidelines to be upheld to protect our quaint and friendly streets."

"NO, THE HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT overreacting. If an individual buys a condominium, he is bound by condo association rules. Similarly, if a person buys into an historical district, then they should still follow the guidelines for that district. No wonder other residents are dismayed and want to protect their neighborhood when someone buys into the district and decides not to follow the guidelines. It's very disrespectful of the historical district and the Landmarks Commission should enforce the rules."

"THE HISTORIC DISTRICT SHOULD BE preserved, there is very little of the original housing left from the turn-of-the-century and it's the little left that should be preserved. The large contemporary construction will overwhelm it and take away from the preservation project of the district."

"IT'S NOT JUST HOMEOWNERS, BUT ALL the residents in the district who are upset by the flagrant disregard for the guidelines that should protect the district. The city needs to uphold the guidelines."

"IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CRACK DOWN when somebody breaks the rules. The neighbors and homeowners and residents in the district are not overreacting."

"I BELIEVE THAT THE ANGRY HOME-owners in the historic district are justified because the planned change is going to be visible from the street and will change the tenor of the entire neighborhood. I also think it's significant the plan is designed by an architect named Michael Folonis, who is the head of the Architectural Review Board. Three of the members of the Landmarks Commission – of the six who will be hearing the issue – are architects. Every plan they make in Santa Monica must cross Michael Folonis' Architectural Review Board. I think we have a clear conflict-of-interest here."

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Guards go wild, says millionaire

By The Associated Press

CHICKASHA, Okla. The millionaire producer of the "Girls Gone Wild" video series, which is based in Santa Monica, has accused guards of abusing him during his brief stay at an Oklahoma jail, a newspaper reported Friday.

Guards at the Grady County Law Enforcement Center denied Joe Francis food and blankets and threatened to strap him naked to a chair for 48 hours, Francis' attorneys alleged last month in court papers seeking his release on bail in a Florida case, The Oklahoman reported.

Francis, 34, was held at the jail from May 17 to June 4 while being moved from a Florida jail to a federal facility in Reno, Nev., where he is awaiting trial next year on a tax evasion charge.

Grady County officials denied the accusations, telling the newspaper that guards never threatened to strap Francis to a chair, that Francis had an extra blanket he shouldn't have had confiscated and that his transfer was delayed because his family had some-

how found out when he was to have been moved, creating a potential security risk.

"Mr. Francis was treated like every inmate that comes through the Grady County Law Enforcement Center," jail administrator Shane Wyatt told the newspaper.

Francis' attorneys declined a request from the newspaper to discuss the allegations.

Francis has made millions of dollars with the "Girls Gone Wild" videos, which feature young women in sexually provocative situations.

He has been in jail since April, when he was cited for contempt after yelling at attorneys during mediation in a federal lawsuit brought by women who were underage when his production company filmed them in 2003.

That lawsuit has since been settled, but Francis' bond was revoked on criminal charges related to the 2003 filming when he was charged with having contraband — \$700 and prescription anti-anxiety medication — in the Bay County jail.

Federal officials then extradited him to Nevada to face tax evasion charges.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Thanksgiving dinner turns deadly

A 27-year-old man turned himself in to Los Angeles police early Friday for allegedly shooting his brother-in-law to death after a Thanksgiving celebration.

Los Angeles police Detective Scott Smith says 37-year-old Mario Gutierrez died after being shot in the chest Thursday night during a dispute with his relative as he was leaving the holiday gathering in El Sereno.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have not released the gunman's identity, but say he turned himself in at 2 a.m.

The case is under investigation. Detectives did not release the nature of the dispute between the men.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO

Ex-teacher gets jail for molesting 13-year-old student

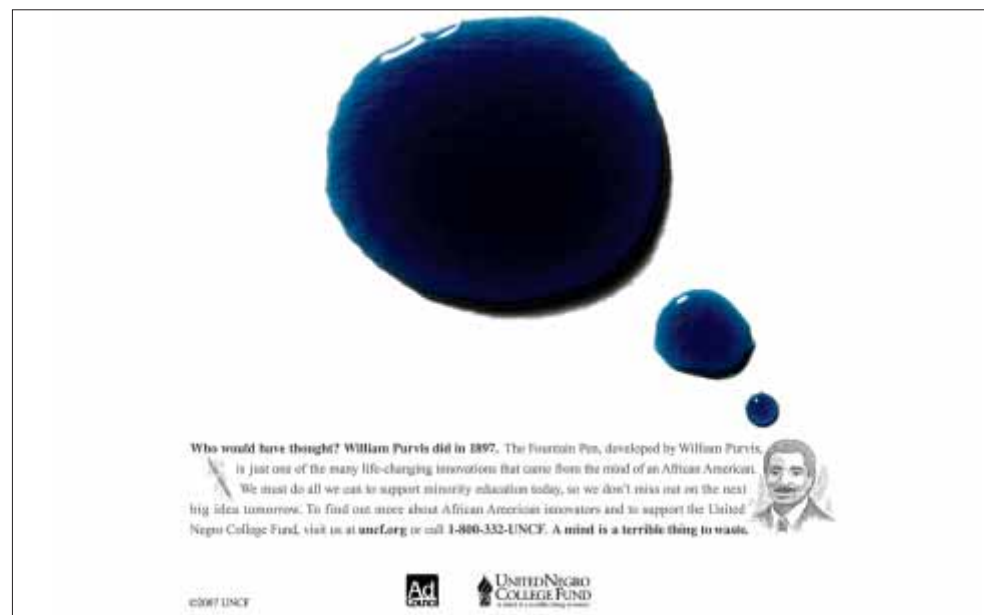
A female teacher who had a sexual relationship with a 13-year old girl at school has been sentenced to six months in jail.

Michelle Antoinette Rossi was a 27-year-old math teacher and softball coach at Arrowview Junior High School when her affair with the seventh grader began a decade ago. The relationship evolved into overnight trips to Las Vegas and sex.

Rossi was an assistant principal at Curtis Middle School in San Bernardino when she was arrested eight years later on 12 counts of lewd acts with a minor. She eventually pleaded no contest to two counts of sexual battery.

Rossi was sentenced Tuesday to six months in jail and forces her to register as a sex offender. She was also stripped of her teaching credential.

