



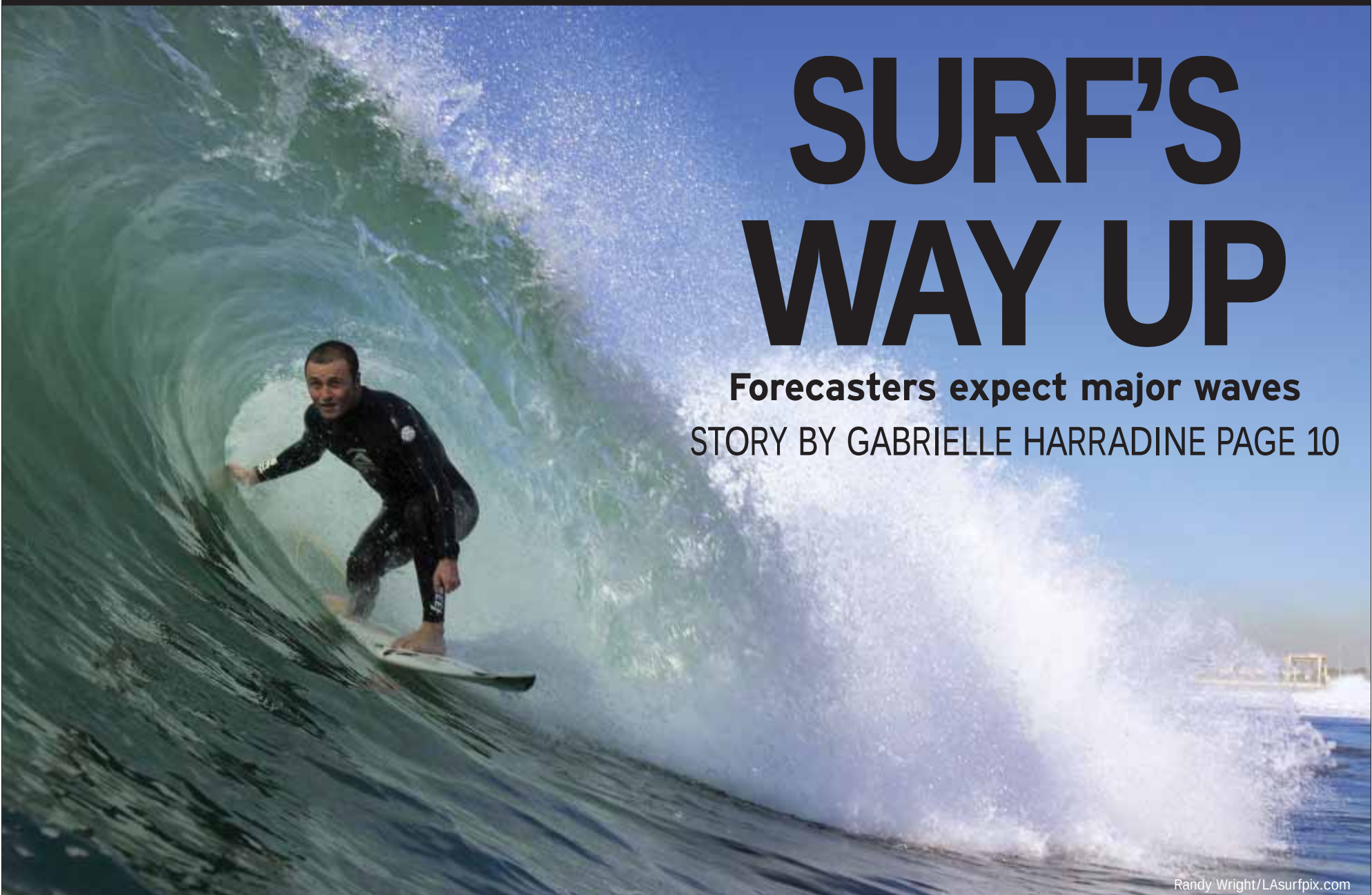
LIGHT IT UP
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE INSPECTING THE SHORELINE ISSUE

ENVIRONMENT



SURF'S WAY UP

Forecasters expect major waves

STORY BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE PAGE 10

Randy Wright/LAsurfpix.com

SHOOTING THE TUBE: Justin Swartz surfs off the coast of El Segundo on Tuesday afternoon. The waves off of Santa Monica were modest, but are expected to kick up at some point today.

News you can lose

City government snatches up vandalized newspaper racks

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Newspaper publishers and distributors held a meeting with City Manager Lamont Ewell on Monday to discuss ways in which City Hall can better prevent people from vandalizing or destroying newspaper racks after inspectors removed 140 of the 250 racks in the downtown area because some were deemed dirty or in disrepair.

Local papers such as the Daily Press and the Mirror have been targeted, as have larger publications like the Los Angeles Times and USA Today. Free circulars have also seen their racks removed. The sweep by the Department of Environmental and Public Works Management began in September and city officials plan to target Wilshire

SEE RACKS PAGE 12



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

NOT-SO SEXY RACK: Publication racks like this one on Lincoln Boulevard are drawing attention from City Hall for being unkempt.



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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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



Jewish story hour

1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Story time at Chabad is for ages 3 — 7 and is free. Space is not limited, however RSVPs are suggested to assure there are enough arts 'n crafts materials for all participating children. For questions or to RSVP, call (310) 393-7379 or e-mail srljs@juno.com.

Hanukkah and Christ — an Advent special

1730 Wilshire Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Jews for Jesus presents "Hanukkah Message with Cyril Gordon" at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. For more information, call (310) 829-4113.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007

Santa Sasha's coming to town

1324 Fifth St., noon — 2 p.m.

The grand opening of "Ice at Santa Monica" will feature a performance by Olympic Silver Medalist and 2006 National Figure Skating Champion Sasha Cohen. In addition, guests can visit with Santa and guzzle down complimentary Starbucks holiday beverages.

'Make it New'

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

"Make It New: Modernism and the Rejection of Realism" will be led by Santa Monica College professor Dr. Lawrence Driscoll.

'Backstage Secrets of Rock Muses and Super Groupies'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Rock journalist and "Queen of the Groupies," Pamela Des Barres, joins guest host Tony Tripoli for a discussion of her new book which chronicles the exploits of 24 rock 'n' roll groupies. Special guests from the book will also be on hand for readings. Free program. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Allied Artists art reception

233 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 700, 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Allied Artists of Santa Monica Mountains & Seashore are hosting an art exhibit and reception at the offices of Shapiro, Rodarte & Freedman LLP. Artwork on display are landscapes of Santa Monica Mountains and the seashore in various mediums: Oil, acrylic, watercolor and mixed. Call to RSVP to this free event at (310) 319-5400.

Santa Monica Laughter Club

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

The Laughter Club meets at Shakti's Elements for a Laughter Yoga class led by Kim Selbert. For more information, call Kim at (310) 471-5773. Donations are welcome.

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.



Kuehl's bill faces an uphill battle

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE A battle is brewing in the state capital, a philosophical tug-of-war between gay rights advocates and faith-based organizations over a soon-to-be enacted law that would amend a state law regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation in schools.

The California Education Code currently bans discrimination in the private and public schools based on a person's sex, ethnicity, group identification, race, national origin, religion and mental or physical disability. A new law, authored by state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, would clarify that protected list to include essentially any characteristic listed in the definition of hate crimes, including disability, gender and sexual orientation.

The source of controversy — drawing fire from faith-based organizations that oppose the measure — is the inclusion of the term "sexual orientation," with opponents criticizing the measure as being unconstitutional and taking power away from administrators at the school district level. The changes are outlined in the "Student Civil Rights Act," which is set to take effect next month. The bill has already been signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Kuehl was not available for comment on Tuesday.

The Capitol Resource Institute, a Sacramento-based organization that defends family-friendly state policies, launched a pet project — Save Our Kids — to combat SB 777 and hope to put the issue to the voters in the upcoming June election. Volunteers with

CRI are in the midst of collecting the more than 275,000 petitions that have been circulating since late October and expect to exceed the 430,000 validated signatures that are required to put the referendum on the ballot.

"People will agree these are policies and teaching instruction issues that need to be dealt with at the local level when it comes to this sensitive issue," said Karen England, the executive director of CRI. "I think the average Californian ... doesn't want San Francisco values forced on every school district in the state."

Discrimination based on sexual orientation might seem less prevalent in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, where the two municipalities are considered to be more progressive. But Oscar de la Torre, the vice president of the Board of Education,

believes homophobia, just like sexism and racism, is not less of an issue in the district. Education on discriminatory issues is still necessary in the school district, he said.

"We do live in a conservative country, for the most part," de la Torre said. "There are places like Santa Monica and San Francisco, some pockets of relief for individuals who are not heterosexual."

The school board member said he doesn't see any controversy with integrating awareness into the school curriculum, adding that the district has in the past led efforts to educate students about other "isms."

