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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOSE, SMOKING, LOSE!
 SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE SHOP ON ISSUE



HOLIDAY SOUNDS

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
 Antonio from the K-Earth radio station sings classic songs for the elderly at WISE & Healthy Aging's Adult Day Service Center on Wednesday morning. The Center won the 'Office of the Day' contest giving them a chance to hear music and eat Thanksgiving treats.

Stores look to basics to draw in holiday shoppers

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
 AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK As stores prepare for hordes of Black Friday shoppers and mark down high-definition TVs and hot toys, they're also pushing deals on something more mundane — necessities like socks and diapers.

Toys R Us, Walmart and clothing stores in malls are responding to tough economic times by luring people who are making it a more practical holiday this year.

What should shoppers expect? Fewer sumptuous sweaters, \$200 robotic toys and

other flashy items. Everyday items like flannel shirts, blankets and underwear are the order of the day.

They are designed to appeal to people like John La, a computer programmer from New York, who says he'll focus on simpler things like gloves and sweaters after layoffs hit his company earlier this year. "I am not going to splurge," he said.

Toys R Us' Babies R Us stores are armed with deals on jumbo packs of diapers and baby food for their 5 a.m. opening on Black Friday. Spokeswoman Kathleen Waugh expects shoppers will buy these staples not just for themselves but also as practical gifts.

Walmart's Black Friday promotions include \$7 fleece jackets and \$3 children's pajamas alongside 50-inch Sanyo plasma HDTVs for \$598.

The promotional blitz at the start of the holiday shopping season has high stakes this year both for retailers that have suffered through a year of sales declines and for the economy, which could use a lift from consumer spending. Thanksgiving also falls fairly late this year, meaning fewer

Farm fresh just for you

Abundant Harvest makes organic easy

BY MARISSA LYMAN
 Special to the Daily Press

PACIFIC PALISADES Santa Monica may be home to countless Farmers' Markets, but some residents have found another way to get their farm-fresh produce.

They're utilizing community supported agriculture organizations such as Abundant Harvest Organics to have boxes of fruits, vegetables — even milk and meats — delivered to their area direct from local farmers.

"It's a great organization," Melissa Keane, a Santa Monica resident and Abundant Harvest subscriber said. "The food is so good and everything we get from there is so fresh."

Keane has been receiving produce from Abundant Harvest for over a year. Every Saturday, she drives to Pacific Palisades to pick up her box of guaranteed organic items. All of the produce, which comes from an alliance of about 30 farmers, has been picked on either Thursday or Friday and transported in refrigerated trucks to ensure the utmost freshness and quality.

"You do definitely know exactly where it comes from," Keane said.

Connecting farmers with consumers was Vernon Peterson's goal when he started Abundant Harvest back in 2007. Peterson, whose family has been farming in Kingsburg — a city just southeast of Fresno — for over 115 years, wanted to make organic produce both affordable and accessible to the average consumer, while putting a face on the farmers involved.

"There are only two things that are important. That's the family that grew it and the family that's going to eat it," Peterson said. "We want to bring it together as simply as possible."

To do this, Peterson eliminated the need for storage, excess packaging and a vendor between his product and the consumer. By harvesting the products when they were ripe and hurrying them off to the distribution points in recyclable bins rather than dispos-



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Calendar

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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, fol-
lowed 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 pro-
vides 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 rejuve-
nating 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 stepsis-
ters 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.

Monday, Nov. 30, 2009

Heal yourself

Kathmandu Boutique

1844 Lincoln Blvd., 5 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Experience peace and wellness while cleansing and energizing your body through pran-
ic healing. Master Choa Kok Sui has worked successfully with ailments ranging from
asthma, arthritis and cancer to addiction, depression and phobias. It is an effective
no-touch healing technique that increases the body's own ability to heal itself. As you
allow your body to absorb divine love, divine peace and divine energy, you will regain
mental clarity, joy, happiness and peace of mind. Everyone is welcome for free.

Call (310) 883-8371 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.



Housing recovery expected to be rocky

ALAN ZIBEL
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON Sales of new homes rose more than 6 percent in October. But that was only because of strong results in the South.

Home prices rose in 11 major metro areas in September, but fell in nine. Home resales, meanwhile, were up nationwide, with the biggest gain in the Midwest.

Taken together, the data show that the housing market's recovery is still in its infancy and likely to be bumpy.

"We're muddling along the bottom of the housing cycle," said John Burns, a California-based real estate consultant.

That mirrors the broader economy, which is emerging from the longest recession since the Great Depression. Reports Wednesday showed a decline in new jobless claims and an increase in consumer spending, while orders for costly manufactured goods fell unexpectedly.

If the upward trend in housing continues, it would give the economic recovery more fuel. Spending on homebuilding and remodeling were an economic driver in the July-September quarter for the first time in nearly four years.

During the housing bust, the building industry scaled back on construction to thin the glut of homes on the market. There were 239,000 new homes for sale at the end of October, the lowest inventory level in nearly four decades. At the current sales pace, that's a 6.7 months of supply, down from last winter's peak of more than a year, and a sign that builders may soon ramp up construction.

"If you're looking for a sign that builders will need to start swinging their hammers again soon, this is it," wrote Mike Larson, real estate analyst at Weiss Research.

New home sales were up more than 5 percent from a year ago, the first yearly increase since November 2005. Sales are now up 31 percent from the bottom in January, but down 69 percent from their peak in July 2005.

Sales at John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods were up by half last month compared with a year earlier. The company builds homes in the Carolinas, Georgia and

SEE HOUSING PAGE 12



CLOWNING AROUND

Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz.com

Josh Rodriguez (right) and Ali Alliyani balance plates during Cirque du Monde's Palooza on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Police Activities League gymnasium. Cirque du Monde (the world-famous Cirque du Soleil's outreach program) uses the circus as an alternative education tool to engage youth in communities around the world.

Second team takes charge while teachers miss time

BY DERRICK OLIVER
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN While teaching special education students with various communication deficiencies, Vincent Bernota recalls one of the most significant moments in his career as a substitute.

The game was hangman, and the secret word was "computer science." With only a few letters left before "game over," a student punched out his guess on his computer. Just like that, the game was won and the imaginary man was saved from sudden death.

This moment was particularly signifi-

cant because this student could only communicate by typing on his special computer connected to his wheelchair.

"It was just a joy that I got through to this (student)," said Bernota, a substitute teacher in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for over a decade.

This was just one of many inspiring experiences that led Bernota to organize an informal dinner last Friday evening, Nov. 20, honoring substitute teachers during the National Education Association's Substitute Educators Day, part of the 88th annual NEA American education week.

A dozen fellow substitute teachers, full-time teachers, and supporters gathered on

the patio at Panera Bread restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard and Fifth Street to eat, swap stories, and to relax after a week of work and stress.

"This was a golden opportunity to join colleagues across California and the country and celebrate the great job that the substitute educators are doing," Bernota said.

At the start of the evening, Bernota briefly addressed the intimate gathering, emphasizing that the purpose of Substitute Educators Day was not only to emphasize their importance and to increase the respect for substitute educators, but also to advo-

SEE SUBS PAGE 12



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Community calls for a library
Editor:

Bill Bauer says the new library is an “uninvited guest” in Virginia Avenue Park (My Write, “Development turkey on this Thanksgiving menu,” Nov. 23). I beg to disagree. I have been an active member of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board for over 20 years and every survey or neighborhood meeting has included multiple requests for a library. Based on this history, the advisory board has welcomed the library proposal and eagerly watched developments.

Contrary to what Mr. Bauer states, the City Council designated these funds in a June 10 action dealing with RDA funds. No money was set aside for purchase of additional land, therefore this is the most “cost effective” site. Both the library and the park board and staff have consulted with the Farmers’ Market staff and little or no market space will be lost.

Some non-market vendors may be moved and there may be temporary inconveniences for all. An RFP for design has been issued, proposals received and a design team contract should be issued before the end of the year.

There will be public hearings on the design and exact placement of the library starting early next year. This is a long-awaited dream for the families living in the Pico Neighborhood. Let’s all work together for the best possible realization of that dream.

