

ACTIVISION WINS THE BATTLE
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HEADING OUT EARLY ISSUE

L.A. traffic plan a mixed bag

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD The thought of driving in traffic on a Friday night is enough to keep Catherine Dunn entertaining thoughts of working late, or perhaps yearning to cut out earlier in the day to escape any gridlock.

An employee of Stitches from the Heart, a non-profit yarn store on Pico Boulevard,

Dunn occasionally works until 6 p.m. on Friday nights when the store closes, the height of West Los Angeles congestion. It is then she faces her long and dreaded trek home — a 45 minute commute to head just a few blocks from the I-10 Freeway intersection of Pico Boulevard to Westwood Boulevard.

“It’s like every street is jammed,” Dunn said on Tuesday. “It’s solid cars.”

The commuting angst for thousands of

motorists that traverse the seven-mile stretch of Olympic and Pico boulevards could be alleviated if Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s new proposal to cut down congestion goes according to plan. Unveiled on Monday, the mayor’s proposal would cause both Olympic and Pico boulevards to behave as one-way corridors without actually placing any physical barriers, timing signals to favor traffic heading west on Olympic and east on Pico Boulevard. The

proposal would also impose parking restrictions during peak hours. The plan would affect Olympic and Pico from La Brea Avenue to the Santa Monica city border at Centinela Avenue. Though the plan is restricted to Los Angeles, it’s sure to have an effect on the local business community and workforce, many of which live in West LA, where the rent is marginally cheaper.

SEE TRAFFIC PAGE 9

LOCAL CRIME



WATCHING THE HOOD

Burglars target elderly with distractions

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 10

Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

TARGETING THE HOMESTEAD: Residents of Sunset Park are keeping a close watch amid a rash of burglaries targeting elderly homeowners. The police department has issued a warning to residents to be on the lookout for any suspicious persons in their neighborhoods. There have been three such robberies in the last three months in the area.



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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Venice sells itself cheap

1611 Electric Ave., Venice, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Over \$70,000 worth of artwork is currently on display at Ravenswork Studios in Venice. The artwork will be raffled off during the Cool School — Hot Art party on Dec. 1. Raffle tickets are \$10. To view the art pieces or to purchase a raffle ticket, visit www.venicetrust.com.

Winterlit 'Best Gift Ever' Challenge for PAL

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

Griffith Park Light Festival

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

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

Nativo Wednesdays

1301 Fifth St., 9 p.m.

Zanzibar offers a night for the paisanos with dance-driven Latin beats featuring resident DJs. Tickets are \$5. For more information visit www.zanzibarlive.com.

Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007

'Wrestling With Angels' screening

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:45 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Oscar-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock screens and discusses her most recent documentary on Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning playwright Tony Kushner ("Angels In America"). Free program. Seating first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

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

'The Doors of Perception'

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

SMC Professor Dr. Driscoll will lead a lecture and discussion entitled, "The Doors of Perception: William Blake's Revolutionary Art in the Age of Enlightenment." Keep an eye out for Jim Morrison's ghost.

What's New This Week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

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.



Fire stokes fears about camping out

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU As firefighters worked Monday to fully contain the Corral Canyon wildfire — the third significant blaze to hit this beach community this year — residents rallied in opposition to a controversial plan to expand camping in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Residents are fearful that increased camping will spark more fires, putting more lives and homes in danger.

"This whole thing makes me feel very uncomfortable," said Marshall Thompson, a resident who had to evacuate his home in the hills above Zuma Beach over the weekend and find refuge for his dozen sheep and goats because of the fire, which destroyed more than 85 homes and burned 4,901 acres as of Monday afternoon.

"This is not about NIMBYism (not in my back yard). That's absurd," Thompson added. "Malibu is the most user-friendly city in the county. This is about public safety and not creating another hairy situation like the one we had this weekend."

On Dec. 5, the Malibu City Council is expected to vote on a proposal by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that would provide for overnight camping at Corral and Escondido canyons, and Charmlee Wilderness Park, near the Ventura County border, said Dash Stolarz, public information director for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), which manages the Santa Monica Mountains for the conservancy.

Members of the conservancy hope that extending overnight camping will encourage more use of the mountains by hikers and campers.

But residents believe the move would be dangerous given the high winds and dry conditions due to drought.

"There are already over 1,000 overnight camping sites in this area. We don't need to add any more," said Susan Tellem, a 10-year-resident of Malibu who runs a tortoise rescue operation and owns 10 sheep and two goats. "These fires move so fast that it can be difficult to evacuate in time. Luckily for me, I was able to get my animals out of there, but I know people who lost two dogs because they just couldn't get them out in time."

SEE FIRE PAGE 8



COMING TOGETHER: Rev. Lewis Logan of Los Angeles' Bethel AME Church, warns TESCO Fresh & Easy investors, who were in Santa Monica on Monday, that their money is at risk if the giant supermarket chain doesn't sign a Community Benefits Agreement with L.A. leaders.

Not so fresh and easy

Plans to open TESCO brand stores in L.A. draws out activists

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN SM A band of labor activists, along with religious and community advocates publicly denounced the arrival of a new brand of British-owned grocery stores in front of a luxury hotel on Monday afternoon, criticizing the company's alleged track record of broken promises made to the neighborhoods they pledged to help.

Angrily raising picket signs high into the sky while at the same time flashing thumbs up gestures toward supportive passersby,

members of the newly formed Alliance for Healthy and Responsible Grocery Stores crowded the sidewalk in front of the Viceroy Hotel on Ocean Avenue where Tesco officials were believed to be meeting with potential investors, all in an effort to dissuade those investors from placing a financial interest in a corporation they believe could do harm to Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Tesco is the third largest food retailer worldwide — behind Wal-Mart and Carrefour — and is the parent company for the new Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets located in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. The United Kingdom-based supermarket company started rolling out the American version of its grocery stores earlier this month in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The coalition, which includes various local labor unions, faith-based organizations

and political groups, argues that the supermarket chain has a poor record on making good on claims that it will bring jobs to low-income neighborhoods, be dedicated to the environment, and provide an excellent workplace. Coalition members cited a recent study by Occidental College that questioned some of Tesco's practices.

Officials with Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets are just asking the public to be patient.

"We're asking for an opportunity to open stores and demonstrate (our commitment)," said Brendan Wonnacott, spokesman for Fresh & Easy. "We know trust has to be earned, there is no group of people more committed to doing what we promised than the team at Fresh & Easy."

The August 2007 report was released in advance of the supermarket's debut in the

SEE MARKET PAGE 8



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't worry, be happy

Editor:

Regarding the restaurateurs upset with having to enforce the no smoking laws for outside dining – thinking it may lose business for them (Re: "Airing it out on smoking," Nov. 20): Isn't there already a law stating no one should smoke within 20 feet of bus stops, etc.. And did the restaurants have a problem telling their customers there was no smoking within the restaurant when the law was passed? How much business was lost then?

What about losing business of the non-smokers who never smoked or quit because they no longer wished to court death while smelling horrible? The laws against smoking were passed to protect our elderly, our children, grandchildren and ourselves from breathing in the toxic fumes from people who are involving the rest of us in their addiction. Now, once again, profit over health and well-being is the issue.