AP



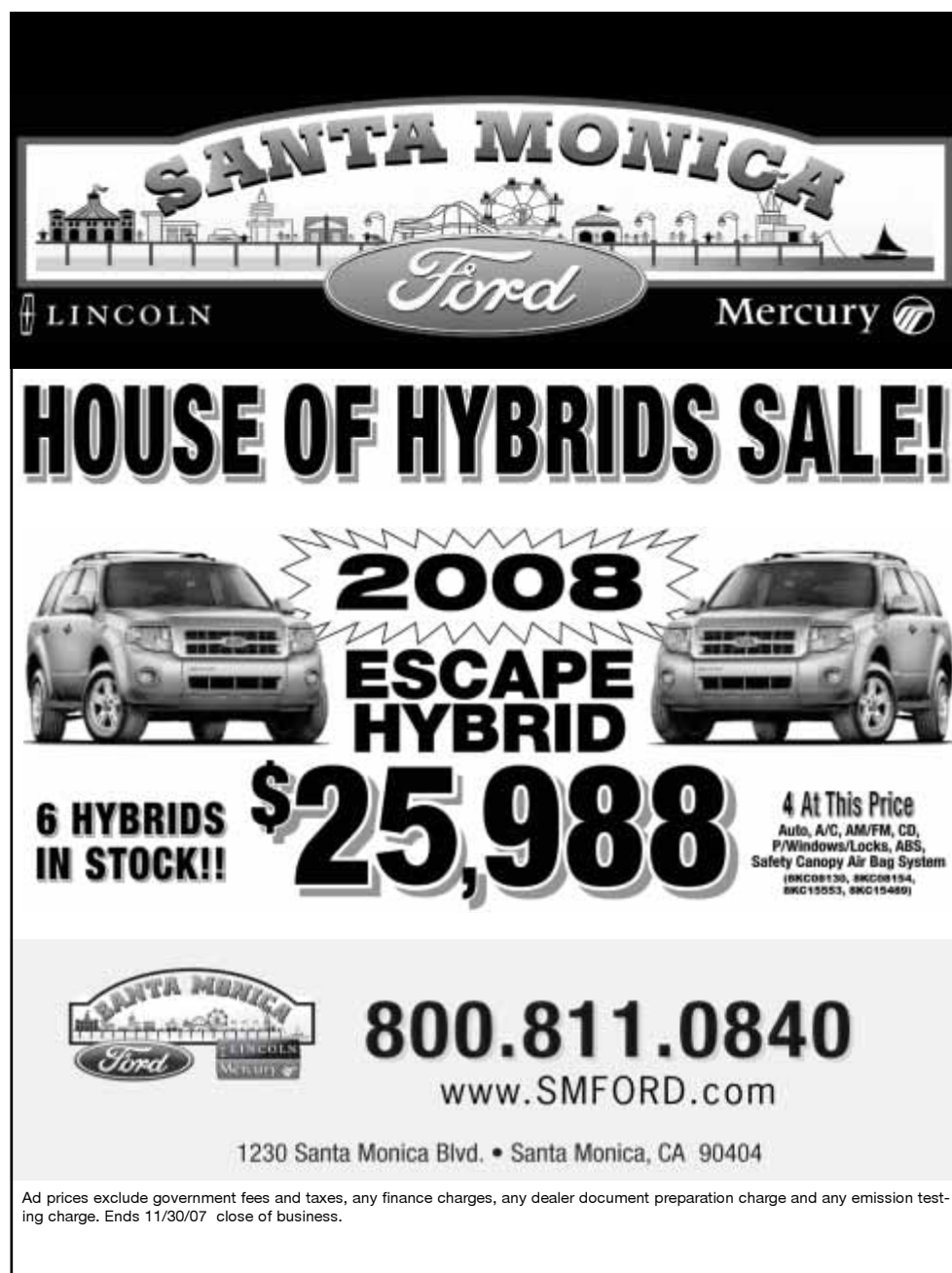
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Help on its way for borrowers

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Four major home loan servicing companies on Tuesday promised to boost efforts to help California borrowers avoid going into default, including maintaining the initial interest rate on some loans due to reset to higher monthly payments.

The move is the product of an agreement between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the companies, Countrywide Financial Corp., GMAC Financial Services, Litton Loan Servicing and HomeEq Servicing.

At least one of the companies, Countrywide, had previously announced it would be doing more to reach out to borrowers in danger of defaulting on payments, including modifying the terms of their loans. Countrywide, the nation's largest mortgage lender, has been struggling as rising defaults have forced the company to set aside millions to cover bad loans.

The mortgage sector has been under pressure from activists, lawmakers and consumer groups to help borrowers stave off foreclosure, particularly as adjustable-rate mortgages taken out the last few years begin to reset, translating into far higher payments.

Mortgage servicers collect payments and deal with borrowers on behalf of lenders. Some mortgage lenders, such as Countrywide, also

service home loans originated by other lenders.

Under Tuesday's agreement, announced during a Schwarzenegger appearance in Fresno, borrowers facing an interest rate reset would be eligible to have their rate frozen for a time if they are current on payments.

It follows a similar suggestion by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. that lenders keep subprime mortgage borrowers at their initial interest rate if they are living in their home and are making payments but will not be able to afford the higher reset rate.

The companies involved in the California deal also said they would streamline their process for determining which borrowers are likely to have trouble making payments.

"With this type of cooperation from loan servicers, we can save tens of thousands of people from being added to the foreclosure lists," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

The state also plans to roll out public service announcements promoting the agreement.

Last month, Schwarzenegger signed a bill that requires lenders to clearly disclose the risks in the loans they make and evaluate borrowers' ability to pay based on the long-term cost of the mortgage, not just an introductory rate. Defaults and foreclosures, particularly among borrowers with subprime loans, have soared this year as the housing market in much of the country went from boom to bust.

STATE BRIEFS

MANHATTAN BEACH

Reward offered to help catch sea gull shooter

Someone with a BB gun is maiming sea gulls in the Manhattan Beach and Playa del Rey areas.

Three gulls were wounded and two others were maimed.

The Humane Society of the United States is offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the capture of the shooter.

The birds had multiple BB pellet wounds.

Rachael Newman of the International Bird Rescue and Research Center, which treated the gulls, says one bird had two BBs in its wings and another in its beak. It is still recovering.

Two other birds found wounded in Manhattan Beach had their wings shattered by BBs, and they were euthanized. Two other gulls found in Playa del Rey with broken and maimed left wings were also euthanized.

AP

OXNARD

Family of woman run over by police SUV settles suit

The family of a sunbather run over and killed by an Oxnard police beach patrol vehicle has settled a wrongful death lawsuit against the city for \$2.75 million.

Cindy Conolly was run over and killed by a police Chevrolet Tahoe on June 12, 2006, while soaking up the sun on Mandalay Beach. She had attended her son's oceanside wedding the previous day at Embassy Suites Mandalay resort. The officers were unaware they ran over the woman and they resumed regular street patrol until a witness called 911 and they were called back to the scene about 20 minutes later.

AP

SACRAMENTO

Crying foul over CalTrans' disregard of fumes

When voters approved nearly \$2 billion in bonds last year to upgrade how the state moves goods in and out of its ports, they left it up to lawmakers to decide how to spend the money.

But the Legislature has so far failed to set guidelines on how to spend the money, creating a feud over what kind of highway, port and rail projects should qualify for the bond funding.

Environmental groups, local air quality districts and port communities are upset that the California Transportation Commission is proposing rules they say would allow state, city and county governments to build without considering the added pollution from truck traffic and idling trains.