"I don't see where the problem would be in integrating into the curriculum information that would decrease the stigma of being

SEE BILL PAGE 12

Rainstorms get serious

Harrowing report says more rainfall won't end current drought

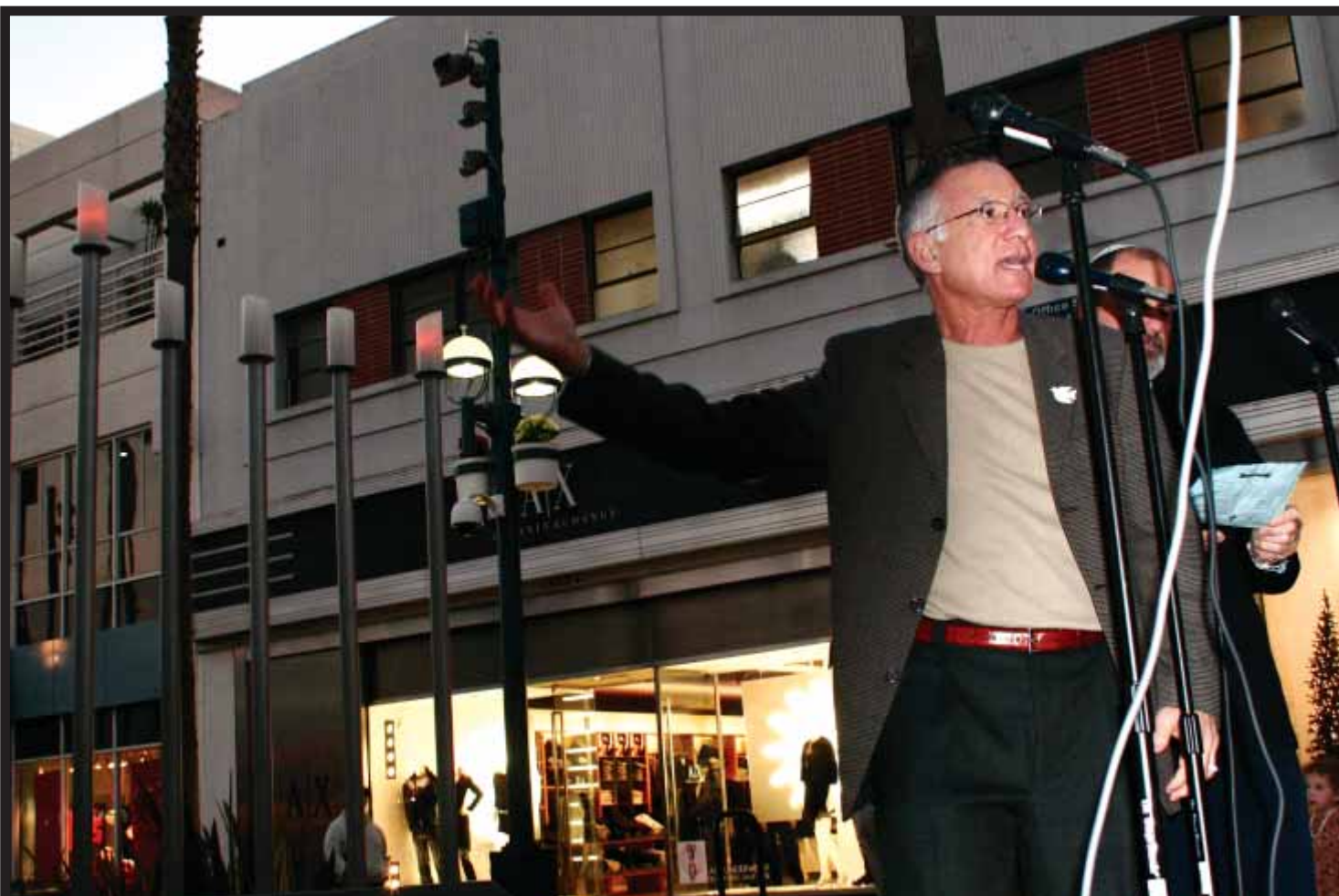
By Daily Press staff

CRESCENT BAY PARK A report looking at the amount of rainfall the United States receives has found that heavy downpours are now 58 percent more frequent in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties than they were 60 years ago, a sign that global warming is real and is altering local weather patterns.

The report, "When it Rains it Pours: Global Warming and the Rising Frequency of Extreme Precipitation in the United States," was released by Environment California on Tuesday during a news conference at Crescent Bay Park in Santa Monica.

"At the rate we're going, what was once the storm of the decade will soon seem like just another downpour," said Jeremy Mills, federal field association for Environment California, a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization.

SEE RAIN PAGE 13



LET THERE BE ONE LIGHT

Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben (left) and Cantor Chayim Frenky sing songs of blessings to the crowd that arrived for the lighting of the Menorah on Tuesday evening — the beginning of Hanukkah — at the Third Street Promenade.

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Letter writers should stay on point

Editor:
I thought the “Letters to the Editor” section of your paper was a public forum for subjects brought up in your paper. But at least once a week, Ron Lowe has a letter printed that has nothing to do with any subject covered in the SMDP. This week, he thinks Bush is having firemen spy on us (“Not the firefighters, too,” Dec. 3). Please!

All of his letters have the same loopy, tiresome Bush-bashing rant.

Either give him his own column or restrict him to subjects discussed in your paper. If he just wants to roll out of bed spewing stream-of-consciousness brain doodles, he should make the trek down to the Third Street Promenade and stand there with other people doing similar monologues.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

By any gender, a fireman is a hero

Editor:
The 1980 edition of the Oxford American Dictionary gives the definition of “fireman” as 1) a member of a fire department; and 2) one whose job is to tend a furnace. I have no doubt that all those who bravely fought the recent blazes, whatever their gender, are proud to be firemen. I’m equally certain that more hurt is caused in the minds of our young by those that, like Ms. Hartley, who would castrate the English language, and perhaps, given their druthers, the huMAN species.

Steve Keats
Santa Monica

Don’t let Expo be a train in vain

Editor:
(Re: “L.A. subway plans take a radical shift”)
Imagine a fantasyland where one could travel from Santa Monica to the San Fernando Valley to Orange County and back for a few dollars and not have to worry about traffic or time. You just imagined the very real Los Angeles of the 1920s. Today, the MTA is finally making a strong move to bring the light rail system back to our great city. So why are we hitting it with roadblocks the size of a city bus?

Parents of children at two schools along the rail line – Dorsey High School and Foshay Middle School – are protesting the light rail, saying that their children will want to jump over the fence along the tracks and try to run in front of the trains. We all sympathize with a parent’s need to protect their children, but come on. Did these parents protest putting a road near the school as well, afraid that their children would be tempted to run out into traffic for some laughs? The projected costs of completing the line out to Santa Monica and the opposition of local residents are next in line for the MTA. The eight-year, \$785 million price tag of building this line is only a fraction of the \$24 billion of annual MTA budgets over the same time-frame. And for those residents in Culver City and Santa Monica who want it, but “not in my backyard,” I say who wouldn’t want it in your backyard? In cities such as New York and Boston, having a subway or rail stop near your home only increases your property value.

For some reason, people are interpreting this entire project as the big bad MTA trying to ruin their property values and waste their tax dollars. Wake up, people! Take a step back and look at the incredible good that our local government is trying to do for us! Of course, there must be some sacrifice, but there can be no progress without it.

Will the Exposition Line become yet another great idea that was destroyed by a few selfish individuals, or will we finally learn as a city to work together and break the cycle?

Justin R. Kerns
Northridge



The Rand Stand

Yaron Brook and Don Watkins

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Being unhealthy isn’t a good idea

AS PART OF HIS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE proposal, John Edwards would make doctor visits and other forms of preventive care mandatory. In a similar proposal in England, a Tory panel suggested that Britons should be forced to adopt a government-prescribed “healthy lifestyle.” Britons who “cooperate” by quitting smoking or losing weight would receive Health Miles that could be used to purchase vegetables or gym memberships; those who don’t would be denied certain medical treatments.

These paternalistic proposals are offered as solutions to the spiraling costs that plague our respective health care systems. It is unrealistic, states the Tory report, for British citizens “to expect that the state will underwrite the health implications of any lifestyle decision they choose to make.”

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES FORCE INTO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO RELIEVE THE INDIVIDUAL OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS OWN HEALTH, IT IS INEVITABLY LED TO PROGRESSIVELY EXPAND ITS CONTROL OVER THAT SYSTEM AND EVERY CITIZEN’S LIFE.

But any proposal that expands the government’s power to control our lives — to dictate to us when to go to the doctor or how many helpings of veggies we must eat — cannot be a solution to anything. Instead of debating what coercive measures we should be taking to lower “social costs,” we should be questioning the health care systems that make our lifestyles other people’s business in the first place.

Both the American and British systems, despite their differences, are fundamentally collectivist: They exist on the premise that the individual’s health is not his own responsibility, but “society’s.” Both Britain’s outright socialized medicine and America’s semi-socialized blend of Medicare, Medicaid and government-controlled, employer-sponsored health plans aim to relieve the individual of the burden of paying for his

own health care by coercively imposing those costs on his neighbors.

When the government introduces force into the health care system to relieve the individual of responsibility for his own health, it is inevitably led to progressively expand its control over that system and every citizen’s life.

For example, in a system in which medical care is “free” or artificially inexpensive, with someone else paying for one’s health care, medical costs spiral out of control because individuals are encouraged to demand medical services without having to consider their real costs. When “society” foots the bill for one’s health, it also encourages the unhealthy lifestyles of the short-range mentalities who don’t care to think beyond the next plate of French fries. The astronomical tab that results from all of this causes collectivist politicians to condemn various easy targets (e.g., doctors, insurance companies, smokers, the obese) for taking too much of the “people’s money,” and then to enact a host of coercive measures to control expenses: Price controls on medical services, cuts to medical benefits — or, as with the current proposals, attempts to reduce demand for medical services by forcing a “healthy lifestyle” on individuals.

Properly, your health care decisions and expenditures are not anyone’s business but your own — any more than how much you spend on food, cars or movies is. But under collectivized health care, every Twinkie you eat, doctor’s visit you cancel, or lab test you wish to have run, becomes other people’s right to question, regulate and prohibit — because they are paying for it. When “society” collectively bears the costs of health care, the government will inevitably seek to dictate every detail of medical care and, ultimately, every detail of how you live your life.

To protect our health and our freedom, we must reject collectivized health care, and put an end to a system that forces us to pay for other people’s medical care. We must remove government from the system and demand a free market in medicine — one in which the government’s only role is to protect the individual rights of doctors, patients, hospitals and insurance companies to deal with one another voluntarily, and where each person is responsible for his own health care.

Let’s not allow the land of the free and the home of the brave to become a nation of dependents looking to the nanny-state to take care of us and following passively its dictates as to how we should live our lives.

YARON BROOK is the president of the Ayn Rand Institute (ARI) in Irvine. Don Watkins is a writer and research coordinator at ARI.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Actress' whining is a big fat front

I LOVE THE GOSSIP WEB SITES. I KNOW I shouldn't, but I do. I find the accidental entertainment provided by celebrities struggling to do what ordinary people do every day to be much better than almost anything they do on a set or in a studio. The perfect example is Miss Jennifer Love Hewitt responding to pictures of herself on the beach in Hawaii last week.