Joanne Leavitt
Santa Monica

Nothing without health care
Editor:

I am hoping and praying that Congress passes the health care bill. I need to see a doctor. The shame and the disgrace I feel when I see and hear of Americans who cannot afford to see a doctor is beyond words, beyond sadness.

I met a young woman who had a ruptured appendix still in her body. She could not afford to have it removed. Health is the first step to freedom. Without it we cannot be a productive nation. I know that we are not the greatest country on Earth if we don’t provide the opportunity to all to be healthy. People should not be punished because they can’t afford health care costs.

Suzy Coyle
Santa Monica



Write Rachel
Rachel Iverson

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don’t settle for less
when it comes to love

DEAR RACHEL,

Is it time to break up with a kind, sweet, financially successful man if his kisses make my skin crawl? I’m not in love with him, but I’m tempted to settle because he’s a good person and I might not find someone better than him.

— 39 and settling

DEAR “39 AND SETTLING,”

I think you already know the answer to this one. But just in case you need validation, the answer is “No” — you should not stay in a relationship with someone whose “kisses make your skin crawl” just because he’s a good person. Secondly, even if you managed to convince him that you’re happy, I doubt you’d be able to fool yourself for long, leading you to an inevitable break-up.

You can save yourself (and him) from additional heartache by ending this relationship sooner rather than later. Don’t let your fear of being single and 39 lead you to become 40-something and divorced. For the record, 39 is still young. If you want to experience the full magnitude of just how young 39 is, picture this: If you stay with this man until you’re in your 80s, you still have a minimum of 41 years to go. Sound like fun? Didn’t think so. You don’t sound like you could settle for another 41 minutes with this guy, let alone 41 years. And 41-plus years with the wrong person is a high price to pay for financial security. Both you and he deserve to love and be loved wholeheartedly.

Contrary to popular belief, there are plenty of good people in this world, but that doesn’t mean you should date them all. A satisfying relationship requires love, chemistry and compatibility. From the sound of it, your current relationship lacks sexual chemistry, the ingredient that differentiates a friend from a lover. Why torture yourself by trying to make a platonic friendship into a romantic one when it’s clearly making you miserable? You don’t have to choose between a good person and an attractive person. You’re allowed to have both, but you must first be honest with yourself and quit settling. The right person for you may not come immediately, but he will come if you make space for him in your life. Our time on this planet is short, but it can feel a lot longer when you settle for the wrong person. All of us are getting older, so make the most of every precious day you have left. Someday soon you’ll ask yourself, “Why did I wait so long?”

DEAR RACHEL,

I’ve fallen head over heels for my new boyfriend and I think he might be my soul-

mate. It’s only been a few weeks; how do I know if he’s “The One?”
— Is he The One?

DEAR “IS HE THE ONE,”

Although some people may claim that they knew their mate was their soulmate from day one, this feeling (or lack thereof) is not an accurate barometer for predicting the future success of a relationship. In fact, I’ve heard the term The One thrown around more often by people who were in the infatuation stage of a fling that ended badly, than by couples who go the distance. The urban myth that a soulmate is identifiable by instantaneous, high-voltage chemistry has laid the groundwork for many dysfunctional, high-drama relationships. Instant recognition is not a prerequisite for lasting coupledness. Some fulfilling relationships begin with an instant connection, while many more thriving marriages began with neither party having the slightest clue that they were meeting their future betrothed. There is no sure-fire test or sign to verify whether someone is your soulmate or not. One person’s experience may be totally different from another’s, so stay open-minded. Only time will tell if your boyfriend is The One.

Speaking of The One, since this term can serve as an excuse for high-chemistry, low-compatibility relationships, riddled by make-ups and break-ups, let’s clarify what The One truly means. Your ideal partner should not create a climate of extreme highs and lows, but rather a consistently sunny place that permeates throughout all areas of your life. So if by The One you mean someone who you can’t live without, someone who you’d sacrifice everything for, including your work, your friends, your family, your health and maybe even your life, like a drug addiction, that’s not The One I would recommend dating. However, if by The One, you mean the person you’ll look back on at the end of your life and appreciate as your best companion and best friend, who enriched your life through all of its ups and downs, then I would say, “That’s a great One to find.”

RACHEL IVERSON is a freelance writer, dating coach and author, who lives with her husband in Venice. Her book, “Don’t Help A Man Be A Man: How To Avoid 12 Dating Time Bombs,” has been endorsed by Dr. John Gray, author of “Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus.” For more information on Rachel or her book, visit www.rebelgirlpublishing.com. For dating advice, contact: rachel@rebelgirlpublishing.com.

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lowering device, clothes wringer, diesel car coupling, riding saddle, and so on
and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
that each and every one of the wonderful innovations mentioned here came
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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

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Hoping smoking loses like USC

FOR TOO LONG OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN in a horribly divisive state. It was worse during the Vietnam era, which was second only to the Civil War. That period was so divisive they fought a war!

On a divisive scale of 1 through 10, I'd say we're currently around 8. I was hoping that with Obama things would be more bipartisan. No such luck. I questioned many things about George Bush — lack of judgment, intellect, curiosity and inability to pronounce “nuclear” — but I never questioned whether he was born in the U.S.

I occasionally feel this divisiveness from readers. It seemed like whenever I wrote columns against the war in Iraq I'd invariably get e-mails calling me a Communist. When I wrote about UCLA's basketball struggles I got called a liberal loser. (I failed to see the connection but I thanked her for reading my columns nonetheless.)

When I wrote in favor of the outdoor smoking ban, I got called a fascist. (Which is more insulting, liberal loser or fascist?) As it happens, a proposed smoking ban is back in the news, but first, Saturday is the big football game between USC and UCLA.

As a UCLA alum, I'm not overly optimistic. During the past 10 years the Bruins have won a grand total of once, and that was something of a miracle. Mary Olivier, a former Santa Monica schoolteacher, e-mailed to remind me that before that UCLA had won eight in a row. (Maybe the pain of losing overshadows the joy of winning? Or, worse, maybe it's just me?)

During these past 10 years the Bruins have been outscored 337-155, largely at the hands of three different Heisman Trophy winners, all of which prompted two head-coaching changes at UCLA. But, as they say, tomorrow's a new day. (Check with me late Saturday afternoon.)

USC enters the game with a 7-3 record, while UCLA is 6-5, but supposedly UCLA has all the momentum. I say “supposedly” because, while Bruins have won three straight Pac 10 games, it's only the second time they've done that in the past decade!

And yes, USC has lost two of their last three games (how sweet they were). But they've had two weeks to rest and think of nothing else other than ruining my Saturday. (OK, maybe I'm personalizing this a bit.)

While there's a bitter divide in the country between liberals and conservatives, and in Los Angeles between USC and UCLA fans, in Santa Monica there's one brewing between smokers and non-smokers. SC-

UCLA will be settled tomorrow, but the smoking controversy in Santa Monica has to wait until Dec. 3. That's when Rent Control Board member Robert Kronovet plans to sponsor a ban on smoking in apartments that share common floors or ceilings with at least one other unit, including patios and balconies. Things could get, as comedian Arte Johnson used to say, “very interesting.”

The arguments will probably be pretty much as in the past. Smokers will contend that their rights are being infringed upon, while “clean air” advocates might present study after study that proves second-hand smoke is highly dangerous. What may be different this time is Mr. Kronovet's strong belief that the time for this regulation is now.

In the past, the City Council has passed smoking bans. But many victims of second-hand smoke considered them politically correct, half-measures to avoid alienating smokers, while giving the appearance of protecting public health.

Kronovet's not in favor of “grandfathering” current smoking tenants, or phasing the ordinance in over time. However, landlords would be able to designate smoking areas as long as they are more than 20 feet away from doors and windows used by the public.

In 2006, the council passed a smoking ban for restaurant outdoor dining areas, and at bus stops and ATMs. But in the past three years I've never seen a single sign. Why?

