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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009

Volume 9 Issue 12



Santa Monica Daily Press

LUXURY ON A BUDGET?
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE GIVING THANKS ISSUE

Draft LUCE goes public

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL More than five years after City Hall began working on a new general plan to guide future development in Santa Monica, the draft Land Use and Circulation Element has been released.

The main concepts of the draft LUCE were presented to the council on Tuesday, showing a document that aims to preserve neighborhoods, control and manage growth and reduce vehicular trips.

The document has eight framework elements focusing on neighborhood conservation, integrated land use and transportation, proactive congestion management, complete communities, community benefits, quality urban character and form, preservation of historic resources and change management/success measurement.

The existing general plan is 26-years-old.

Eileen Fogarty, the director of planning and community development, said the plan integrates land use with transportation, placing activity centers and villages near transit crossroads or near the future light rail line. Jobs and housing will also be tied together near transit.

"We're shifting away from regional commercial and developing complete neighborhoods," Fogarty said.

The plan received positive comments from members of the arts, parks and historic preservation communities for reflecting concerns that were expressed over the last five years at public workshops.

"This new LUCE is awesome," Nina Fresco, who serves on the Landmarks Commission, said. "It preserves neighborhoods with an approach that will intensify their particular character over time."

The LUCE will now enter the environmental impact review phase with a draft report expected early next year. The document is slated for adoption in May 2010.

A copy of the draft can be found at www.shapethefuture2025.net.

melodyh@smdp.com



FEEDING THE MASSES

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Volunteers help serve the needy and homeless a warm Thanksgiving meal at St. Monica Catholic Church on California Avenue on Wednesday afternoon. Every person was able to enjoy a meal and receive clothing during the charity event.

Rail yard looks like a possibility

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL While residents and city officials for months have pushed for the relocation of a proposed Exposition Light Rail maintenance yard away from homes, it's looking more likely that the facility will remain as planned in the Pico Neighborhood.

That appeared to be the direction after the City Council on Tuesday authorized its staff to negotiate an agreement with the Exposition Construction Authority regarding mitigation measures to protect residents who live just across from the facility where some of the expected functions include light duty repairs and train car washes.

Opposition remains strong despite changes in the proposal to address concerns raised by residents, who first learned about the maintenance yard more than nine months ago.

"In my mind, it's been a complete failure of the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process and the political process given where we started and where we are today," Jason Ranne, a resident, said during the meeting.

The draft environmental impact report for Expo Phase 2, which goes from Culver City to Santa Monica, proposes to place the maintenance yard at the Verizon lot on Exposition Boulevard, a location that immediately drew criticism from residents and city officials because of the proximity to homes.

Several iterations of the plan followed as a result of discussions between city and Expo officials, including the most recent alternative — a "hybrid" plan that would use the Verizon site and Santa Monica College satellite parking lot, which would allow a 100-110 foot buffer to be erected, separating the facility and homes on Exposition Boulevard.

The final decision will rest with the Expo board as the council can only make recommendations.

The buffer, which could be anything from a park to housing, will be determined through a city-managed community out-

SEE YARD PAGE 10

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009

A time for thanks
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Everyone is welcome at this free dinner provided by the Santa Monica Vineyard Christian Fellowship. Please call (310) 394-3135 if you have any questions.

Friday, Nov. 27, 2009

Movies and more
WISE and Healthy Aging
1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Come for a twice-monthly showing of an entertaining and thought-provoking film. A movie and discussion will be held the second and fourth Friday of each month, followed by a lively discussion led by peer counselor Bert Dragin. Dragin has produced, written and directed three motion pictures. $3 per session covers film, popcorn and discussion. Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373 for more information.

Rocking rotary
Riviera Country Club
1250 Capri Dr.
The rotary club has long enjoyed a reputation as being the hub of Westside men and women dedicated to improving their local and worldwide communities. It is a melting pot for cultural ideas from the diverse ethnic makeup of members. Those interested in attending the regular lunch should contact (310) 917-3313.

Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009

Mothers' circle
motheringminds
Marine St., 2:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Many women want a place where they may talk about both the positive and negative experiences of motherhood, and this group offers a forum where women can speak honestly and openly about the challenges and joys of being a parent. This group provides a relaxed and nurturing environment where all experiences are welcome, and where mothers may feel supported and understood. Call (310) 922-6969 for more information.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Palisades Avenue, 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Come every Saturday and start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. Beginners and all levels are welcome. All you need is a yoga mat and an open heart. If you've always wanted to try yoga, this is the class for you. Suggested donation is $12. Call (310) 560-4317 or e-mail jonathan@alignmentforlife.com for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009

'Cinderella: The Musical'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this delightful Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids and adults of all ages, featuring a charming prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with every performance. Admission is $10.50 — $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 for more information.

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



What Kids Are UP To – Thanksgiving

Catherine Cain

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



....

BRIAN KAMRANY, SENIOR

"My whole family is going to come to my house and we're going to eat turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy and that icky cranberry sauce. After that, we're all planning to see '2012' and sneak turkey into the movie theater because we're criminals on the inside."



GABY VELAZQUEZ, SENIOR

"... Spend time with family — being a senior this year, I don't spend too much time with them and Thanksgiving is the greatest opportunity. Although we are a small family, we always prepare big dishes ... mmm."



JAMESON HARGEAR, JUNIOR

"My family is really kind of untraditional. I switch off between my mom and dad. Last year I had goose with my dad instead of turkey ... When I go with my mom, we usually go to her mom's house. She has people over, it's traditional, it's the whole deal."



MADISON FORSANDER, SENIOR

"I get together with a bunch of family friends and make apple pie. It gets very crowded because we all pack around the table and give thanks."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PICO BLVD

Get your shots

The Venice Family Clinic is determined to get everyone at risk for swine flu vaccinated, regardless of their financial situation.

High-risk individuals are defined as pregnant women, anyone age 6 months through 24 years, people living with or caring for infants less than 6 months old, people 25 to 64 years with certain chronic medical conditions or weakened immune system and health care workers.

The vaccine is available for free at two locations, four days a week. Funding and vaccines are provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with the county to provide this important service to our community," said the clinic's medical director Dr. Karen Lamp. "The public should have confidence that the vaccine is safe and necessary."

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the clinic's Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center, located at 2509 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica, is open from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Thursdays, the clinic's Milken Family Foundation Medical Building, located at 604 Rose Ave. in Venice, is open during the same hours.

On Dec. 5, Dec. 19 and Jan. 16 (all Saturdays), the Venice location is open from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

On Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 (all Saturdays), the Santa Monica location is open from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The program is scheduled to run through the middle of January. Visit www.venicefamilyclinic.org for more information.

DAILY PRESS



SO FRESH

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Scores of people walk past the Tutti Frutti Farms stand at the Farmers' Market along Arizona Avenue on Wednesday morning. The market before Thanksgiving is considered by city officials to be the busiest of the year as cooks search for fresh produce and last-minute ingredients.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Where's the follow-through?

Editor:

Regarding your page one story about Santa Monica's proposed ban on smoking in apartments ("Ban on smoking in apartments gets a boost," Nov. 21-22), how will this law be enforced if they cannot even enforce the ban on smoking on the Third Street Promenade, the beach, bus stops and business districts? Every day, I mean every single day, you can stand on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Third Street and see people breaking the smoking law. I live on Fourth Street and have worked on Third since before the ban and have seen police give a warning twice and have never seen anyone cited for smoking in plain view, and people smoke illegally here by the hour. City Hall enacted a law that most smokers just flat out ignore. As I type this letter, I am watching two people smoking at an outdoor café right now, puffing away without a care in the world. It's a joke.

To say that smokers don't give up easily is an intended pun. Are we supposed to start investigating people who will say they were cooking or lighting a fireplace? Do we send the SMPD to enter people's homes to see if they smell a smoldering Salem? Who wants to witness the ugliness of the first eviction of a tenant because he was allegedly puffing away in his bathroom at home? More litigation. That's the Santa Monica way, by cracky.

I quit a two-pack habit I had for 34 years, six years ago. Smoking is deadly and I personally think every smoker should quit, but that's just my humble opinion. Smoking laws that wind up being unenforceable just send the message that the law is really only smoke and mirrors designed to oil the squeaky wheels in this town, which, in the end, is the real kick in the butt.

Carlos Pineiro
Santa Monica

Pressure's on for climate treaty

Editor:

This December, the whole world will be watching the United Nations in Copenhagen as world leaders build the framework for an international treaty to fight climate change. The Obama administration must take a firm stand in moving climate negotiations forward.

The United States has shown that it wants to fight climate change by electing a president who is deeply committed to the same goal. President Obama has shown he wants to meet that goal by placing highly knowledgeable and equally committed individuals in his administration. He has talked the right kind of talk recently and called for a significant agreement that will begin to immediately fight the ravages of climate change. Now he can prove to us and the rest of the world that he understands how dire the consequences of inaction will be.

The world will follow America's lead on this issue — we must seize the opportunity of passing bold new federal policy if we want to finally solve the problem of climate change and create millions of good paying, clean energy jobs in the process.

James Taylor
Santa Monica

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Luxury gifts for the downtrodden

LAST WEEK, NEIMAN MARCUS UNVEILED its 2009 Christmas Book. As usual, the extravagant offerings in the 83rd annual catalogue do not disappoint, particularly the A5 Sports Aircraft and Pilot Training for $250,000, Algonquin Round Table Experience with such luminaries as Henry Louis Gates Jr., Nora Ephron and George Stephanopoulos for $200,000, and cupcake car with a 24-volt electric motor, customizable frosting and sprinkles and a matching hat for $25,000.

This year, however, in an apparent nod to the continued economic woes plaguing the country, not only are there none of the traditional million-dollar-plus selections, there are some surprisingly recession-conscious gifts.