Oh, and the argument given by a local unnamed restaurant and bar owner that if she tells her customers that they cannot smoke, they will go out on the street and smoke and flick their cigarettes into the gutters that lead to Santa Monica Bay, which, in her opinion, would be bad for the environment. Oh, come on! Does she think they don't already do that whether they can smoke in her establishment or not? Daily, I see people smoking at bus stops (against the law) throw their cigarettes down the storm drains. As do the ones walking on the promenade, and in the downtown business area and in the parks. And since these non-smoking laws are obviously not being enforced, the worry about Santa Monica turning into a police state is just not going to happen. The police may stop a few smokers if they think they may be up to something more serious, like the no riding bikes on the sidewalks – also not enforced, unless the police want to stop that particular individual. So not to worry.

Marilyn Brennan

Santa Monica

Be careful what you sign

Editor:

Did you know the petition signature-gatherers you see in front of stores and at the Farmers' Market are hired by private campaign companies and are paid per signature collected? The League of Women Voters is concerned that the signature-gatherers on a local campus have been caught fraudulently asking people to sign four sheets for a "children's cancer program." In truth, the signers are putting their name on four separate petitions. The signers had no idea they were signing petitions to change the way California allots its' electoral votes, eminent domain and other issues.

Do not sign petitions unless you read them carefully. Information is not secure when collected by paid signature-gatherers. If you receive a voter registration form from these paid petitioners, insist on mailing the form yourself so the information on it will remain private.

If you wish to register to vote, you may obtain a registration form at any post office. In Los Angeles County, you can call the Registrar's Office at (562) 466-1310 and a form will be mailed to you directly. You can also download a form from the California Secretary of State's Web site, www.sos.ca.gov. A voter registration form requires a signature, so you can't register on-line.

The deadline for registering to vote for the Feb. 5 Presidential Primary is Jan. 22, 2008. Remember, you must re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or wish to change your political party.

Amy Bishop-Dunbar

President of the League of Women Voters, Santa Monica



Hey, Mikey

Michael J. Tittinger

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Memorials aren't just for war vets

ON SEPT. 11 IN NEW YORK CITY, A MUTED memorial service served notice that it was time to move forward, even as we remembered the past. To those still living with the tragedy that befell the city six years ago, it was more or less agreed that it was time to proceed and allow the healing to coincide with normalcy.

In New York, the wounds are on the mend. In Santa Monica, they've never even been dressed.

Next year will mark the fifth anniversary of this city's worst tragedy, and certainly the one least expected — the Farmers' Market crash of July 16, 2003, when 87-year-old Russell Weller plowed his car into the bustling marketplace, killing 10 people and injuring five dozen more.

Yet, when you take a walk down to the fateful intersection of Arizona Avenue and Third Street, you'd never know anything out of the ordinary ever occurred. There's no muted memorial, no subdued indication ... no marker whatsoever to honor the 10 people who died on that stretch of asphalt, taking part in a time-honored tradition at the downtown Farmers' Market. When Weller's car finally came to a stop, due to one last victim's body serving as a brake, the death toll from the 20-second incident was the largest number of fatalities from a traffic incident in California history.

Last Wednesday — the day before Thanksgiving — loyal patrons and shoppers were out en masse, snatching up grips of chard and turnips, plucking pecans and yams for their familial feast of choice. It's the busiest Farmers' Market of the year. Still, there are dozens of families having a hard time being thankful; waiting and waiting for the courts to finally hear their case against City Hall for failing to protect them.

Meanwhile, at the corner of Arizona and Third, it's business unusual. It's as if nothing ever happened. It's one thing to be brave and motor on and continue with life's pleasures as we once did — those lost that day would surely want their loved ones to live life — but it's quite another to motor on without stopping to remember the road taken.

The market's spirit should be maintained, but to turn a blind eye to the greatest tragedy this city has ever known is not only cold, it's irresponsible.

One can't help but wonder whether or not the ongoing litigation between the fami-

lies of the deceased and City Hall has stalled any attempts to permanently honor the fallen in downtown Santa Monica. More than 40 plaintiffs are still awaiting their day in court as they sue Weller, the city and Bayside District for failing to provide protective barricades that might have slowed Weller's 1992 Buick LeSabre when it sped into the open-air market.

While Weller was ultimately found guilty last year of 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter — and sentenced to a largely symbolic five years' probation — he never took the stand. Indeed, he has yet to say a word publicly about his intentions that day. His victims have had no semblance of closure. It's as if it never happened.

Now 90 and in failing health, Weller isn't long for this world. The stink of it is everybody will recognize his name the moment it appears in a headline five years after the crash, but those lost under his wheels will never get the same play. Maybe a memorial similar to the ones we bestow on our war veterans would help. No one is looking for an inescapably somber symbol that would tower over the tourist-friendly Third Street Promenade, maybe just some kind of acknowledgment that they were there ... if we looked hard enough.

Until then, a temporary fix:

In memorium of those who lost their lives in the Farmers' market crash of July 16, 2003:

- *Brendon Esfahani, 7 months, Los Angeles*
- *Gloria Olivera Gonzalez, 35, Venice*
- *Molok Ghoulain, 62, Los Angeles*
- *Movsha Hoffman, 78, Santa Monica*
- *Diana Y. McCarthy, 41, Los Angeles*
- *Kevin McCarthy, 50, Los Angeles*
- *Lynne Ann Weaver, 47, Woodland Hills*
- *Cindy Palacios Valladares, 3, Los Angeles*
- *Theresa Breglia, 50, New York*

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Front-runner status won't help Hillary

I'VE BEEN WATCHING HILLARY Clinton's campaign flailing in its death throes for about a month now, and with her lead in Iowa gone, it's past being funny and is almost to the point of being cruel. Bill Clinton is letting his wife believe that she really can be president. I understand where he's coming from; I was taught that the secret to a happy relationship is picking the hill you want to die on. If I had his appetites and I was married to that woman, I'd tell her whatever she wanted to hear, too.

But this isn't right. He's the only one in her world who can do it, so he should just tell her the truth: The country is ready for a woman to be president, it's just not ready for her to be that woman. She's not going to like hearing it, but someone has to prepare her for the post-Valentine's Day reality of having lost the nomination. Since he's the one who allowed her to delude herself into believing she can win (forcing us all to contemplate the horror of another Clinton presidency), it's only natural that he be the one to bring her back to reality when it's over.

It should make her feel better to know that she's going to be needed in the Senate. By next January, Democrats will control both houses of Congress, as well as the White House. The Republican Party, having lost seats in consecutive elections, will be on the road to irrelevance, if not extinction. I seriously doubt anyone would object to Hillary becoming Senate Majority Leader, making her and Nancy Pelosi the two most powerful women in the world for the foreseeable future. It's not the presidency, but think of the example it would set for Chelsea. Her parents will have gone from Bubba and Hillary Clinton of Little Rock, Ark., to President and Senator Clinton of Chappaqua, NY, in one generation. That's not just progress, it's unprecedented social climbing.