There's also a smoking ban on the beach. But, this past summer, the trash cans were missing the attractive dolphin-adorned stickers that posted the ordinance. When I called they said that this year they “didn't have time.” That's simply unsatisfactory. Sara Bayles, who founded the beach clean-up organization at www.thedailyocean.com, reports that cigarette butts are still among the most prevalent items of litter (not to mention those that wind up in the ocean).

Back to the proposed ordinance. Violations would not be grounds for eviction, nor would the police be involved. A complaining neighbor would have to put the smoker on notice and, if the smoking continued, could sue in small claims court. The fine for first convictions would be \$100, second would be \$200, and the third would be \$500.

So two big days, Saturday and Dec. 3. It's a toss-up which I want more, a UCLA victory or the smoking ban. Whoops, here come the e-mails.

The public is invited to speak at the Rent Control Board meeting, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.



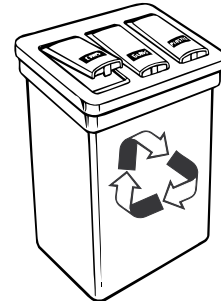
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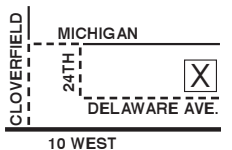
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The Q-Line

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.

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

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Local

6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Broken taillight leads to drug bust

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19, AT 2:35 A.M.,

Santa Monica police officers were on routine patrol in the area of Lincoln Boulevard and Grant Street when they saw someone driving with a broken taillight. Officers pulled the driver over to cite them for the vehicle code violation. While speaking with the driver, officers learned that he was on probation. Officers conducted a consensual search of the driver, a passenger and the vehicle. During the search, officers allegedly found psychedelic mushrooms in the trunk of the car. The driver and passenger thought that substance found by the officer was pot, police said. Officers arrested the driver, Phillip Mejia, 19, of Culver City, and the passenger, Mason Sheridan, 21, of Santa Monica, for possession of a controlled substance. Bail was set at \$30,000, and \$10,000 respectively.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20, AT 4:16 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1100 block of San Vicente Boulevard regarding a suspicious person possibly stealing mail. When officers arrived, they watched as a man matching the suspect's description walked by. Officers made contact, performed a consensual search and found items that did not appear to belong to the man. The items included an iPod, a charger and earphones. Officers learned that the items were taken in an auto burglary earlier that day in Marina del Rey. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession of stolen property and a probation violation. He was identified as Demetrius Wagner, 28, of North Hollywood. His bail was set at \$20,000.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, AT 3 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1000 block of 22nd Street regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they made contact with the victim who said she was struck several times in the face by her daughter after the two engaged in a tug-of-war over her purse. She told officers that her daughter grabbed her purse and tried to leave the house with it. A fight ensued. The mother was able to retain possession of the purse. The daughter allegedly grabbed a mixing bowl and threw it at the victim. She then grabbed a knife and threatened to kill her mother, police said. The mother fled to another room and locked herself inside. The suspect fled. Officers were able to locate her a short distance away. The suspect was booked for assault with a deadly weapon and for making threats. She was identified as Jessica Mitchell, 23, of Santa Monica. Her bail was set at \$50,000.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, AT 7 P.M.,

Officers conducted a search warrant at the home of suspect Elvys Cabrera, 30, of Los Angeles. Officers searched the home and his vehicle, coming away with 7.42 grams of crystal meth, police said. The drug was hidden inside the vehicle. Cabrera was arrested and booked for possession of a controlled substance for sale. His bail was set at \$30,000.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17, AT 6:52 P.M.,

Officers responded to a souvenir shop in the 100 block of Broadway regarding a report of an assault and battery that just occurred. When officers arrived, they were advised by the victim that the suspect entered the store and asked to trade in his pennies for quarters. The store clerk refused and the suspect responded by allegedly spitting in the victim's face, slapping him with an open hand. The suspect then left the business. He was located a short distance away and placed under arrest for assault and battery. The suspect was identified as Scott Barber, 46, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17, AT 4:50 A.M.,

Officers responded to the area of Fifth Street and Colorado Avenue regarding an erratic driver in the area. When officers arrived, they located the vehicle in the 400 block of Colorado. Outside the vehicle, officers observed a suspect that matched the description of the driver. Officers detained the man, who was identified by a witness as the driver of the car. Officers also located the car's keys in the man's pocket. Officers believed the man was possibly under the influence of alcohol. The suspect refused to participate in a field sobriety test or a chemical test and was arrested for driving under the influence and for driving on a suspended license. He was identified as Omar Stevenson, 35, of Moreno Valley. His bail was set at \$15,000.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17, AT 8:23 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1300 block of California Avenue regarding a group of people trespassing on private property. Officers were able to locate a trespass letter on file for the location, allowing officers to arrest those on site. Officers placed one suspect under arrest for trespassing and failure to appear on a written promise. He was identified as Robert Sanders, 30, a transient. His bail was set at \$27,085.

news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports.

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The Big Island's best adventures

IN THIS SECOND INSTALLMENT ABOUT Hawaii's Big Island I want to share with you my take on some of the best adventures you can have while on this island paradise. While it would be easy to while away the near-perfect days on the beaches of the Kona Coast, here are my three favorite adventures to get your blood pumping and see more of the island.

HORSEBACK RIDE IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

The huge sign at the top of the plummeting road warns that you cannot go down without a four-wheel drive vehicle. And, now that I see the dirt road careening down I am amazed that the woman driving our jeep used to walk up and down it every day to go to and from school. But, all of this is overshadowed by the simply awe-inspiring view of the Valley of the Kings laid out before me. The valley's walls are sheer cliffs soaring over 2,000 feet high, lush with vegetation and thick with cascading waterfalls. The mouth of the valley opens up onto a black sand beach and dark blue ocean. We are headed down into this Eden-like valley to spend a few hours exploring on horseback.

The Waipi'o Valley was the favorite retreat for the Hawaiian royalty and home to over 15,000 between the 13th and 17th centuries. Now, however, the valley is one of the most isolated places in the state. Hiking into it is not impossible, but to really get back into the valley taking the trip on horseback is the way to go. Our guide, a beautiful young woman, used to live in the valley with her father and her family still owns and operates the Na'alapa Stables (www.naalapastables.com). Once we complete the harrowing trip down the dirt road, the travels get easier. The stables are well run and the beautiful horses offer a gentle ride through the lush valley floor past taro fields, through clear bubbling streams and dozens of waterfalls.

SEA ROCKET SNORKELING

"I like this area because it is so far away almost no one comes down here," said Capt. Kurt as he maneuvers the high speed pontoon-style boat into a quiet bay known as a home to octopus, eels, and dozens of beautiful, brightly colored fish. Capt. Kurt has been doing boating tours for years and knows the special, off-the-beaten-track spots for the best snorkeling on the island. The Hula Kai, which is one of two boats owned by the family-run Fair Wind Cruises (www.fairwind.com), is the more adult ride of the two and because of its speed can cruise into areas most others can never get to. The Hula Kai comes complete with a built-in kitchen where the captain cooks a delicious lunch and has Sea Rockets on board you can rent.

Sea Rockets are like having a mini motor-cycle attached to you as you snorkel. These tube-like structures with a powerful fan built into it can propel up to five miles an hour or give you a gentle glide through the waters. The speed is fun, but also can help you dive deeper and move quicker to the best snorkeling spots. The speed rockets add \$50 to the cost of the trip, but are really worth it. The snorkeling trip is the perfect way to see the coastline of the island and get to places that would be impossible without this sort of a speed boat and the knowledge of the island.

For some added adventure Fair Winds also offers a night swim with the manta rays that live in these waters. They will swarm around you like dark angels on big wings and let you feed them. Watch out for your fingers.

HIKE THE VOLCANO

There is nothing quite like hiking around the lunar-like landscape of one of the world's most active volcanoes. There are five volcanoes that formed the island of Hawaii over half a million years ago and Volcano National Park encompasses two of them, including the youngest one, Kilauea. Since 1983 the volcano has been quiet, but in 2008 it sprung to life once again and is still active, so now is the time to see this ancient island maker. Hiking here is other-worldly as this area is a rain forest and often misty with steam vents shooting hot vapor from the Earth's core, massive black lava flows that plummet into the ocean, and signs from earlier eruptions like Devil's Throat, a massive old volcano tube now extinct and covered in ferns going down deep into the earth. Hiking here is easy with over 150 miles of trails or drive along the 11-mile Crater Rim Road. And, at night, the volcano puts on a show as hot molten lava glowing red in the dark spits and steams as it falls into the surf. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy Mother Nature's show.