If you didn't see it, TMZ posted a shot of a woman in a black bikini, knee-deep in the surf, and facing away from the camera. I thought it was Jennifer Lopez or Kim Kardashian. I was a little surprised to see that Sarah Reeves from "Party of Five" has developed into a fully-grown woman. At least, I thought she was a grown-up until the next day, when she started complaining about the photos on her blog like a whining little child:

"This is the last time I will address this subject. I've sat by in silence for a long time now about the way women's bodies are constantly scrutinized. To set the record straight, I'm not upset for me, but for all of the girls out there that are struggling with their body image. A size 2 is not fat! Nor will it ever be. And being a size 0 doesn't make you beautiful."

What I should be doing is celebrating some of the best days of my life and my engagement to the man of my dreams, instead of having to deal with photographers taking invasive pictures from bad angles. I know what I look like, and so do my friends and family. And like all women out there should, I love my body.

To all girls with butts, boobs, hips and a waist, put on a bikini — put it on and stay strong."

Who needs WGA writers when JLH is good for this kind of comedy?

First of all, let me speak for my "real women have curves" mother, sisters and nieces and say that nobody is asking Jennifer Love Hewitt to "address this subject," or any other subject not in a script. Secondly, the reason she "sat by in silence" while women's bodies are "constantly scrutinized" is because she was hot. She's lucky enough to have a pretty face, spectacular breasts, and, until recently, a hard body. I don't believe for a second that she's "upset ... for all the girls out there that are struggling with their body image" or she would-

n't have done spreads in "Maxim" and "FHM" and there wouldn't be a post on her blog entitled "Babes of Comic-Con '07." I think she's upset because she messed around and read some of the comments posted under her picture — and saw how cruel people can be (especially when she tries to pass herself off as a size 2).

Somebody should tell Jen that this is part of the deal when you choose a high-profile career. I understand it wasn't her choice to get into show business at 5 years old, but it is her choice to stay in show business now. As tough as it may be to hear, she needs to understand that it's not her acting chops that got her starring roles on network TV shows, it's her hotness. With lighting, wardrobe and creative camera angles, "Ghost Whisperer" JLH can be just as hot as "Time of Your Life" JLH. But when you see her butt in a bikini through a telephoto lens in the harsh light of day, it is what it is.

The paparazzi aren't going away and they're not going to stop taking photos of her body. If she doesn't like it, she has the power to change it. She could be up in the gym just working on her fitness (you don't hear Cindy Crawford or Nicole Sheridan complaining about their bikini shots). Or (and I know this is going to sound crazy) she could just go to beaches where there are no paparazzi. After all, the whole point of giving yourself to the public in front of the camera is so you can afford privacy when you're not working.

I ain't mad at Jennifer Love Hewitt, but like all Pretty White Kids With Problems, she can cry me a river, then build a bridge and get over it. I grew up in the '80s when Oprah Winfrey's weight was go-to material on late night talk and sketch comedy shows. But instead of complaining about it, she bought herself a nice spread on Maui where she can swim in peace. If I was Jennifer Love Hewitt, I'd stop whining and invest some of the \$4 million I made jiggling my hot body around the set of "Heartbreakers" in a beach house somewhere the cameras can't find me.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian and fan of real women (and their curves) living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.



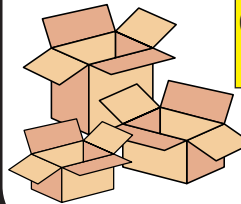
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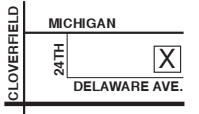
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The Q-Line

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Breakup or makeup?

There is currently a movement to split up the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District along municipal lines. Some feel it would give Malibu the power and respect that it needs to run successful schools. An ad-hoc committee is currently exploring the issue to determine its feasibility.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think dividing the district in two is a good idea?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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Sacramento judge OK's Ford Explorer settlement

BY DON THOMPSON | Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO A Sacramento County judge on Monday tentatively accepted a deal to settle class-action lawsuits on behalf of about 800,000 Ford Explorer owners whose vehicles declined in value because of the perceived rollover danger of the SUV.

The settlement ends lawsuits against Ford Motor Co. in California, Connecticut, Illinois and Texas, but the personal injury and wrongful death claims involving the Explorer will continue.

Ford has faced wrongful death and personal injury lawsuits across the country stemming from a series of rollover accidents that involved earlier models of its popular Explorer.

Under the settlement, people who bought Explorers in model years 1991 through 2001 will be eligible for \$500 vouchers to buy new Explorers or \$300 vouchers to buy other Ford or Lincoln Mercury products. The vouchers can be transferred to anyone in the same state as the original vehicle owner.

Judge David De Alba said the settlement is in the best interest of all the parties.

The plaintiffs had alleged Ford falsely advertised the vehicles as safe when the company knew they had a tendency to flip.

The California lawsuit, on behalf of about 400,000 Explorer owners, went to trial for 50 days earlier this year before the parties announced in October they were close to a deal.

Some owners had multiple Explorers, and some Explorers had more than one owner. The lawsuits involved roughly 450,000 Explorers in California, 350,000 in Texas, 150,000 in Illinois and 50,000 in Connecticut, plaintiffs' attorneys said.

Outside Monday's hearing, attorneys on both sides continued to argue over the vehicles' safety.

"Ford believes that what the evidence in this trial showed, and what resulted in a settlement, is that the Explorers that were in question here were the safest compact SUVs on the road for the era," said Ford attorney Malcolm Wheeler of Denver.

Ford did not admit any wrongdoing in the settlement.

Tab Turner, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said the vouchers were a compromise because of Ford's tenuous economic condition.

"The evidence of this vehicle speaks for itself. If this was a great vehicle, they wouldn't be settling the case," he said.

The consumer protection lawsuits filed on behalf of Ford Explorer owners came after more than 250 people were killed and hundreds more injured in accidents involving tread separation on Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. tires, most of which were on Explorers at the time they failed.

The Nashville-based tire manufacturer said the Explorers' design was faulty, while Ford said the tires were to blame.

Attorneys for the vehicle owners had argued the SUVs lost about \$1,000 in value because of the perceived danger and bad publicity. They wanted Ford to pay as much as \$2 billion of its profits from the Explorer.

Ford will be required to continue distributing information about the rollover dangers of sport utility vehicles and limit safety claims in its advertising. Attorneys plan to mail notices to vehicle owners and create a Web site and toll-free telephone number with more information.

The company will pay as much as \$25 million in costs and attorneys' fees.

The judge set April 15 for a final hearing on the settlement. Vehicle owners who oppose the settlement can object then, he said.

ON THE NET

Read about the settlement and register a claim at www.explorerCASuit.com

L.A. mayor makes rare campaign stop

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD | AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa slipped quietly out of the city last week to campaign in Iowa for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a rare public foray into presidential politics since his marital meltdown dominated front pages last summer.

Clinton made a splash in May when she snagged the Democratic mayor's endorsement, and even former President Bill Clinton was called in to help lock up Villaraigosa's support. The New York senator said at the time that Villaraigosa, one of the nation's most prominent Hispanic politicians, would be "reaching out to a broad range of voters across the country."

In other states prominent supporters are familiar faces on the campaign trail, like former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, who regularly stumps for Clinton in his home state. But Villaraigosa's public appearances for the campaign have been few and far between, averaging less than one a month.

California's presidential primary is Feb. 5.

The mayor's image was badly wounded in July by disclosures that he had a long-running affair with a TV newscaster, who announced Villaraigosa's separation from his wife on the air. There was a cascade of unfavorable publicity about the illicit romance, which the mayor called a "mistake." His wife, Corina, filed for divorce in June.

The mayor's appearance in Iowa last weekend was just the second time he's been out of state stumping for his candidate since he was named national co-chair of the Clinton campaign in May.

He was in Reno, Nev., one day in October, and took part in a campaign conference call last month in which reporters were allowed to listen, but not ask questions. Behind the scenes he's made phone calls to enlist supporters and held a private fundraiser for her last month.

The Iowa visit was not announced by his office or Clinton's California staff.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An escrow doesn't need to be difficult

HERE IS AN ADVISORY THAT I GIVE TO all of my clients. It outlines the most common things that can make an escrow a lot more stressful than it needs to be. With the current market not being as strong as most seller's would like, it is important to be aware of the major pitfalls that can occur during an escrow.

CLOSING DATE

While everyone works hard to get an escrow to close on the specified closing date, this does not always happen. Important plans dependent on the buyer's ownership or seller's sale of the property should not be made until after the actual closing has occurred and the buyer's name has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

SELLER'S PROCEEDS

Sellers should not make important time sensitive plans for the proceeds from a sale until after the closing has occurred. Sellers generally receive funds up to five business days after a closing.

FINANCING

When a buyer chooses a mortgage professional they should take great care in making sure that this person is professionally sound and will perform as they say they will. If, for example, the loan does not fund in time for the escrow to close as scheduled, the buyer will often be liable for the seller's PITI (Principal, Interest, Taxes and Insurance) for the number of days the escrow closes late. It is important that a buyer is forthright with the loan professional regarding their financial situation. The more prepared your loan person is the easier it will be for them to present you with a financial product that suits your needs. When an escrow goes bad or doesn't close on time it is most often a result of a mishap on the financing side.

If your mortgage professional is not working out of Los Angeles or Santa Monica, then you need to make sure that they are aware of the idiosyncrasies of this market. The best mortgage professionals tend to be the ones referred to you by your realtor. Your agent will have the most leverage over your mortgage professional. They also have a lot to lose if your deal doesn't go through properly. In California, real estate agents cannot receive monetary gifts from mortgage people. If your agent is someone

you really trust then they have everything to gain from you getting the best rates and service with your financing.

DELIVERIES

A buyer should not make plans for movers or deliveries to the property they are buying until it has closed escrow. If the buyer feels compelled to make arrangements prior to the actual closing then they do so at their own risk. Sellers are strongly advised not to let buyers move any of their possessions onto the property until after closing. The brokers who are party to an escrow cannot be held responsible for the success of any deliveries to the property.

CONTRACTORS

A buyer can sometimes schedule bids for work to be done prior to closing. However, it is strongly recommended that a buyer does not schedule contractors until after escrow has closed. The brokers who are party to this agreement can not be held liable for the timing of any construction work, scheduling or bids.

FIXTURES

Seller's should be warned that all fixtures are included in the sales price unless excluded in writing. A fixture is any object that is bolted down or fastened to the property. This includes chandeliers and window coverings. Please refer to the CAR paperwork that accompanies this transaction to learn more about what constitutes a fixture and how these are dealt with. If you would like to exclude any fixtures from this agreement please let your broker know immediately.

