



RESIDENTS WARM TO THE ICE
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE STEPPING OUT OF LIQUID ISSUE

Gamers hit the next level

City-based Activision rides 'Hero' to whopper of a deal

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK The blockbuster deal merging two Southern California-based video game publishing companies could be a sign of a geographic shift of power in the gaming industry. Santa Monica-based Activision, which has hit the jackpot with its best-selling "Call of Duty," "Tony Hawk" and "Guitar

Hero" franchises, has announced that it is joining forces with Vivendi Games, which includes Blizzard Entertainment and its wildly successful online role-playing game "World of Warcraft."

The new Activision Blizzard creates one of the world's largest video game publishing companies, rivaling the Silicon Valley's Entertainment Arts.

"The biggest gaming company in the world is here now," said Chris Swain, an assistant professor of Cinema at USC who co-directs the school's Game Innovation Lab. "That's great for LA to be even more of a center of the video game industry, which it hasn't traditionally been."

In Los Angeles, it started with smaller companies like Activision, which was one of the first independent video game developers in the area, Swain said.

The merger between Activision, the world's largest third-party video game publisher, and media giant Vivendi, which also owns Universal Music Group, was announced on Dec. 2. The transaction is expected to be completed in the early part of 2008 and the new company is valued at an estimated \$18.9 billion.

"By combining leaders in mass-market entertainment

SEE ACTIVISION PAGE 13

TRANSPORTATION

SAVED BY THE BELL

High schoolers ditch their cars to heal the world

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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Calendar

2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.
New Year's Eve Open 7:30a.m. – 6:00p.m.
New Year's Day Open 7:30a.m. – 10:00p.m.

Hours: 6:30am - 10:00pm Daily
(Corner of 20th & Santa Monica Blvd.)

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Friday, Dec. 7, 2007

The Off The Jingle Bell Rockers

Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Rockers, a Venice-based group of professional singers, is back to their old tunes during the Abbot Kinney Holiday Extravaganza.

No Shame Theatre

3116 Second St., 11 p.m. — midnight

Fifteen new scripts jump from page to stage each week. With less than an hour to go before showtime, writers are jammed together with actors and directors to create wholly original works of comedy, drama, music, movement and furry hand puppet sex slavery — none of which lasts more than five minutes. Catch tonight's show at The Powerhouse Theatre. Tickets are \$5. To make a reservation, call (310) 396-3680, ext. 10. For more information, visit www.noshamela.com.

The Canadian wave hits tonight

3101 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

In 2006, Issa, formerly Jane Siberry, packed her Manolos, Armani suit and pearls into a knapsack, booked a studio in Brussels and began writing songs about canoes, birds, mysterious money inheritances and her concerns for teenagers. She headlines tonight at McCabe's Guitar Shop. Songstress Adrienne Pierce, also of Canada, opens the show. Tickets are \$22.50. For more information, visit www.mccabes.com.

Santa Monica Critical Mass bike ride

Santa Monica Pier entrance, 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Ride through the neighborhoods of Santa Monica and Venice once a month. For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaCriticalMass.org.

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.



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SLIP AND SLIDE: The “Ice at Santa Monica” outdoor skating rink, located at the corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue, has been well-received by the community, attended by by more than 5,000 people since the rink’s opening on the day before Thanksgiving.

Rink on solid ground

New outdoor skating rink is getting holiday love from community

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The new ice skating rink at the corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue is hot, hot, hot. Thousands of people have laced up their skates and hit the ice since the rink,

known as “Ice at Santa Monica,” opened a little over two weeks ago, said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., which is sponsoring the rink along with City Hall, Starbucks and Holiday Inn Santa Monica. “We’ve been completely inundated by positive comments about the rink and we’ve had over 5,000 people and schools aren’t even on break yet,” said Rawson, whose staff of six people organized the rink in less than two months time. “We feel like it’s a success.” The rink costs around \$225,000 to operate, and if the crowds continue to

come, Rawson believes the venture will pay for itself, and may even turn a profit. “The idea was to make the pricing of the skating affordable to as many people as possible, so we priced the skating very reasonably at \$10 per person, and that includes the skates,” Rawson said. Crowds are only expected to get larger after today’s official grand opening at 1:30 p.m., which will feature Olympic silver medalist and 2006 National Figure Skating Champion Sasha Cohen, who will perform a one-song routine. U.S. Champion and World Bronze medalist

New mayor brings trees issue back

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Like Dr. Seuss’ Lorax, the city’s new mayor, Herb Katz, is speaking up for the trees. He’s still in favor of removing 54 ficus trees along Second and Fourth streets as part of an estimated \$8.2 million streetscape improvement project, however, Katz wants to make sure that all the facts are straight and that the trees will be protected until a final decision has been made whether to designate them city landmarks. Katz, who was named mayor earlier this week, placed on the Dec. 11 City Council agenda a request that city staff reassure him and his colleagues that local law prohibits the removal of the ficus trees during the landmark process, and that the protection applies during any appeal that may be taken.