If you want to hear more about the volcano, taking a tour of the park makes it easy to get around and the guides at Hawaii Forest and Trail (www.hawaii-forest.com) really can give you a lot of in-depth information on the area that you won't get on your own. The price of the tour is \$169 for an adult and includes a nice lunch sitting on an old lava flow looking out over the ocean.

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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State

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

More people list dogs and cats on Christmas lists

SUE MANNING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Dogs across the country can expect some bone-shaped presents under the Christmas tree this year.

An Associated Press-Petside.com poll shows 52 percent of pet owners plan to buy their animals a holiday gift — up from 43 percent last year.

Gus and Molly, a pair of German shepherds, Rosie the bulldog and Zoe the cat will get treats and playtoys, "the good sturdy stuff," said owner Norm Authier, 50, of Long Beach.

"We have always done this. We don't have any kids so we spoil our dogs," Authier said.

The bounce in pet gifts is expected despite the fact that fully 93 percent of Americans say they'll spend less overall or about the same as last year, according to a separate Associated Press-GfK poll.

The AP-Petside.com poll found that six in 10 of those who own only dogs planned on shopping for their pet for the holidays. Forty percent of those with only cats planned to pet shop.

Sawyer, a 9-year-old Labrador-border collie mix, will get something special because he was born on Christmas Day, said owner Pat Brown, 74, of Beloit, Wis. He can also look forward to his two favorite homemade snacks — popcorn and ice cubes.

Plush holiday-themed toys are very popular with pet owners, as are candy cane-shaped rawhide chews, said Jessica Douglas, a spokeswoman for the PetSmart pet supply store chain based in Phoenix, Ariz.

Popular clothes at this time of year include a Santa suit, a Mrs. Claus dress and reindeer costumes. A lot of boots are sold to dog owners in cold weather states. Bling-wise, collars and leads are popular.

"Some ID tags are decorated with sparkly embellishments and they can be personalized so it's not just for looks," she said.

According to the poll, 62 percent of female owners said they would probably buy their pet a gift, while just 40 percent of the men said they would.

Janet Rowlands, 53, in Tulsa, Okla., is planning a Christmas celebration for 29 people and pets, including her four dogs. Jack Russell and rat terrier Boodroe, 7, is the only one who steals gifts from under the tree.

"He sees it as part of the fun," Rowlands

said.

According to the poll, 59 percent of owners say pets are only a minor consideration when picking out holiday decorations, even though 14 percent reported that their pets have gotten into the decorations before.

There are no cranberries, popcorn or gingerbread men on the tree at Erica Peterson's home in Vass, N.C., because of Logan and the starfish, an ornament she and her husband got on their honeymoon.

On his first Christmas with the family, Logan, a male Labrador-chow, knocked the tree over and everything went flying so he could get to the starfish — apparently because it smelled fishy to him. All edible or scented ornaments were banned.

This year Logan will get a big butcher's bone, while Peterson's female Maltese named Bubbles, 13, will get rawhide sticks made like candy canes. Both will be wrapped and put under the tree.

Last year, Debra Jensen's Labrador named Nightmare and a German shepherd-Siberian Husky named Ticia got stockings with dog treats in them. This year, because her husband recently lost his job, there may not be a stocking, but there will still be treats — they can count on leftover ham.

"The dogs are our only children. I love my babies," said Jensen, 55, of Tulsa, Okla.

Pat McCauley figures his 4-year-old Shih Tzu named Crystal can survive the holidays without a present.

"I'm not going to buy the pet anything," said McCauley, 54, of Princeton, Ill., "I have a daughter who is 17 and she will buy the pets something but I surely wouldn't in any way, shape or form buy my pet a Christmas toy."

McCauley may sound like a Grinch, but he concedes buying pet gifts is not the most ridiculous idea he's heard.

"If I just had a pet by myself and my daughter wasn't around, I'd buy it one or two things a year, like a ball or a tug," he said.

The AP-Petside.com poll was conducted Oct. 1-5, 2009, by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media. It involved telephone interviews on landline and cell phones with 1,166 pet owners nationwide, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for all pet owners.

On the Net:

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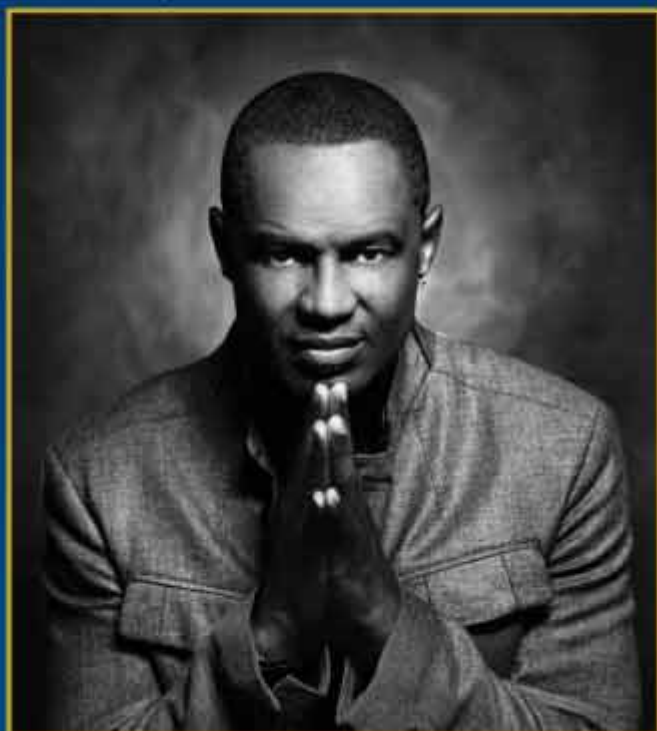
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Trade group expects crowds

FROM FRIDAY PAGE 1

shopping days. The National Retail Federation trade group expects Black Friday crowds to be bigger this year, but retail consultant Walter Loeb says spending for the weekend will be at best unchanged from last year.

People are still "very nervous about the future," said Tracy Mullin, president of the federation. "But I think the good news is that stores get this new consumer, and the products are much less showy."

Stores had reason for optimism when shoppers came back to life a bit in September and October, finally reversing more than a year of sales declines. On Wednesday, the government said October consumer spending was up 0.7 percent, better than expected.

The momentum slowed in early November, particularly for clothing stores. Electronics have been a bright spot, though, thanks to early discounting of TVs and the unveiling of new video games — notably Activision's "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2."

As the financial meltdown and recession have kept shoppers frugal, stores have tweaked their merchandising approach for Black Friday, so named because it was traditionally the day when crowds of shoppers pushed stores into profitability.

Price cuts on big-ticket items like flat-panel TVs and computers are again being used to bring shoppers into stores. But this year, stores are also using necessities like dia-

pers and socks as what the industry calls "loss leaders" — items that stores are willing to lose money on in order to draw shoppers through the doors.

"Customers have cut back their spending broadly, and retailers need to take advantage of every time they're in the stores," Long said.

Clothing stores are marking down not just seasonal items but also the basics, like socks, officials at mall operators Simon Properties and Taubman Centers said.

And Sears Holdings Corp., which operates Sears and Kmart stores, is making sure to highlight jackets, tool kits, blankets and boots in its Black Friday promotions, spokesman Tom Aiello said.

The early sales from the big chains and discounters have helped attract customers, but the pre-Thanksgiving discounts at clothing stores in malls were mostly ignored by shoppers, BMO Capital Markets analyst John Morris said.

One thing that could work in stores' favor: Shoppers who put off buying all but the most essential items all year may finally use the holidays as an excuse to splurge a little.

Marcia Layton Turner, a freelance writer from Rochester, N.Y., plans to join the Black Friday crowds to grab deals on toys like Legos and Wii games for her two children, ages 10 and 8.