PETS

Make sure the property that you are buying allows any pets that you currently have or plan on getting in the future. Most condominiums in Santa Monica and Los Angeles have poundage limits of 20, 30 and 40 pounds. The number of pets is also often times restricted. Smaller buildings and small townhouse complexes tend to have less restrictions on pets. The larger and more luxurious the building the more rules one tends to encounter.

SIMON SALLOOM is a local Santa Monica and Brentwood based Realtor with Coldwell Banker. www.WestsideSimon.com.

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North of Montana	= \$ 3,992,926	\$ 1,814,300
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,080,667	\$ 997,901
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,038,167	\$ 686,293
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,317,000	\$ 697,200
Ocean Park	= \$ 2,205,188	\$ 969,696

Statistics updated every Friday

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



Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Corporations look to you for some cash

MANY OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANIES ARE based in America, yet they have operations that span the globe and collectively earn enormous amounts of money from a wide range of commercial activities. Interestingly though, despite their own profit-making ventures, large corporations still seek out investors to help finance some of their activities. Two ways in which they do this are by issuing stock, which represents ownership in the company, or by selling bonds, which puts you — the individual investor — in the position of making a loan to a big company.

When a company issues bonds, these “loans” help with the company’s long-term financing for capital expenditures and acquisitions. Investors who buy bonds enter an agreement with the company stating it will pay back the face value of the bond at maturity (a pre-determined date in the future) plus a fixed rate of interest.

This interest rate is known as the nominal, or coupon rate, and payments are often made every six months throughout the life of the bond. Its face value, also called the “par” value, is typically listed in multiples of \$1,000.

In contrast to a stockholder, who actually gains ownership in a company by purchasing stock, bondholders are creditors of the issuing corporation. An investment in a bond literally represents a loan to the company.

While stockholders typically look for the price of their shares to go up, bondholders receive interest payments on the money they have loaned out. Even though there are other ways to profit from stocks and bonds, “owning” versus “loaning” is the basic difference between the two types of investments.

Corporate bonds can be a valuable component in a well-rounded investment portfolio. Some of the many benefits they offer include the following:

Regular income — If you buy a bond and hold onto it until maturity, you will have a pretty good idea of how much you will get back from your investment because of the regular interest payments you will receive.

Reliability — Credit-rating agencies rate corporate bonds based on several factors relating to the issuing company. When issuing bonds, a company that has a good credit history and makes principal and interest payments to bondholders on a timely basis will typically receive a good credit rating. Bonds with strong ratings historically have had minimal credit risk.

Diversification — Companies from a wide range of industrial sectors and geographic locations offer corporate bonds, giving investors a good opportunity to diversify their investments by holding a variety of different securities.

These bonds also represent various credit ratings and have different maturity rates, which refers to the date your “loan” comes due. To give you an idea of their scope, financial services firms, transportation companies and even public utilities are just a few of the many types of businesses that issue bonds.

As with many investment vehicles, there are certain risks associated with investing in bonds. Interest rate risk refers to the possibility that a bond’s market value will change in response to interest rate changes. A bond’s price moves in the opposite direction of interest rates.

As rates rise, the price drops. Again, if you hold a bond until maturity, you won’t have to even worry about interest rate risk. But it’s a consideration should you ever think about selling your bond early.

Bonds also entail credit risk — the risk credit rating agencies attempt to gauge when they issue ratings on bond issues. But despite the risks involved, many investors typically view bonds as a balancing addition to their portfolio.

And aside from just its simple investment value, a bond represents your chance to lend a hand to the progress of some of our great American companies.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.



Photo courtesy Nintendo

SELLING THE PLACE OUT: The Nintendo Wii is one of the most sought after gifts for the second year in a row.

Wii makes most-wanted lists

BY PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Each holiday season, a couple hard-to-find toys send parents hunting from store to store. And, each season, they’re soon forgotten: Has your Elmo gotten any tickles lately?

But this year, it looks like the gift everybody is looking for is the same as last year: the Nintendo Wii.

A year after its launch, the small video game console sells out almost immediately when it reaches stores, even after Nintendo Co. has ramped up production several times.

“Right now, if you work at it, it’s not too hard,” said John Lawrence, of Fort Worth, Texas, who bought a Wii a few weeks ago for his 9-year-old grandson. It took him some online sleuthing to find one at a local GameStop.

“People have not gotten into the Christmas shopping mode. Once people get into that mindset, this is going to be an impossibility as it was last year,” Lawrence said.

With the Wii, Nintendo set out make a console that would entice people who were not hardcore gamers, and it has succeeded. Janet Presti stood an hour in line at the Nintendo World Store in New York on Tuesday last week to get a Wii for her three children, but it wasn’t just for them.

“I played it at my sister’s house and I loved it,” she said. Her household already has three game consoles: an Microsoft Xbox 360, a Sony PlayStation 2 and a Nintendo GameCube.

The Wii responds to the user moving the wand-like wireless controller, while other consoles are controlled by a confusing array of buttons and joysticks. It also comes with an array of casual, nonviolent games that appeal to adults.

Sony and Microsoft have cut the prices of their consoles this fall, but

continuing demand for the Wii has meant Nintendo hasn’t had to.

Perrin Kaplan, vice president of marketing and corporate affairs at Nintendo of America, said the console was “priced right from the beginning.” A look at eBay shows that Kaplan may be wrong: New Wii systems are selling about \$100 above the \$250 store price.

Some of the demand for Wiis results from trouble in the toy industry, as well as the gadget’s cross-generational appeal.

“No one is buying toys right now because of the recalls,” said Gerrick Johnson, a toy industry analyst at BMO Capital Markets.

“WHOEVER THOUGHT THAT THERE’D BE A DAY WHEN PARENTS SAY ‘DON’T PLAY WITH YOUR DANGEROUS TOYS, GO PLAY WITH YOUR VIDEO GAMES?’”

Gerrick Johnson, Toy industry analyst at BMO Capital Markets

First, toys were recalled because of lead paint and dangerous magnets. Then, Aqua Dots — colored beads that were making their way to must-have status — were pulled because they were coated with a chemical that turned into the date-rape drug gamma hydroxy butyrate if swallowed.

“It’s really unfortunate for the toy industry, because the lead issue was starting to subside, was getting off the front page ... and then along comes this, which is totally outrageous,” Johnson said.

“Whoever thought that there’d be a day when parents say ‘Don’t play with your dangerous toys, go play with your video games?’” he asked.

The console has been a tremendous boost for Nintendo, which lost out to

Sony Corp. and Microsoft Corp. in the last generation of game consoles. In the quarter ended Sept. 30, it more than doubled its sales to \$6.1 billion from a year earlier, just before the launch of the Wii. It sold 5.5 million Wiis in the U.S. since it went on sale on last Nov. 17.

The stock market now values Nintendo at \$75 billion, compared to \$48 billion for Sony, which has six times the revenue.

Nintendo has increased the pace of production, but acknowledges that it won’t be able to satisfy holiday-season demand.

“It’s brand new technology, so you

can’t build it on just any line,” said Nintendo’s Kaplan.

In an interview last week, Sony Chief Executive Howard Stringer said the Wii shortages were “a little fortuitous,” and indicated that the PlayStation 3 was poised to benefit from the situation. U.S. sales of the console doubled to 100,000 per week soon after an Oct. 18 price cut, he said.

The issue of demand outstripping supply has dogged Nintendo with the DS handheld game as well, which launched in 2004.

“We’ve been struggling since launch to keep inventory — we finally have enough of that,” said Kaplan.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Some buyers willing to pay extra for green

BY MAY WONG | AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Green technology has become so trendy lately that it may seem like just a fad. But some Americans appear willing to pay more than lip service when it comes to eco-friendly electronics, according to a new market research survey.

The mail-based survey of 5,000 U.S. adults conducted by Forrester Research found that 12 percent are ready to dish out extra dollars for personal computers and televisions that use less energy or come from an environmentally friendly company.

So far, electronics makers have failed to cash in on that eco-minded market — projected to include some 25 million Americans — by not creating the PC or TV equivalent of the Prius hybrid car, analyst Christopher Mines said in a report on the survey.

"I'm not suggesting that these companies go entirely green with their product lines, sacrificing fashion PCs or gamer PCs. Toyota sells the Prius, but that doesn't mean they don't also build big honking trucks or SUVs," Mines said. "I just think 12 percent is enough of a market to capture."

The survey found that 41 percent of the respondents were concerned about the environment but not interested in spending more for green products. The remaining 47 percent said they weren't concerned about global warming or the environment at all.

Some electronics companies, such as Hewlett-Packard Co. and Toshiba Corp., have already adopted green initiatives over the past few years. Their efforts have included beefed-up recycling programs, reduced power consumption in some products and less use of toxic materials.

Dell Inc. has replaced 40-pound wooden pallets with three-pound plastic sheets for shipping PC components, which eliminated 17,000 tons of packaging material in 2006 and reduced emissions as a result, according to the Forrester report.

Meanwhile, Sony Corp.'s 2006 LCD TVs were designed to use 30 percent less energy than same-sized models from 2005.

But such behind-the-scenes efforts aren't always publicized. "They should make that effort more visible in terms of the product, and turn it inside out to the marketplace," Mines said. "Any one of these companies can step up to grab that eco-friendly product leadership."



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

People like to walk in L.A.?

LOS ANGELES — THE CITY WHERE YOU NEVER WALK. Missing Persons wrote a song "Walking in L.A." which touts the fact that this town isn't one for pedestrians. However, Los Angeles is a city of change. Angelenos are often the first in the country to adapt to new technologies such as hybrid vehicles. That's why Honda is testing its new hydrogen vehicle in the Southland next year. In addition, it seems the ability to walk to nearby locations is becoming a valuable "must have" for new homeowners. One company, Walk Score at Walkscore.com, saw the value in walking to locations and rates a property's walk-ability.

It seems that the times they are-a-changin'.

Walk Score is a Web site developed by Matt Lerner, Jesse Kocher and Mike Mathieu. Lerner said, "What Walk Score does is fairly simple, we measure whether you can get to the types of businesses that customers want and then we base a score on that."