Livers everywhere are expected to be tickled and pickled as Neiman Marcus invites customers to drink their troubles away Kennedy-style with the opportunity to become a Maker's Mark Master Distiller for a day. For just $7,500, you and a friend can participate in the unique whiskey-making process step by step. Or skip the demo, go directly to the bar and do shots until you throw up or black out. For another $500, a confidentiality agreement will be signed and notarized guaranteeing the video of you passed out in the parking lot with a red wax stamp on your forehead will not be posted on YouTube.

Whiskey not your cup of tea? Then why not opt instead for the Hall Artisan Wine and Art Experience for $20,000. An exclusive immersion into the art of wine making, you can have the chance to create your own vintage in a private blending session. Unemployed? Ask to swap out the wine estate tour for bartending lessons (while supplies last).

For $12,000, become the owner of a custom-made C.F. Martin & Co. six-string acoustic guitar and try to sing away your financial blues (Zoloft prescription sold separately). Guaranteed excellent acoustics for street corner performances (guitar case also sold separately). And should you lose your shirt, and house, to the bank, you can always burn the guitar and use the heat to roast a Neiman Marcus hot dog (made from grass-fed pork parts, bien sûr).

Also for $12,000, a sustainable-design art tree chandelier made from 366 recycled soda bottles sends a strong message to the gardener that you might be nearly broke, but you're still too good for a tiki torch. There's also a considerably less expensive version for $18.30 — Neiman Marcus will sell you 366 empty soda bottles for recycling and throw in a complimentary votive candle that you're welcome to try and shove inside a bottle (extra long lighter not included). Perfect for those who'd still like something by Neiman Marcus under the Christmas tree despite not being able to afford something from Neiman Marcus to hang on a real tree.

A limited edition, preserved 8.5-inch beetle posed in mid-flight and festooned with "gears, dials, springs, and other mechanical thingamabobs" from antique pocket watches displayed under glass on a walnut base and adorned with a brass plaque can be yours for $8,500. Because even Neiman Marcus runs out of gift ideas every once in a while.

AND FOR $199, NEIMAN MARCUS SYMPATHETICALLY OFFERS THE TOOLS TO FAKE A LUXURY VACATION TO ST. BARTS TO THOSE WHO LACK THE FUNDS TO BE SEEN AMONG THE RICH AND FAMOUS IN THE CARIBBEAN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

And for $199, Neiman Marcus sympathetically offers the tools to fake a luxury vacation to St. Barts to those who lack the funds to be seen among the rich and famous in the Caribbean this holiday season.

It starts with a limousine ride timed perfectly for when your most obnoxious neighbors step outside to retrieve their morning newspapers, at which time the driver will carry a set of rented Louis Vuitton luggage from your front porch to the car. While you spend the week at a Motel 6 in your town (Dominos and Netflix coupons may be requested upon check-in), you will be provided with Photoshopped pictures of you partying with P. Diddy on Paul Allen's yacht, his and her NetJets baseball caps and a five-punch pass to the nearest tanning salon.

Upon your "return," a detailed bill from the Hotel Guanahani & Spa will be "accidentally" e-mailed to the secretary of your office nemesis. And for an additional $39, Neiman Marcus will arrange for a Victoria's Secret model to interrupt your conversation with a golf club acquaintance at the neighborhood dry cleaners. She'll shyly ask if you're the same person who gallantly retrieved her bikini top while she was body surfing at La Page Grand Saline a few days earlier. For another $11, she'll wink at you suggestively and press her calling card into your palm.

Some restrictions and exclusions apply, particularly to employees of Goldman Sachs and anyone named Madoff.

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Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't sweat the small stuff

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

For the last few years, I have been suffering from chronic stomachaches, heartburn and acid reflux. My doctor says he believes these symptoms are all related to my stress level. I will admit I am somewhat of a worrier. There isn't anything unbearable or tragic going on in my life right now but I do constantly find myself worrying about work, school and what's going to happen tomorrow. I find myself even worrying about the littlest things. How can I control this? How can I stop worrying so much?

Help,
Worrywart

DEAR WORRYWART,

A lot of people worry in an excessive way. There is often something that might cause worry for most people but to be healthy, to keep it in perspective, worry should not be so excessive as to cause symptoms such as these or something similar like headaches, ulcers, high blood pressure, insomnia or fatigue. Excessive worry is a complete waste of time; it does absolutely no good at all except that it can give us an illusion of being in control. In this sense, it is a defense mechanism. But as you point out indirectly in describing your painful symptoms, it is often a costly one. When you have stomach problems and acid reflux, your problem has become quite serious. Acid reflux can lead to cancer of the esophagus, one of the leading cancers in the United States right now. Worrying can also be easily classified as negative stress, which can compromise our immune systems. Not to mention, if you worry long enough and hard enough, you can drive your blood pressure up.

Sometimes, worrying is caused from an underlying anxiety disorder or what is known as obsessive-compulsive disorder. These conditions can be treated with a psychotropic medication from the SSRI group or with certain types of talk therapy. Meditation and yoga can also be helpful in teaching you how to control your own mind.

Certainly something needs to be done when it gets as bad as you describe. You said you are in school, so I wonder about your age and how long you have had these symptoms? The sooner you catch it, the better. You also say that nothing bad is going on "right now," so I wonder if something bad happened in the past. In a similar vein, I also wonder if something unexpected happened that was difficult for you to deal with. If so, you might have what is known as post-traumatic stress. There are a lot of questions I might ask if I were your doctor. For now, I would just say again, take this very seriously and find a solution that works for you.

Ask yourself why you think you might be worrying so much? Did something happen to you that you need to get over? Are you sure that there is nothing to worry about? Are your loved ones OK? Is someone close to you having problems that concern you? Is there anything that you can actually do? If so, do it but then work on letting it go.

Definitely ask yourself if you feel more in control when you worry. Does it really get you what you want? Ask yourself if it's worth it to worry so much; can you afford the consequences of these physical symptoms if they continue? Try to be as honest with yourself as you can possibly be. This alone can lead you to possible solutions.

Try exercise, which can eliminate stress, and try meditation or yoga. These things along with rigorous self-honesty can take you a long way. If you cannot stop this on your own, please recognize that you need help. The professional help you might need should be short and sweet, so to speak.

Most of all remember that worry is not an honest feeling. It is an emotion we design to give ourselves a sense of control. But it is only an illusion. What have you ever actually changed or even controlled with your worry? I recently wrote an article that included a similar sentiment about hope. Just like hope, worry can be used like a drug. It is not always used in good faith and it can either let us down or end up causing us unpleasant consequences. Use it if you need it, but learn to do so sparingly and appropriately but then, let it go. You will be better for it!

DR. BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Send your comments or questions to newshrink@gmail.com or visit us @www.newshrink.com. All questions and responses are kept strictly confidential. Please let us help you with your life matters.

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The Q Line

No smoking in apartments?

A Rent Control Board member is supporting a ban on smoking in all apartments in Santa Monica. He plans to send the idea on to the City Council.

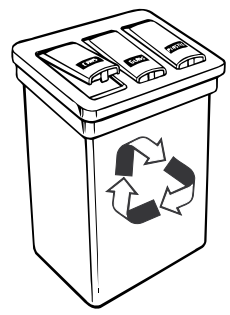
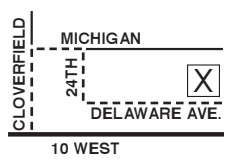
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Would you support an apartment smoking ban or do you think it goes too far?

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


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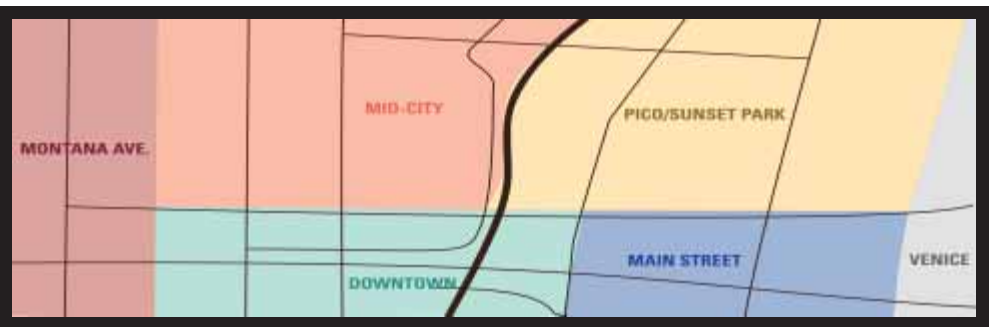


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Networks Cafe 2700 Colorado Ave. #190	(310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant 2031 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica 1601 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 395-6310
O' Briens 2226 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 829-5303
Our Cafe 2104 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-5313
Overunder 1333 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 899-0076
Pacific Dining Car 2700 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4000
Pot & Pan Thai Food 2315 Santa Monica Blvd	(818) 439-7083
Santa Monica Pizza 1318 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-4554
The Shack Restaurant 2518 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 449-1171
The Slice 915 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-2367
Sizzler 2025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-3250
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Sushi King 1330 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 395-0120
Tacos Por Favor 1406 Olympic Blvd	(310) 392-5768
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Tazzina 1620 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 413-4270
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Bravo Cucina 1319 Third Street Promenade	(310) 394-0374
Britannia pub 318 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 458-5350
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Brunos Italian Rest Deli 1652 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co 301 SM Pier	(310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo 1442 2nd St.	(310) 587-0771
The Cafe 445 Pacific Coast Hwy	(310) 393-8282
Cafe Crepe 1460 Third Street Promenade	(310) 576-0499
Cafe Paradiso 2408 Wilshire Blvd	(818) 427-1796
Cafe Presto 2425 Colorado Ave. #107 B	(310) 829-7757
Cafe Sol 2425 Colorado Ave.	(310) 829-0031
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California Crisp 13 Santa Monica Place	(310) 394-3800
California Pizza Kitchen 214 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-9335
Callahans Restaurant 1213 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-6210
Capo 1810 Ocean Ave.	(310) 394-5550
Carousel Cafe 1601 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 451-4277
Chez Jay 1657 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-1241
Comfort Cafe 420 Broadway	(310) 395-6252
Cora's Coffee Shoppe L P 1802 Ocean Ave.	(310) 434-2468
Crepes Company Inc 213 Arizona Ave.	(310) 801-0670
Dennys Restaurant 1645 1560 Lincoln Blvd	(714) 251-5409
Fast Taco 2901 Ocean Park Blvd #115	(310) 664-8722