She'll also be relieved to know that had she won the nomination, their marriage would have become fair game in the general election campaign. With her losing, the family skeletons can stay deep in the closet where they belong, which is good because the vast right-wing conspiracy that turned the name "Clinton" into a dirty word would have revved back up and made the six years Bill spent under investigation seem like the good old days. All the work she's done to repair the family name over the last seven

years would be systematically undone by non-stop "Where are they now?" stories about Paula Jones, Gennifer Flowers and Monica Lewinsky on talk radio and Fox News.

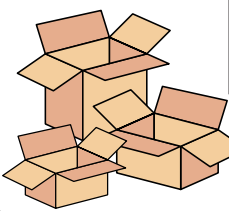
She'll be able to take comfort in the fact that her husband ran in a time of peace and unprecedented prosperity, but she had to run in the middle of a disastrous military operation with a weak dollar and a housing crisis to boot. Bill ran against Bob Dole, a man with a permanent grimace who people used to deliberately turn their gaze away from. Hillary has to run against the handsome, smiling face of the political movement of a generation, broadcast live and free of charge to every media markets in the U.S. by Ms. Oprah Winfrey. It's almost not fair.

Bill Clinton has about a month to figure out what he's going to say. If I was him, I'd blame her campaign advisors, who have been wrong at every turn. They tried to sell her as the inevitable nominee, apparently not realizing that her closest opponent only has to stay within shouting distance to claim victory in Iowa and New Hampshire (and anything other than a landslide win for an "inevitable" candidate is a loss). They won't let her admit that it was a mistake to authorize the president to invade Iraq (this one blows my mind). They still don't realize they're running a pro-war candidate in an anti-war party's primary. Worst of all, they've pinned their hopes on portraying her as having experience being president because she lived in the White House for eight years. Apparently, they didn't predict the painfully simple follow-up question any married man would ask ("does that mean my wife has experience doing my job?"), so they made the fatal mistake of never preparing an answer.

Rule number one in sales is don't pitch the dog. It means, save your sales pitch for someone who can make a decision. When you look at photos of the Clinton Cabinet, you won't see Hillary in any of them. When you ask what, exactly, was her experience, you won't get a straight answer. That's why she won't win. In her husband's administration, she may not have been the dog, but she certainly wasn't a decision-maker.

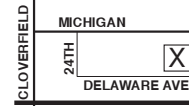
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The gift buying season is upon us and with it comes the annual dilemma: How much is too much when it comes to holiday spending?

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Activision shares surge

'Guitar Hero' and 'Call of Duty' help local company pile it on

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK Shares of video game publishers moved up Tuesday after Santa Monica-based Activision Inc. raised its profit and sales forecasts, but a Bank of America analyst said other publishers won't experience as much holiday cheer.

Activision reported strong Thanksgiving weekend sales, and increased its fiscal third-quarter and full-year estimates to levels above analyst expectations. The company said sales of "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" and "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare" were particularly brisk.

The stock climbed \$2.31, or 12.2 percent, to \$21.24.

Analyst Michael Savner said Activision could top Wall Street estimates for the season, but other publishers may struggle. Games from Electronic Arts Inc. and Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. are not selling as well as expected, he said.

"While overall trends are generally positive, particularly for hardware, we believe the gap between 'successful' and 'unsuccessful' games could be wide," he said.

Savner said many retailers aren't carrying EA's "Rock Band," and sales of its "Need for Speed: ProStreet" are not as strong as last year's version. New entries in Take-Two's "Manhunt" and "NBA 2K" franchises are also not living up to previous editions.

However, Electronic Arts shares rose \$1.70, or 3.2 percent, to \$55.48. Take-Two stock gained 17 cents to \$14.75.

Savner said THQ Inc. games are selling as expected, with



Photo courtesy Activision

BIG GUN: "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare" has helped propel Activision to the top of the video game sales charts recently.

"WWE SmackDown vs. Raw 2008" doing about 10 percent more business than its predecessor. However, the stock dropped to an annual low on the news that THQ's Chief Financial Officer, Edward Zinser, had resigned.

After trading ended Monday, THQ said Zinser resigned

effective immediately. It said the move was not connected to THQ's financial condition or operations, and analysts said the move should not affect its earnings.

After reaching a low of \$22.81, the stock recovered and added 12 cents to \$23.98 at midday.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Prior to RESPA, costs were high

IT'S TIME. YOU HAVE FOUND THE HOME of your dreams, had an offer accepted by the seller, completed all inspections, applied and qualified for a loan and are now nearing the close of escrow. However, one question remains — what are the closing costs?

Before 1974, finding out what your closing costs were was a difficult chore. I have heard horror stories of homeowners who had last minute — and I mean the day they were scheduled to close — costs added to their loan. Mortgage brokers were notorious for adding these last minute charges. Viewed as snake oil salesmen 35 years ago, mortgage brokers were known to over promise and under deliver. Nevertheless, change came in 1974, when the government passed the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 or RESPA. One important thing RESPA did was identify real estate closing costs. Borrowers were now required to be given a good faith estimated settlement or GFE, which disclosed all of the estimated closing costs. Now borrowers could clearly see what they were being charged before the close of escrow. RESPA also cleaned up the mortgage broker industry, providing transparency, which helped make mortgage brokers more legitimate.

The items on a GFE break down:

- **Loan origination fee** — This is the cost of the loan that is paid to the lender.
- **Appraisal fee** — Most lenders are going to charge you for the appraisal.
- **Tax service fee** — This is a county fee often called a junk fee.
- **Flood certification fee** — Another county fee or junk fee.
- **Processing fee** — Most lenders/brokers will charge some type of processing fee.
- **Wire fee** — Wires are not free and you

and/or the lender has to pay for the service.

- **Interest @ "x" per day** — Covers the interest accrued on the new loan.
- **Hazard insurance** — No lender is going to allow you to take ownership of a property without the proper insurance in place.
- **County property tax** — You will be responsible for paying your new property taxes.
- **Title insurance** — This charge is usually split between the buyer and seller.
- **Escrow** — Like title insurance, this charge is usually split between the buyer and seller.
- **Recording/filing fees** — This is the cost of recording in the county hall of records.

Depending on the type of real estate transaction, the lender may require you to impound property taxes and hazard insurance.

Impounds or escrow impounds are when the lender includes your tax and insurance payments divided by 12, for the number of months in the year, and adds that cost to your mortgage payment. The funds are kept in what is known as an escrow account and the monies do not accrue interest. Although this is convenient, it is not beneficial since you do not have a chance to earn interest on money for several months of the year. With that said, most lenders will not give the homeowner an option and will require tax and insurance impounds. It is important not only to have a down payment for a property, but also the closing costs. Per RESPA, you will receive a GFE, which will help you understand all of your closing costs.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

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As of Late November 2007 Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale		
	Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	= \$ 2,561,500	No Listings
North of Montana	= \$ 3,962,464	\$ 1,754,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,160,571	\$ 986,275
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,038,167	\$ 680,431
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,343,913	\$ 696,824
Ocean Park	= \$ 2,173,000	\$ 985,539
Statistics updated every Friday		
What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!		

Coalition demands promises

FROM MARKET PAGE 3

United States. Researchers at Occidental College's Urban and Environmental Policy Institute found that while Tesco has championed making affordable food accessible in low-income communities, only 10 of the first 98 fresh & Easy stores planned in the U.S. are in what would be considered low-income areas. The study also found that while the company promotes a positive work environment, it tends to rely on part-time rather than full-time employees, limiting "the ability of workers to achieve a living wage," the report states.