The Landmarks Commission is expected to make its decision on whether or not to landmark the trees on Monday. The move by Katz is seen as an encouraging development by the Santa Monica Treesavers, a group of environmental activists that former in a united effort to save the trees from being uprooted. Katz said he could change his mind and his vote in favor of the removal if he learns that some of the trees are not in danger of becoming structurally deficient for several years. If that is the case, Katz said he would be in favor of keeping those trees in place until it is absolutely necessary to remove them. “I just don’t want anyone rushing to judgment,” Katz said. “At the moment, my position is the same, but I want to hear all the facts again since I have been hearing different stories that I can’t tell if they are factual or not. If the trees are decayed, then they need to come down out of our concern for public safety. We don’t want them falling down on anybody. “But if there is no danger for the next two to five years, I am not willing to cut down those trees yet,” Katz added. Under Council rules, an issue that has already been acted on can return to the

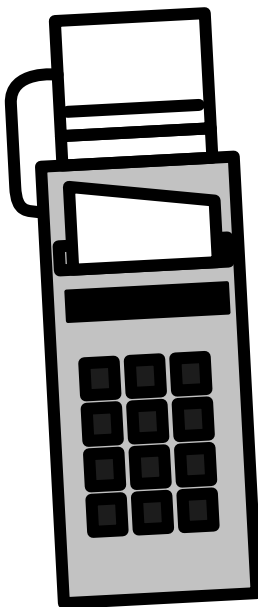
SEE RINK PAGE 12 SEE TREES PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Big ups to the Daily Press

Editor:

I would like to thank Jared Morgan for featuring the Library Alehouse fundraiser for Sustainable Works in (the Daily Press') Oct. 31 edition. (The paper's) commitment to helping increase sustainability awareness and action in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Each year, Sustainable Works continues to advance its mission to manifest the concepts of sustainability and the actions associated with living a sustainable lifestyle into the daily activities of individuals, institutions and businesses. Through our business, residential and business programs, we promote hands-on interactive, educational experiences, serving as a liaison between governments, institutions, businesses and individuals, and fostering community development. Our programs turn knowledge into action that improves quality of life by promoting sustainable practices in the urban environment.

Thanks again for (the) newspaper's ongoing support of Sustainable Works' goal to continue to make a difference in the urban environment and ensure a just society, a clean and healthy environment, and a vibrant economy for present and future generations.

Lisa Harrison

Public Information Coordinator, Sustainable Works

Just imagine a dedication to Lennon

Editor:

Just Imagine reincarnation is a reality

Just Imagine in the next life we come back as that which attracted us most in this life

Just Imagine one who is consumed by hatred for a race or creed will become a person of that very race or creed

Just Imagine this is so

Just Imagine his family carries on this tradition of hatred and revenge

Just Imagine those he loved, his children, spouse, parents, brothers, sisters and friends become his mortal enemies

Just Imagine he may be killed by the very hatred he shared and taught

Just Imagine he may murder them

Just Imagine it is so

Just Imagine as his lives pass, he comes to understand that all humanity is his family. If he hurts one, he hurts all, he hurts himself

Just Imagine how one would act knowing this

Just Imagine

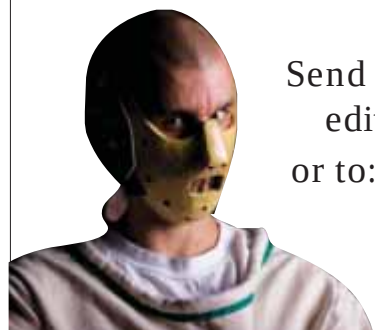
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Candidates on demand

AS WE BARREL TOWARDS THE IOWA caucuses on Jan. 3 and the New Hampshire primary on Jan. 8, it's become clear that technology is going to play a bigger role in this presidential election than ever before. Most noticeably, many candidates — from Democratic front-runners Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama to Internet sensation Ron Paul — have begun to use On Demand Positions, a micro-processor installed in the brain that allows them to genuinely support popular positions on a person-by-person basis depending on that individual's innermost wants, desires and needs.

For instance, if Hillary Clinton was talking to a pacifist about her vote authorizing use of force in Iraq, On Demand Positions would prompt Ms. Clinton to promise an immediate drawback of the armed forces upon her election. She also might agree to create a Department of Peace and spearhead a movement to release a flock of doves from the Oval Office balcony every afternoon in the spirit of unity, harmony and non-confrontation.