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101 Wilshire Blvd (310) 319-3111

Fritto Misto 601 Colorado Ave.	(310) 458-2828

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Gate Of India 115 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 656-1665
Gaucho Grill 1251 Third Street Promenade	(323) 468-0220
Georges Bistro 1321 Third Street	(310) 451-8823
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Hot Dog On A Stick 1633 Ocean Front Walk	(760) 930-0456
Houston's 202 Wilshire Blvd	(602) 553-2111
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Il Fornaio 1551 Ocean Ave.	(415) 945-0500
Infuzion Cafe 1149 3rd St. #100	(310) 393-9985
Interactive Cafe 215 Broadway	(310) 395-5009
Ipanema Cafe 150 Santa Monica Place	(310) 838-8586
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La Botte, Inc. 620 Santa Monica Blvd #A	(310) 576-3072
La Salsa #44 1401 Third Street Promenade	(310) 587-0755
La Serenata 1416 4th St.	(310) 204-5360
Le Merigot Hotel 1740 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-9700
Leonidas 331 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 417-8851
Light House Buffet 201 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-2076
The Lobster 1602 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-9294
Locanda Del Lago 231 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-3525
Loews Santa Monica 1700 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-6700
Manchu Wok 11 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 458-3558
Mariasol 401 Santa Monica Pier	(213) 626-5554
Michaels 1147 3rd St.	(310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant 424 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 576-6330
Newsroom Santa Monica Inc 530 Wilshire	(310) 451-9444
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P F Chang's China Bistro 326 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 395-1912

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Perrys Pizz 930 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 2600 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 1200 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 458-3975
Perrys Pizza 2400 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Promenade Cafe 321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
R A W 609 Broadway	(310) 451-4148
Real Food Daily 514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard 522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Riva Restaurant 312 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-7482
Rustic Canyon 1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787

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256 Santa Monica Pier (310)393-PIERS

Scarboni 312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
SONNY MCLEAN'S 2615 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 449-1811
Stefano's 1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
Sunset Bar & Grill 1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express 1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189
Swingers 802 Broadway	(323) 656-6136
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Tudor House 1403 2nd St.	(310) 451-8470
Victoria Pizzeria 1607 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 394-6863
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Yangtze 1333 Third Street Promenade	(310)260-1994
Yankee Doodles 1410 Third Street	(310)394-4632
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Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
Ameci Pizza Pasta 2218 Lincoln Bl	(310) 314-0090
B B Q Garden 1707 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-6494
The Bread Factory Inc 1900 Pico Bl	(310) 434-4653
Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
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The Counter 2901 Ocean Park Bl #102	(310) 399-8383
The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
El Pollo Loco Restaurant 1906 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 392-9800
El Torito 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
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Ocean Park Pizza 2819 1/2 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-9949
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Gilbert's El Indio Mexican Food 2526 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-8057
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The Hungry Pocket 1715 Pico Blvd	(310) 458-5335
Il Forno Caffe & Pizzeria 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-1241
Josie Restaurant 2424 Pico Blvd	(310) 581-4201
La Playita 3306 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0090
Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-9011
Le Pain Du Jour 828 Pico Blvd #2	(310) 399-4870
Mandarin Food Service 2618 Pico Bl	(310) 396-9559
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Goudas & Vines 2000 Main Street	(310) 450-6739
Groundwork Coffee Co. 2908 Main St.	(310) 930-3910
The Galley 2442 Main St.	(310) 452-1934
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It's All Good Bakery 2629 Main St.	(310) 260-0233
Joes Main Street Diner 2917 Main St.	(310) 392-5804
La Vecchia Cucina 2654 Main St	(310) 399-7979
Library Alehouse 2911 Main St.	(310) 314-4855
Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St.	(310) 392-5711
Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St.	(310) 396-4122
Manchego 2510 Main Street	(310) 450-3900
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Schatzi On Main 3110 Main St	(310) 399-4800
Shoop's Delicatessen 2400 Main St	(310) 452-1019
Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12	(310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
The Victorian Baker Cafe 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-4956
Wildflour 2807 Main St.	(310) 452-7739
World Café 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-1661
Yose Restaurant 2435 Main St.	(310) 255-0680

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Agra Indian Kitchen 2553 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-8749
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Hama 213 Windward Ave.	(310) 396-8783
James Beach 60 N. Venice Blvd.	(310) 823-5396
Joe's Restaurant 1023 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 399-5811
La Cabana Restaurant 738 Rose Ave.	(310) 392-6161
La Meditrina 1029 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5000
Lands End Restaurant 323 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 392-3997
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Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd.	(310) 821-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-2229
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Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way	(310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way	(310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way	(310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina	(310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266	(310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way	(310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-3939
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Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-4534
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The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5451

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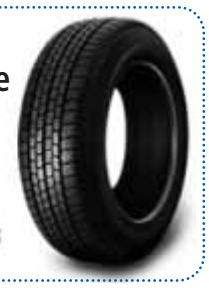
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The Re-View
Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fine night for a fine wine

ONE OF THE GREAT MARKETING SUCCESSES in the world has been the creation of anticipation of the Beaujolais nouveau each year for hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The past few vintages were not so great. But I just had the recent vintage at a special dinner offered at La Cachette, and this vintage was superb! This vintage had all the fruit and delicate undertones that has made Beaujolais famous. And at $9 a glass, it's a great bargain.

The dinner consisted of celery root and chestnut soup, which was rich in body and flavors, and went well with a glass of the Beaujolais. Then we switched to a burgundy with the star of the meal, a Beaujolais poached pear tart with blue cheese and roquette salad on the side. This is the kind of dish that makes French cooking stand out. A combination of flavors and textures that go so well together.

The main course was beef bourguignon, which the chef, Jean-Francois, explained was cooked at 200 degrees for eight hours (or, as he put it, overnight while he slept). The meat was of course tender and flavorful, and still moist. Personally I would not have served it over a bed of mashed potatoes. In France it usually comes on noodles.

Finally there was a hot chocolate chip cake with whipped cream. In spite of my sweet tooth this was the least interesting of the dishes.

I was glad to see the restaurant completely full, and it was clear that they have developed a top notch clientele. I saw a number of people I know that work in other restaurants treating themselves to the Beaujolais, which is, of course, the sign of a top-notch restaurant. This is a nice addition to the Santa Monica restaurant scene, and an annual Beaujolais event will be something I will look forward to.

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Pumpkin pie gets a personal and chocolatey makeover

BY ALISON LADMAN
For The Associated Press

An extra-dark gingerbread crust and dark chocolate glaze make these miniature pumpkin tarts a rich rethinking of the classic Thanksgiving dessert. If desired, accompany them with lightly sweetened whipped cream.

Dark pumpkin tartlets

Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours (45 minutes active)
Makes 15 tarts

For the crust:
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ground ginger
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
1/4 cup molasses
1 egg

For the filling:
15-ounce can pumpkin puree
14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ground ginger

For the glaze:
1/2 cup heavy cream
6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped

Equipment:
2 standard muffin trays (you need a total of 15 muffin tin cups)

To make the crust, in a food processor combine the flour, salt, sugar, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and nutmeg. Pulse together. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles small crumbs. Add the molasses and egg, then pulse until combined and a dough forms. Squeeze the dough into a round cake, then wrap in plastic and refrigerate for one hour.

Meanwhile, make the filling. In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients and whisk until well combined.

When the dough is ready, heat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray 15 of the muffin cups with cooking spray. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough until 1/4 inch thick. Use a 4-inch round cookie cutter to cut out 15 rounds of dough, rerolling and using the scraps as needed.

Gently press a round into each muffin cup. Divide the filling between the cups, then bake until the centers have set up, about 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool. Run a butter knife around the edges of the cups to loosen the tarts, then remove from the pans.

To make the glaze, in a medium microwave-safe bowl microwave the cream until boiling, about 1 to 2 minutes. Add the chocolate to the bowl and let sit for 2 minutes. Stir with a wooden spoon until the mixture is homogenous and shiny.

Pour the glaze over the top of each tartlet. Let firm up in the refrigerator, then serve at room temperature. Leftovers should be stored in the refrigerator.