Using Google Maps and business listings, the site computes a Walk Score for U.S. and Canadian addresses. Like grades in school, the higher the Walk Score the closer the property is to local business, schools, restaurants, etc. I was playing around with the site and discovered a small restaurant I did not know existed a couple of blocks from my office.

The two obvious benefits of walking to a location are exercise and the environment. When you are walking to a location instead of driving, you are doing your small part to help the environment. Of course walking exercises your body. However, walking also helps local businesses.

Imagine driving down a main thoroughway such as Lincoln Boulevard. If you drove south on Lincoln from the city of Santa Monica to the community of Marina del Rey, you would miss a plethora of businesses. I am not suggesting walking great distances, as our time is valuable, but if you decided to walk a few blocks, instead of driving, you would come across businesses that you miss everyday in a car at 35 miles an hour. Those small businesses thrive on foot traffic.

As for home values, think about the benefit of placing a Walk Score on a property listing.

Apartment owners can also benefit from a high Walk Score. If you are an apartment owner, think about touting the Walk Score to potential tenants. If your property is in the middle of a city such as Santa Monica or Culver City, you may benefit from a walk score above 90, which implies high walk-ability. Tenants, just like homeowners, want to know what amenities exist within walking distance.

For me personally, walking from location to location is great. Not dealing with parking is always a plus in L.A. Walk Score is a great idea whose time has come. Benefiting from Google Maps technology and an extremely simple, fun interface makes Walk Score a valuable tool for realtors, homeowners, apartment owners and renters alike.

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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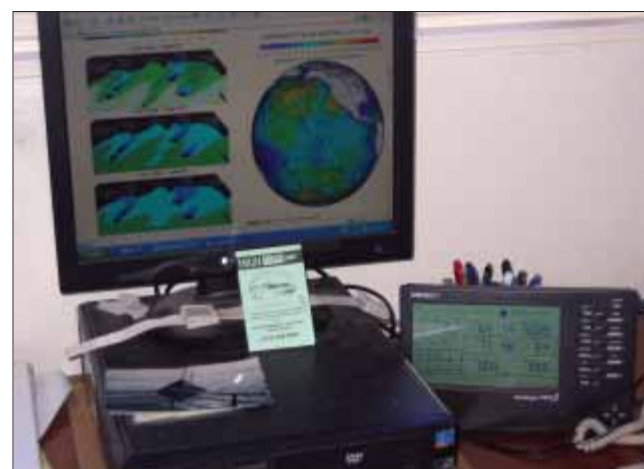
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Photos by Gabrielle Harradine news@smdp.com

DIGGING THE SURF: (Left) A surfer checks out the waves at Santa Monica Beach on Tuesday. (Top right) Justin Swartz wipes out in El Segundo. (Above) Meteorological equipment located inside the Harbor Patrol division of the SMPD, situated on the Santa Monica Pier, monitors the offshore storms that are expected to produce some mighty big waves this morning.

A day late, but it's still swell

BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE

Special to the Daily Press

SM BEACHES The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a high surf advisory for Tuesday, prompting the typical cause-and-effect — surfers came out in droves in hopes of catching an epic wave.

Unfortunately, a funny thing happened on the way to nirvana.

"Today's kind of a flub," said Jim Makuta, captain at the L.A. County Lifeguard headquarters just south of the Santa Monica Pier, as he scanned the coastline from his second-story vantage point. The Santa Anas, which are back in the area again, may have worked to knock down the expected swell, he surmised.

Although the surf was modest during daylight hours on Tuesday, it was noticeably more turbulent after sunset. At high tide, the waves were nearly reaching the floor planks of the Santa Monica Pier.

Good news for those late to the "sesh" — the high surf is now expected to peak this morning!

A powerful storm off the Pacific northwest coast earlier this week should produce a memorable day for surfers and sea watchers alike, according to the NWS. The storm will be generating a very large westerly swell, producing dangerous high surf and possible local coastal flooding. The swell is expected to subside Wednesday afternoon into Thursday.

One of the most surfed beaches in Santa

Monica — Santa Monica South — will be good as long as the waves stick between 6 and 10 feet, according to Makuta. Anything bigger than that and it blows out.

The high surf should also produce strong rip current and local beach erosion. Because of the dangerous conditions, local lifeguards will be making sure they get the word out to all hopeful water-goers. The current water temperature, which is around 59 degrees, could also act as a deterrent to those who are not used to it.

"We can't force people not to go in," said Makuta, adding that lifeguards might try to discourage people from heading into the ocean, especially those who look like they don't have much experience.

For those who gravitate more to boats than surfboards, the NWS also has a small craft advisory in effect through late Wednesday night. The storm's gusty northwest winds will affect much of the coastal waters, according to the NWS. In addition, portions of the outer waters will experience gale force winds.

"It should be a big Wednesday for real," said Rich Rubincam, general manager of ZJ Boarding House on Main Street.

The high surf will shut a few places down, but the point breaks, like at Topanga and Palos Verdes, should get some nice sizable waves, according to Rubincam.

In preparation for coastal flooding, which could occur in low lying areas, sand bags will be made available for beach residents needing assistance in protecting their properties. Up to 10 sand bags can be taken at once, but persons can return for more bags if needed. Nearby locations to pick up the sandbags include Will Rogers State Beach, at 16300 Pacific Coast Highway, and the Venice Beach Maintenance Yard and Washington Parking Lot, located at 2300 Ocean Front Walk.

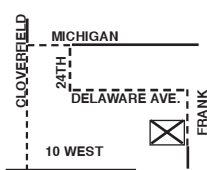
Oddly, the storm may also bring some unexpected guests to the beach areas — rattlesnakes, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors. Run-off water from storm drains and creeks carry the snakes from rural areas into the oceans, and then wash them up onto the beaches. On the sand, the rattlesnakes might resemble sticks or be hidden in beach debris.

As if the surfers didn't have enough to worry about.

news@smdp.com

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THIS WEEK AT HOLLYWOOD PARK

2007 AUTUMN MEET | NOVEMBER 7 — DECEMBER 22, 2007



PEPSI SNOW DAY

Saturday, December 8th — 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Free for Adults when accompanied by Children 12 and under.

Enter the Parking Lot at Gate 3 off of Prairie Boulevard and follow the signs.



LAVA MAN DVD GIVEAWAY

Saturday, December 8th

Take home your own DVD copy of the Cinderella Story of local hero Lava Man

*One per paid admission while supplies last.

WEEKEND STAKES SCHEDULE

Sat. **HOLLYWOOD TURF CUP (G. I), \$250,000**

Dec. 8 **3YO & Up, 1 1/2 Miles (Turf)**

NATIVE DIVER HCP. (G. III), \$100,000 Added

3YO & Up, 1 1/8 Miles

SUNDAYS ARE FOR SPORTS FANS

First Post 12:30 p.m.

Get the best of both worlds – spend a day outdoors, watching and wagering on live thoroughbred racing while catching all the football action on TVs throughout Hollywood Park.

Ewell to present redesign of racks

FROM RACKS PAGE 1

Boulevard in the new year.

The racks were targeted as part of an effort to beautify Santa Monica's streets, Ewell said. City Hall has also cracked down on graffiti and illegal signage, and has increased tree trimming and sidewalk repair.

"If you look at various corners and neighborhoods, some (newsracks) have been abandoned, some are used as trash receptacles with windows broken out of them, and some are being used for graffiti markings, so we met with our local newspapers and the major ones to talk about improving maintenance on them," said Ewell, who contends he's been stopped on the street by residents complaining about the condition of some newsracks.

WE WANT THE SAME THING THE CITY WANTS AND THAT'S TO PRESENT THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT PROFESSIONALLY."

Ross Furukawa

Publisher of the Santa Monica Daily Press

"We certainly heard and understood some of the challenges that the owners are facing with the graffiti and we have asked the police department to meet with all of our newspapers to talk about how we can better assist in helping to reduce vandalism," Ewell added.

Under an ordinance passed in 1979, media companies, which pay a \$35 permit fee for each rack, are required to maintain their own newsracks. City Hall is required to notify the company if a newsrack is in need of repair.

The ordinance specifically states what the uniform racks should look like and where

they should be placed on sidewalks. The newsracks are supposed to have woodgrain panels on all sides and the mounts painted gloss black.

Publishers said they do their best to maintain the racks, but vandalism is inevitable. Replacing them can be fairly expensive — around \$250 to \$270 apiece — because of the requirement to have woodgrain panels, which are also harder to maintain and clean if vandalized.

Some publishers said they would like City Hall to reconsider the ordinance and look at changing the design of the racks so that they can be more easily cleaned and repaired. They've also suggested doing away with the woodgrain and instead allowing them to be painted a uniform color, making it easier to clean if vandalized.

"I'd like to be able to just paint over them, whether it be brown, green or whatever the city likes for us to repaint them," said Tom Ponton with News to Go, a distributor of free newspapers and magazines such as the Mirror and the Argonaut.

Ponton met with Ewell Monday along with Ross Furukawa, publisher of the Daily Press, and Michael Rosenthal, publisher of the Mirror.

"Repainting is a lot less expensive than doing a complete refurbishment," Ponton added. "A lot of times, it's just graffiti or scratched glass. We can just repaint the back, the top, the side, wherever the problem is. You can't do that with the woodgrain ... It seems like every year they want us to spend millions of dollars to make sure the city looks beautiful again."

"They must think we have deep pockets."

Furukawa said dealing with vandalism is part of the business, however, it seems as if the racks are being damaged more than usual. He and Ponton believe a change in the law is necessary, enabling media companies to repair racks quicker to ensure that readers can access the news. Furukawa said City Hall's sweep took at least 10 racks out of the downtown area for a time, preventing readers from getting the Daily Press.

"We want the same thing the city wants



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

NOT UP TO SNUFF: Some of the city's news racks are below standard according to city officials.

and that's to present the best possible product professionally," Furukawa said. "There has been a lot of vandalism of our boxes and, unfortunately, that continues. It is difficult to keep up with the vandalism because it happens on a daily basis."

Furukawa said the Daily Press does periodic checks of racks and repairs those that are damaged. He would like to see City Hall dedicate graffiti removal resources to racks, treating them just like a concrete wall, garage door or window that is vandalized around town.

Some readers have complained about not being able to find their favorite publications because of the recent sweep, Ponton and Furukawa said.