The message by the coalition, also plastered on a couple of picket signs, was essentially, "Don't be Wal-Mart."

"We want to make sure your past record doesn't come into Los Angeles," said Maria Elena Durazo, the executive secretary treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which is a member of the coalition.

The alliance is demanding that Tesco sign a Community Benefits Agreement — a contract between communities and entities in order to guarantee the latter would act on promises. The CBA has effectively been implemented in the past for the development of the Staples Center and the

Hollywood and Vine mixed-use project.

"We're not asking for anything they haven't (already) promised," said Elliott Petty, the community organizer for the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, one of the members of the coalition.

The market at this time has declined to sign the Community Benefits Agreement, Wonnacott said.

"We prefer to begin our relationship based on our deeds," Wonnacott said.

The company plans to open more than 100 stores in its first year of operation. There are already 10 locations in Southern California, including two that opened today in Laguna Hills and Lakewood. Another store is planned for Compton early next year. There are currently no plans to open a store in Santa Monica.

"We have an additional 18 sites that we pulled together and we're pursuing in the city of Los Angeles, three of which are going to open at the cost of capital and basically we stand committed to locating stores in all types of neighborhoods," Wonnacott said. "The final status of all sites depends on our ability to negotiate with landlords and (receive) permits in a timely manner."

**WE WANT TO MAKE SURE
YOUR PAST RECORD
DOESN'T COME INTO
LOS ANGELES."**

Maria Elena Durazo, Executive secretary treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

The coalition's rally was joined by several members of the Writers Guild of America, currently in the middle of their own battle with movie studios. The screenwriter's carried their own signs that read, "We are all on the same page."

"We're all workers united to try and get the fairest contract we deserve," said screenwriter Tim Davis. "We're not alone in this battle."

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STRIVING FOR A GOAL

Kitchen workers from The Lobster restaurant take part in an impromptu soccer game at the base of the Santa Monica Pier last week during a break from work.

Brandon Wise
news@smdp.com

City officials seem to favor overnight camping, but with certain safeguards

FROM FIRE PAGE 3

The weekend fire started along a dirt road at the top of Corral Canyon Road near Castro Mountain Way in Malibu Creek State Park. Fire officials said the blaze was started by "human activity," but have not said whether it was set accidentally or deliberately.

Neighbors have long complained about late-night parties and other non-sanctioned behavior on public parklands in the area.

Six months ago, state park rangers increased patrols and citations for parking after hours, among other violations, and they have ticketed minors for being in possession of alcohol, Ron Schafer, a state park superintendent, told the LA Times. Schafer told the newspaper he wasn't aware of any calls from residents Friday night, but "a ranger went up in that area sometime Friday night."

Malibu Mayor Jeff Jennings said residents opposed to the camping plan must realize that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has the right to put campsites on the public lands it oversees. The city, he said, is attempting to retain some control over the situation.

City Hall has vowed to impose a requirement for rangers with fire-fighting experience to monitor the camping areas around the clock. The city is also considering a ban on campfires when there are "red flag" warnings.

**THIS IS
NOT ABOUT
NIMBYISM. THAT'S
ABSURD."**

Marshall Thompson, Malibu resident

"Because we have had three major fires in the last year, people are understandably freaked out," Jennings said. "But the one thing you have to realize is that camping has proven to be a safe activity, and we have put in a lot of conditions to make sure it remains a safe activity."

The Malibu City Council could vote to deny the conservancy access to Charmlee, however, that would not stop the agency from moving forward

with plans to build campgrounds on property it already owns. The conservancy can also bypass the council and go straight to the California Coastal Commission, which advocates camping and open access to public lands.

"We are trying to make sure that the city has a voice and some control over what goes on at the site," Jennings said.

Officials with the MRCA studied the area where the proposed campsites would be located and are confident that they do not pose any threat to residents or wildlife. They said wildfires are rarely sparked by fires at designated campgrounds, but instead of the result of those camping illegally.

Tellem said she and other residents are prepared to fight the conservancy's proposal and will be out in force the night the council debates the issue.

"We just want the council to say no," Tellem said. "They are so worried about what might happen if they do, that the conservancy will try to go over their heads to the Coastal Commission. Well, I say let's fight that battle if it comes to that. Right now, they just need to vote no."

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Traffic plan would end at border

FROM TRAFFIC PAGE 1

More than 100,000 cars are estimated to travel along the two corridors every day, 60,000 of which are on Olympic Boulevard. The mayor estimates that his proposal would improve traffic flow by as much as 45 percent, a figure that has been questioned by some county and local officials.

The estimated \$2.1 million proposal is split into three phases, the first of which would be to implement the rush hour parking restrictions, followed by the second phase to re-time the traffic signals. The third phase, which most likely won't happen for another year after city officials evaluate the first two phases, would add more westbound lanes on Olympic and more eastbound lanes on Pico Boulevard through restriping. The first phase could begin in early 2008.

Earlier this year, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose third district includes Santa Monica, suggested making both Olympic and Pico boulevards mainly one-way streets with one lane for buses, car-poolers and taxis.

Yaroslavsky said the third phase is the only phase that makes any substantive changes, adding that placing parking restrictions is a no-brainer that should've been done long ago, and the second phase just doesn't make any sense.

"I'm not sure how you make traffic flow better on Olympic westbound while making it more slowly eastbound on Olympic," the supervisor said on Tuesday.

Rather than waiting, city officials should implement the third phase as soon as possible, adding that it's "where the payoff is."

"The flaw in this (proposal) is that it has one foot in the status quo and one foot in the future and we need to get both feet in the future," Yaroslavsky said.

DRIVING THE POINT HOME

The proposal was met with mixed results by Santa Monica city officials.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom said that while it would temporarily alleviate gridlock in the short-term, congestion will slowly creep back into the two boulevards as more and more people will see that it's easier to drive. What is needed is a change in

attitude, Bloom said.

Bloom also questioned the removal of parking spaces — a proposal that the Santa Monica City Council has explored in the past but passed on because of its potential effect on the quality of life.



THE FLAW IN THIS (PROPOSAL) IS THAT IT HAS ONE FOOT IN THE STATUS QUO AND ONE FOOT IN THE FUTURE AND WE NEED TO GET BOTH FEET IN THE FUTURE."

Zev Yaroslavsky, L.A. County Supervisor

"We have a long history in Southern California of adding freeways, and when they fill up, then we widen freeways and then when that fills up, we do things like synchronize signals to make the streets more efficient," Bloom said. "All these things might be well and good, but they're supporting a system, an infrastructure, that is broken and can't sustain us for the long term."

Santa Monica City Councilmember Kevin McKeown, who commutes on his bike, seemed optimistic about the proposal, interested in seeing how it would work in with the city's Land Use and Circulation Element.

"Until we get light rail and a subway, some vehicular solution must be found," McKeown said.

While traffic congestion is notorious in West Los Angeles, the gridlock doesn't typically extend all the way on both corridors deep into Santa Monica, according to Lucy Dyke, the Transportation Planning Manager in Santa Monica.