"It really depends where you set the dial on the device," said Joe McSweeney, Senior Product Manger for On Demand Positions.

Many would claim that politicians already possess the chameleon-like ability to be all things to all people. They seemingly make more promises than they can keep.

"The power of this program is very subtle," explains McSweeney. "The average politician knows how to schmooze and vainly suck up to anyone who can give them the slightest edge in their unending quest for power. But this takes a toll. Deep down, they know they can't live up to the vision they've promised. On Demand Positions does away with this guilt. It allows the candidate to genuinely believe 100% in the issue at hand. It gives them conviction and makes them convincing, charming and empathetic. If we weren't in the United States, we'd call this type of person a total authoritarian megalomaniac. But our system of Democratic Freedom or whatever totally prevents that worst-case scenario. There's no mess whatsoever."

But wait, there's more. The cynic might suggest that On Demand Positions completely serves the interests of the politician, without regard for the 300 million citizens who elected officials actually serve.

No worries, claims McSweeney.

"Take a look at the on demand world we live in. We all want customized and individualized attention and solutions. iPods, social networking sites, search engines, TiVo ... the world is moving to a model to provide us exactly what we want, when we want it. At the end of the day, all we really care about is the image flickering

in front of us. Is that image making us happy? Are we able to have a little happy, laughy time? Can we just have some entertainment, anything interesting, to help stave off our inevitable, mysterious spiral into the limitless yawn of eternity? In that sense, On Demand Positions allows the voter to get what they want from the candidate, even if deep down what they really want is a hollow promise providing short-term satisfaction ... like a sugar rush for your soul."

**IS THAT IMAGE MAKING
US HAPPY? ARE WE ABLE
TO HAVE A LITTLE HAPPY,
LAUGHY TIME? CAN WE
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INEVITABLE, MYSTERIOUS
SPIRAL INTO THE
LIMITLESS YAWN OF
ETERNITY?**

While McSweeney wouldn't comment on adoption of On Demand Positions, there is widespread speculation that President Bush has begun to use the application. With the recent revelation that Iran suspended nuclear weapon production 3-4 years ago, Bush pressed on with what the public wanted to hear: That we are in a mortal struggle of good (us) vs. evil (nameless Islamist fascists) that resembles a "Rocky" movie. And unless we treat our adversaries in the Middle East like they're a thuggish boxer with a bad buzz-cut, our patriotism and liberty are at risk.

"Think about how past elections would have been changed with On Demand Positions," speculated McSweeney. "Howard Dean wouldn't have screamed because he would have known the average voter would think him a freakshow. John Kerry would never have saluted the crowd to open the Democratic Convention because he would have known he was acting like a total buffoon. We would have gotten what we wanted."

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A-list help is vital in Oval Office race

IT'S BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FEW WEEKS IN the race for the White House, as Hollywood celebrities have come out in droves to support their favorite presidential candidates.

Hoping to gain some ground on the double-digit lead Hillary Clinton lords over him in the polls, Barack Obama was tickled when it was revealed last week that Oprah Winfrey will go the distance to support his presidential aspirations. While she's not donating any of her billion-dollar plus fortune to the junior senator from Illinois — telling Larry King modestly, "I think that my value to him, my support of him, is probably worth more than any check" — she will stump for him this weekend.

After sales of the Ugg Crochet Boot and Breville Ikon Panini Press skyrocketed in November following the annual "Favorite Things" edition of her daily TV show, the Obama camp is crossing its fingers that Oprah's show of delight for him will do the same for his poll numbers. Some campaign staffers, however, are privately hoping Oprah's fans don't follow her lead to a T, as it has been reported that the Chicago Board of Elections cites 1988 as the last year the talk show queen actually voted in a presidential primary.

Still, if Oprah's support fails to boost Obama's following, he still has the seal of approval from such luminaries as Emilio Estevez and Laurence Fishburne.

Democratic activist Barbara Streisand announced last Tuesday her endorsement of Hillary Clinton. The Oscar, Grammy and Emmy winner has been a longtime Clinton ally, performing at President Bill Clinton's inaugural gala in 1993. It remains to be seen, though, if the friendship will continue to flourish when the "Yentl" star finds out that Hillary's official campaign song, "You and I," is performed by Canadian shiksa Celine Dion.