AP



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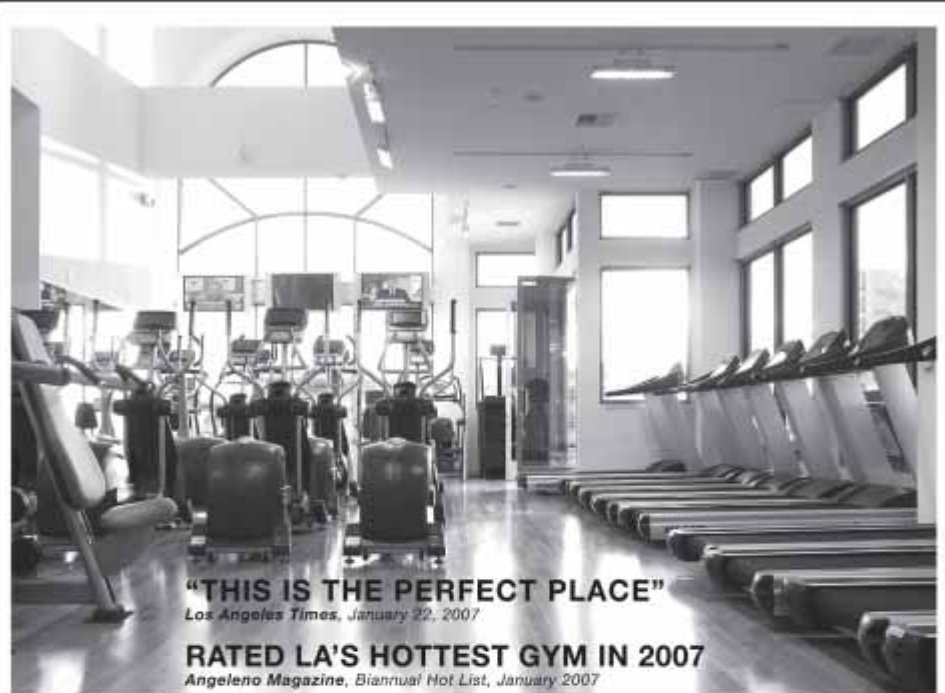
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Parents urged to be vigilant

Consumers groups warn adults about dangerous toys

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Urging shoppers to be vigilant, federal regulators on Tuesday highlighted a broad array of potential toy safety hazards, including the lead-based paint that forced manufacturers to recall millions of popular toys over the past several months.

Consumer groups, though, warned that they found numerous cases where toys that

posed a choking hazard or lead danger had improperly made it to store shelves. "Consumers looking for toys still face an industry full of safety loopholes," said the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Three days before the start of the busy shopping season, Nancy Nord, acting chief of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, issued safety tips in a two-page release that called on parents to "stay informed" about safety risks by reading product warning labels and signing up for direct e-mail notification of recalls at www.cpsc.gov.

Among the biggest toy hazards cited by CPSC:

■ Riding toys, skateboards and inline skates that could cause dangerous falls for children.

■ Toys with small parts that can cause choking hazards, particularly for children under age 3.

■ Toys with small magnets, particularly for children under age 6, that can cause serious injury or death if the magnets are swallowed.

■ Projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and sling slots for older children that can cause eye injuries.

■ Chargers and adapters that can pose burn hazards to children.

"Toys today are undergoing more inspection and more intense scrutiny than every before," Nord said in a statement, citing CPSC's "daily commitment to keeping consumers safe 365 days a year."

The agency noted that the Chinese government recently had signed agreements

to help prevent lead-painted toys from reaching the U.S., and that the CPSC was "taking the action needed to remove violative products from the marketplace."

Consumer groups weren't so sure. In its 57-page annual survey, U.S. PIRG agreed that toys with small magnets as well as small parts that pose choking hazards create significant risks.

Between 1990 and 2005, at least 166 children choked to death on children's products, accounting for more than half of all toy-related deaths at a rate of about 10 deaths per year, the group said. Several times this year potentially dangerous toys were sold without the required warning labels of possible choking risks while the CPSC also has been slow to issue public warnings, U.S. PIRG said.

Nature plays Scrooge this Christmas season

Excessive rains plus drought create holiday tree shortage

BY WILLIAM KATES I Associated Press Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. Two rainy summers followed by drought have produced a shortage of some Christmas tree varieties in New York, especially Fraser firs, one of the most popular choices, according to growers.

"We've had it three years in a row now. Two with excess rain and now a drought. Mother Nature can't seem to get it right," said Robert Norris, a tree farmer and executive secretary of the Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York.

Nationwide, there are approximately 22,000 farms producing Christmas trees on roughly 447,000 acres, according to the Missouri-based National Christmas Tree Association. Last year, Americans purchased 28.6 million Christmas trees, down from nearly 33 million in 2005.

"Nationally, there may be some isolated incidents but

as far as we know growers are having a great harvest. People should be able to find a high quality tree," said Rick Dungey, a spokesman for the national association.

Oregon is the top producer in terms of trees harvested (6.5 million) and in acres planted (67,800), according to association figures. Pennsylvania has the most Christmas tree farms with nearly 2,200.

New York ranks among the leaders in all three categories: fourth with 1,650 farms; fifth in acreage with 32,600; and seventh in production with approximately 619,000 trees harvested annually.

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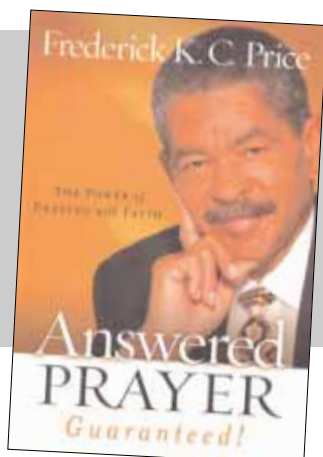
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Chains may be broken

Venice residents are voicing concerns over glut of chains on Abbot Kinney

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE Acting on the concerns expressed by a group of Venice residents and retailers over the emergence of chain stores on Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Ocean Front Walk, Los Angeles city planning officials are looking into drafting an ordinance banning so-called formula retail establishments.

The LA City Planning Department is preparing to draft an ordinance that would regulate the appearance of formula retail businesses in certain communities in the city, focusing its primary research, for the time-being, on the Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Ocean Front Walk areas in Venice.

A formula retail establishment is a business that standardizes everything from the services offered right down to the employee uniforms.

The Abbot Kinney community became outraged when a Pinkberry frozen dessert store opened its doors in May, disrupting the anti-chain character of the small business district that prides itself on its somewhat chic, bohemian qualities. Community leaders expressed concerns over the trend of chain stores appearing in Venice, noting that several other formula retail businesses have popped up in the past year, including a Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Campos near Windward Circle.

The Planning and Land Use

Management Committee directed the Planning Department to draft a proposed ordinance at its June 5 meeting.