"The parts of these streets in Santa Monica don't have the same traffic volumes," Dyke said.

Officials in both municipalities will work together to make sure the timing of the signals agree so that it doesn't cause confusion and problems at the LA-Santa Monica borders.

"We've been extremely interested in working with the city of LA and everyone else in the region to look at (traffic at) the regional level to try to look at how we

respond," Dyke said.

One way to respond, which has garnered support from many Westside residents and officials, is the extension of the Exposition Light Rail from Culver City to Santa Monica and creating the Subway to the Sea under

Monica and alleviate her commuting woes since the light rail track from Downtown LA to Culver City is expected to go near her West Los Angeles home.

Pamela Stollings, the owner of the UnUrban Coffeehouse on the corner of Pico Boulevard and Urban Avenue, doesn't believe Villaraigosa's plan will go according to plan.

The coffeehouse has been in business for the past 12 years. Stollings believes traffic has actually worsened on Pico in the last year.

For Stollings, a drive back to her home on Stewart Street can sometimes take 20 minutes.

"I think (the plan) is going to fail miserably," she said on Tuesday. "All it's going to do is reroute people and inundate the neighborhoods."

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✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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The darkest of nights

Edison upgrades high-voltage circuit in downtown area

Daily Press Staff

DOWNTOWN SM Areas of downtown were without power for nearly 10 hours Tuesday night, as part of a planned outage by Southern California Edison to give the utility an opportunity to replace an inadequate high-voltage circuit.

Mark Olsen, a spokesman for Edison, said the work is part of an overall effort to upgrade the aging power grid in the downtown area, which has experienced several outages over the past few years, leaving businesses on the Third Street Promenade

and surrounding streets without electricity for days during the hot summer months at times.

Power was cut Monday to those businesses located in between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard from Third to Fourth streets as well as Colorado Avenue to Broadway from Second to Fourth streets. Olsen said letters were mailed out to Edison customers informing them about the outage in advance of the interruption.

The circuit was replaced ahead of scheduled and the power was restored around 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Olsen said.

"Probably 90 percent of that downtown circuit has been upgraded and we will continue to do so as needed," Olsen said. "We hope to have the full upgrade completed by the middle of next year."

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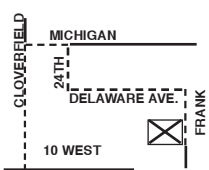
YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

A man prepares to film on the Santa Monica Pier last week while his star, a Tickle-Me Elmo doll, maintains its position. No word on exactly what the filmmaker was trying to capture.

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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Elderly residents targeted at home

Police on lookout for band of thieves who use misdirection

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK A little distraction has been going a long way for a band of burglars targeting the neighborhood's elderly.

Thieves have been hitting up homeowners here, distracting them by pretending to be from the gas or water company so that they can distract their victims long enough for a partner in crime to sneak through an unlocked window or door and make off with credit cards, jewelry and other valuables.

There have been three such robberies in the last three months in Sunset Park, prompting the police department to send out a warning to residents to be on the lookout for any suspicious persons in their neighborhoods.

"They usually target the elderly when they are outside watering their grass and they walk up and say just about anything to get the resident in their backyard," said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla. "It could be anything from 'Hey, we kicked our ball in your backyard, can we go get it?' to someone passing themselves off as a contractor pretending to be doing some work next door."

Police are encouraging all residents to ask for company photo identification from a worker before they enter a residence, and to be sure to check if they are driving a company vehicle. Usually, the company vehicle is parked in front of the residence.



When she contacted her credit card company later that night, she was told that her card had been used in North Hollywood.

The suspects in that incident were described as two male Hispanics in their 20s with short black hair, light complexion and clean shaven.

The first incident occurred on Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2400 block of 30th Street. The suspects in that incident were described as two white females with brown and blonde hair, 5 feet, 2 inches tall weighing between 110 and 150 pounds. A third suspect was described as a white male with brown hair between 20 and 30 years of age, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, around 190 pounds. To of the suspects were wearing white T-shirts and jeans.

The second incident occurred on Oct. 1 in the same block of 30th Street. This time there were four suspects, all Hispanic males in their 30s and mid 50s, weighing around 180 pounds with dark hair and eyes. One was wearing a red baseball cap, navy work pants and a light blue short-sleeved work shirt, police said.

News of the burglaries has made some Sunset Park residents uneasy and more cautious about how they interact with strangers at their front door.

Amanda Enclave, who lives on Oak Street near where one of the burglaries occurred, said she will not open her front door for anyone if she is home alone and has been more alert when walking through her neighborhood.

"I was the type of person who would open my door to just about anybody," Enclave said. "Now, I'm not so open."

Police told Enclave that the suspects "blended into the neighborhood."

Lyle Royer is another resident who plans to be more alert. He's also planning to go to a home improvement store and purchase some metal bars for his windows, something he has been meaning to do for some time, but is motivated now because of the burglaries.

"Someone tried to open one my windows the other night, but it could have been my landlord," said Royer, who has seen an increased police presence of late.

Down the street from Royer lives longtime resident Tom Madara and his wife, who have a metal security screen on their front door and the windows nailed shut. Despite their security measures, they believe Sunset Park is a good place to live with neighbors who look out for one another.

"This is a pretty safe neighborhood. It's gotten a lot safer over the years," Madara said. "Still, I'm armed and dangerous, so if anyone wants to come into my backyard, they better have a pretty darn good reason."

kevinh@smdp.com

I WAS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD OPEN MY DOOR TO JUST ABOUT ANYBODY. NOW, I'M NOT SO OPEN."

Amanda Enclave,
Resident on Oak Street

Once the suspects have the attention of the homeowner, they communicate with their accomplice via cell phone or walkie-talkie, police said.

If a worker does not provide identification or seems suspicious, residents are urged to contact the police immediately.

The most recent burglary reported to police occurred on Nov. 17 in the 1600 block of Oak Street, in which an elderly woman was approached by a man who said he needed to measure the wall in her backyard, police said.

She closed her front door, but did not lock it, and accompanied the suspect to the backyard. She became suspicious and told the man she was returning to the house. He tried to dissuade her, but she ignored him, police said.

When she reached her back door, a second suspect came to the backyard talking on a cell phone. When the victim went inside, she discovered her wallet moved in her purse and a credit card and a gold chain missing.