"Wheel of Fortune" host Pat Sajak recently came out in support of Republican candidate Fred Thompson. On the "Sajak Says" page on his Web site, the game show host gushes, "I find myself rooting for him ... [because] he drives the mainstream media crazy by paying absolutely no attention to them." No word on which candidate Vanna White plans to endorse in the race, although campaign staffers for John Edwards said the professional letter-turner has tentatively agreed to campaign for the former North Carolina senator as long as he agrees to share his teeth-whitening secrets and let her run her fingers through

his impressively thick head of hair.

Not many celebrities have come forward in support of Rudy Giuliani (although Ron Silver has expressed his admiration for America's Mayor, and the four people who saw Silver's most recent film are grateful for knowing how the famed "Oh God! You Devil" actor plans to cast his vote). Because of the anemic Hollywood support for his candidacy, Giuliani and his 14th wife, Judith, are hoping they can convince their bevy of ex-spouses to show up at the polls during the primaries, as that would add up to almost enough votes to clinch his nomination.

Hollywood's A-list hasn't exactly been rushing to endorse Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich, either, but actress and the oft-reincarnated Shirley MacLaine writes in her new book, "Sage-Ing While Age-Ing," about a UFO sighting the congressman had at her house.

Donny and Marie Osmond sang the praises of fellow Mormon Mitt Romney in a recent TV interview. The ex-governor of Massachusetts is now said to be spending the majority of his time campaigning from one Osmond house to the next, knowing if he can reach out to every Osmond, he will have covered most of Utah.

And then there's former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who's basking in the glow of the superstars who continue gravitating to his camp. Hard-rock guitarist and Second Amendment enthusiast Ted Nugent has backed his bid for the presidency. Sixteen-time World Heavyweight Champion wrestler Ric "The Nature Boy" Flair also has shown his loyalty to the ordained Southern Baptist minister. But it's because of the support of fellow theory of evolution disputer and "Walker, Texas Ranger" star Chuck Norris (and his astonishingly large cult-like fan base) that many pundits think Huckabee stands a good chance of winning the White House next year.

However, with the endorsements of such key players as Hulk Hogan, Sharon Stone and the cast of MTV's "The Hills" outstanding, the election still could go in several different directions. Maybe Shirley MacClaine can reincarnate as Carnac the Magnificent to predict the results for those burning to know how the presidential race, which seemingly started two years ago, will turn out.

MEREDITH CARROLL'S column appears Thursdays. Contact her via e-mail at meredithcarroll@hotmail.com.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

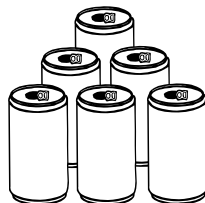
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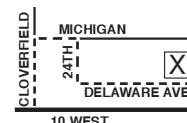
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The Q-Line

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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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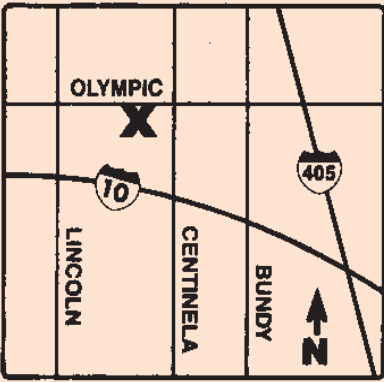
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Legal battle alive for Evel

BY JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Of all the bones Evel Knievel broke over the years, the costliest may have been the left arm of a PR man by the name of Shelly Saltman.

Saltman won \$12.75 million in damages against Knievel after the motorcycle daredevil attacked him with a baseball bat in 1977 in a rage over a book Saltman had written about the showman.

With interest, the still-uncollected sum has grown to more than \$100 million by Saltman's estimate, and he intends to try to collect it.

"We are going hot and heavy after his estate," Saltman told The Associated Press after Knievel died Friday at 69. "What he tried to do to me and how it hurt my family, I'm owed that."

Whether Knievel's estate has that kind of money is unclear.

Knievel's son Kelly would not discuss the size of his father's estate or comment on the dispute. The daredevil's longtime friend and promoter, Billy Rundle, declined to discuss the incident in detail. Knievel's widow, Krystal, was not granting interviews.

Although little remembered today, the incident made headlines worldwide when the death-defying motorcyclist approached

Saltman in the parking lot of 20th Century Fox on Sept. 21, 1977, and suddenly started swinging a bat. Saltman, then a studio executive, raised his arm to protect his head, a move he says doctors told him probably saved his life.

His arm was shattered and is held together to this day with a steel plate and screws.

Knievel, who broke nearly 40 of his own bones during his many motorcycle stunts, served six months in jail and would never again enjoy the public acclaim he had when he tried unsuccessfully to jump Idaho's Snake River Canyon on a jet-powered motorcycle in 1974 — an event Saltman had promoted.