"I delayed buying some toys for the kids for a couple of months," she said. "I did well last year by getting to stores before the 4 a.m. opening, so I'm hoping to be equally successful and efficient this year."

Fresh produce a call away

FROM FRESH PAGE 1

able packaging, the process became both expedited and sustainable.

"We thought, 'Well, shucks, if we can bypass this packing shed and go straight to and from the farm to the consumer, we could get fresh organic for [less than] what they're paying now,'" Peterson said.

Subscribers pay a \$22 box fee for the use of their two reusable delivery boxes and then either \$33.80 or \$19.80 a week, depending on whether they would like a large or small box. Beyond that, the program offers add-ons in the form of meat, butter, seasonings and soup mixes, to name a few.

At inception, Abundant Harvest delivered produce boxes to what Peterson describes as "50 intrepid families," but word spread fast.

"It's been a 100 percent word of mouth deal," Peterson said. "We want to get the best value for the people ... If we're spending money on advertising, we would spend less on broccoli."

By the end of its first year, Peterson's alliance was distributing to over 1,300 people, a number that has now grown to just shy of 2,400 subscribers.

"We just have one system, and that revolves around the host," Peterson said. "If you'd like to have it in your community, you get together enough people to make it worthwhile, and we start delivering."

The hosts that Peterson is referring to are volunteers like Leslie Oliver. Oliver helps to distribute boxes at the Pacific Palisades delivery location where Keane and about 40 other subscribers receive their produce. If there are extra boxes, hosts donate them to local charity organizations.

"Most people that come in tend to team up with two or three other families," Oliver, who lives in Pacific Palisades, said. "That's another way of just kind of supporting each other."

Oliver's whole family often comes along to help out, with her 3-year-old and 6-year-old sons helping to hand out apples and milk. Aside from add-ons, the produce in the boxes is always seasonal.

"Eating in season is really important to me," Keane, who occasionally hosts, said.

Even Keane's 3-year-old daughter looks forward to the produce box, which gives her mom an opportunity to get her to try new things that she wouldn't normally consider cooking. Keane especially remembers the turnips, delicious fruit in the summertime and popcorn straight off the cob.

"It's kind of fun to get to explore new things and new recipes," Keane said.

About two-thirds of what goes into the boxes is predetermined before the farmers even plant the seeds, eliminating over-harvesting and waste. Some farmers contribute hundreds of vegetables weekly, while others contribute just 30 persimmons per year. Regardless, all of the farmers are paid top dollar for their contributions. People can look online (www.abundantharvestorganics.com) to get a general idea of what will be in that week's box, as well as to get to know the farmers themselves.

"We're trying to figure out how to fill that farm-shaped hole that's in the heart of the urbanites in an efficient manner a la 2009," Peterson said of the Web site, adding how gratifying it is to hear back from consumers.

If interest continues to grow, Santa Monica may soon be home to its own delivery location, making community supported agriculture even more convenient for residents. Either way, Peterson says he's happy.

"What I've wanted to do all my life is create a company where everybody wins, and this is it," Peterson said. "It's fresh organic at a great price, and we're just loving it."

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NOVEMBER 27 - 29

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Substitutes desire respect from both peers and students

FROM SUBS PAGE 3

cate for long-term substitutes to receive appropriate health and wage benefits.

However, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association President Harry Keiley, who represents over 100 substitute teachers in the district, said that immediate changes concerning benefits should not be expected.

“In this economic climate, it is unrealistic to talk about enhancements of any types,” Keiley said. “In the long run, we want to make changes and advancements and to make sure our needs (are) salved. We want to make sure we are respected.”

These substitutes not only desire appropriate recognition and respect from their professional peers, but also respect from the many students who take them for granted.

“When the [regular] teacher is not there, [students feel they] don’t have to work as hard. If the substitute is too strict, students can give attitude back,” said Verrall Fowler, an 11th grader at Santa Monica High School.

Josh Dick, who mainly substitutes at John Adams Middle School, is quite familiar with having to deal with uncooperative students.

While teaching an eighth grade class, one of Dick’s students had to be escorted to the office by school personnel after ignoring a referral that was prompted by the student’s disruptive behavior.

“[He] started running around and throwing things. I asked him to go and gave him a referral, but he didn’t go to the office,” Dick said.

Despite these trying moments in the classroom, Dick, who has been substituting for four years, still finds fulfillment

ment and motivation in those students that are willing to take direction.

“I like teaching them, and I genuinely enjoy their energy,” Dick said.

In addition, Dick continues to teach because he feels that substituting fits perfectly into his current lifestyle as an aspiring musician.

For many like Dick, the flexible schedule that substitute teaching allows has been one of the main draws.

Sue Belonis, a former stock broker, turned to substitute teaching in the SMMUSD to allow her more time with her daughter.

“[As a stock broker], I left at 5 in the morning and would return at 10 at night,” she said.

As a substitute, Belonis was now able to better manage her family life, while channeling her experience in math and her enthusiasm for science into a job that aided students.

Despite their various backgrounds, specialties, and reasons for entering this profession, each substitute has to make sure they perform the fundamental task of following the lesson plan set by the regular teacher.

“The job of a substitute teacher is to continue the job that the regular teacher is doing,” said Bernota. “We are like the second team off the bench. Every championship team needs a strong bench.”

news@smdp.com

Housing propped up by Washington help

FROM HOUSING PAGE 3

Tennessee.

“There’s a lot of people on the prowl,” said company founder and CEO John Wieland. “It’s incredible how much has changed in a year.”

Both the economy and the housing market are being propped up with unprecedented government intervention. The Obama administration is trying to limit the supply of foreclosures with a mortgage relief program, while attracting more buyers with tax incentives. The Federal Reserve, meanwhile, is keeping interest rates low.

The average interest rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage was 4.78 percent this week, matching a record low set at the end of April, mortgage finance company Freddie Mac said Wednesday.

Low rates coupled with falling prices have restored affordability to large swaths of the country. And many economists expect prices will dip again in the winter months because the rising unemployment rate is forcing more homeowners into foreclosure.

Markets like Las Vegas and Seattle have already seen price declines for 12 straight months, while prices have risen for at least six consecutive months in Denver, Washington D.C. and Chicago, according to the Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller index of 20 major cities released Tuesday.

Nationally, the median price of a new home was \$212,200 in October, almost even with \$213,200 a year earlier, but up almost 1 percent from September’s level of \$210,700, government data showed.

That helped propel new home sales to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 430,000 from an upwardly revised 405,000 in September. The results came as a surprise. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected a pace of 410,000.

The report tallies signed contracts to buy homes rather than completed sales. Most borrowers would have had to sign contracts earlier to meet the original Nov. 30 deadline for a tax credit for first-time buyers and expand it to some existing homeowners. The credit now covers contracts signed by April 30, and analysts expect it to further the housing recovery in the coming months.

The surge in sales was driven entirely by a 23 percent increase in the South. Tom Brown, a partner with custom home builder Crown Home Builders, S.C., said much of the sales activity in his market has been in the lower price ranges, from \$125,000 to \$180,000. Sales of homes \$275,000 and above are still slow.