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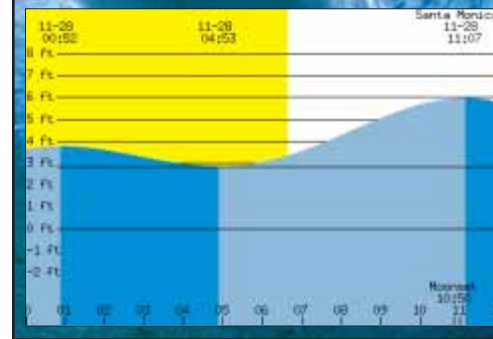


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BEACH REPORT CARD


NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 9

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

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

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LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (near carilla)	A+	as
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	as
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	as
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	as
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	as
Escandida Creek, just east of Escandida State Beach	A+	A+
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	as
Saltine Canyon at San Blasco County Beach	A	A+
Puero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	as
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puero Beach, at 24572 Mullin Rd.	A	A+
Sutcliffe Beach at Mullin Canyon fence	A+	as
Sutcliffe Beach (beach location) - daily	B	as
Mullin Pier - 50 yards east	A	as
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	as
Pena Creek at Los Angeles County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	as
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	as
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	as
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	as
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	as

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Red Air Way Club drain near fence	A+	as
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Tennesson Canyon drain	D	as
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Charming)	F	as
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	as
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	as
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	as
Santa Monica Beach at Pica/Kester storm drain	F	as
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	as
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	as
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	as
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	D	as
Venice Beach- projection of Topical St.	A+	as
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	as
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	as
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DSW jetty)	A+	as
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	as
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	as

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

as — no sample taken



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NFL Raiders finally snap dubious losing skid

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA Only 15 players on the Oakland Raiders' active roster were part of the team for the entire 17-game losing streak against AFC West rivals.

Only three assistant coaches have endured all of those losses to Kansas City, Denver and San Diego.

However, the weight of the streak was carried by every member of the team, and that's what made its end on Sunday so satisfying.

"For us who are new, it felt like we hadn't won a divisional game in forever and it had been three," said coach Lane Kiffin, who was a 29-year-old wide receivers coach at Southern California when Oakland last beat a division rival.

"We lost one to Kansas City so I can imagine what it was like for our players and organization. It's a step in the right direction but it doesn't mean much if we don't go out and play well this week."

By beating the Chiefs 20-17 on Sunday, Oakland snapped the longest division losing streak since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, ended a franchise-worst nine-game skid to Kansas City and snapped a six-game losing streak this season. Oakland's previous win in the division was a 25-24 victory at Denver on Nov. 28, 2004.

Now, as the Raiders begin to prepare for Sunday's home game against Denver, the players can think about starting a winning streak instead of snapping a losing one.

"It just feels good, especially to get a division win, especially on the road," safety Stuart Schweigert said. "We have another division opponent this week. It definitely builds momentum. Having (Monday) off was very nice. Get to come in and relax, take things at your own pace. It's a win, but by tomorrow it should be forgotten and we're ready to get on Denver."

The division losing streak began with a loss to Kansas City the week after that win in

Denver in 2004, when Norv Turner was the coach and Kerry Collins the quarterback.

The skid to the Chiefs dated back even longer as the Raiders hadn't beaten Kansas City since a 24-0 win in the final game of the 2002 season. The losses to Kansas City had been especially galling, with eight of the nine coming by seven points or fewer.

There was Larry Johnson's game-winning touchdown run on the final play two years ago. There were last-minute interceptions by Jarrad Page to thwart comeback attempts by Oakland in the previous two meetings.

IT JUST FEELS GOOD, ESPECIALLY TO GET A DIVISION WIN, ESPECIALLY ON THE ROAD."

Stuart Schweigert
Raiders safety

"You think about that on the way to the stadium, during warmups," running back Justin Fargas said. "Even during the game, you think, 'Man, they've gotten us so many times, and it's been so close so many times.' You're tired of coming out on the losing end. It's about time that the Raiders and the Raider Nation got the feel of a win over the Chiefs."

When the Chiefs drove to the Oakland 23, trailing by three points with less than 5 minutes remaining, it looked like the same old story.

But Kirk Morrison and Thomas Howard stopped Kolby Smith on a fourth-and-1 run. The Raiders were able to run out the final 4:22, getting a 21-yard run from Fargas with 1:54 remaining to clinch it.

After talking all season about finishing games, the Raiders delivered with key plays.

NCAA FOOTBALL With a big game looming, Stanford is in need of a QB

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh could make a quarterback change for this week's rivalry game against California after starter Tavita Pritchard was dinged up last week against Notre Dame.

Pritchard was replaced by T.C. Ostrander after being hit hard in the helmet by Notre Dame's Terrail Lambert in the third quarter of last Saturday's game. Pritchard returned briefly against the Irish after the hit, but Ostrander finished the 21-14 loss to the Fighting Irish.

Harbaugh said Monday that he would wait until watching both players practice before determining who would start for Stanford (3-8, 2-6 Pac-10) at quarterback Saturday against the Golden Bears (6-5, 3-5).

"We'll make that decision as the week progresses and we decide who gives us the best chance to win this game," Harbaugh said.

Pritchard complained of a headache after the game but Harbaugh said he had been cleared by the doctors to return to action after Ostrander left briefly following a hard hit to the elbow. Pritchard initially had his helmet taken away from him after his hit.

"He was asked a series of questions. The NFL and college football have an evaluation process that takes place after a hit and he passed that test," Harbaugh said. "The doctors made the decision about two plays before T.C. took the helmet on the elbow that he would be available. Before we put him back in there, it was confirmed that he was available to go back in."

Ostrander began the season as the No. 1 quarterback, starting the first four games before being sidelined after having a seizure. Pritchard came in and led the 24-23 upset over then-No. 2 Southern California and has started every game since.

The Cardinal have lost the last four games.

Bam! Food Network to cease production of Lagasse's 'Emeril Live' cooking program after successful run



Food Network is kicking **EMERIL LAGASSE** down a notch.
The celebrity chef's "Emeril Live," which has been on the air for 10 years, will cease production Dec. 11, Food Network publicist Carrie Welch told The Associated Press.
"However, Emeril is under contract with Food Network," Welch said

Tuesday. "We love him, we support him and look forward to a long partnership with him."
Welch wouldn't comment on Lagasse's contract.
Asked why the show was canceled, she told the AP: "The only reason would be that it hit a ton of television milestones and, you know, all good

things come to an end."
The Food Network will continue producing Lagasse's "The Essence of Emeril," and he will take part in "specials and other development opportunities in the future," Welch said.
"I am deeply appreciative to all the unbelievable staff – many who have been with the show since the beginning – and all the

loyal viewers, and the many talented guests who have appeared on the show through the years," Lagasse said.
"I look forward to continuing my association with the Food Network with 'The Essence of Emeril,' and I have lots of new ideas cooking," he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINEHOUSE CANCELS TOUR

AMY WINEHOUSE has canceled all concerts and public appearances for the rest of the year on doctor's orders.
"The rigors involved in touring and the intense emotional strain that Amy has been under in recent weeks have taken their toll," said Winehouse's representative.
"In the interests of her health and well-being, Amy has been ordered to take complete rest and deal with her health issues."
The decision by the 24-year-old retro soul singer comes "on the instruction of her doctor," the statement said.