"I've always felt pity for him," said Saltman, 76. "Because of this foolish act, he ruined his career."

Knievel complained at the time that Saltman's book, "Evel Knievel on Tour," insulted his family and portrayed him as "an alcoholic, a pill addict, an anti-Semite and an immoral person."

Saltman compiled the book from tape-recorded interviews with Knievel and others, and maintains it was an accurate and affectionate, if unvarnished, account of Knievel's life.

"I wrote a book about a man who at the time I greatly admired," he said.

STATE BRIEFS

SAN DIEGO

Rainstorm causes further slippage on La Jolla hillside

San Diego's senior engineering geologist says last weekend's rainstorm caused further movement in a La Jolla hillside that collapsed in October.

Rob Hawk told San Diego's City Council Tuesday that the displaced earth slipped another two-tenths of an inch between Friday and Monday.

The council unanimously approved \$20 million in emergency funding for repairs. The city expects reimbursement to come from state and federal grants.

City workers have already reinforced the hillside with steel pins. The Oct. 3 landslide destroyed three homes and severely damaged four others.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOMPOC

D.C. firm tapped for federal funding project

The Lompoc City Council has agreed to hire a Washington, D.C., consulting and lobbying firm.

The council voted 4-1 Tuesday in favor of a measure to hire government consultant group Marlowe & Co. using \$49,000 of general fund reserves through 2008.

Representatives of the lobbying group met with City Manager Gary Keefe and Mayor Dick DeWees in October with a proposal to help prepare federal funding requests and provide a face-to-face presence with federal lawmakers.

DeWees says it is "time for the city to roll the dice, and see if this company can do what they say they can."

An agreement with the company is expected to be negotiated this month.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Audit: City losing millions in mismanaging of grants

An audit by Los Angeles Controller Laura Chick finds the city is losing millions of dollars each year by mishandling state and federal grants.

The audit was released Tuesday and requested by the City Council.

The report finds that while the city receives about \$450 million in grants each year, there is little coordination of which grants the city applies for and how the city handles the money it receives.

Chick calls the system broken and says it is "bogged down in bureaucratic, outdated rules and procedures."

The audit recommends having the city administrative office establish a centralized unit to help coordinate grant applications among departments.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said in a letter to Chick that he supports the audit findings and streamlining the grants process.

AP

Time is ticking for the feds

ACLU filed suit against government for lengthy checks on immigrants

BY KEITH ST. CLAIR
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The American Civil Liberties Union sued the federal government Tuesday, claiming the FBI is taking too long finishing checks on immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has 120 days to grant citizenship

after the applicant has met all requirements, been interviewed and passed a basic citizenship test.

Until last year, it was during this period the USCIS would send the applicant's name to the FBI for a "name check."

The FBI, which contracts to do such checks for 70 agencies, said it goes through about 70,000 names a week. About half those are from the USCIS, said Paul Bresson, an FBI spokesman in Washington.

"We run the name to see if a person has been the subject of or connected to a criminal or terrorist organization," Bresson said.

"If there's no information, and usually there isn't," such a check can take as little as an hour, Bresson said.

But, if there's a "hit" on a name, he said, "we have to go to that field office and pull the record to see if the individual is the same one."

An ombudsman for the USCIS says the backlog is worsening, with 329,160 name checks pending as of May 2007 — up more than 98,000 over the previous year.

Although the USCIS says 90 percent of its name checks are resolved within six months, the ombudsman drew a different conclusion. In a June 2007 report, the ombudsman found that nearly a third of the checks had been pending for more than one year.

Such is the case for Abbas Amirichimeh, a microchip designer living in Irvine who has been trying to become a U.S. citizen for more than four years.

Amirichimeh is one of four immigrants living in Southern California on whose behalf the ACLU filed the suit Tuesday in U.S. District Court. It seeks class-action status on behalf of the four and "all other persons similarly situated."

Amirichimeh came to the U.S. from Iran in 1994, submitted his application for citizenship in May 2003, and had his interview and passed his examination the next summer.

More than three years later, his case still isn't resolved because his name check has not been completed.

"Is it the FBI or USCIS that's not doing their job?" Amirichimeh said. "I can't understand it. I'm in limbo."

Sexually-abused woman wins settlement against archdiocese

After being abused by priests, Milla hits church's wallet, hard

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ | Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A woman who was sexually abused by seven Roman Catholic priests and had a baby by one of them received a \$500,000 settlement Tuesday from the nation's largest archdiocese.

Rita Milla, now 46, first filed her case in 1984 after she says she was abused as a teenager by priests in the Los Angeles area. The payment was part of a \$660 million global settlement the diocese reached collectively with past abuse victims.