Ewell said he is planning to bring before the City Council a recommendation to change the ordinance covering newsracks, a change that would keep them the same shape and color, but perhaps have them be made out of a different material that is easier to clean and maintain. He said one idea is to have City Hall create "condominium"

racks that will include up to four different publications in them to reduce clutter on street corners.

City officials said they have given newsrack owners ample time — 90 days — to repair or replace racks in the downtown area, and, therefore, media companies should not complain about readers not being able to get their products. If racks are not repaired in the time given, they are removed, impounded at the City Yards and held free-of-charge for 60 days.

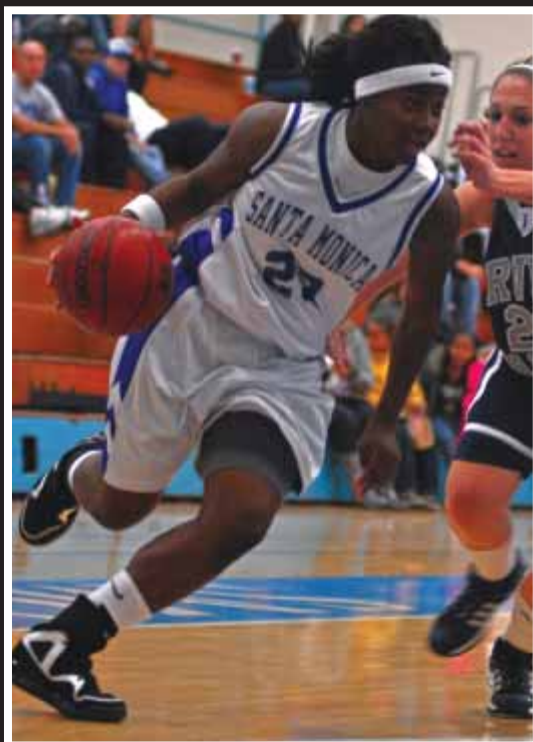
Under the ordinance, media companies are required to repair or replace newsracks that are found to be damaged within five days of a notice being attached to a rack.

"We are being business friendly," Ewell said. "But we also have to be community friendly too."

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



MIXED RESULTS

Noah Gottlieb (right) looks to a pass in the lane during Santa Monica College's victory over visiting Rio Hondo on Friday. Rio Hondo's Matt Goldbach applies defensive pressure on Gottlieb. The Corsairs' Dakiya Covington (left) drives past Jenna Schonfield of Irvine Valley on Friday at the Pavilion. Irvine Valley knocked off Santa Monica College, 95-70.

Photos by Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Religious groups challenge rights bill

FROM BILL PAGE 3

a different sexual orientation," de la Torre said.

The Save Our Kids camp argues the new law would change classroom instruction, making it illegal to educate students about the traditional family because the bill specifically bans any activity that "promotes a discriminatory bias."

The state is also facing a legal battle from another religious coalition. The Advocates for Faith and Freedom filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of SB 777, calling it "unconstitutionally vague" and violating the privacy of all students and anyone on school campuses.

A sore spot for the coalition seems to be the defining of the term "gender" to include sex and a person's "gender identity and gender related appearance," regardless of whether the identity is the person's actual sex at birth.

The definition will cause confusion among school administrators, unsure of whether they're violating the law when separating the boys and girls restrooms, according to the lawsuit.

"What will prevent the 250-pound linebacker from deciding he wants to share the locker room with the cheerleaders," Robert Tyler, general counsel for Advocates for Faith and Freedom said in a statement last week. "If implemented, this bill will have disastrous effects in our school system."

melodyh@smdp.com



FALLING FROM THE HEAVENS
Unusually strong storms may become the norm according to a recent survey. Santa Monica Streets were drenched during a mild rainstorm last Friday.
Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

Key vote on global warming bill expected

FROM RAIN PAGE 3

Mills pointed to the rainstorm that hit the southern California region in January 2005 as an illustration of what more extreme rainstorms could mean for the region. That rainstorm, which dumped almost 30 inches of rain on the area in four days, led to extreme flooding and landslides that closed freeways and caused people to be evacuated from their homes.

“More frequent downpours, fueled by global warming, will leave California even more vulnerable to dangerous flooding in years to come,” Mills said.

The report comes as the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, chaired by California Sen. Barbara Boxer, is expected to vote today on amendments to the “Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2007,” a global

warming bill that would impose emission limits on electric utility, transportation and manufacturing industries, while offering financial incentives to those companies that do.

Environment California and other groups are calling on Boxer and other lawmakers to strengthen the bill to include greater pollution reduction targets, and also eliminate subsidies to dirty and dangerous energy sources.

“If we are going to solve the problem of global warming, this bill must be substantially strengthened,” Mills said.

A spokesperson for Boxer said that the senator has not made a final decision on the bill, but is expected to do so today.

The report examines trends in the frequency of large rain and snow events across the continental U.S. from 1948 to 2006. Using data from 3,000 weather stations and a methodology originally developed by scientists at the National Climatic Data Center and the Illinois State Water Survey, the report identifies storms with the greatest 24-hour precipita-

tion totals at each weather station, and analyzes when those storms occurred.

Nationally, the report shows that storms with extreme precipitation have increased in frequency by 24 percent across the U.S. since 1948. At the state level, 40 states show a significant trend toward more frequent storms with extreme precipitation, while only one state — Oregon — shows a significant decline.

California experienced a 26-percent increase in extreme rainstorms during the period studied, according to the report.

The increase in the frequency of extreme rainstorms does not mean more water will be available. Scientists expect that, as global warming intensifies, longer periods of relative dryness will mark the periods between extreme rainstorms, increasing the risk of drought.

kevinh@smdp.com

GRAMMY SCHOOLERS

Students from Grant Elementary School, under the direction of Betsy Baker Newell (at left), belt out a series of Christmas carols last week during the annual holiday party for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, located at 3402 Pico Blvd.

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING IN A FATAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT:
1 in 23,000

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM:
1 in 166

Ad Council

To learn the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org

AUTISM SPEAKS
It's time to listen.



RIP CURL

SURF CENTER

Santa Monica

1451 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA

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RIPCURL.COM

SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

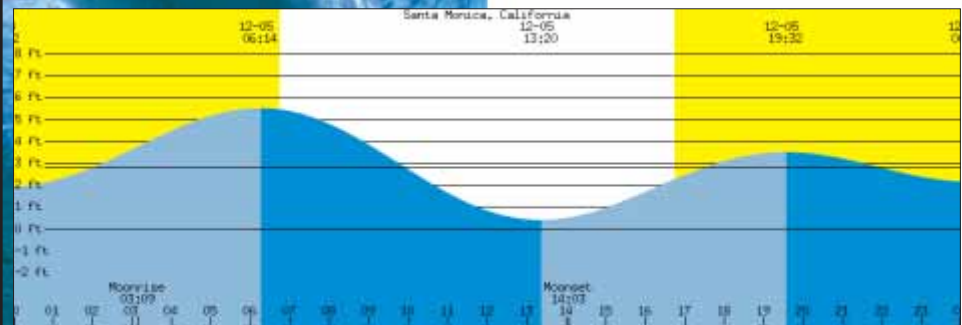
SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today gets even bigger big as the second surge in swell hits the coast. This too will be from 270, but with periods super long (for a NW'er) at 17-19 seconds. ETA for the peak of this swell should occur between 1:00 AM and 3:00 AM on Wednesday, but it'll still be big all day.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

RAIN DUE LATE IN THE WEEK WITH SLOPPY SURF...
TRACKING POTENTIAL NW FOR 10TH OR 11TH...
TRACKING SW FOR 12TH OR 13TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

12-05 06:14

12-05 13:20

12-05 19:35

Moonrise: 03:09

Moonset: 12:03



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 28, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)	Number of sewage spills --	1
	Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill --	0
	Number of wet days --	0
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather --	36 / ns
	Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather --	9 / ns
The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 		
Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.		

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

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



NFL

Russell successful, raises some issues

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA JaMarcus Russell's debut lasted 16 plays, moved 85 yards and yielded no points for the Oakland Raiders. It did generate more excitement at the Coliseum than the Raiders had seen for years.

The question the day after Russell finally got to play in the NFL was how much more of the No. 1 overall draft pick will people see in the final five weeks of the season.

Coach Lane Kiffin said he hadn't decided how he would split up the quarterback duties this week in Green Bay, but was pleased with how Russell's debut went in a 34-20 victory over the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

"What's really good is we got a chance to get him to play, we got a chance for him to play well, experience some good things happening, and we won the game," Kiffin said Monday. "Those things aren't always easy to do. You're playing a really good team in Denver, and you put in a guy who really hasn't played any football in a year, and you're still able to win. It worked out as good as it could have."

Russell's day started with a rollout pass to Jerry Porter for 16 yards that was thrown so hard Porter joked that the momentum of the throw almost carried him out of bounds. Russell also threw a 13-yard screen pass to Justin Fargas on his opening drive before botching a handoff with LaMont Jordan. A bad shotgun snap by Jeremy Newberry led to an 8-yard loss and a missed field goal to end the drive.

The second drive began with a 7-yard completion to Ronald Curry, featured a 20-yard pass to Curry before ending without points when Fargas was stuffed on a fourth-

and-1 carry from the 25.

Russell finished 4-of-7 for 56 yards and also had a 4-yard scramble. Most importantly for Kiffin, he didn't turn the ball over.

"That's the first thing that you get nervous about is turnovers, because it's how you lose games and it's what young quarterbacks do a lot of usually," Kiffin said. "So we were really pleased with the way he protected the ball and his decision-making. And there's some other times on some throws where he could have forced some things and try to do too much, and he didn't."

The debut was so anticipated that Raiders fans began cheering as Russell started warming up on the sideline before his first series. He got a standing ovation when he walked on the field for the first time. Even players like cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha and linebacker Thomas Howard said they made a point of taking a break from defensive preparations to catch Russell's first play in the NFL.

For veteran defensive tackle Warren Sapp, it was nothing unexpected after watching Russell the past three months in practice.

"I didn't expect anything different from him," Sapp said. "He's got it. Not all the mental aspects and checks and this and that or whatever. But the general tools of being a quarterback, he's always had it. He's a monster. I just can't wait until they give him the whole horse and let him whip it and do what he wants to do with it. I watch him every day. He's special."