AP

Kennedy is 'cover girl' for AARP's magazine

CAROLINE KENNEDY turned 50 Tuesday, becoming eligible for membership in AARP.
But the nonprofit organization for people 50 and over has bigger plans for Kennedy, daughter of President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jackie.
The former first daughter is featured on the cover of the January/February issue of AARP The Magazine, on newsstands next month, and will receive the magazine's Inspire Award next week.
"Ever since I was a little girl, people have told me that my father changed their lives, or that President Kennedy's inau-



gural challenge, 'Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country,' inspired a generation in the 1960s that transformed our nation with courage," she told the magazine.
"To me that is one of his

greatest legacies. Now, it is up to us to redefine that commitment for our time."
Since graduating from Harvard and Columbia University School of Law, the mother of three has raised tens of millions of dollars for New York City public schools. She also has been active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund and the bipartisan Presidential Debates.
Kennedy was only 3 when her family moved into the White House. A news photo of the young Caroline with her pony was

the inspiration for Neil Diamond's smash hit "Sweet Caroline," which he revealed while performing the song by satellite at Kennedy's 50th birthday party – after holding onto the secret for decades.
The magazine asked Kennedy: How does 50 feel? "It's not that old, is it?" Kennedy said. "I feel like I'm really happy, fortunate to have my family and the things I'm involved in, even without the people not here who were here once."
She will receive the AARP award Monday at a Manhattan luncheon. Other winners include Gladys Knight and Gary Sinise.

AP

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

Where the fun is, Libra

Happy Birthday!

You make a difference. Wherever you focus, you illuminate the situation, event or issue. You see what others cannot this year. As a result of this skill, you could experience unusual success, especially after winter. If you are single, a relationship could appear. This person will be very different from your picks of the past. If you are attached, you'll bond on a much deeper level than in the past.



Born Today
Director **Joe Dante (1946)**
Actor **Ed Harris (1950)**
Celebrity **Anna Nicole Smith (1967)**

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

★★★★★ Allow your enthusiasm to manifest itself. You feel great no matter which way you turn or what happens. Focus on the big picture. Think in terms of creativity regarding a project. Tonight: Come up with a fun midweek break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might not be sure in which direction to proceed. Yes, you are at a fork in the road. If you go in one direction, you might be more comfortable; the other direction proves to be risky. Tonight: Enjoy a loved one's or friend's enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your words fall from your mouth to others' ears. The reception and attention you want happens. Debating an idea doesn't mean putting down the other person. Don't go below the belt. Tonight: Put yourself out there.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Money matters might need reviewing. You have been doing an excellent job at accomplishing your goals through being open to a diverse and creative style. Tonight: What would you do with additional funds if you got a raise?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign adds to the Lion's allure. You come up with ideas and see situations differently, thus problem-solve in a more creative manner. Enjoy being the solution person in your office. Tonight: Whatever makes the big Lion purr.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Take your time making major decisions, and you will be much happier. A change in approach could leave you smiling as well. What you realize should not become public knowledge yet! Yes, you have a secret. Tonight: Vanish time (hopefully for a good reason).

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Zoom in on what you want. Certainly if you don't ask or act on a key goal, it can never happen. You might want to try this process on a small scale by making a wish. Just verbalizing a desire can make it happen. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Step up to the plate. You are not only the lead player but the umpire too! You are definitely a force unto yourself. Let go of problems and acknowledge the importance of security, professionally and emotionally. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Get to the bottom of an issue rather than sit with it. In fact, calling in others and encouraging many different opinions is smart. Open up to possibilities. The untrodden path is the way to go. Tonight: Let your mind relax with a game, music or whatever works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Many find you to be remote, but now is the time to change that image with a certain person. By revealing the true you, you draw someone closer and help this person to stronger ground. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You have a way that others cannot resist, even if you are a touch quirky. Meetings prove to be a great spot for you to shine and manifest your best traits. Others will respond and make a big difference. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You put a lot of effort into many different aspects of your life. This push and pull might be very hard on you. Understand why you give 100 percent and the rewards you receive as well. Tonight: In the limelight. Could be late.

MOVIEGUIDE

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Check theatre for showtimes

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)

3:00, 6:05

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)

1:10, 3:55, 6:30

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)

12:50, 3:30, 6:20

Michael Clayton (R)

12:15

The Mist (R)

12:20, 3:15, 6:10

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

American Gangster (R)

12:50, 4:05, 7:25, 10:45

Beowulf (PG-13)

2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40

Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)

1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Enchanted (PG)

1:15, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:40,

7:40, 9:20, 10:20

Fred Claus (PG)

1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30

Hitman (R)

2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)

1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

I'm Not There (R)

12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

No Country for Old Men (R)

1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00,
8:00, 9:55

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

August Rush (PG)

11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30,
10:10

Bee Movie (PG)

11:50am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10,
9:30

Lions for Lambs (R)

12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)

12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

Mr. Magorium's Wonder
Emporium (G)

12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

This Christmas (PG-13)

11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40,
10:20

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



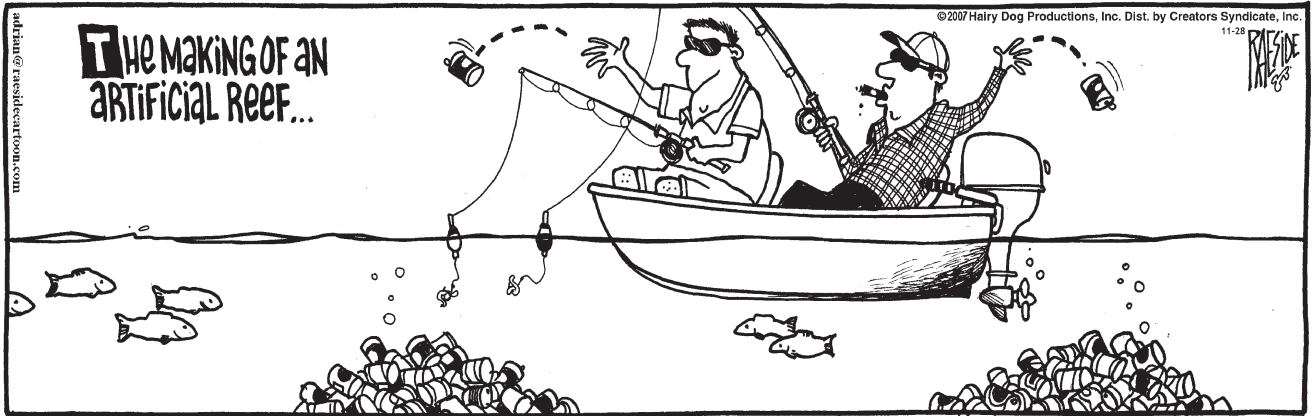
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