“Hopefully, when more good reports come out, people will have more confidence about buying,” Brown said.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ON APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

TIME: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2009

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

Use Permit 08UP-007, 2727 Main Street. The applicant, Omnipoint Communications Inc., a subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc., proposes to install, operate, and maintain an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of a two-story mixed use building at 2727 Main Street in the City of Santa Monica. The proposed facility would be located on the roof and include six panel antennas in three sectors, each sector consisting of two panel antennas mounted inside RF transparent screen radomes for each antenna. In addition, the applicant is proposing to locate equipment cabinets at grade level at the rear of the building. The proposed antennas do not comply with the requirements for non-parabolic antennas contained in Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.06.110 (a). Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.10.06.110 (b), the Zoning Administrator may approve modifications to the requirements for non-parabolic commercial antennas through the approval of a Use Permit application. (Planner: Chris Townes) **APPLICANT: Omnipoint Communications Inc., a subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. PROPERTY OWNER: Main Street Partnership. (Continued from the May 12, 2009 Meeting)**

Wall Height Modification 09FWHM-0004, 745 Navy Street. The applicant requests approval of a hedge height modification to allow a 9'-0" hedge within the front yard setback. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.02.080, fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed the maximum height of 42-inches within the required front yard (a 15-ft setback beginning at the front property line), measured from the lowest grade. SMMC Section 9.04.10.02.080(e) permits a modification to the height limitations in the front yard area, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator. (Planner: Chris Townes) **APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: James Lightburne.**

Wall Height Modification 09FWHM-0006, 402 Alta Avenue. The applicant requests approval of a hedge height modification to allow an 8'-0" hedge located behind a 3.5 ft stucco block wall within the front yard setback. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.02.080, fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed the maximum height of 42-inches within the required front yard (a 40-ft setback beginning at the front property line running along a portion of 4th Street), measured from the lowest grade. SMMC Section 9.04.10.02.080(e) permits a modification to the height limitations in the front yard area, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator. (Planner: Gina Szilak) **APPLICANT: Abel Mitkees. PROPERTY OWNER: Abel Mitkees Trust.**

Fence Height Modification 09FWHM-0007, 739 Navy Street. The applicant is requesting approval of a hedge height modification to maintain an existing approximately 25-foot high hedge within the required front yard area. The hedge is comprised of three Italian Cypress trees planted in the early 1990s. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.02.080, fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed the maximum height of 42-inches within the required front yard, measured from the lowest grade. SMMC Section 9.04.10.02.080(e) permits a height modification to the height limitations in the front yard area, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator. (Planner: Lily Yegazu) **APPLICANT/ PROPERTY OWNER: John Hodgson.**

Variance 09VAR-012, 2923 Santa Monica Boulevard. The applicant requests approval of a parking variance for a proposed children’s dance and music school within an existing 1,530 square feet lease area located at 2923 Santa Monica Boulevard without providing an additional six parking spaces. There are currently twenty parking spaces in the surface parking lot that serves the commercial complex where the lease space is located. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.20.10.030(b), the applicant may request a variance to modify the off-street parking requirements through a variance application. (Planner: Gina Szilak) **APPLICANT: Daniela Somma. PROPERTY OWNER: Stanford Structures L.L.C. (Continued from the November 10, 2009 Meeting)**

Variance 09-019, 1550 5th Street. The applicant requests variance approval to reduce the required vertical height clearance of 14 feet for commercial loading spaces in efforts to establish two (2) required on-site loading spaces in the ground floor garage within an existing commercial building. The subject building has an existing garage door height of 10 feet, and a height clearance of 11 feet throughout the ground floor garage. The applicant requests that these existing building clearances be allowed for the proposed project, which consists of a change of use to the subject commercial building located in the C3C zoning district. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.10.10.030(a) loading spaces shall have a minimum of fourteen (14) feet of vertical clearance. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(b), the Zoning Administrator may approve modifications to the requirements for loading spaces through the approval of a Variance application. (Planner: Steve Mizokami) **APPLICANT: David Forbes Hibbert, AIA. PROPERTY OWNER: Shaoul Levy, Levy Affiliated Holdings, LLC.**

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Zoning Administrator public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Zoning Administrator at the meeting.

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is accessible. If you have any disabilities related request, contact at (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica “Big Blue” Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #7 and #8 serve the City Hall.

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.



West Dressed

Mariel Howsepien

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Me and Ms. Haynes

I first met Christine Haynes, a Los Angeles-based fashion designer, when I took a sewing class from her. Haynes regularly teaches garment construction here in Santa Monica, and she's an amazing teacher with an infectious laugh. Her philosophy about sewing is that if it's not fun, why do it?

Haynes grew up in the small town of Saugatuck, Mich. Located on Lake Michigan, Saugatuck's scenery includes orchards, farmland, and sand dunes. Cool breezes blow in summer, and winter brings snow to this town with just over a thousand residents.

During the arts and crafts movement of the late 19th century, Saugatuck became an art colony. Proponents of the arts and crafts movement, a reaction to the industrial revolution, believed that soulless machines, while having the ability to mass produce items with efficiency and affordability, threatened individuality and creativity. The movement influenced art, architecture, and woodworking, and placed the craftsman in high esteem. Today, Saugatuck is filled with galleries and artists, and is a destination for tourists.

"I wouldn't be who I am if I didn't grow up in Saugatuck. Plain and simple," said Haynes. "It is an open and creative place where we could thrive and think for ourselves."

As a little girl, Haynes ran and played in the acres of land behind her house, swam in Lake Michigan and sunbathed on its shore, and took lessons in piano, ballet, and painting. "It was an idyllic place to be a kid," said Haynes.

Looking at Haynes's designs, online or in boutiques around the world, you'll notice a beautiful simplicity, innocence, and optimism — gingham check, small polka dots, Peter Pan collars, a bow here, a ruffle there, a dress for a picnic, a dress for the garden, vintage-inspired fabric, circle skirts, seersucker. A Saugatuck childhood.

"According to my mom, I apparently loved those plastic sewing cards with the big needles and yarn when I was very little. Perhaps that was my first entrance into sewing!" jokes Haynes, who first learned to sew from her mother.

At 13, Haynes asked for help making a long, white, cotton skirt. "It was a horrible choice that looked ridiculous once assembled and so I never finished it," said Haynes. "After that, I don't really remember sewing for myself until my senior year in high

QUICK TIP

For more info about Christine Haynes, visit www.christinehaynes.com.

school, when I bought my first overlock serger and fell in love with it."

(Today's craftsman understands that an overlock serger is not a soulless machine, but a magnificent tool that simultaneously cuts and stitches, preventing woven fabric from unraveling. And who could resist falling in love with that?)

Haynes spent her 20s in Michigan and Colorado, learning what she wanted from life. She made her own clothes, she says "as a means to an end, as I wanted fun, stylish outfits, and no money to buy them. So, I had to learn to make them myself!"

At 28, she decided to study at School of the Art Institute in Chicago. "I inquired about the fashion program, but I decided not to pursue it as it was the only program that was regimented and I wanted to be free to take any studio classes I wanted," said Haynes. "You do not have to choose a major at SAIC, which was half the reason I selected that school in the first place and couldn't fathom being tied down to a scheduled education."

Haynes learned to work with fibers, film, photography, sculpture and video. After graduation, she collaborated with her then husband, a metalsmith who also worked with plastic, wood, rubber, and leather, to create "wearable art."

"Somehow with all that, we made things for people to buy and wear, but it wasn't exactly practical or mainstream," said Haynes. "At some point along the way it became a business, and more specifically, my business, and my designs became more and more classic."

Earlier this year, Haynes's first book "Chic & Simple Sewing" was published. The book comes with pattern pieces that can be mixed and matched to construct 23 projects, and, I can tell you from experience, the projects are absolutely doable for a beginner seamstress ... or, should I say, a craftswoman-in-training?

MARIEL HOWSEPIEN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Appeal 09-012 of Conditional Use 08-015 and Variance 08-021
1519 Wilshire Boulevard

APPLICANT/APELLANT: 1519 Wilshire Blvd. LP (John Makhani)
PROPERTY OWNER: 1519 Wilshire Blvd. LP

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Appeal of the Planning Commission's September 16, 2009 approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Variance for The Parlor Restaurant. The Parlor Restaurant, located at 1519 Wilshire Boulevard in the C6 and Neighborhood Commercial Overlay Zoning Districts, requested approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow the restaurant 225 seats and approximately 4,937 square feet of floor area, an expansion from the 135 seats and approximately 3,833 square feet of the previous restaurant at the site. Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.18.020 requires existing alcohol outlets to obtain a CUP if a ten percent (10%) or more increase in the floor area is proposed. Because of the proposed increase in floor area, a parking variance is also required.

The applicant is appealing the conditions of approval of the CUP related to the limitations on the permitted hours of operation and maximum number of seats.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009, AT 6:45 P.M.