The proposed ordinance would be loosely based on a similar law that passed in the city of Coronado in December 2000, after business owners and residents complained about a Boston Market and Petco moving into the San Diego County city's downtown shopping district.

Planning officials are expected to start implementing the ordinance with a pilot program in Venice.

The ordinance would also address issues with signage — ensuring any signs would fit in with the character of the shopping district — as well as lot consolidation, regulating situations where property owners would combine several lots in favor of a larger scale development project.



**ABBOT KINNEY
AND OCEAN
FRONT WALK HAVE A
STRONG SENSE OF LOCAL
IDENTITY."**

Planning Department staff report

"Abbot Kinney and Ocean Front Walk have a strong sense of local identity," according to a staff update report compiled for the Planning and Land Use Management Committee's meeting last week. "They are inviting places to live or to visit and are built upon a fabric of pedestrian-scaled independent businesses."

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Hook, LAUGH and sinker

Fishing off the Santa Monica Pier's edge isn't always about the catch of the day

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER As he lowered his line into the dark, dirty waters of the Pacific Ocean, Kevin Buchanan knew he didn't have much of a chance of catching any fish, despite loading his hook up with anchovy. The halibut and smelt just weren't biting on this day, and even if they did, the British ex-pat wasn't planning on eating what he reeled in.

"Because of the poor water quality and just so many people living by the bay, the recommendation is that you don't eat what you catch here," said Buchanan, a private school principal from the San Fernando Valley, who drove to the Santa Monica Pier early Wednesday morning with his son Jordan for a little father-son bonding.

"We just come out here for fun, relax a little and enjoy the scenery," Buchanan said as a cigarette butt floated past the Lucky Lura bait leader he had just untangled and dropped into the calm water. "On the weekends, it gets pretty crowded, but on a weekday like today, it's nice and quiet. "We saw some dolphins swim by earlier."

While not as popular as it was during the pier's heyday in the 1960s, fishing is very much alive and well on the lower deck of the pier, where experienced anglers of all backgrounds test their luck — some say "skill" — alongside the less experienced, all just looking to have a good time.

On Wednesday, when Buchanan and his son showed up with their lures, anchovies and muscle meat, there were already five other weathered-looking fishermen resting up against the metal railing, staring peacefully at the horizon as they patiently waited for a mackerel or halibut to bite. One had a small radio that was blaring Spanish music, while a Russian man who could barely speak English chatted up a companion in his native tongue.

Carlito Tagulao and his young son Charlie were there too, hoping to reel in a few fish for dinner.

"We're Filipino," the elder Tagulao said with a smile, showing his two, gold-rimmed front teeth. "Of course we eat it. It's fish."

Tagulao and his son prefer to fry their

catch or cook it on the barbecue.

"They taste good," said Charlie, a fifth grader who was excited to be out of school for the Thanksgiving holiday, however, not so pleased with the lack of activity in the water. "It's been pretty boring today. The fishing isn't good."

As a security guard barely making ends meet, Tagulao said fishing on the pier is one of the ways he can feed his family. He knows what people say about the poor water quality around the pier, which is constantly rated an "F" by environmental watchdog Heal the Bay, but Tagulao isn't worried about getting sick from the fish.

"I know people who have been fishing here for years, and they haven't died yet," Tagulao said. "Really, though, it's just a time that my son and I can come and spend time together. I work a lot, so we barely have time to be with each other. Today he is on vacation, so that's why we're here."

"I like taking my shoes off and dipping my feet in the water," Charlie said, as he bounced around the lower deck.

ON THE LINE

Halibut continue to be the prize fish for most of the local anglers and each year a few large halibut, as well as many small halibut, will be snatched out of the water. Most regulars use live brown bait like small queenfish, white croaker or smelt, which they've snagged with Lucky Lura type bait leaders — a series of small hooks tied together on a line that rests just below the surface.

They fish the bait straight down in the areas between the pilings. Quite a few halibut in the 22- to 37-inch range are hooked with these live baits, but most fish caught are much smaller, around 10 to 12 inches.

A few regulars also "drag" for the halibut. They put a long-shanked hook into a headless anchovy and then drag it along the bottom. If crowded, they cast out and retrieve slowly. If it isn't too crowded, they walk the bait along the edge of the pier, always alert for the soft mouthing of the halibut.

The same trolling method also works well with scampis and sometimes the lures will produce the biggest halibut, fishermen said. One of the best spots for halibut, although mostly smaller-sized fish, is off the upper deck of the pier on the south side, just before the lower deck begins.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

KEEPING IT REEL: Kevin Buchanan tries to untangle his Lucky Lura bait leader on Wednesday morning as his son Jordan looks on. The Buchanans like to fish at the Santa Monica Pier when they have free time. The elder Buchanan said fishing is all about bonding with his son and doesn't expect to catch much. Even if he did, he wouldn't eat the fish out of concern about water quality.



Bradon Wise news@smdp.com

TIME WELL SPENT: Carlito Tagulao and his son Charlie leave the Santa Monica Pier on Wednesday after fishing together. While they were unable to snatch anything from the sea on that day, Tagulao says the activity is all about spending time together.

Occasionally, barracuda, white seabass or even yellowtail will show up, most often out at the end of the pier in deeper water. Some have caught rays and sharks too, but not so much now.

Now, with the breakwater gone and the water quality poor, there are very few big fish to snag. But that hasn't deterred locals and tourists from flocking to the end of the pier for a little rest and relaxation.

EVERYTHING JUST SEEMS TO SLOW DOWN WHEN YOU'RE FISHING."

Francisco Ramirez, pier fisherman

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

John Velaski, owner of the Santa Monica Bait & Tackle Co., which is located at the far west end of the pier, remembers the days before the breakwater was destroyed by storms in 1983. Then, he would catch large white sea bass or take a rowboat out into the bay, drop anchor and catch perch "all day long."

The activity is pretty much nonstop too, he said, since the pier is open 24 hours a day and no license is needed to fish, meaning anyone can bring their lure or rent one from Velaski for \$4 and drop a line in the water.

Velaski said fishing is just as much about testing one's skills as it is finding peace and respite from the hustle and bus-



Photo courtesy Frank Cappello

DOCK OF THE BAY: Eric Magána and his poodle puppy Rocky seemingly reflect together while the former fishes off the end of the Santa Monica Pier earlier this week. Rocky spent most of the time surveying the water.

tle. He sees people's attitudes change dramatically when they cast.

"At night, we have some of the worst people down here, gang-bangers," Velaski said. "When they get down here and start fishing, they become a whole different person altogether. They become nicer, more relaxed."

Tagulao said he has met some of the most genuine people while fishing at the pier. When he first started making fishing trips there, he admits he wasn't as skilled as some of the others, but that didn't matter. People were willing to show him the ropes, typically asking nothing in return.

"The first time we came down here, we weren't prepared at all," he said. "We didn't have any bait and we didn't know how to cast. They gave us some bait and even some of their fish too. There are really good people down here."