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THE TURF FESTIVAL

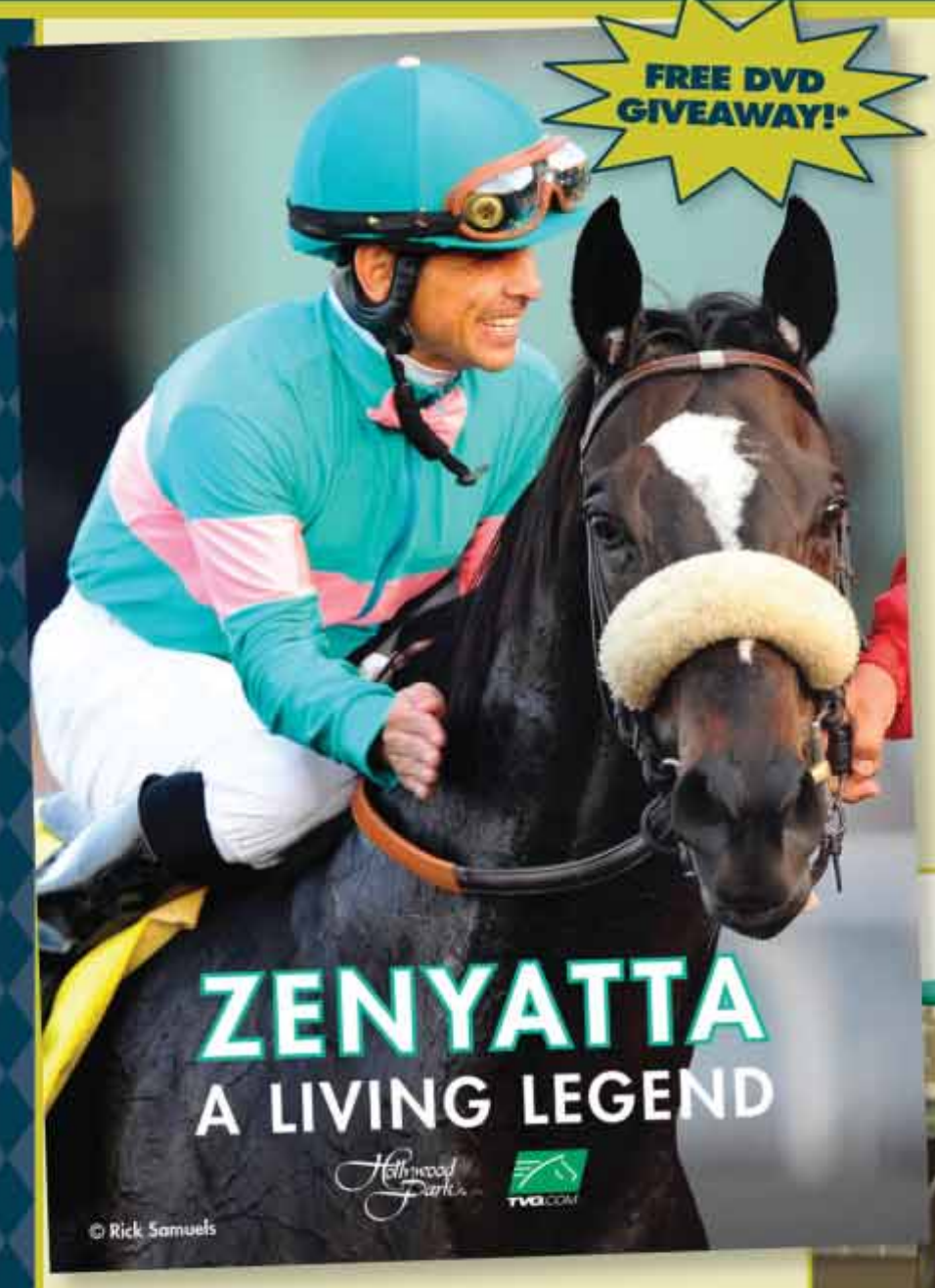
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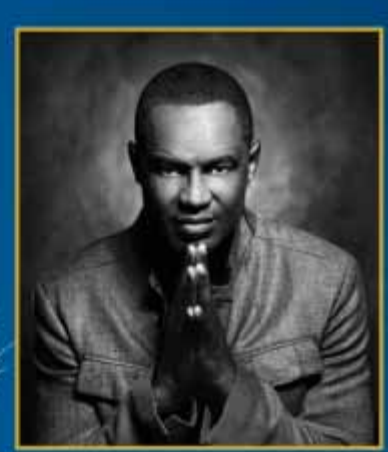
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The ratings, announced Nov. 15, were based on 2007 data from the Institute of Library Services. The index looked at more than 7,000 public libraries on the level of service they provided and identified 258 "star' libraries. Libraries were evaluated on per capita statistics that included visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer use.

The top libraries in each group received five, four or three stars.

"Library staff is working hard to help residents cope with the economy, educational needs and personal interests, and we're happy to be rated among the top libraries in the nation. Our goal is to help each person be successful, so if we're successful that means we are making a difference in the community," said Library Director Greg Mullen.

The newly created LJ Index offers an overall indication of how a library's performance stacks up to peer libraries and provides guidance on how public libraries can better assess and improve the services they present to users.

For more information about the library, its programs, and services visit your local branch or www.smpl.org.

DP

Expo drops body shop from plan

FROM **YARD** PAGE 1

reach process. If a park is selected for the location, city staff is proposing that approximately $2 million be set aside in next year's capital budget.

The space for the buffer will be controlled by City Hall through a three-way land exchange involving SMC and Expo. Under the plan, Expo would acquire the college's parking lot while SMC would obtain the land for the maintenance buffer. SMC and City Hall would then enter a swap in which the college would receive land adjacent to its Santa Monica Airport Bundy Campus. A city appraiser has determined that the existing SMC parking lot, the proposed buffer and airport land are equal in value based on square footage.

Aside from the buffer, Expo has agreed to put up landscaping features to soften the building facade, eliminate track loops to avoid screeching, and remove a paint and body shop that just last month had entered the picture to the disdain of residents and councilmembers. Paint and body shop functions will move to the Green Line maintenance yard in the South Bay.

A power station will also now be located about 150 feet north of Exposition Boulevard. Expo and city officials are also working on ways to muffle the air conditioning unit from the station.

Expo has also agreed to pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the facility.

"We are committed to being the best neighbor we possibly can to the community and that's why we have been involved, we want to be involved and stay involved through the process of developing what goes on [at] the facility and mitigations that are there because we will be the ones who will be delivering on the ongoing mitigations for the life of the project," Paul Taylor, deputy CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said.

Councilman Kevin McKeown remained concerned about the project.

"A lot of things have changed as we looked at this at multiple meetings but one thing has not changed and that is this is and always has been the wrong place," he said.

While still preferring a different location, several council members said that the light rail project won't be possible without a maintenance yard somewhere along the Phase 2 route.

> **"A LOT OF THINGS HAS CHANGED AS WE LOOKED AT THIS AT MULTIPLE MEETINGS BUT ONE THING HAS NOT CHANGED AND THAT IS THIS IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN THE WRONG PLACE."**
>
> **Kevin McKeown**
> Councilman

"To me it's as simple as that," Councilman Bob Holbrook said. "It's unfortunate that the existing line comes through the Pico Neighborhood along the Olympic Boulevard corridor into Santa Monica.

"It's a tough situation that we're trying to resolve here."

City officials surveyed numerous alternative sites along the route with a real estate consultant but did not yield any options that were deemed viable to Expo because of cost or configuration issues. One of the more recent options included a cluster of properties between Ninth and 11th Streets but was found unfeasible because of the high acquisition cost — $152-$203 million.

Holbrook urged Expo to hire local residents for both the construction and operation of the maintenance yard. Expo does have a program that sets aside 30 percent of construction jobs for local residents.

"I wish we knew there was a program that would train people for technical jobs to work at this facility," Holbrook said. "They will be close to a working facility where they can make a living."

melodyh@smdp.com

Suburb's rebirth rides on electric car plant

DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

DOWNEY This blue-collar suburb on the edge of Los Angeles once helped send men to space. After the collapse of its aerospace industry, its ambitions are now more down-to-earth but still looking toward the future.

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved an agreement aimed at luring Tesla Motors' electric car manufacturing plant to the former site of a NASA plant that helped develop the Apollo program and the space shuttle fleet.

The city is pinning hopes that the car factory could bring $21 million in city revenues over 15 years, create about 1,200 jobs and help revitalize its reputation as Southern California's high-tech hub.

"Not only will it bring money to the city, it will establish us as a leader in electric car and green technology production," Mayor Mario Guerra said.

For nine months the city has aggressively courted Tesla, a Bay Area company known for its sporty all-electric Roadster and now moving toward more mainstream sedans.

In September, the council took out a half-page advertisement in the Los Angeles Times featuring a photo of the members wearing "Downey (hearts) Tesla" T-shirts and holding a banner that read: "Downey Welcomes Tesla Motors. Apollo to Tesla ... the legacy continues."

The rotund mayor vowed to purchase a Tesla, even lose weight to fit into the sleek vehicle, if the carmaker comes to town.

Downey, a city of 115,000, was once a vibrant center of high tech manufacturing jobs where aerospace engineers designed and built parts for America's space program. At its height, there were some 30,000 employees at the complex, but when the plant closed in 1999, the complex fell into disrepair.

The city bought 160 acres of land from NASA and has been trying to redevelop it. A hospital, park, shopping center and memorial dedicated to the shuttle Columbia now occupy half of the complex. The other half became a film production facility used in the making of "Ironman," "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra" and at least one of the "Spiderman" films.

Industrial Realty Group owns nearly 60 acres of Downey Studios, and the city owns the remaining 20 acres.

Under a memorandum of understanding with IRG, the city agreed to waive $6.9 million in rent on those 20 acres and promised to expedite the permit process if IRG enters into a lease with Tesla.

Tom Messler, senior vice president of IRG, said his company is holding final discussions with the carmaker.

"We're continuing to make progress," he said.

San Carlos-based Tesla has been looking for a place to build its next-generation Model S sedan, its seven-seat, $57,400 alternative to the $109,000 Roadster.

The Roadster's chassis is assembled in England and its guts — the powertrain, battery and so on — are installed at Tesla's factory in Menlo Park.

Tesla Motors Inc. initially planned to build the Model S in New Mexico but was persuaded to stay in California when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger offered to exempt Tesla from state sales tax on equipment it buys to build the sedan. That will save the company 7 percent to 9 percent on each part purchased.