"I'll never escape the memories and I'll always be fighting the after effects of the trauma I went through, but now I can work on healing," Milla said at a news conference.

A state court found in 2003 that priest Valentine Tugade fathered Milla's daughter, now 25. And another priest, Santiago Tamayo, admitted he had sex with Milla and publicly apologized years before his death in 1999.

The diocese refused to comment on Milla's case and the whereabouts of the remaining priests.

"We will continue our long-standing efforts to protect children, prevent sexual abuse and the potential for abuse," Cardinal Roger Mahony said in a statement.

Milla has maintained that she was molested by Tamayo at a church in Carson when she was 16. After she turned 18, she says, she had sexual intercourse with Tamayo and he introduced her to six other priests who also abused her.

After she was impregnated in 1982 by Tugade at an L.A.-area church, Milla said, Tamayo suggested that she get an abortion, then devised a plan to send her to the Philippines to have the child.

Milla returned to California after giving birth to her daughter, Jacqueline, and pleaded with the archdiocese for help but was refused. On the day Milla sued 23 years ago, all seven of the accused priests disappeared from their parish offices, said her attorney, Gloria Allred.

Tamayo later went to the Philippines. In 2004, Allred released documents showing the church urged Tamayo to stay in that country after Jacqueline's birth and mailed him checks.

In three letters, church officials advised him not to reveal the source of the payments "unless requested under oath," noting that he was "liable for personal suits arising out of your past actions."

Milla, now a medical assistant who lives in southern Los Angeles County, said that she hasn't spoken with Tugade since shortly after her return from the Philippines.

Tugade, who was last known to be living in Fremont in Northern California, never expressed interest in caring for the child, she said.

"He was disappointed actually that she wasn't a boy," Milla said.

While she once planned to become a nun, Milla no longer believes in God. She said she lost her faith because of the church's callousness.

I REALIZED WHAT THEY WERE REALLY ABOUT, THAT THEY WERE MORE LIKE A BUSINESS. THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF GOD"

Rita Milla, victim

"I thought that the church would make everything OK, that they would punish them," she said. "After the church showed me that they didn't care about what happened, I realized what they were really about, that they were more like a business."

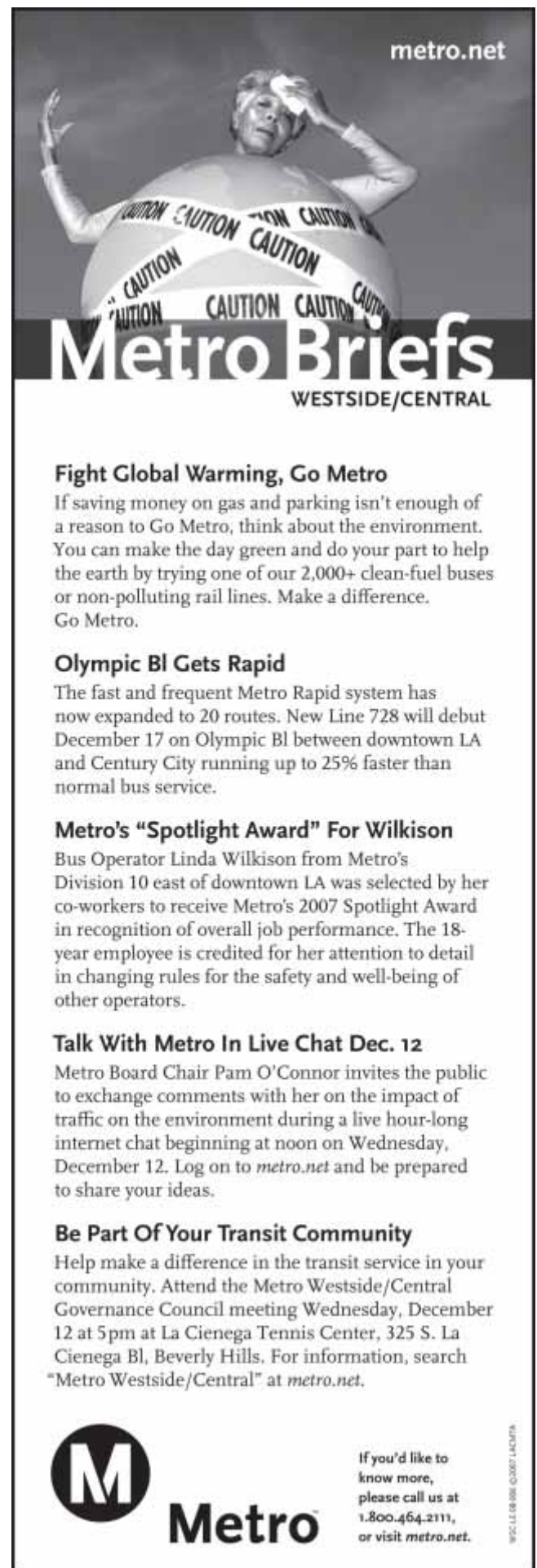
"They have no fear of God."