Francisco Ramirez can attest to that. Whenever he's frustrated or angry, he likes to drive down to the pier, particularly before sunrise, and let his troubles drift with the tide. He talks with some of his fishing buddies and they offer each other advice. He believes the pier is the best psychiatrist's office around. Not only does he get good advice and can talk about his problems, he has the best scenery for which to do it.

"Look around you," said Ramirez, a broad shouldered, burly man with a thick mustache and calloused hands from spending years in construction. "There's nothing out here to distract you. It's just you, the ocean and those fish down there ... You're not really thinking about anything else (when you're fishing). You're

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

A CUT ABOVE: Fishing activity at the pier is pretty much nonstop, since the pier is open 24 hours a day and no license is needed to drop a line in the water.

just staring out at the ocean, listening to the waves.

"It's the most calming thing out there," Ramirez said, as he reeled in his empty hook, the anchovy he used as bait now gone with no fish to show for the effort. "Even if you don't catch anything it's still a good time. Everything just seems to slow down when you're fishing."

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Shoppers learning to deal

FROM BLACK FRIDAY PAGE 3

to early bird customers. The sisters came from their Los Angeles home to make the most of Black Friday sales, purchasing items from Forever 21, Guess, Adidas, Victoria's Secret, Wet Seal and American Eagle by 11 a.m.

"We have a whole other cart filled with bags," elder sister Esther Hernandez said.

The best deal, according to the sisters, was found in Victoria's Secret.

The day was far from over. Disappointed with their first trip to Santa Monica Place, surprised by the prevalence of empty storefronts, the sisters said they were headed to the outdoor Westfield mall in Century City to visit their favorite clothing outpost — Hollister.

Santa Monica Place is expected to undergo an extensive renovation next year, bringing in more stores as a result. The refurbished mall could reopen to the public as early as fall 2009.

Los Angeles resident Tero Saari, who was visiting Santa Monica with his friend, had a less productive shopping day, holding on to a lone bag from The Gap after shopping for three hours.

The National Retail Federation projected that up to 132.9 million Americans would shop during this three-day weekend, starting with Black Friday, down from last year when more than 140 million shoppers went out during the holiday kick-off weekend, spending an average of \$360 apiece. With the sub-prime credit fallout and the weak housing market, consumers are expected to be a bit more frugal this year, with sales in the 2007 holiday season expected to rise by 4 percent, below the 10-year average of a 4.8 percent increase per year, according to the NRF.

The lowest holiday sales growth was in 2002, when sales increased by only 1.3 percent.

The projection is based on economic indicators including the strength of the housing market, wage

growth and employment, according to Scott Krugman, spokesman for the NRF.

Though Black Friday is one of the busier shopping days of the year, the Saturday before Christmas still reigns supreme.

"It's a ceremonial kick-off to the holiday," Krugman said last week.



**IT'S DEFINITELY
SOMETHING EXTREMELY
AMERICAN, IT REFLECTS THE
CONSUMER OBSESSION HERE."**

Ellen Lewis, Shopper

THE HUSTLE AND THE BUSTLE

As expected, Downtown Santa Monica was bustling early Friday.

In order to avoid any agitation of sitting in her car in traffic, and then waiting for a parking space to open, Santa Monica resident Therese Soltis decided to get some exercise and walk to the Third Street Promenade. She started her day at 9 a.m. in Santa Monica Place without a list of items for purchase. It was a just a day to see if there were any good bargains.

After two hours, she had collected bags containing a new iPod speaker system from the Apple store and clothes from Macy's and Ann Taylor. The shopping bug hit Soltis after finding good deals at Macy's and Ann Taylor.

"Last night, I thought I would come out, but I wasn't as excited about coming out," Soltis said. "Now I'm curi-

ous to see what else is out there."

To some shoppers, Black Friday came as a pleasant surprise.

Ellen Lewis was in town for a week visiting her family in the Pacific Palisades when she learned about the biggest discounted shopping day of the year during Thanksgiving dinner. Lewis, who hails from Vienna, Austria, hasn't lived in the United States in 28 years. She couldn't recall there being a Black Friday back then.

Excited about the possibilities that lay ahead, Lewis woke up at 7 a.m., but since her car was blocked, couldn't make it out to Downtown Santa Monica until an hour later. Her itinerary included stops at Urban Outfitters, Abercrombie & Fitch, The Gap, American Eagle Outfitters and Sephora, none of which can be found in Vienna.

She felt the sales were a bit "absurd," unsure whether a day encouraging excessive consumer behavior is healthy for her or not.

"Living in Europe where they would never do this, it's convenient," Lewis said while shopping in Santa Monica Place Friday morning. "It's definitely something extremely American, it reflects the consumer obsession here."

Not everyone was pleased with their shopping experience.

After spending a few hours in Santa Monica and walking an estimated three miles around Downtown Santa Monica, Denetrice Reese and her friend Willetta Doucet, of Inglewood, only came out with a 12-piece cooking set they bought for \$34 at Macy's.

There seems to be fewer good deals this year, they said.

"I didn't know most of the stores here would be closed," Reese said of Santa Monica Place.

Though most of the holiday shopping traffic was directed to Downtown Santa Monica, business was expected to be better than usual for the Montana Avenue and Main Street business districts.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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File photo
COMING AND GOING: Retailers were slammed as the holiday shopping season got underway. With the sub-prime fallout and weak housing market, consumers are expected to be more frugal this year.

Several of the businesses along Montana Avenue offered special promotions for shoppers, including a tax-free weekend at Weathervane for Men. Clothing boutique Three Bags Full launched a week-long campaign on Wednesday to give customers 10 percent off their entire purchase if they bring in canned or boxed foods.

Jane Walker, the owner of Three Bags Full, said she sees a different clientele during Thanksgiving weekend, mainly the out-of-town customers that make it a point to visit her store whenever they are on the Westside.

"They don't want to go to the mall,

they want to find things that are different," Walker said.

Montana Avenue doesn't get the same level of traffic as the malls because many of the shoppers that patronize the shopping district tend to be the "mall adverse type," said Sabine Lehmann, owner of fashion accessory store, Platino on Montana. Lehman is also the board chairman for the Montana Avenue Merchants Association.

"Our customers are very loyal, probably almost none of them go to the mall," Lehmann said on Wednesday. "We're not competing with the malls."

melodyh@smdp.com



SETTLING THE SCORE:

The Corsairs' Jasmine English goes airborne for a layup Wednesday night while Moorpark's Krystin Christ tries to block the shot. Santa Monica College defeated visiting Moorpark, 76-68.