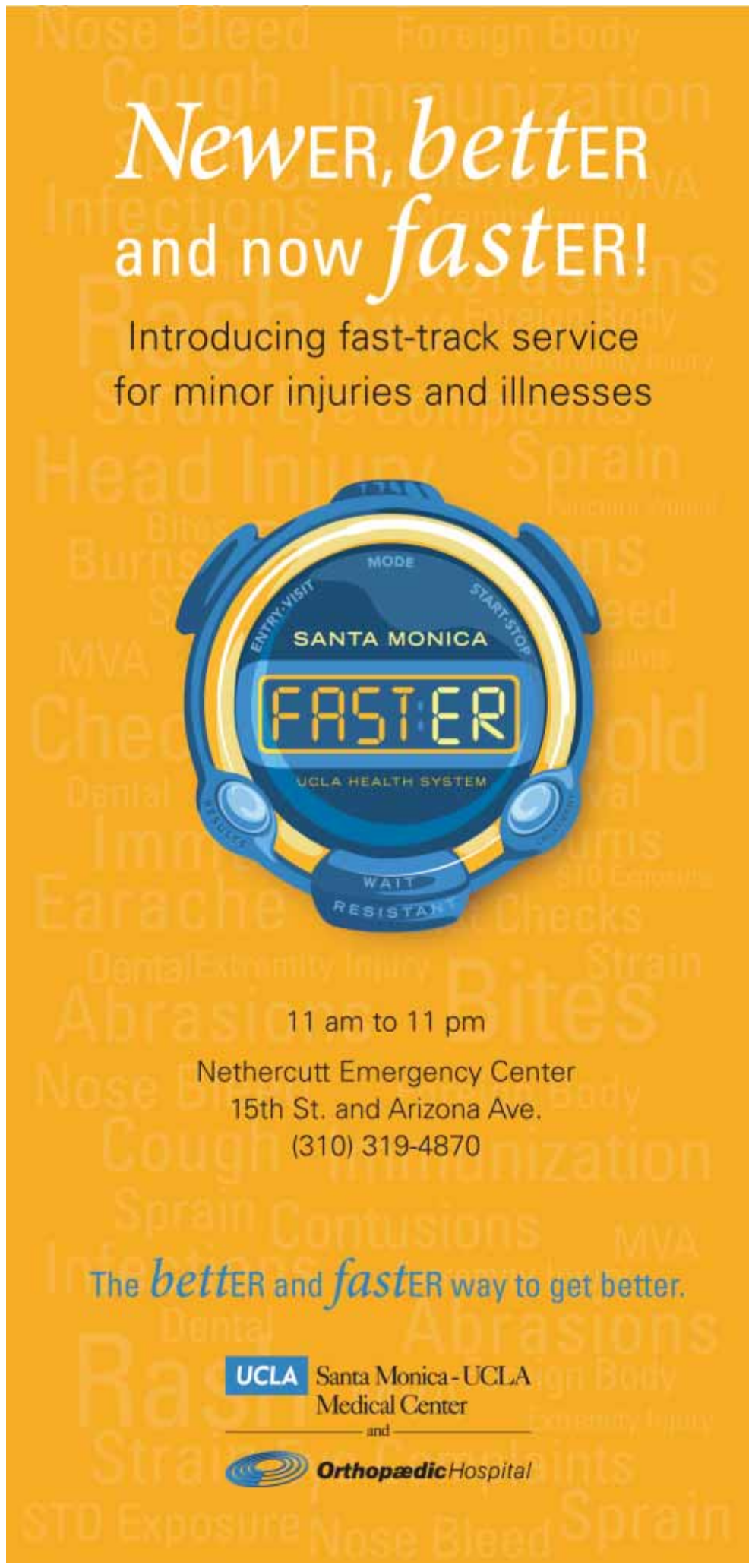
When the Model S was unveiled to reporters in the spring, Tesla said it would bring the plant to Southern California. The company has also flirted with Long Beach, and Tesla spokesman Ricardo Reyes would not confirm if it has chosen a site.

In June, the company was awarded $465 million in low-interest loans from the U.S. Department of Energy to help build the Model S, which is designed to travel as far as 300 miles on a three- to five-hour charge.

The car is slated to go into production by late 2011, and with a federal tax credit for battery-powered cars, the cost to buyers could be less than $50,000.

If Tesla comes to Downey, it would mark the return of auto manufacturing to Southern California for the first time since General Motors Co. closed its Van Nuys Plant in 1992.









Wanderlust

Dan Dawson
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Big Island's best places for accommodations

HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND HAS OVER 23 eco-systems, the tallest mountain and the largest active volcano on Earth. But, once the fun is done the place you rest your head should be just as exotic.

When going to the Big Island you have to visit what is often referred to as "the real Hawaii," the wet and green Hamakua coast. Here are two of my favorite exotic places to stay while on this side of the island that includes a private jungle retreat with no walls and a small bed and breakfast that is like a tree house for adults. While there are no shortage of grand hotels and resorts on Hawaii's Big Island, these two spots are so amazing you won't want to close your eyes.

THE CRATER'S EDGE

"I wish I could just turn off my brain and stop doing things," says Melanie, the owner of At the Crater's Edge.

But, I am glad she can't. A renaissance woman in every sense of the word, this delightful woman and I enjoyed a breakfast of fresh Hawaiian pineapple, papaya spritzed with lime, and some delicious homemade poppy seed bread outside on the large wooden porch at her guesthouse less than a mile from the most active volcano in the world.

A good percentage of visitors spend all day in the sun and never get to the wet jungle side of the island to see the small villages and dramatic landscapes. But, going to this side of the island to see the more remote spots and explore the volcano is mandatory for adventurers. If you are going to spend time visiting Volcano National Park, spend at least two nights in the village of Volcano to take the night hike to see the glowing lava spit and steam as it hits the ocean. It is easier than driving the dark roads back to some other location and makes a perfect home base for exploring this side of the island.

Melanie has just completed designing and overseeing the building of a beautiful property that is a tree house for adults. Located in a dense wet rainforest, huge windows and sliding glass doors make up two sides of the two guest rooms, giving views into the tropical foliage that make it seem that you are floating in the trees. The entire structure is made of wood imported from Canada, giving the whole place a warm, woodsy feeling. The vaulted ceilings in the rooms rise overhead and are topped with tin. My first night there I slept better than I had in months listening to the gentle drumming of the rain. And, it is dark. I mean really dark. Because of the proximity to Mauna Loa (the other volcano) and its observatory, there are no street lights and almost no outdoor lights of any kind in the town of Volcano. Plus, there just aren't that many people there anyway. Melanie has furnished the two guest rooms with flashlights as well as top of the line linens, a deep jacuzzi bath, and fresh fruits and breads. A raised wooden walkway meanders through the tall trees and ferns to a secluded spa area with jacuzzi and sauna. With only one other guest room (although when not there she sometimes rents out the extra large main unit) you get the privacy and solitude that you just can't find at a hotel or even a bed and breakfast.

These rooms range in price from $250 to $375 per night and are available year round.

MINIMALIST RETREAT

"I knew paradise existed, but I had no idea I'd find it at Reed's Falls." This is a quote from a guest book at the private retreat called The Falls at Reed's Island (www.reedsisland.com). This is truly a stunning vacation property that will leave you wide eyed at its beauty.

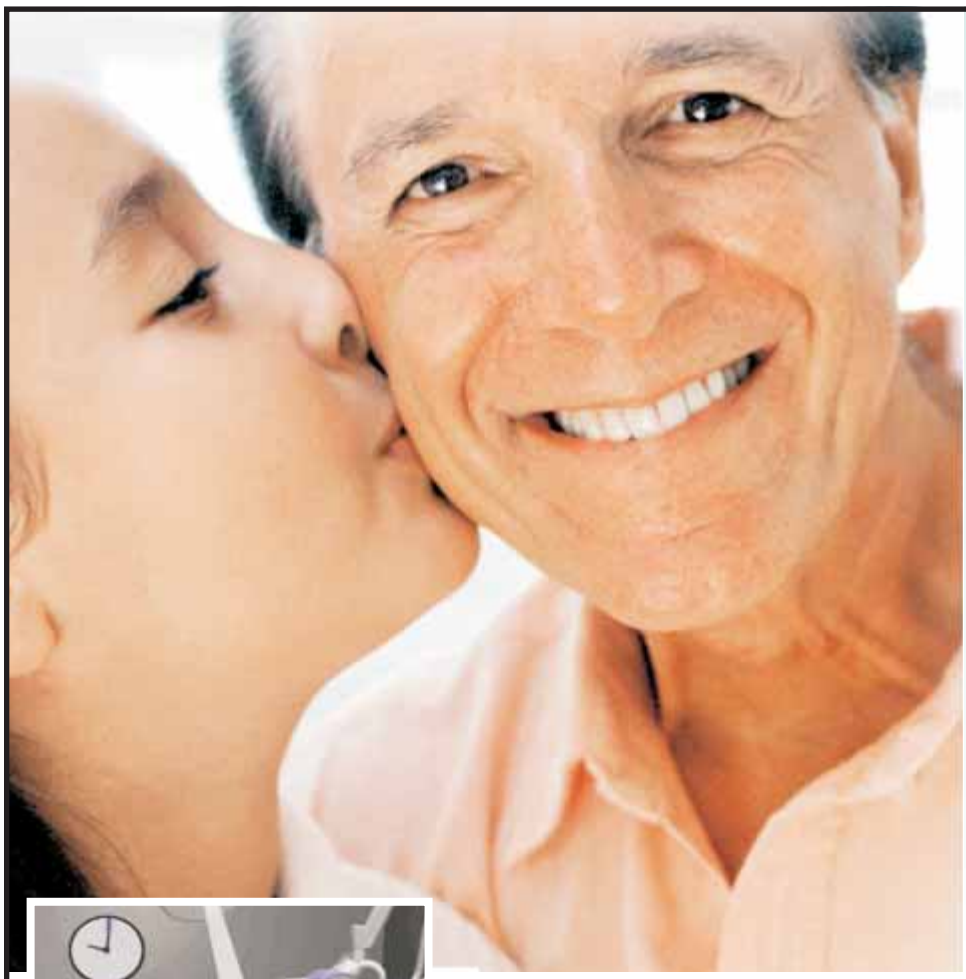
Just a mile or two up the mountain from the little town of Hilo on the Big Island's wet side is a small dirt road that ends at an unassuming gate. But, swing the gate open and be prepared to never want to leave the beauty of this place. Sitting atop a narrow bluff at the end of a long, winding drive sits a house by renowned architects who have been innovators of designing in the minimalist style. And, this home is no exception. So minimalist in fact that it has almost no walls. One long central hallway is comprised completely of large wood posts and screens so that the sights and sounds of the jungle surrounding the place are all around. With a mere six to eight feet of land on either side of the house, the property plunges to an almost vertical level down into a lush tropical ravine on one side of the house and into a emerald green river on the other. From the window at the end of the house the unobstructed views are right into the magnificent triple water fall of Reed's Falls.