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: 09APP-012
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401



MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Gina Szilak, Associate Planner, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at regina.szilak@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

National

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Foundation means everything in a burgeoning rock garden

DEAN FOSDICK

For The Associated Press

Choosing the right rocks can be as much fun as selecting plants when you're building a rock garden.

Stones create protective wind and sun barriers, and pockets of moisture for small, low-growing alpine flowers. Meanwhile, they are contributing tones and textures all their own.

"The first line in the 'Sakuteiki,' the oldest and most respected treatise on how to design a garden in Japan, is about the art of setting stone," said Marc Peter Keane, a landscape architect and educator from Ithaca, N.Y. "Everything follows from there. Rocks are absolutely primary."

Rock placement must be done skillfully so that "even persons knowledgeable about natural formations cannot easily detect the artifice," wrote the late Thomas H. Everett, who was horticulture director and senior curator of education at The New York Botanical Garden, in an account posted on the North American Rock Garden Society Web site.

"Transported rocks must match precisely those of the site and be positioned as though placed by nature."

Availability often determines the kinds of rock you'll use.

"Where choice may be had, one that is porous, rather than such hard, impervious types as granite and schist, is to be preferred," Everett said. "Weathered pieces collected from the surface of the ground and of a character and color that suggest age are likely to be ideal."

More artistic flair is required for fashioning Japanese gardens than alpine ones, Keane said.

"With a Japanese garden, you don't try to create a garden that resembles nature as much as you try to distill it. You create the artwork that brings out some important (site) characteristics."

The rocks should be subdued, not lavish or colorful, said Keane, who designed the stone garden for the recent Kiku exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden. "They should have personalities but not be flamboyant."

It also is essential that Japanese gardens be enclosed in some type of courtyard or space, Keane said. "It's like putting a frame around them. You don't want them out in the landscape. They would be lost."

The best stones for rock gardens are any that fit your environment, said John Strickland, who with his wife, Nancy, owns and operates the Dry Creek Garden Co. in Reno, Nev.

"That's not only for aesthetic purposes but because they're so labor intensive to get," Strickland said. "The ideal rock is the one you have close by."

Angular rocks are easier to work with than round river rocks, he said. "You're talking about creating formations, things like streams and waterfalls, shelves and crevices. Rocks with lichens on them are a bonus. They give you a patina kind of look."

Ask, though, before you go about gathering rocks. "You'll generally get permission from people who don't assign any value to the rocks they have on their property," Strickland said. "If nothing else, some rocks are available for purchase and can be delivered."

Here are some Bureau of Land Management policies governing rock collecting on federal lands. Some areas, particularly campgrounds, cultural and historic sites, and natural areas are off-limits. And you may need a permit or have to pay a fee, if you:

- gather more than a pickup-truck load or make more than one trip.
- remove more than 250 pounds of rocks.
- make the material available for commercial use, or
- use power equipment or explosives to remove rocks from the ground.

Most rock gardens are designed for temperate areas where they mimic mountain conditions with sunny, wind-blown and well-drained sites. But that doesn't mean you can't create a water-wise desert rock garden, adding succulents, conifers and cactus.

You also could build a rock garden if you're space deprived — living in an apartment, for instance. Alpine plants are small, colorful and hardy, making them great for use in containers. "Give them the drainage they need; the protection they need," Strickland said. "Create the right microclimates and you'll reduce maintenance chores. You'll only have to go out there and trim things or replant once in a while."

On the Net:

The North American Rock Garden Society:
<http://www.nargs.org>
You can contact Dean Fosdick at [deanfosdick\(at\)netscape.net](mailto:deanfosdick(at)netscape.net)



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Santa Monica Daily Press

A touch of glamour brightens rooms

JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS From colorful glass pieces giving off sparkle to lamps and mirrors that play with the light, adding glamour to a room is easy — and something people are seeking, says interior designer Jan Showers.

"I just think everybody really loves being glamorous," said Showers, whose book "Glamorous Rooms" (Abrams) was released this fall.

It features the Dallas designer's elegant style, from a living room done in yellow-gold with robin's-egg-blue chairs and a large mirror in a gold frame to a dining room done in white with a Murano chandelier reflected in a mirror.

The latest issue of House Beautiful magazine identifies "the glams" as one of today's four big design forces.

"Glamour is all about looking good, feeling good and loving seeing that reflection of yourself," said the magazine's Editor-in-Chief Stephen Drucker.

With the economic downturn, clients want a touch of glamour more than ever, designers say.

Showers said she sees glamour as a room or person with great style — Audrey Hepburn, for example.

"Glamour always makes people feel good," said Charles Pavarini III, a Manhattan designer.

Sharon McCormick, a designer in Durham, Conn., said more clients are opting to redecorate rather than "move up" to a bigger home. "The recession kind of made people appreciate their homes and being home

more," she said.

One of Showers' clients is Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, an author of books on entertaining who has worked with the designer over the past decade, from her first apartment to the home she now shares in Dallas with her husband and child. She said she appreciates Showers' process of finding inspiration in old movies and giving it a modern look.

"The rooms that she creates, you feel like a Hollywood movie star in them, but they're functional too," said Whitman, whose library is done in a deep navy blue lacquer, while her living room is bathed in yellow, white and pale gray.

"I think it's really important for your home to be a place where you can relax, but feel your best," she said.

Adding some glamour can be done on any budget, Showers said, and can be as simple as buying new throw pillows, getting beautiful books to display, finding elegant glass pieces to place on tables, and hanging mirrors.

"Create a shimmer and shine in your room. It really does change things up and that's glamorous," said Showers, who composes at least monthly a blog on her Web site that offers tips on everything from decorating to books to art exhibits to travel.

Making rooms inviting with comfortable furniture is part of creating a glamorous space, she added. She suggests arranging living room furniture so there are two seating areas — even if one is just a corner with a lamp, chair and table. "There's nothing more glamorous than having people in a room. Do things to invite people in," she said.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min 10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 5:55, 8:25, 11:00	The Messenger (R) 2hr 7min 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Singin' in the Rain (1952) (NR) 1hr 42min 7:30	Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 30min 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25	Precious (R) 1hr 49min 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
AMC Loews Broadway 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min 9:50am, 2:30, 7:25	End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 46min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 10:15
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min 10:50 am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10	Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50	Mann's Criterion Theatre 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min 11:00 am, 2:35, 6:15, 9:45	Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min 10:15 am, 12:00, 12:50, 3:20, 4:45, 5:50, 8:20, 9:55, 10:55	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
Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min 11:20 am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25	Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min 10:05 am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05	Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20
Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 2hrs 01min 11:10 am, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45	Laemmle's Monica Fourplex 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	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
AMC 7 Santa Monica 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 2hr 5min 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40	Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min 11:20 am
2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min 11:30am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30		
Disney's A Christmas Carol in		

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

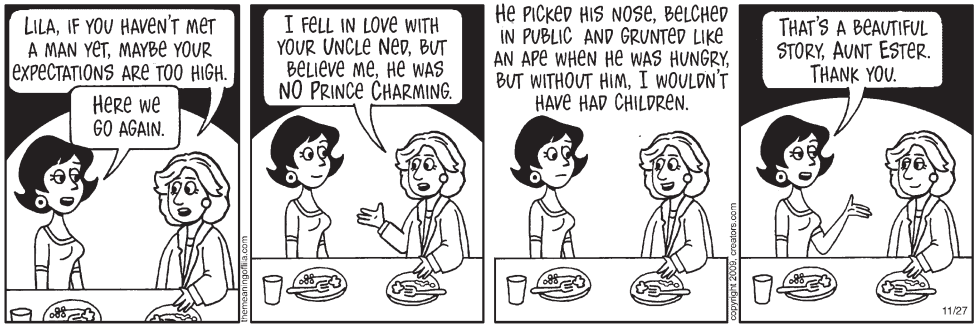
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