The Raiders have a difficult closing stretch to the schedule, beginning with Sunday's game at Green Bay (10-2). That's followed with a home game against Indianapolis (10-2), a trip to Jacksonville (8-4) and a home game against San Diego (7-5).

They have gotten strong quarterback play throughout the past three weeks.

MLB

Bonds still shopping for lawyer

BY PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Barry Bonds' first date with a federal judge is Friday, when he is expected to plead not guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice charges, but the slugger still has yet to assemble his full legal team.

Bonds and longtime attorney Mike Rains began shopping around the Bay Area for another lawyer with federal experience even before Bonds was charged Nov. 15 with lying to a grand jury about his steroids use.

Rains has a small firm focused mostly on defending police officers accused of misconduct and he has limited experience in federal court. So Laura Enos, another lawyer who represents Bonds' business interests, said the slugger was looking to add another lawyer while also retaining Rains.

Negotiations between Bonds and John Keke, one of the country's top — and most expensive — criminal defense attorneys, fell through last week over his fees and disagreements over control of the case, two people with knowledge of the negotiations said on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Criminal law experts also said Keke may have faced conflict of interest issues because his firm represented the Major League Baseball players union in its unsuccessful

lawsuit to prevent federal investigators from getting the names of some 100 players who tested positive for performance enhancing drug use in 2003.

So Bonds is still interviewing criminal defense lawyers, and is being advised by San Francisco civic leader Daniel Walter Shorenstein, and trial lawyer and deep-pocketed Democratic donor Joseph Cotchett, who was once the law partner of the judge presiding over Bonds' case.

A grand jury indicted Bonds last month on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice. The career home run leader and former San Francisco outfielder likely faces a maximum of two years in prison if convicted.

Bonds' legal problems began with his testimony in December 2003 before a grand jury investigating a performance enhancing drug ring centered at the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative in Burlingame. Five men involved in the ring, including BALCO founder Victor Conte, Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson and track coach Remi Korchemny have pleaded guilty to drug charges.

George Walker, who represented Korchemny, said he's been interviewed by Bonds' representatives as a potential candidate.

Marathon man

Chappelle breaks his own comedy record

DAVE CHAPPELLE has broken his own Laugh Factory endurance record.

The 34-year-old comedian topped his record of six hours and seven minutes, set in

mid-April, by taking to the stage Sunday and telling jokes for six hours and 12 minutes.

"Dave was determined to keep his record because he recently

heard that Dane Cook was planning on trying to break (his) record," club owner Jamie Masada said Monday.

Masada said Cook held a record of three hours

and 50 minutes in early April. The mark had stood at two hours and 41 minutes, set by Richard Pryor in 1980.

Chappelle, who walked away from a \$50 million

deal to continue his hit Comedy Central show in 2005, told audience members he's been traveling, most recently to Ecuador, Masada said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAD HAIR DAY FOR AMY

AMY WINEHOUSE finally let her hair down – and it wasn't pretty.

The 24-year-old singer was photographed outside her London home early Sunday barefoot and wearing jeans, a red bra and a pained expression. Her dark hair appeared loose and natural, in contrast to her trademark beehive hairdo.

Her publicist, Tracey Miller, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Winehouse, stirred from sleep at 6 a.m. by "a lot of noise," had stepped "outside her flat to investigate and was met by photographers."

Winehouse recently canceled all concerts and public appearances for the rest of the year.

AP

Quaid and wife sue drug maker

DENNIS QUAID and his wife sued the makers of heparin Tuesday after their newborn twins were inadvertently given massive doses of the blood thinner at a hospital.

The product liability lawsuit, filed in Chicago, seeks more than \$50,000 in damages. It claims that Baxter Healthcare Corp., based in Deerfield, Ill., was negligent in packaging different doses of the product in similar vials with blue backgrounds. The lawsuit also says the company should have recalled the large-dosage vials after overdoses killed three children at an Indianapolis hospital last year.

The lawsuit was first reported by CelebTV.com, which obtained the court documents.

A call to Baxter Healthcare Corp. seeking comment wasn't immediately returned.

The Quaid's children, Thomas Boone and Zoe Grace, and a third patient were at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Nov. 18 when they were



mistakenly given vials of heparin that were 1,000 times stronger than the usual dosage.

The twins were home Tuesday and "appear to be doing well," said Susan E. Loggans, the Chicago attorney who filed the lawsuit. "The Quaid's are a religious family, and they really believe the prayers of the public saved their kids."

"Apparently, they're going to be

fine now," she said but declined to otherwise comment on the children's medical conditions.

"The point of this case is to save other children from this fate. They're not looking for money," Loggans said of the lawsuit.

The Quaid's didn't sue Cedars-Sinai, which acknowledged after the news broke that a "preventable error" had resulted in three patients receiving vials containing 10,000 units per milliliter of heparin instead of vials with a concentration of 10 units per milliliter.

The patients were receiving intravenous medications and the heparin was used to flush the catheters to prevent clotting.

The heparin was "unreasonably dangerous" as it was packaged and sold because both the small and large dosage vials had labels with blue backgrounds when the vials "should have been completely distinguishable (by) size and shape," the lawsuit argued.

AP

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

Happy Birthday!

You have a unique way with people. However, you also need time for yourself. Juggling these different needs will take talent, but you will learn just how to do it this year. Those on the receiving end might have a more difficult time. Be as sensitive as possible. Considering your innate ups and downs, you sometimes find that you worry late or into the middle of the night. A good health regime could make a big difference.



Born Today

Singer Little Richard (1932)
Creator Walt Disney (1901)
Singer Gary Allan (1967)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Invigorated, Libra

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You beam in the morning, but it appears you are slightly tarnished by late afternoon. Know when to call it a day. Know when to delegate and pull back. Remember, you are only one person. Stop expecting so much from yourself. Tonight: Invigorated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Postpone what you don't feel up for. In the afternoon, the Force is with you. Think positively, and you will get results. Someone sees you through rose-colored glasses. Try not to break his or her illusion! Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Use the morning to the max. How you deal with a situation defines your abilities to an observer. Be aware of what you have to offer. Let others see your stuff. Be careful if you feel hurt. You might be exaggerating your feelings. Tonight: Do a vanishing act.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You are in the limelight. Take your bows and know that others are admiring your abilities. Understanding might take you to a new level of success. Share more of who you are. Network this afternoon. Tonight: Where people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Let your imagination point to new turf. Intellectually, you will find another solution or path. Take charge when others seem to flounder. Your leadership abilities are welcomed. Accept your place in the limelight. Tonight: Could be late!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Think in terms of working with individuals in the morning. Think like others; walk in their shoes. You will understand much more. Investigate rather than judge. The end results will be better. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Have you had enough of the general consensus and it not being in your favor? Many will understand as you attempt to reverse the trends with yet another approach. New beginnings become possible, especially with life's pleasures. Tonight: Be a duo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others step up to the plate. Your job is to step out of the way in time for their efforts to make a difference. What you hear could change in the near future. New beginnings become possible with a loved one. Tonight: Go along with the program.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Add diligence to your energy and efforts. Make that additional effort. You might want to foster better working conditions by trying to appease a key person. You might hear much more than you want to. Tonight: Do something healthy!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Ever playful, don't push someone too hard. Laughter surrounds a child or fun happening. Let yourself relax, and you will become even more productive and dynamic. Examine an option with an eye to positive change. Tonight: Enjoy the here and now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use the morning to get a project moving. Close your door in the p.m., as you will accomplish much more in a quiet atmosphere. Someone really cares and lets you know it. Smile. Tonight: Have that talk.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Deal with finances in the morning. Your words carry weight from the p.m. on. Make calls and return messages. Touch base with someone you really care about. Carefully think about what is being said. Note what isn't being said. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Check theatre for showtimes

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)

1:30, 7:20

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)

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

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)

1:45, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)

4:20, 10:15

The Mist (R)

1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10

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)

1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15

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
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August Rush (PG)

11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Awake (PG)

12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 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

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 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

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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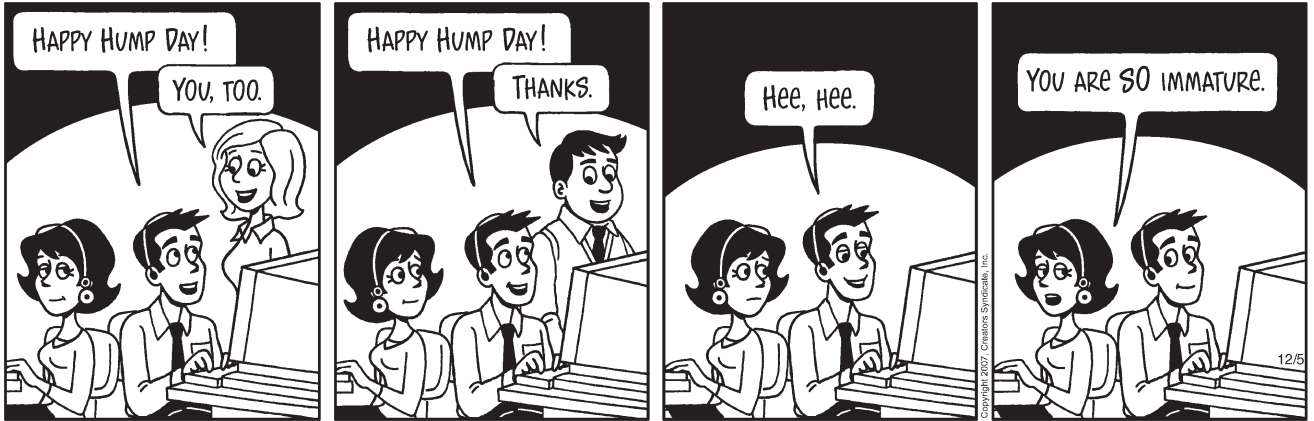
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