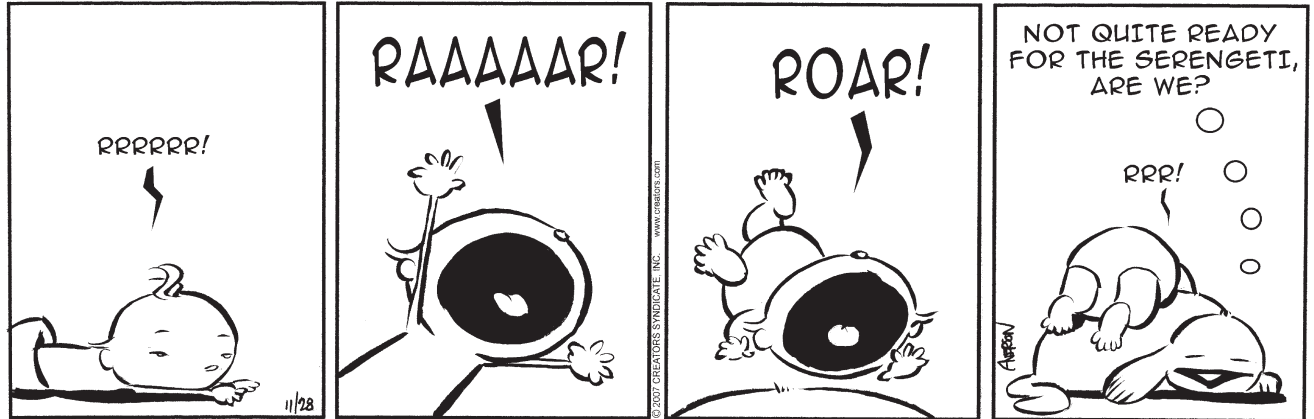
Garfield

By Jim Davis

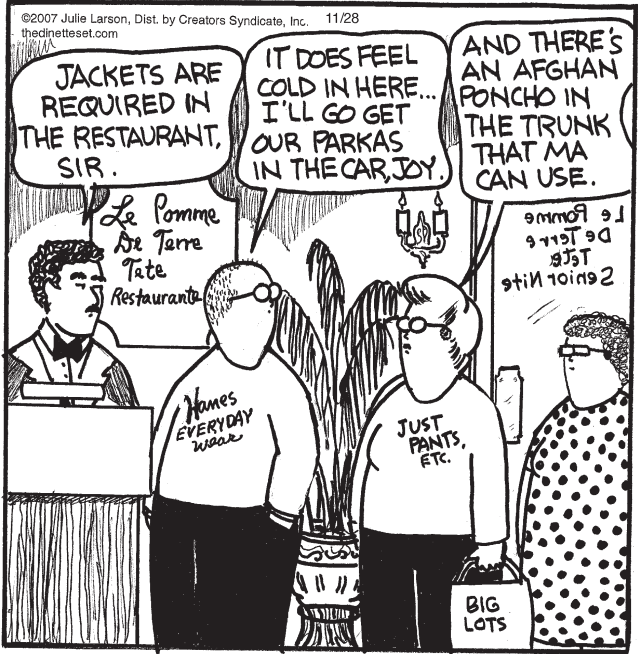


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



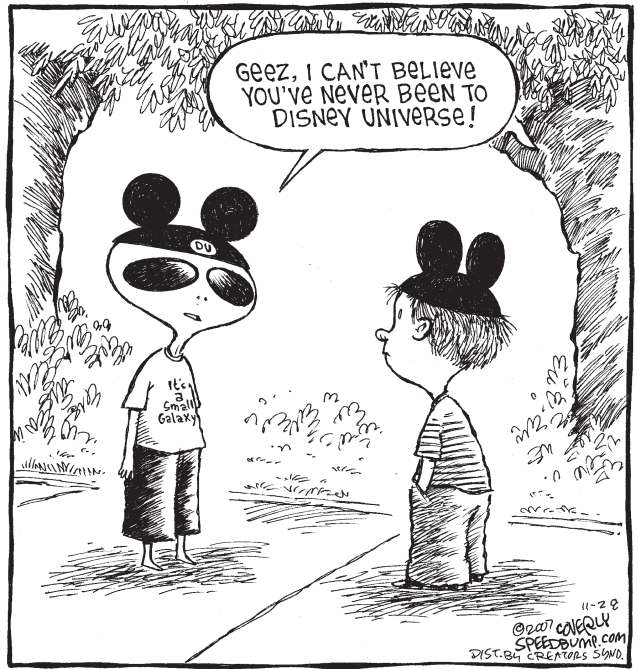
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Gabrielle Harradine news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 1 Mob boss
- 5 Inclines
- 11 Track shape
- 12 Get fit
- 13 Noisy
- 14 Cleopatra's love
- 15 Cobbling tool
- 16 A long time
- 17 Surgery tool
- 19 Amigo
- 22 Spirit
- 24 Comet's place
- 26 Michigan, for one
- 27 Mystique
- 28 Gather
- 30 Like bath floors
- 31 "You betcha!"
- 32 Kind of car
- 34 Night light?
- 35 Fancy planter
- 38 Caviar type
- 41 Acceptable
- 42 Call forth
- 43 Stardom
- 44 Church donations
- 45 Helper: Abbr.

- 2 Swear
- 3 "Watch on the Rhine" actor
- 4 Antique
- 5 Theater part
- 6 Solitary sorts
- 7 Kitchen nuisance
- 8 Recent: Pref.
- 9 Wine cask
- 10 007, for one
- 16 Inquire
- 18 Good cards
- 19 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
- 20 Land unit

- 21 Main role
- 22 Join the game
- 23 Implausible
- 25 Twosome
- 29 Cheap cigar
- 30 Light metal
- 33 Fleet members
- 34 A lot of
- 36 2000 Super Bowl champs
- 37 Russian refusal
- 38 Wager
- 39 Yale student
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- 41 "Son — gun!"

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11					12					
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			34					35	36	37
38	39	40			41					
42					43					
44					45					

Comics & Stuff

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MEGA MILLIONS	9 10 26 29 39 Meganumber: 10 Jackpot: \$60M
Super LOTTO	8 12 21 31 39 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: \$7M
Fantasy 5	12 15 30 31 37
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 5 7 8 EVENING: 2 8 7
DAILY DERRY	1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 07Eureka! 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1:47.62

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Donald Turk, 48, and two associates were charged in Lake Elsinore, Calif., in September with kidnapping Turk's girlfriend, whom Turk was trying to push out of his life because she annoyed him. His plan, allegedly, was to take her to Mexico, drop her off, and hope that she would not return home. However, she was back several hours later, demanding that Turk pay off the cab driver who had driven her from the border. Arrested with Turk was a 47-year-old pal nicknamed "No Nose" because he has a hole in the middle of his face as the result of a gunshot. Said police Det. Joe Greco, "(This case) is like something out of a Quentin Tarantino movie."

■ Petty Crime: (1) Police in Mesa, Ariz., reported that a man in a black Chrysler sedan pulled up to a Burger King worker on the street late one evening in September and, at gunpoint, took the uniform he was wearing. (2) In Hyannis, Mass., in September, an 18-year-old high school student was charged with possession of marijuana, which police said he was smoking out of an apple.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1942 nearly 500 people died in a fire that destroyed the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston.

1520 Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

1907 future movie producer Louis B. Mayer opened his first movie theater, in Haverhill, Mass.

1943 President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II.

1958 the African nation of Chad became an autonomous republic within the French community.

1964 the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course to Mars.

1967 actress-model Anna Nicole Smith was born Vickie Lynn Hogan in Houston.

1979 an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

1987 a South African Airways Boeing 747 crashed into the Indian Ocean with the loss of all 159 people aboard.

1990 Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who conferred the premiership on John Major.

WORD UP!

kvetch \KVECH\, intransitive verb: 1. To complain habitually. noun: 1. A complaint. 2. A habitual complainer.

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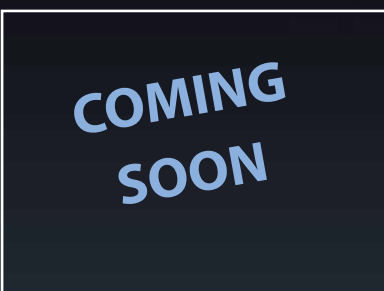


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