Privacy here is unmatched. Though only a five minute drive into the town of Hilo, there is not another building or person in sight. And, at night, the darkness is complete, and the only sound you will hear, and it is a loud sound, is the chorus of thousands of frogs that make the river their home.

With three very large comfortable bedrooms, each one with its own unique and breathtaking view, it is a great escape for a group, or can just be a cozy retreat for two. Prices for the place are incredibly reasonable for the Big Island. Rates range from $296 per night with a seven night stay and up to $365 a night, less than the cost of many of the big resorts.

This is the perfect home base for exploring some of the sites of the Hamakua Coast. Within an hour's drive you can horseback ride into the breathtaking Waipi'o Valley, wander a real-world Eden at the World Botanical Gardens, or visit Volcano National Park.

DAN DAWSON is a travel journalist and dedicated world traveler who has written articles for many publications on adventures abroad. He is also the marketing manager for the Big Blue Bus. Tell him about your favorite vacation spot at www.WonderlustTravel.com.





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Year after NY stampede, Black Friday gets makeover

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press Writer

VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. Victoria Rogers had originally planned to make an early stop the day after Thanksgiving last year at the Walmart store in Valley Stream on Long Island. Her last-minute decision against it might have saved her life.

"We saw the mob, and we said no," she said. "Walmart's not the store."

What she saw that day was no ordinary crowd of shoppers, but a throng police say jammed through the doors upon the store's opening in a mad dash for holiday savings, trampling a guard to death.

"No price can be worth someone's life," said Rogers, of the New York City borough of Queens, on a recent visit to the same store.

One year later, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is embroiled in lawsuits, appealing citations and instituting companywide changes, including staying open 24 hours on Thanksgiving, and has inspired voluntary federal guidelines outlining what other retailers should do to avoid the same result.

"What happened is tragic, and we're still saddened by it," said Daphne Moore, spokeswoman for Wal-Mart Stores, based in Bentonville, Ark. "We are committed to looking for ways to make stores even safer for our customers and associates."

Joe LaRocca, senior asset protection adviser for the National Retail Federation, said the trade group worked with retailers to come up with its own guidelines for managing crowds during special events, including the day after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday because it is traditionally considered the day stores break into profitability for the full year.

"Following the incident last year, retailers took another look at their crowd control and major event guidelines," he said. "Many retailers already had these guidelines; some enhanced what they had."

Best Buy ran rehearsals for Black Friday weekend, practicing lining customers up, placing products in the store, checking out overall flow and how the event may flow within the store.

Other companies have worked closely with mall operators on where to form lines and how they might better communicate with customers. They have been examining staffing plans and hiring extra security.

Wal-Mart signed off in May on an agreement with local prosecutors that required it to overhaul security for Black Friday sales in its 92 New York locations, but it recently said it is employing its new strategy nationwide.

The settlement also required Wal-Mart to consult with experts to develop safety plans for each store. Crowd-management staff will be deployed, and maps will show customers where the hot sale items are.

Stores will also place the hottest items — marked-down TVs, toys and laptop computers, for example — far apart to prevent big crowds from gathering.

Wal-Mart will also erect barriers to manage traffic flow and distribute wristbands to customers on items with limited inventory. Security monitors will help ensure procedures are being followed, officials said — not just guards, like Jdimytai Damour.

At 6-5, 270 pounds, Damour was built like an NFL linebacker, but he was no match for an estimated 2,000 people who broke down the doors when the Valley Stream Walmart opened at 5 a.m. on Black Friday last year.

Damour, who was 34 and described by friends as a "gentle giant," had been hired only days before. He was trapped inside the vestibule and died of asphyxiation. Several other people, including a pregnant woman, were injured.

A criminal investigation forced Wal-Mart Stores to revamp security planning for the holiday season and led federal regulators to issue safety recommendations for all merchants conducting special events like Black Friday sales.

Damour's family is suing the retailer and Nassau County officials, claiming police could have controlled the crowd better, although police contend that was Wal-Mart's responsibility.

Edward H. Gersowitz, a lawyer for the Damour family, says "positive discussions" continue with Wal-Mart about a possible settlement.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Wal-Mart for inadequate crowd management, but the retailer is appealing.

The National Retail Federation, the industry's largest group, said Damour's death is believed to be the only instance of a store worker dying in the post-Thanksgiving rush.

Police said customers stepped over or on Damour's body as they forced their way through sliding glass doors.

"I think the people themselves were at fault because they were like animals, wild people," Joe Staskowski, of Valley Stream, said on a recent trip to the store. "And for a couple of dollars for people to get hurt or killed? It's a tragedy."

Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice contended that had Wal-Mart been found guilty of a crime, the maximum penalty it could have faced was a $10,000 fine. Instead, the store agreed to a $400,000 compensation fund for victims and donated $1.5 million to county social services programs and nonprofit groups.

So far, only three people have qualified for payments from the victims' fund, a Rice spokesman said. They had to prove they were at the store that morning and provide documentation of any physical injury or damage to possessions.

Among the survivors last year was Leana Lockley. The 29-year-old Queens woman was five months pregnant when she was caught up in the stampede and found herself being trampled. Her attorney says she credits Damour with helping save not only her life, but also that of her daughter, Alicia Skye Lockley, who was born in April.

She, too, has sued Wal-Mart but is negotiating a possible settlement, said attorney David Sloan.

Lockley declined to be interviewed but issued a statement:

"I believe that there are many lessons to be learned from this tragic incident and I do hope and pray that this year will bring a happy, festive and orderly time for all."

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The 14 users currently in the teen chat room.

good2hug: 14, female, Daytona, FL
joey16: 16, male, Hackensack, NJ
robbiew: 38, male, Daytona, FL
b-ball_tommy: 15, male, Pocatello, ID
tu_tu: 16, female, Burlington, VT
duffme: 44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie: 30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989: 15, female, Naperville, IL
harrys_girl: 12, female, Appleton, MN
slugger20: 17, male, Jackson, MS
qtrback21: 26, male, Brooklyn, NY
suzie14: 14, female, Portland, OR
hiphopper: 13, female, Plano, TX
paperboy: 41, male, Beaverton, OR

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Metro Briefs
WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Thousands Celebrate Metro Rail to East LA
An estimated crowd of 75,000 was on hand to celebrate Sunday, November 15 as rail returned to East LA with the opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The six-mile extension serves the Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights, East LA and links to the existing Gold Line to Pasadena. Find out more at *metro.net*.

Breaking Metro News Online At "The Source"
Now you can get instant updates on the issues and actions that keep LA County moving. Just go to "The Source," a real-time online news and feature service that is updated throughout the day on developments that affect Metro's projects and services. Look for it today at *metro.net*.

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Metro Rail to East LA is one of the first examples of your Measure R tax dollars at work. Go online anytime and track the progress of all the other Measure R funded projects. Just go to *metro.net* and search for "Progress Tracker."

Enjoy Holiday Entertainment At L.A. Live
Grab some skates, family and friends and ice skate in Nokia Plaza at L.A. Live December 3-31. Show your valid Metro pass, Metro Rail ticket or Destination Discounts card at the box office and save $1 off skating admission. Check the Destination Discounts pages at *metro.net*.

Go Metro For The Holidays
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TIME TO GET IT DONE

Salvation Army's iconic kettles now credit ready

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. There could be less jingle in the Salvation's Army's hallmark red kettles this season. The charity is testing kettles that take debit and credit cards.

The growth of so-called "plastic kettles" comes as fewer shoppers carry cash. Bell ringers who stand outside stores during the holiday season say that more and more shoppers are shaking their heads and smiling as they pass by, apologizing for not having spare change or cash to drop in the red kettles.

Last year Salvation Army tested the credit machines in two cities, Dallas and Colorado Springs. This year the plastic kettles will be tested in more than 120 cities.

In Colorado Springs, fundraising last year went up $64,000 from the year before, an 11 percent increase. About $5,000 of the increase was from donors using credit or debit cards at the kettles.

"It used to be people would spend their money at the store counters, walk out and drop their change in the kettles. They don't shop that way anymore," said Major Don Gilger, coordinator of the Salvation Army of El Paso County. "We all realize that people are carrying less cash than they did 10 years ago."

The kettles that take credit don't look any different. But next to the metal red kettles are wireless card readers that resemble do-it-yourself readers at gas stations. The machines print two receipts, one for the donor and one to drop in the kettle. Salvation Army pays credit-processing fees same as any retailer.

But the plastic kettles take some getting used to. In Colorado Springs, volunteer bell ringer Dave Flack wasn't sure what to make of his first day ringing bells next to a credit machine. The 61-year-old keeps a three-ring-notebook full of Christmas carols handy to sing to shoppers outside the grocery store where he volunteers, but he needed to borrow a pen from the Salvation Army manager who showed him how to take donations using the machine.

Flack said he'd be willing to give it a shot.

"I've been doing this five years, and I hear people say they'd like to help but don't have any cash. I don't know if they'll use this or not," Flack said. "But the need is great, so whatever it takes, we'll try it."

Shoppers looked at the plastic kettle with interest. No one used it right away, but they liked the idea.

"This is great. I've never seen that before," said shopper Sara Trumbley, whose two small children dropped coins in the kettle. "A lot of times I'll walk by and think, 'I have no cash, that stinks.' People are going to be excited to see this."