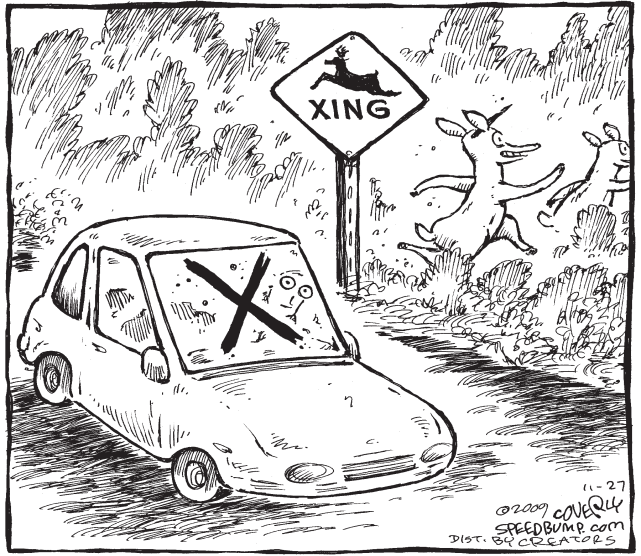
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Do your thing, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Starting with less than a good night's sleep could mar a great day. If you can squeeze in a nap, by all means, do. Trust that you will energize much interest as the day unfolds. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You have a tendency to keep worries inside and not share them right now. If you are keeping your own counsel in order not to burden others, it isn't working! Many people feel an innate discomfort seeing you closed down. Tonight: Do your thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ If you shy away from a risk, you also could be shying away from really living your life to its fullest. Honor your inner desires with an eye to repercussions as well as opportunity. Networking, socializing and making new friends simply feels natural. Tonight: Add that extra zip to your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others often turn to you, but you just might have enough on your plate already. Learn to say no and not to overload yourself. Be sure others are capable of completing an errand or project. You need a break. Tonight: The lead figure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might need to get more information before making a decision. Get an expert's opinion and don't sell yourself short. Listen to news that heads in your direction, even if it's a bit stunning. Tonight: Use your imagination when making plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Someone zeros in on you, for better or for worse. If you are feeling uncomfortable, refuse to commit in any way, shape or form. Insecurity, whether justified or not, permeates your decision making. Chill. Know that there is a tomorrow. Tonight: Follow another person's lead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might be out of sorts. Consider your options that surround a personal matter more carefully. You might want to revise your thinking when dealing with key people in your life. Understand that you might be spreading the cloud of negativity you are under. Tonight: Sort through your options.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You quickly achieve a lot. Your way of dealing with errands, calls and other such commitments might not be the same as others', but it is equally as effective. Consider your options with care. Tonight: It doesn't need to be much. Promise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your ideas hold water, at least in your mind. Realize that you might need to convince others. Justify and explain, but also know when a cause is lost. You will gain through using your ingenuity more selectively, if possible. Tonight: Don't worry if plans get muddled; just be where you want to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Basics bubble up when dealing with others. You could be quite taken aback by a money matter. The issue at hand quickly gets out of control. Curb risking so much. You could be tired of hearing the same rhetoric. Tonight: Keep it easy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Make calls and reach out for others, especially if in your eyes they are too quiet. You might be taken aback when you hear a key friend's or loved one's news. Listen. Though you might not be able to distance yourself or detach, do your best. Tonight: Favorite haunt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Curb a tendency to go past the immediate, and understand what is bothering you. Truth be told, it is so obvious you might laugh once you get it. Be willing to indulge loved ones this holiday season in a more fun yet less expensive manner. Tonight: Start thinking "Santa."

Happy birthday

This year, you will grow past previous restrictions. Endurance and ingenuity make a powerful team, if you can harness them. An older friend might play a significant role in your life, as this person tries to impose his or her will. Though you need not follow this path, you will be forced to rethink your own. If you are single, a potential sweetie appears through friends. The tie won't be easy, but it will be worthwhile. If you are attached, indulge yourselves like teenagers! ARIES understands how to have your style of fun!

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

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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 ★★★★★

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Factions

1 Angel hair, e.g.

6 Prickly plants

11 Aisle worker

12 Massage targets

13 Ring up

14 Penned

15 Natural fuel

17 Dueling weapon

18 All ears

20 Gather

22 Ring legend

23 Moroccan port

26 Positive

28 None too smart

29 Car parts

31 Ozone, e.g.

32 Look

33 Touch on

34 Heidi's home

36 Computer command

38 Super-man's father

40 Texan landmark

43 "Die Fledermaus" maid

44 Low-grade peer

45 Singer Della

DOWN

1 Baby boxer

2 Cabinet wood

3 Black Friday activity

4 Conviction

5 Scope

6 Cornfield cry

7 Farm measure

8 Chef's wooden item

9 Henri's head

10 Understanding words

W	O	W	S		D	A	P	P	E	R
A	S	H	E		E	R	R	A	T	A
S	L	I	D		C	L	E	N	C	H
P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S			
		E	T	A		N	E	W	T	S
Y	E	M	E	N		E	T	H	I	C
A	V	E					I	D	A	
L	E	A	K	S		A	F	T	E	R
U	N	T	I	E		S	U	E		
		S	Q	U	A	S	H	E	S	
C	E	N	S	U	S		S	E	L	L
R	O	O	M	I	E		E	A	S	E
I	N	T	E	N	D		S	T	E	W

Yesterday's answer

16 Song syllable

18 Indy event

19 Singer Jackson

21 Cuts off

23 Way of speaking

24 Jacob's twin

25 Take five

27 Some buses

30 Out-back runner

33 Loser to Dwight

34 Cracked

35 Gold source

37 Collars

39 Shelter

41 Skier

Tommy

42 Switch settings

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

11-27

DAILY LOTTERY

10 11 35 37 50
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: \$47M

28 30 34 35 43
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$27M

20 22 23 32 39

MIDDAY: 0 2 7
EVENING: 9 7 9

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

■ (1) Walking: Daredevil Scottish stunt bicyclist Danny MacAskill, whose electrifying feats are featured on popular YouTube videos, suffered a broken collarbone in October when he tripped on a curb while out for a walk in downtown Edinburgh. (2) Truck-Driving: Phillip Mathews, 73, whose logging truck is equipped with a tall boom arm to facilitate loading, forgot to lower the arm after finishing a job in Bellevue, Iowa, in October, and when he returned to the highway, the boom proceeded to snap lines on utility poles he passed for the next 12 miles until motorists finally got his attention.

■ The British Health Care Bureaucracy: (1) When social workers praised the progress 10-year-old Devon Taverner was making with her prosthetic leg (necessary because of a birth defect), bureaucrats terminated her disability payments, which instantly made her life harder. For example, the lack of a car allowance means she cannot travel without, each trip, removing and re-attaching the prosthesis. (2) On the other hand, Britain's High Court ruled in September that inmate Denis Roberts, 59, a murderer, was entitled to free surgery to remove a birthmark, and the National Health Service in August granted a free prescription for Viagra to recidivist sex offender Roger Martin, 71, whose latest conviction, last year, involved an 11-year-old boy.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1868 Indian Wars: Battle of Washita River - United States Army Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer leads an attack on Cheyenne living on reservation land.

1895 At the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, Alfred Nobel signs his last will and testament, setting aside his estate to establish the Nobel Prize after he dies.

1901 The U.S. Army War College is established.

1912 Spain declares a protectorate over the north shore of Morocco.

1924 In New York City, the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held.

WORD UP!

temerarious • \tem-uh-RAIR-ee-us\ • adjective

1. marked by temerity : rashly or presumptuously daring

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets \$1175/mo \$700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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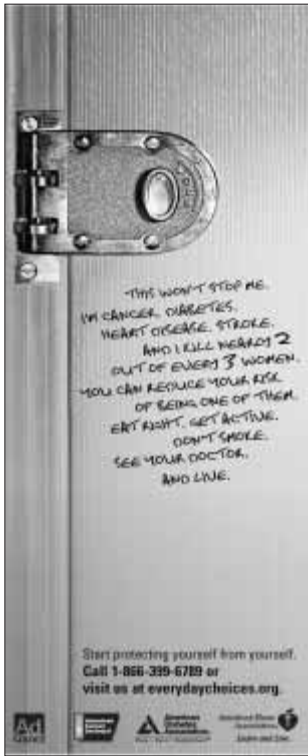
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