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Olympic BI Gets Rapid
The fast and frequent Metro Rapid system has now expanded to 20 routes. New Line 728 will debut December 17 on Olympic BI between downtown LA and Century City running up to 25% faster than normal bus service.

Metro's "Spotlight Award" For Wilkison
Bus Operator Linda Wilkison from Metro's Division 10 east of downtown LA was selected by her co-workers to receive Metro's 2007 Spotlight Award in recognition of overall job performance. The 18-year employee is credited for her attention to detail in changing rules for the safety and well-being of other operators.

Talk With Metro In Live Chat Dec. 12
Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor invites the public to exchange comments with her on the impact of traffic on the environment during a live hour-long internet chat beginning at noon on Wednesday, December 12. Log on to metro.net and be prepared to share your ideas.

Be Part Of Your Transit Community
Help make a difference in the transit service in your community. Attend the Metro Westside/Central Governance Council meeting Wednesday, December 12 at 5pm at La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Bl, Beverly Hills. For information, search "Metro Westside/Central" at metro.net.

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TOKEN CURIOSITY:
Brandon Wise news@smdp.com
Shoppers take in the Big Blue Bus transit store merchandise on Tuesday amid the storefront's grand opening ceremony. Among the items for sale were tokens, T-shirts and bags — all containing environmentally sound materials. (Below) Visitors to the Third Street Promenade on Wednesday morning were treated to free blue-iced cupcakes, courtesy of Big Blue Bus, which was celebrating the grand opening of its transit store around the corner on Broadway.



Bike to School day pedals off

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY STREETS Throughout his more than three full years of high school, Austin Draper's mode of transportation to school has slowly evolved from walking to skateboarding to bicycling.

While it seems as though the natural transition in his senior year would be to get behind the wheel of a car, the bicycling enthusiast has no plans of relinquishing the old faithful handlebars.

"It's funny, because when I do get a ride to school, I'm always late ... because of traffic," the Samohi student said en route to school Wednesday morning.

Draper was among the approximately 85 students that ditched car rides in favor of a healthy bicycle commute to school on Wednesday as part of Samohi's first "Bike Day" event, hosted by two student organizations — the Samohi Solar Alliance and the Bike Coalition.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the feasibility of commuting to school via bicycle, a transportation method that event organizers believe most students don't see as an option because of the extra time it could take to beat the bell.

"It's something (many students) think would take too long to do in the morning," said senior Owen Gorman, the president and founder of the Bike Coalition. "They would have to wake up too early and sleep is really important for kids our age."

But the showing of support on Wednesday



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

DON'T FORGET THE HELMET: Santa Monica High School students promoted the virtues of bike riding during the inaugural Bike to School Day on Wednesday. The event was held to raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of bicycle riding.



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www.fpcsantamonica.org

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

BRAKE TIME: The first Bike to School Day attracted more than 80 students to ride their bikes.

could be an indicator that some students might be thinking two wheels are better than four.

The high school's bike rack area, which normally contains about 30 bicycles on any given day, was packed with more than 90 two-wheelers by the time school started on Wednesday morning.

A handful of those bicycles belonged to faculty, estimated Rachel Horn, one of the co-presidents of the Samohi Solar Alliance.

"It's daunting until you do it," said Lulu Mickelson, a co-president of the Samohi Solar Alliance along with Mara McKevitt.

Many of the students involved with the two organizations are avid bike riders, commuting on two wheels almost every day of the week.

Draper, who is a member of both organizations, has been riding his bike to school every day since his junior year, favoring bike riding because of the environmental and health benefits.

The commute from his house in the Wil-Mont area of town to Samohi — about two miles — takes about 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the traffic along California Avenue near Lincoln Middle School.

Draper's daily route to school presents different challenges, from the lack of bike lanes on Lincoln Boulevard, forcing the Samohi student onto the sidewalk, to the absence of traffic signals at the intersections of Ninth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard, keeping the student waiting until the coast is clear to dash down the southbound street.

SHARING THE ROAD?

Still, Draper's biggest challenge is the occasional honk and scream by impatient motorists that believe the student shouldn't be acting as a motorist on the road, yelling at him to get off his bike.

"Some people will honk for no reason," Draper said as he steered onto California Avenue.