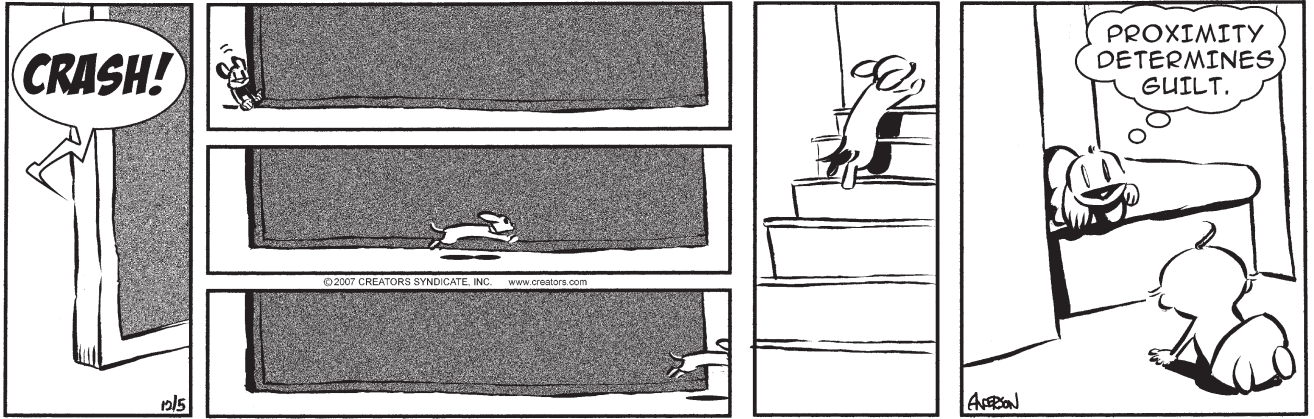
Garfield

By Jim Davis

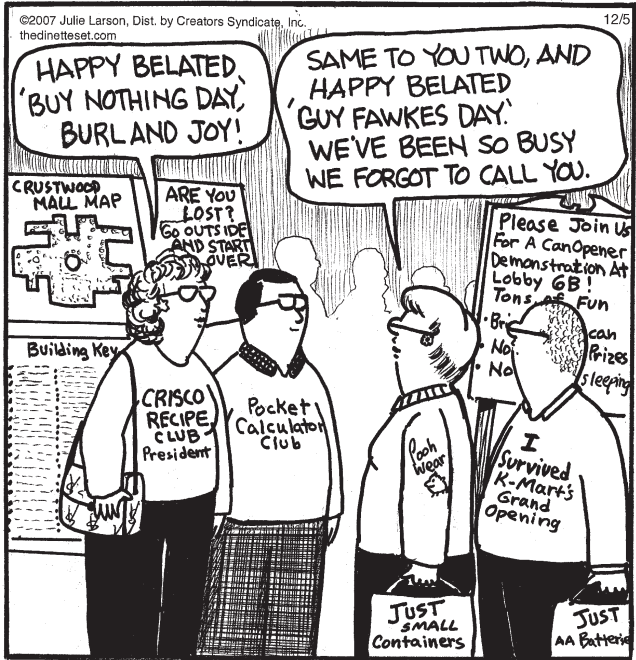


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Gabrielle Harradine news@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 More

- 1 Without rational
repairs 40 Plops
5 Gush forth down
9 Boom type 41 Honcho

11 Barber offering

12 Kama —

13 Set the radio

14 Metal worker source

15 Result of bad language, maybe

17 Hit song of 1957

19 Birth name

20 Cut off

21 Assist

22 Decree

24 Pot fill

26 Home of "Biography"

29 Remote

30 "Goin' Back to Cali" rapper

32 "It's my treat!"

34 Writer Rita — Brown

35 Velocity

36 Merge

38 Midterms, e.g.

DOWN

1 Org.

2 Origin

3 Hospital

4 Knight's title

5 Close

6 Italian sand-

wiches

7 Flattened

8 Cheese buy

10 Checked for ID

11 Castor or Pollux

16 Calls back,

in a way

18 Notion

21 — time

(never)

23 Prickly plant

24 Asian capital

25 Oscar Wilde

character

27 Spotted tile

28 Brightens

29 Boxing weapons

30 Tops

31 Mocks

33 Goes down

37 Collar

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		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		

12-5

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 5 6 12 26 51
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$82M

Super LOTTO 6 15 18 24 35
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5 6 9 19 26 27

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 6 7 3
EVENING: 0 5 3

DAILY DERRY 1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:40.74

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The man noted in News of the Weird in 1996 for keeping an almost unbelievably detailed personal diary died in October at age 89. For 25 years, Rev. Robert Shields of Dayton, Wash., had chronicled his life in five-minute segments of banalities, leaving 37 million words on paper filling 91 boxes. His self-described "uninhibited," "spontaneous" work was astonishing in its mundaneness. Examples: Aug. 13, 1995, 8:40 a.m. "I filled the humidifying basin mounted over the Futura baseboard heater." 8:45 a.m.: I shaved twice with the Gillette Sensor blade (and) shaved my neck behind both ears, and crossways of my cheeks, too." July 25, 1993, 7 a.m.: "I cleaned out the tub and scraped my feet with my fingernails to remove layers of dead skin." 7:05 a.m.: "Passed a large, firm stool, and a pint of urine. Used 5 sheets of paper."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1776 the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

1782 the first native U.S. president, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, N.Y.

1792 George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

1831 former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

1848 President Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

1932 German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

1933 Prohibition ended as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

1955 the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

1991 Richard Speck, who had murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died in prison a day short of his 50th birthday.

WORD UP!

profuse \pruh-FY00S; proh-\, adjective: 1. Pouring forth with fullness or exuberance; giving or given liberally and abundantly; extravagant. 2. Exhibiting great abundance; plentiful; copious; bountiful.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituary

MAX CHARLES SPECHT
1922-2007

Max Charles Specht, a longtime resident of Lompoc, CA and former Chairman of the Photography Department at Santa Monica College, died November 30, just nine months after his beloved wife, Lorraine Baty Specht. He was 85. Max was born in Wichita, Kansas, on September 28, 1922 to Lota and Gus Specht. He was the third of what would eventually be seven boys (and one girl) in the family, who lived in Garden City, Kansas. Although they lived in town, the Spechts spent every summer working the nearby family farm. He was an exceptional student, and a model young citizen. His pastor wrote that he was one of the most honorable young men he knew. He was labeled an "honor camper " at Camp Christy Baptist Camp for four years in a row beginning when he was 13. It was at Camp Christy that he discovered a lifelong love: photography. After graduating high school, Max began attending college. When it became impossible to cover expenses, he decided to put his education on hold and join his brother Vince working in the booming aircraft industry in California. At 16, he and a group of friends hitchhiked from Kansas to Inglewood, CA. From 1938 on, he was a Californian for good. When the United States entered World War II, Max enlisted in the Army Air Corps and flew a wide range of twin-engine planes in the Pacific theater. His aptitude caused the Air Corps to send him to Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and it was there he met Lorraine Baty around Christmas time 1943. After a year of letters, phone calls and short leaves, the young couple married in March 1945 in Tulsa, Oklahoma and spent every Christmas together for the rest of their lives. When the war ended, Max decided to use the GI bill and get a teaching credential, and wound up as an instructor of photography at Santa Monica College. He spent the next 30 years sharing his passion with thousands of students, many of whom went on to become top professional photographers throughout California and the West. Max and Lorraine were blessed with a son, James Max, and a daughter, Linda Kay. The young family moved to a house on Paula Drive in Santa Monica, where they became a vital part of the community for the next 30 years. Max and Lorraine supported their children's activities with energy and dedication. Their efforts were honored by a series of organizations, ranging from Little League and PTA to the Masonic youth groups Jobs Daughters and DeMolay. When the kids grew up, Max and Lorraine stayed active in groups like the Elks and Moose. Max was eventually elected governor of the Santa Monica Moose Lodge. Their loving care and dedication to high standards helped lead their children through college and into successful careers. Jim is now Deputy Chief of Staff to a congressman; Linda is Director of Quality & Risk Management for Lompoc Healthcare District. Max retired in 1988 after more than 30 years in education. He and Lorraine moved to Lompoc to be near Linda and her husband Terry Banner, and especially to be close to their two grandsons, Curtis and Brandon. They were also delighted to spend more time with Terry's older children: Lori, Terry, Tina and Casey. When Terry, the former commander of the California Highway Patrol in Buellton, died suddenly in 1990, Max and Lorraine stepped in quickly to help and became extremely close to Curtis and Brandon. They were enthusiastic fans at baseball, wrestling and water polo events as the boys excelled in sports. They helped organize and host a reception when Linda married California Highway Patrol Officer Jim Everly of Lompoc in 1992. Their extended family grew again, and they now were considered loving grandparents of Jim's children: Cheryl, Kristine and Stacy. In 1996, Max and Lorraine were delighted to fly to Washington, D.C. to visit Jim and his wife, Erin Kelly - and their new granddaughter, Clare. Although they lived 3,000 miles apart, Clare always felt their special love. In the past few years, Lorraine began to suffer serious health problems, and Max devoted himself to caring for her. He cooked, cleaned and served as a nurse when she was bedridden, and stayed by her side constantly until she died last February from complications of cancer. Although terribly lonely without the love of his life, Max was sustained by the love and fellowship of his friends at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. He returned to Washington in mid-November to celebrate Thanksgiving with Jim, Erin, Linda, Clare and Brandon, and to visit the World War II Memorial for the first time. He came home in good spirits, ready to begin the holiday season he and Lorraine always loved. The day after he returned, Max suffered a massive stroke. He was taken to Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, where doctors found severe damage. He lingered for a few days as his family gathered around him. But as some of the first Christmas carols played softly in the early morning of November 30, he slipped away to join his Lorraine. They would be together for the holidays again. Max Charles Specht is survived by his brothers Vincent Specht, Howard Specht, Gale Specht and sister Bobbie Issetts, in addition to his children and grandchildren. A memorial service for Max will take place on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at 12:00 noon at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Max's name to the Lompoc Hospital Foundation, P. O. Box 883, Lompoc, CA 93438. Arrangements are under the direction of Starbuck-Lind Mortuary, Lompoc, Ca.

Miscellaneous

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Santa Monica

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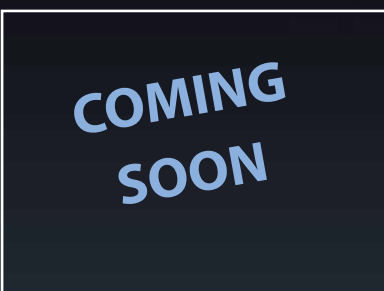


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