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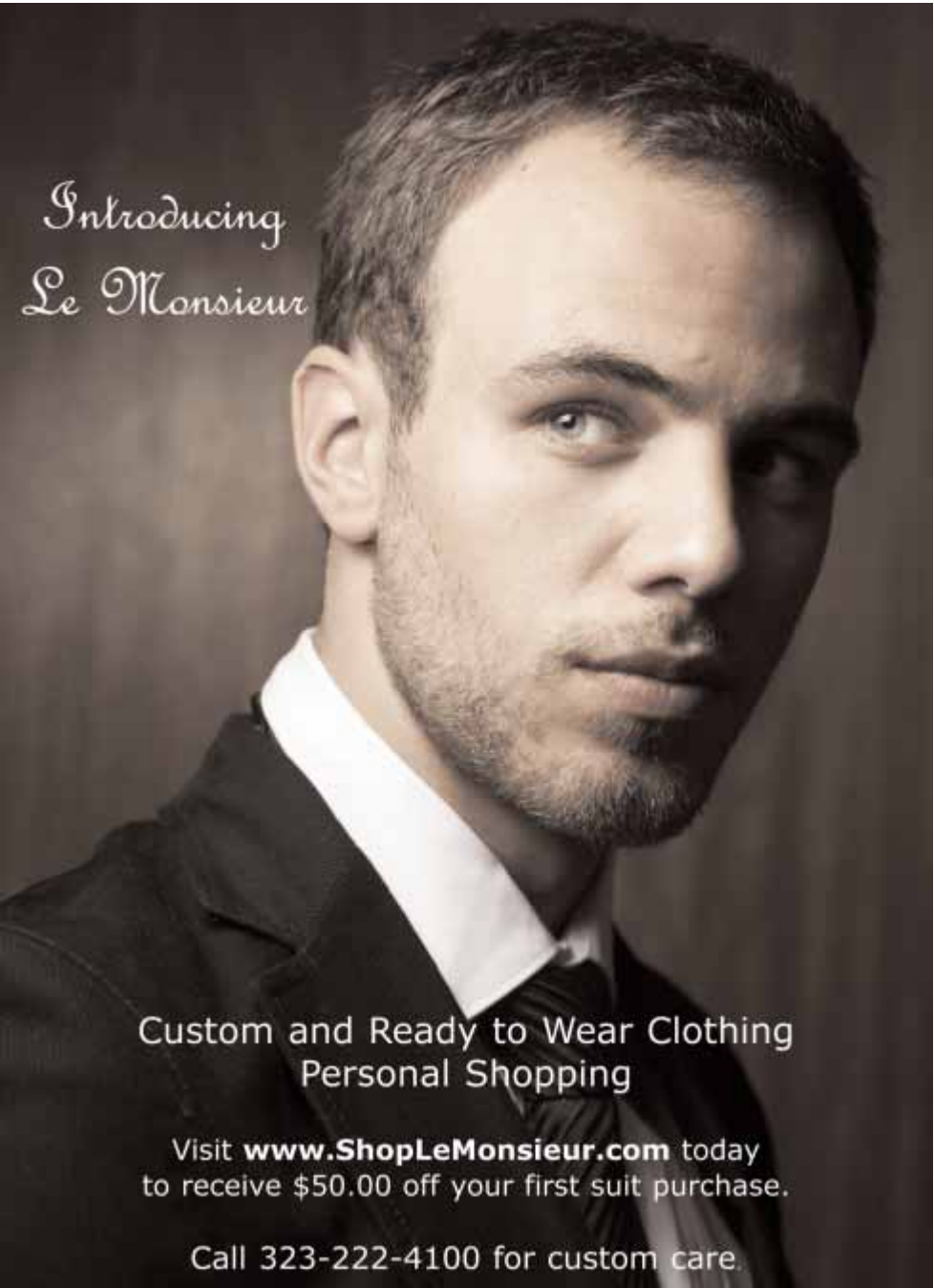
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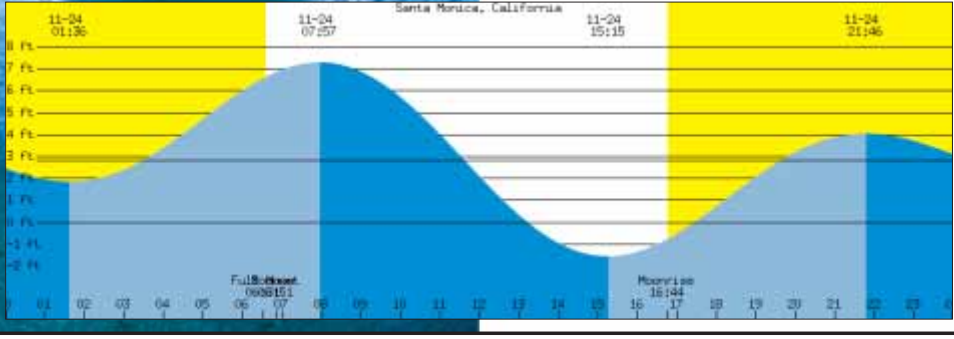
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Saturday the 24th this NW swell is expected to back off dramatically with size dropping off to just waist high at west facing breaks. The tide will swing even more radically than on Friday, and offshore winds should gain strength, possibly as high as 15+ mph in some wind prone areas, especially north of OC.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
RADICAL TIDAL SWING LATER THIS WEEK...
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 19, 2007**

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 14

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 1

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
Las Carillita Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (Jencarilla)	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	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachara and Las Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	D	ns
Enchil Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	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+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kentler storm drain	F	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	A+	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
Selkirk Canyon at San Blas County Beach	A	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	F
Seribider Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	D	ns
Seribider Beach (beach location) - daily	B	ns	Venice Beach - projection of Topical St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns	Morino del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 10948 PCH stairs	F	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DWW jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Tepanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach - opposite Hypoxia Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Cadence Creek 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 east 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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SOCCER

Becks still thinks he's got cup skills

BY ROB HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON With a question mark hanging over his place on the England team, David Beckham says he still has plenty left in his soccer career. The Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder, who made his 99th international appearance in England's 3-2 loss to Croatia on Wednesday, still wants to play at the 2010 World Cup — when he will be 35 years old.

"I'm definitely not giving up anything ... I'm happy to have 99 caps but I want to reach 100," Beckham said. "That would be a milestone."

But if that 100th England appearance doesn't happen, Beckham said he won't stop playing.

"If I don't play for my country again I believe that I had a great career on the England side and I won't be retiring yet," Beckham said. "I believe I have at least two or three years left."

When the time does come to retire, he has ruled out a move to coaching, planning instead to focus on his soccer academies in Los Angeles and London.

Beckham may have been dissuaded from assuming a coaching role by the rough treatment of Steve McClaren, who was fired as England manager on Thursday after the team failed to qualify for the European Championship.

"I could never be a manager," he said. Perhaps it's because they have caused him plenty of anguish.

"I was scared of every manager that I ever

had in my career," Beckham said.

McClaren's exit will trigger another overhaul within the England team and Beckham hopes it doesn't include him — again.

"I said at the start of my career I'll always want to play for my country and I'd never retire from playing for my country," Beckham said Thursday. "That could obviously be taken out of my hands but I want to reach my 100 caps.