The charity says its red kettles brought in more than $130 million nationwide last year, an increase of 17 percent from 2007. Salvation Army officials aren't sure how much of the increase came from credit or debit donations.

Anecdotal evidence indicates people who stop to make credit or debit donations make larger gifts, at least a few dollars. Major George Hood, spokesman for the Arlington, Va.-based charity, said that the donation sizes are similar to online donations, which average about $75.

Denver-area bell ringers getting ready to try the new machines said the plastic kettles could make it safer to volunteer. The charity insists that red kettle thefts are rare, but volunteer bell ringers say robberies happen and that volunteers would be safer standing next to kettles with less cash.

"It's a lot cleaner process, a lot safer for everyone," said Hardway Boyed, who runs a drug and alcohol treatment program for the Salvation Army and volunteers as a bell ringer. A volunteer he works with was robbed three years ago outside a post office, and Boyed called the cashless donations "fantastic."

The charity says that the old-fashioned kettles aren't going anywhere, because shoppers and especially children enjoy dropping coins as they shop for the holidays. Even Salvation Army groups that are using the card machines say they're a small part of the overall fundraising effort.

"They're still a little cumbersome," Gilger said. "They work, and we're going to keep using them, but the technology isn't really there yet. Some people are a little leery of it, or don't want to stop that long to use the machine."

Maybe one day, Salvation Army officials say, the charity will come up with something even faster than dropping a coin.

"I would love it eventually if we had a little antenna on the kettles and you could walk by a just beam a donation from your phone," Gilger said.

On the Net:
Salvation Army: http://www.salvationarmyusa.org

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Drywall investigation expands into U.S. products

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. A federal probe of tainted Chinese drywall has broadened because a small number of homeowners are reporting that American-made drywall is causing some of the same problems: a sickening, sulfurous stench and corroded pipes and wiring.

"We are not limited in the scope of our investigation to just Chinese drywall," said Scott Wolfson, spokesman for the Consumer Products Safety Commission, which is conducting the largest investigation in its history after thousands of homeowners complained and filed lawsuits.

The vast majority of complaints still center on China-made gypsum board imported during the recent U.S. housing boom, when domestic building materials were in short supply. And the commission's investigation is focused mainly on the imported drywall, Wolfson said.

But sporadic reports are surfacing from owners of homes built with American drywall, and the symptoms they report are similar to those reported with the Chinese drywall: a rotten-egg odor that makes occupants sick, corrosion of copper pipes, and ruined TVs and air conditioners.

"We've got a huge problem here, and we just need help," said George Brincku, 48, who bought his southwest Florida house in 2004 and almost immediately began noticing the odd smell, the corrosion of wires and headaches.

When he saw reports about Chinese drywall, he assumed that was the problem with his house — until he called the contractor who installed it.

"I have all 100 percent American-made drywall," Brincku said.

He sent samples to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which found that the wallboard from Brincku's home contained 50 percent gypsum and 50 percent cellulose, an organic compound. Drywall should contain mostly gypsum.

Researchers do not know for certain what causes the chemical reactions, but an MIT scientist said the mixture of gypsum and cellulose in Brincku's wallboard, combined with the humid atmosphere in Florida, was releasing sulfurous gases, causing corrosion of copper, brass and silver.

"The only solution is removal of the drywall," Thomas Eagar, an MIT professor of materials engineering, wrote in his report. He did not return a call from The Associated Press.

Most of the drywall in Brincku's home was made by Charlotte, N.C.-based National Gypsum, which said its own testing found the material from the house contained just 4 percent cellulose.

"We absolutely don't know how you could make wallboard with 50 percent cellulose. It just simply would not hold together," spokeswoman Nancy Spurlock said. "We have been producing wallboard for 85 years in the United States, and we have never had a problem" similar to the Chinese drywall complaints.

Although Brincku has not sued, several other lawsuits have now been filed against American drywall manufacturers, including National Gypsum and Atlanta-based Georgia-Pacific Corp.

Georgia-Pacific declined to comment on the litigation, but spokesman James Malone said the company had heard no such complaints until now.

Attorney Brian Warwick, who is suing Georgia-Pacific in federal court on behalf of two Florida homeowners, said his clients also heard the reports about Chinese drywall and assumed their homes were built with the imported materials.

He believes reports of tainted U.S. building materials will increase as homeowners realize the problem is not just with some Chinese wallboard.

"All the media keeps focusing on is China, China, China," he said. "So how many people are just dismissing their claims because they see they don't have Chinese drywall, and think they don't have tainted drywall?"

Reports of tainted Chinese drywall began to surface last year, and homeowners who bought houses with the imported materials have filed hundreds of lawsuits against builders, suppliers and manufacturers.

In a report issued Monday, the Consumer Products Safety Commission said its studies found a "strong association" between the Chinese drywall and corrosion. The agency also said it found a possible link between health problems and high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas emitted from the wallboard, coupled with formaldehyde, which is commonly found in new houses.

The commission also recently made public a separate 44-home investigation into homeowner complaints, listed on its Web site as a probe into "imported drywall." In fact, 10 of those homes had American drywall.

Still, complaints about U.S. drywall are greatly outnumbered by those regarding Chinese imports.

Of roughly 2,100 complaints received by the commission, about 25 involve homeowners who reported issues with American wallboard, Wolfson said. That is not enough data to make a determination.

A University of Florida study conducted for CBS News tested new samples of U.S. drywall, new samples of the Chinese material and Chinese wallboard from problem homes.

The scientists found that most of the new U.S. samples released sulfur fumes, but at a lower level than the Chinese product taken from homes. However, the study also found that some American product had higher emissions than some of the new Chinese material.

Spurlock, of National Gypsum, said the company was "quite puzzled" with the University of Florida study.

Some experts have suggested that some homes may have been built with a combination of Chinese and American drywall, but since not all of the wallboard imported from China was labeled, it's impossible to tell what's what. The only solution in that case would be for homeowners to tear the house down to the studs and test everything.

Another theory is that bad Chinese wallboard could be contaminating other materials in the house. The federal government is also looking into that.

Meanwhile, Brincku has moved out of his house and is now renting because the odor persists, and the electrical outlets are failing.

"You turn a switch on, and it all buzzes," said Brincku, who struggles to make monthly rent and mortgage payments. "I don't have any money left."





Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

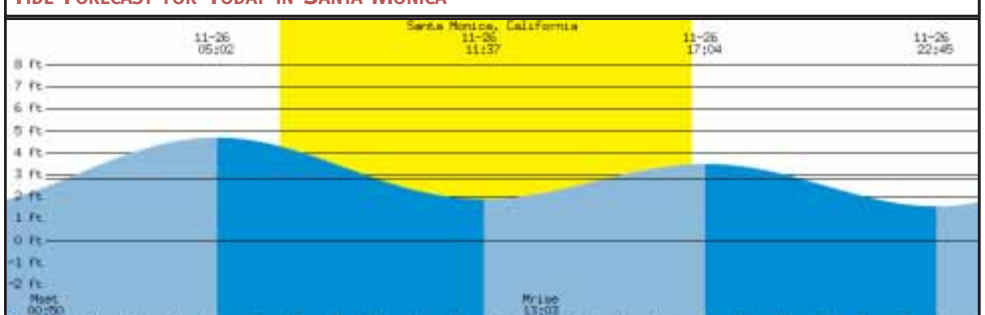
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, perhaps knee to waist most everywhere. Winds should be lightly offshore in the AM, and lightly onshore in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Should only see perhaps a 10-20% decline in swell. Sets around most west facing breaks should be at least head high.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 17, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Corrillo Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	C	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	B	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	C	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

UCLA mascot gets USC paint job ahead of big rivalry game

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES UCLA's bruin mascot has gotten a messy paint job — in the colors of cross-town rival USC.

UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton says the statue in Bruin Square was splashed with red and gold paint sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Vandals cut through a protective tarp to vandalize the statue in the middle of the West Los Angeles campus days before Saturday's annual Bruin-Trojan football game.

Workers Wednesday were trying to remove the paint.

No arrests were made but campus police are investigating.

Meanwhile, USC students in shifts are guarding their Tommy Trojan statue, which also is under wraps.

NFL

Cowboys Stadium may add flag

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas The Dallas Cowboys could have a permanent U.S. flag inside their nearly $1.2 billion stadium as early as their annual Thanksgiving game today.

Spokesman Brett Daniels said Wednesday that owner Jerry Jones heard the growing chorus of fans criticizing the team for not having a flag permanently displayed inside cavernous Cowboys Stadium.

The Cowboys used a giant flag the size of the field for the first regular-season game, and the huge video boards hanging over the field usually show the flag during the national anthem.

The issue became a hot topic when no flag was displayed before a high school playoff game two weekends ago.

Dallas plays Oakland on Thursday. The next home game is Dec. 13 against San Diego.

NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA's Dragovic reinstated after two-game suspension

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES UCLA reinstated Nikola Dragovic on Wednesday after the Serbian forward's two-game suspension for his arrest in an assault case.

Coach Ben Howland cleared the 21-year-old senior to practice with the Bruins on Wednesday, and said he'll play in Thursday's 76 Classic opener in Anaheim against Portland.

"Based on the information we have right now and what we know about the situation, I sat down with (athletic director) Dan (Guerrero) and we've been discussing this," Howland said. "We just felt like he's been suspended for the two games, and based on what we know right now, it would be the right decision to let him play."

Dragovic hasn't been practicing with the Bruins since he was suspended last Friday. He missed games against Cal State Bakersfield and Pepperdine.

Howland said Dragovic won't yet reclaim his spot from James Keefe in the Bruins' starting lineup. Dragovic is the Bruins' only returning starter this fall.

Dragovic's lawyer, Jon Artz, said his client will plead not guilty after being arrested last week on a felony warrant which alleges Dragovic knocked a man into a glass case during a concert in Hollywood.

Artz says the other man was the aggressor, was drinking heavily and had slapped Dragovic's roommate. He claims Dragovic attempted to leave, but was followed from the third floor of the theater by the man, who said he had a knife and threatened to kill Dragovic.

"We're pretty confident that once we show what happened upstairs, the spin in this case that Nikola was the bad guy will take a different spin," Artz said.

Dragovic voluntarily filed a report with campus police a week after the incident, and believed the incident had been written off as a minor scuffle. He was "unpleasantly surprised" to be arrested the following month, Artz said.

Dragovic also was suspended for one game last season on suspicion of pushing his former live-in girlfriend to the ground during a dispute. He was booked on suspicion of misdemeanor battery, and though prosecutors decided not to file charges, Howland said the incident would be taken into account in determining Dragovic's punishment.

Artz said Dragovic's arraignment is scheduled for Dec. 21.

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MOVIE TIMES

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AMC Loews Broadway 4
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Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min
10:50 am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
11:00 am, 2:35, 6:15, 9:45

Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min
11:20 am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 2hrs 01min
11:10 am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

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

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
11:30am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 5:55, 8:25, 11:00

Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 30min
10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
9:50am, 2:30, 7:25

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min
10:15 am, 12:00, 12:50, 3:20, 4:45, 5:50, 8:20, 9:55, 10:55

Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min
10:05 am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05

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

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

The Messenger (R) 2hr 7min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 10:15

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hr 6min
11:40 am, 1:00, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:00, 8:40, 10:00, 11:40

Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hr 10min
11:30 am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
11:20 am

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

In the limelite, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Facilitate with behind-the-scenes efforts -- today's main theme. You don't want to be left holding the bag. Don't hesitate to ask for some support from compatriots. Root out a problem. Tonight: Your time to relax, veg and watch TV -- finally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Enjoy the unusual conviviality of the day. Others want to pitch in. You might have a bit more on your plate than you might like. Others seem to sense this overload and pitch in. Tonight: Sit down before you collapse.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Whether you like it or not, you are the leader of the gang. Fatigue could stream in if you let it. Take a longer walk than usual to recharge your energy. Everyone has limits. A key person needs your resourcefulness. Whether you play devil's advocate or resource is your call. Tonight: Let the party begin.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Make calls to those at a distance. If travel is on your agenda, get going ASAP. The traffic could only get heavier. Someone takes another perspective in a debate. Listen rather than put others down. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Someone who feels that he or she can, will seize the power and make as many decisions today as he or she wants. Do you really want to scrap about this behavior? Be smart and defer. You don't always have to be a leader. Tonight: Put on a great piece of music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Let others do what they want, because they will anyway. Put your feet up and relax while your many friends and colleagues visit. The mood to network and socialize cannot be denied. Tonight: Make time for a special person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You wind up with most of the to-dos. You might not be sure what to do first as you look around and see what must be completed. Don't hesitate to reach out for support. An admirer could come through for you. Tonight: The later it gets, the better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Where others would be frantic facing problems, you come up with a lot of solutions. With all this creativity, your appeal heightens, making you close to irresistible. Know that the world is your oyster. Tonight: Just be yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Stay close to home, even if you are working. Though your home might buzz with action, understand how much your presence is appreciated. Kick back. Think "early weekend." Visit with others in a manner you usually don't. Tonight: When you get your second wind, act on it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your ability to weave past complications and thus simplify a situation helps others. Many people want your feedback. Screen your calls if you are to accomplish anything. A partner is quite self-assured. You won't be able to change his or her mind. Tonight: Visit before it gets too late and fatigue sets in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ If you are overwhelmed by the cost of entertaining or any other project, join the crowd. A partner, associate or friend might have many good solutions. Encourage them to get involved with what you see as a building trend. Tonight: An evening chat could become a late-night talk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others appreciate whatever you do. Take advantage of this moment, as often others aren't so easygoing. Stop and take time for someone who might need your feedback. Visit with a friend you haven't seen in a while. Tonight: Whatever floats your boat.

Happy birthday

This year, your solution-finding skills help you over any bumps in the road. You handle people and make choices in a centered and caring manner. Communicate what is important, although others might not want to hear it. Apply creativity and ingenuity to your words. If you are single, you meet people with ease. You are likely to have a series of suitors, especially after New Year's. Someone special could come around the corner in 2010. If you are attached, together you could plan a second honeymoon. Add more romantic dates into the mix, especially if you cannot travel. ARIES likes to win.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



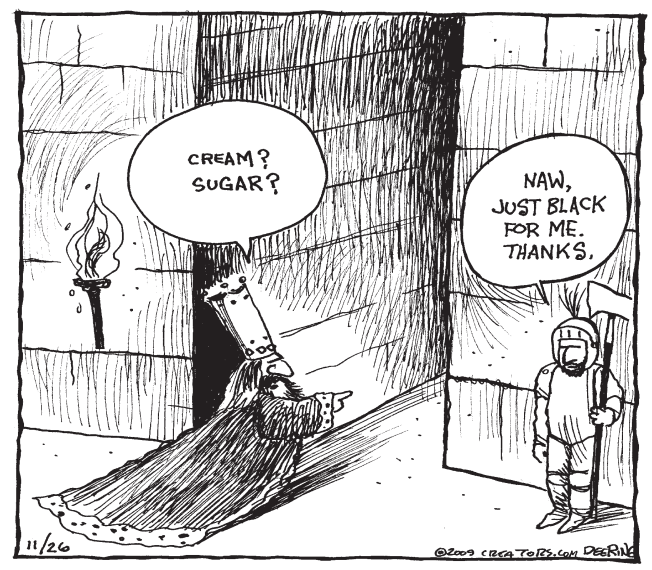
Garfield

By Jim Davis



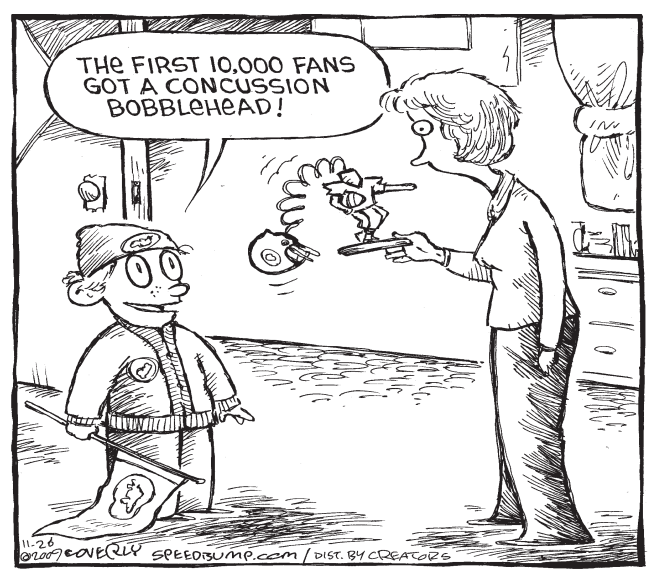
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dazzles
5 Decked out
11 1975 Wimbledon winner
12 Book boo-boos
13 Glided
14 Grip tightly
15 Starchy vegetables
17 LAX guess
18 Small amphibians
22 Saudi Arabia neighbor
24 Moral code
25 St.'s kin
26 Cider girl of song
27 Security problems
30 Following
32 Loosen, in a way
33 Take to court
34 Fleshy vegetables
38 Official count
41 Hawk
42 Dorm sharer
43 Comfort
44 Mean
45 Hearty dish

DOWN

1 Fig pollinator
2 European capital
3 Thanksgiving choice
4 Peaceful
5 1920s art style
6 Dahl of films
7 Radio button
8 Skillet
9 List abbr.
10 Stadium cry
16 Brown hue
19 Cagney film
20 Ocean motion
21 Surgery souvenir
22 Korean border river
23 Flat
28 Candy heart inscription
29 Clothing spangle
30 Simile center
31 To-dos
35 Not new
36 Further
37 Large number
38 Dernier —
39 Long time
40 Undoing word

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

11-26

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Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $47M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 28 30 34 35 43
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $27M

FANTASY 5: 20 22 23 32 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 2 7
EVENING: 9 7 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.43.05

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "Ultrarunning" (whose signature event is the 100-mile marathon) takes such a degree of commitment that 5 to 10 percent of participants are said even to have permanently removed their toenails in order to eliminate one of the potential sources of runners' discomfort. A sports podiatrist told the New York Times in October that many "ultras" consider their toenails "useless appendages, remnants of claws from evolutionary times," but on the other hand, said one ultrarunner, "You know any sport has gone off the rails when you have to remove body parts to do it."

■ After her two kids, ages 5 and 3, died in a house fire in Rialto, Calif., in May, Viviana Delgado, 27, worked her way through the stages of grief until deciding in October on one final tribute. She turned the vacant, charred dwelling into a showcase haunted house for Halloween. To the average visitor, it's just a spookily decorated house, but neighbors know that kids died inside, and they know what the two tombstones in the front yard represent.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1917 The National Hockey League is formed, with the Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa Senators, Quebec Bulldogs, and Toronto Arenas as its first teams.

1918 The Podgorica Assembly votes for "union of the people", declaring assimilation into the Kingdom of Serbia.

1922 Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon become the first people to enter the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun in over 3000 years.

1922 Toll of the Sea debuts as the first general release film to use two-tone Technicolor (The Gulf Between was the first film to do so but it was not widely distributed).

1939 Shelling of Mainila: The Soviet Army orchestrates the incident which is used to justify the start of the Winter War with Finland four days later.

WORD UP!

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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2 Bed, 2 Bath
$899,000
Dramatic, Remodeled Penthouse

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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from
All Agents from All Offices
Listed for Sale As of Late November 2009

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,518,000	$4,802,500
North of Montana	$2,897,500	$1,550,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,662,500	$779,000
South of Wilshire	$850,000	$607,500
Sunset Park	$1,164,000	$639,000
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$1,049,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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