"To get those 100 caps would be a dream come true for me."

Initially discarded after the 2006 World Cup and branded a "casualty," the former captain came to McClaren's rescue when England's European Championship hopes began to fade.

They were finally extinguished by Croatia's triumph at Wembley Stadium, ending McClaren's bleak 15-month reign and Beckham's dream of playing in a sixth major international tournament.

"I'll still be available," Beckham said. "Hopefully I'll still be playing, and playing well enough to be in the England squad in 2010.

"But who knows? Everything can change, and I have seen that in the last 12 months."

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder believes the Football Association will hire a foreign coach.

"There are not many English managers out there that haven't got jobs already," Beckham said. "There are also a lot of talented foreign managers."

Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho of Portugal is the early favorite.

BASEBALL

Bonds' former friends set to testify against slugger

BY PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Barry Bonds' penchant for turning longtime friends into bitter enemies might come back to hurt him in at least two significant ways at trial.

First, there's Steve Hoskins. He was once Bonds' closest friend and served as best man at the slugger's first wedding.

Then, there's Kimberly Bell, the home run king's girlfriend of 10 years, who dated him even after his first wedding. In fact, Hoskins' sister introduced Bell to Bonds after a San Francisco Giants game in 1994.

Each had a nasty falling out with the notoriously prickly slugger, and each is now expected to be a key witness for the prosecution if Bonds goes to trial for perjury and obstruction of justice. He was indicted last week for allegedly lying when he told a federal grand jury he never knowingly used performance enhancing drugs, and is likely to face prison time if convicted.

Hoskins and Bell each claim to have firsthand knowledge of Bonds' steroid use, making them extremely valuable witnesses. Yet both also are vulnerable to attack by Bonds' lawyers because of their severed relationships with the former Giants star and their own personal problems.

"If they were standing alone, their credibil-

ity would present a big problem for the prosecution," said Peter Keane, law professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. "But the problem for Bonds is the collective amount of all this stuff the prosecution appears to have: the change in his body, the lab results. All of these things taken together make for a significant prosecution case against Bonds."

Hoskins and Bonds were childhood friends, both growing up in San Carlos, a southern San Francisco suburb.

Their fathers were friends: Bonds' dad played for several major league teams during a 14-year career, and Hoskins' dad was a star lineman for the San Francisco 49ers.

They rekindled their friendship in 1993, when Bonds signed with the Giants as a free agent after spending the early part of his career in Pittsburgh. Bonds made Hoskins his business manager and they launched a company called Kent Collectibles to sell Bonds' memorabilia.

Things fell apart in 2003 after Bonds accused Hoskins of forging his signature on at least two contracts and selling memorabilia without Bonds' permission.

Hoskins' attorney has said Hoskins told federal investigators that Bonds was a heavy steroid user. When the lawyer, Michael Cardoza, went public last year with Hoskins' tale he declined to discuss how Hoskins knew about Bonds' alleged steroids use.

Big Ballin’ Actor/rapper Lil’ Romeo to play big-time college hoops at USC

LIL’ ROMEO is headed to Southern California to play basketball. The teenage hip-hop performer signed a national letter of intent to attend USC on Monday at a news conference held at a posh

hotel near Beverly Hills. Lil’ Romeo, an actor and rapper whose full name is Percy Romeo Miller, is currently a senior guard at Beverly Hills High. He averaged 13.9 points and 5.6 assists last

season. His father, hip-hop mogul Master P, had try-outs with two NBA teams in the 1990s. “This is the most important thing I’ve had to do and hopefully it sends a message to kids across

the country that education is more important than money,” Miller said at the news conference. “Getting a college scholarship is more important than winning an American Music Award, and I plan to be the

best student-athlete I can be at USC.” One recruiting service ranks Miller, a 6-O, 170-pounder, among the top 15 prep point guards in the country.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?

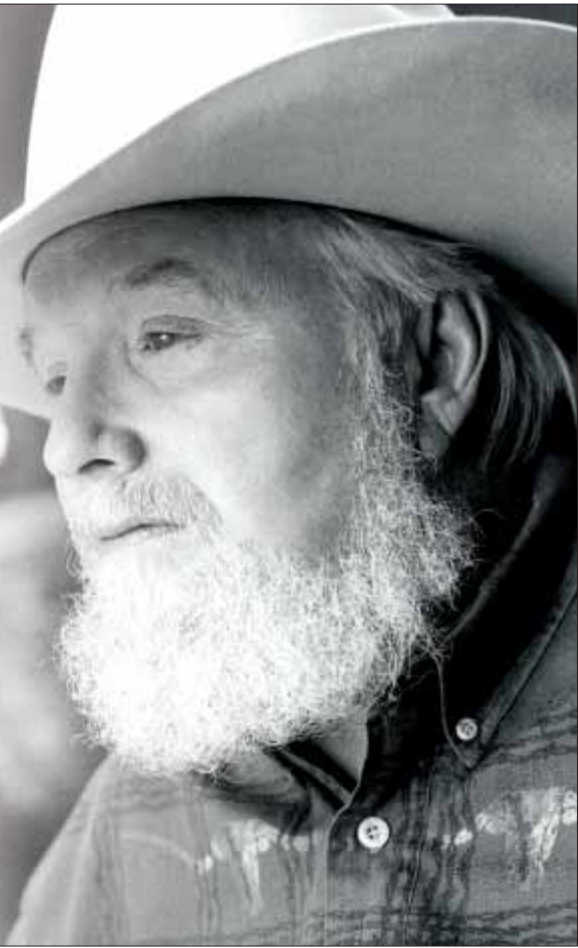
HEATHER MILLS MCCARTNEY, who is reportedly seeking millions of dollars in her breakup with Paul McCartney, denounced the world’s rich as misers and snobs Wednesday. Mills McCartney delivered the critical comments during her 90-minute speech to the debating society of Trinity College Dublin. Former model Mills McCartney, 39, married the 65-year-old music legend in 2002 and gave birth to the couple’s only child, Beatrice, a year later. But the couple separated last year, and McCartney filed for divorce alleging “unreasonable behavior” by his wife.

AP

Daniels to fiddle with the Opry

CHARLIE DANIELS received a gift-wrapped surprise at his annual Christmas for Kids benefit: an invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry. “I cannot even begin to tell you folks ... this is very emotional for me,” Daniels, 71, said. “I never ever in my wildest dreams, when I came to Nashville with my precious wife and son, dreamed that this would happen. To think that now my name will be added along with all these great country artists. Thank you.” Daniels – whose 1979 platinum single “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” topped the country chart, reached No. 3 on the pop chart and won a Grammy – is a singer, guitarist and fiddler who has been touring with his band since the early 1970s. After the announcement, the curtains were pulled back to reveal the barn backdrop of the Opry radio show. Daniels will be officially inducted later this winter. “Charlie Daniels’ songs and musicianship are nothing less than legendary,” said Pete Fisher, Opry vice president and general manager.

AP



Curb wild spending, Aquarius

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
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Happy Birthday!

This year, when you are sure you are on cruise control, you find out otherwise. Ingenuity and flexibility will define your success. Often you might be startled by events involving home, family or real estate. If you are single, be careful, as often what others say has very little to do with what you hear. If you are attached, don't take each other for granted, as each of you is changing a lot. Let your significant other dominate more. GEMINI can be challenging.



Born Today
Western lawman Bat Masterson (1853)
Gangster Lucky Luciano (1897)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You have a lot on your mind. Surprising events or statements surround you. The unexpected becomes a heavy and intense theme right now. Verify plans so you don't get a meeting mixed up. Tonight: Visit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A friendship could take an unanticipated turn or a friend could reveal yet another side of him- or herself. You could feel as if much is out of control. Don't try to structure right now. It won't work. Go with the flow. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ As bubbly as you are, you might have difficulty sorting through alternatives. You could be distraught by news from a distance. What is happening is you are understanding how little control over others you have. Tonight: Spontaneous works.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Everyone feels down sometimes or is too tired to continue. Use today just for you; recharge your batteries. News could put a wild tilt on a situation. A partner might be confused. Confirm all information, please. Tonight: Do your thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Keep your eye on the big picture, and you won't lose your focus when others go topsy-turvy. How you see a volatile situation could be very different from how others do. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Pressure builds. You feel responsible, while others act strangely. You might wonder what is motivating everyone to be so reactive. Tonight: Expect to be noticed. Others are watching you more than you realize.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Take an overview if possible. You could be most uncomfortable with news that heads in your direction. Just when you thought you had some control, an element of confusion convinces you otherwise. Tonight: Find a way to relax your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A partner makes demands. You could easily have a personal rebellion that could trigger a whole new set of problems. Be willing to explore your options more openly. Follow another's lead – for now. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A leap of faith might be well worth it. Be willing to explore different options, as you will find flexibility key. What you wind up with could be something you've dreamt of but never thought could be a reality. Tonight: Go with another's choice of plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Recognize when you have had enough. Be willing to pull up stakes if need be. You just might need some personal time for work and/or yourself. Surprising events will greet you if you stay open. Go with spontaneity. Tonight: Know when you want to call it a night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be walking around in a haze, and you might not care. A romance could knock the wind out of you. Other Aquarians might be enjoying their children or perhaps a new creative hobby. Tonight: Curb wild spending.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Others make demands, and you are quite capable of tossing them back in their face. Rather than be reactive, start thinking about which ones you would like to respond to. A partner or friend is overly serious! Tonight: Stay close to home.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (PG)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Across the Universe (PG-13)
4:50, 7:45, 10:50

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Michael Clayton (R)
11:15am, 2:05

The Mist (R)
11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

American Gangster (R)
12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10

Beowulf (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50

Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:30, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50

Enchanted (PG)
10:30am, 11:15am, 1:05, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15

Fred Claus (PG)
11:00am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

Hitman (R)
10:35am, 12:55, 3:25, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)

1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
Hollywood Dreams (R)
11:00am

I'm Not There (R)
12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10
No Country for Old Men (R)
11:15am, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55
The Rape of Europa (NR)
11:00am

MANN'S CRITERION
THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

August Rush (PG)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

Bee Movie (PG)
11:50am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

Lions for Lambs (R)
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
Love in the Time of Cholera (R)

12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
This Christmas (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

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
GOLD

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

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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 YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

THE SATURDAY NIGHT AFTER THANKSGIVING IS A GREAT NIGHT TO MEET GIRLS

WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE THEY JUST SPENT TWO DAYS BEING BERATED BY THEIR FAMILIES ABOUT NOT BEING MARRIED OR HAVING BABIES

HI, I'M HARRIS.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH...

LET'S JUST CUT OUT THE SMALL TALK AND TAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE NEXT LEVEL

I'M STARTING TO SEE WHAT YOU MEAN

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY.

YUP. THE AIR IS SO FRESH AND COOL.

ACTUALLY, A LITTLE TOO FRESH AND COOL.

IT HURTS WHEN I BREATHE.

ME, TOO.

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE AND FIND A SMOKY BOWLING ALLEY.

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A MYTH PERPETRATED BY LEFT-WING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS!

SCAREMONGERS WHO WANT TO FORCE US TO CHANGE OUR COMFORTABLE LIFESTYLES!

WHAT'S HE SAYING?

HE'S TOO OLD TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

Garfield

By Jim Davis

HERE I SIT

INSTEAD OF SITTING THERE

LIFE HOLDS TOO MANY CHOICES!

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

WE'RE COMING, DAD! HANG IN THERE!

AACK! WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?!

NEXT TIME MOM SAYS DAD'S IN A FOOD COMA, HE'S ON HIS OWN.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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DANIEL'S PLUMBING

Santa Monica

DINING ROOM Supervisor

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

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dows, and much more.

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For Rent

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Santa Monica \$800+ Studio Lower, Bright, Carpet, ref, stove, kit, No Smoke \$800/MO Studio 1/Ba; No pet, balcony, carpets, parking \$950/MO 1bd/Ba upper, no pets, ref stove, new paint SMC, PKG \$1100/Mo We have others From \$650.00 310-276-0881 www.apartmenthunterz.com

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072385370 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ARTEL DESIGN STUDIO, 904 PACIFIC AVENUE, VENICE, CA. 90291. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ALEX PROTASEVICH, 1234 6TH ST. #504, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401. This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ ALEX PROTASEVICH

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/19/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2007, 11/24/2007, 12/1/2007, 12/8/2007

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Kate Bransfield



Estates Director

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In Escrow!



12223 Darlington Avenue
Reduced \$ 3,095,000
New Construction (2007) 5 + 6.5 Home

Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



852 - 21st Street Unit D
Reduced \$ 995,000
2 + 1.75 Condo Amazing Patio!

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



1032 Maple Street
\$ 1,149,000
Charming California Bungalow

Testimonial from Buyer

1930 Idaho Ave # 3 - Santa Monica

"My husband and I worked with Kate Bransfield to find the perfect home for our dream family. After many weeks of going to open houses by ourselves, we crossed paths with Kate. Kate was able to take our detailed requirements (location, room for our future family, dog) and recommend us our future home. At first it looked like it was not going to work out, but Kate worked some magic. We were able to close in less than 30 days and are now preparing to move into our new home. Many thanks to our realtor and new friend, Kate Bransfield."

- Sharon & Gustavo



Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late November 2007

Single Family Homes Condos & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,561,500	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,962,464	\$ 1,754,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,160,571	\$ 986,275
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,038,167	\$ 680,431
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,343,913	\$ 696,824
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,173,000	\$ 985,539

Statistics updated every Friday

Wanted:

Full Time
Licensed (*preferably*)
Real Estate Assistant
For Busy Office

310.395-1133

KateBransfield@hotmail.com

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.