His determination to ride the bike to school every day seemed to unnerve his parents, who were concerned about their son get-

ting to and from school safely. After Draper was hit by a motorist at Lincoln Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard about two months ago, he succumbed to his mother's wishes and finally donned a helmet. Draper didn't sustain any injuries in the accident.

But on Wednesday morning, he didn't have his helmet handy, having left it in his girlfriend's car the day before. The student opted for a head scarf and seemed to take more precaution in his ride, coming to complete stops at four-way stop signs, even if there weren't any cars at the intersection. Draper said he now always tries to wear a helmet.

"I'll be the cool one when my head is protected (in an accident)," he said as he slowed down near Lincoln Middle School.

To Draper, bicycle riding fosters community more than driving, which can be a solitary activity, especially in car-centric Southern California. Draper himself occasionally rides with several of his friends to school.

One of his riding buddies is Gorman, who lives just a few blocks away. Gorman, who founded the Bike Coalition this year, has been riding his bike to school since he was a student at Lincoln Middle School. The ride from Gorman's house north of Montana Avenue to Samohi takes about 15 minutes.

Gorman was also involved in two minor car-versus-bicycle accidents, neither of which resulted in injuries. He doesn't believe the students at Samohi are reluctant to ride their bikes to school because of the potential dangers. The students just don't even think of hopping on a bike, he said.

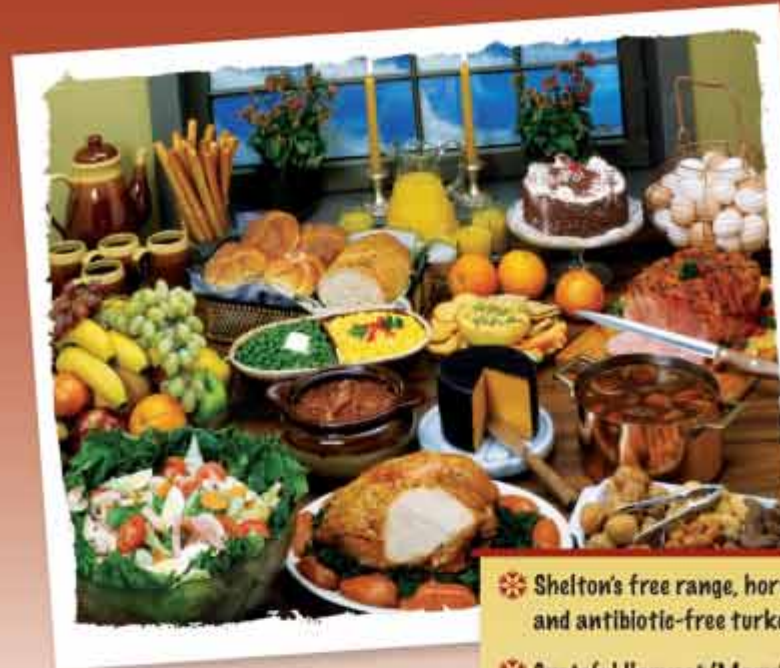
"We need events like Bike to School Day to get kids to try it and, hopefully, it will lead to a lifelong positive attitude toward biking," Gorman said.

The two organizations hope to make the Bike Day a biannual event, planning to sponsor another one next semester.

"It's a promotional day advertising bicycles as an alternative form of transportation that's not combustion engine," Horn said.

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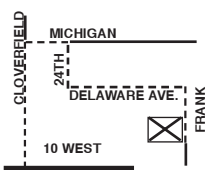
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Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

NO TRIPLE AXLE YET: A couple of young skaters seemingly check each other's form on Wednesday afternoon at the new outdoor skating rink in Downtown Santa Monica.

Skating rink breaks the ice

FROM RINK PAGE 3

Evan Lysacek will also make a special appearance.

Starbucks will be hosting children from one of its local community partners, P.S. ARTS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping arts and music education in Title I Los Angeles schools. The coffee giant will also be giving away free samples periodically.

Those who would like something other than coffee can get food and drinks at the concessions stand, run by Gay Santa Barbara, a non-profit working to foster acceptance and the encouragement of gay-friendly social and business practices.

Rawson said she looked for local non-profits to run the concessions but could not find any with the proper permits in the short time available before the launch. Gay Santa Barbara was recommended by local mental health provider Step Up on Second. The group already had permits in place and a means of serving food and drinks.

"We were really just focused on getting the rink up and running," Rawson said. "Concessions was not the priority, but we wanted to provide people with something."

Judging from the large number of skaters gathered at the rink on Wednesday afternoon, it seems the rink is a big draw for families looking to get into the holiday spirit. There were mothers and fathers holding their children's hands, guiding them around the rink, picking them up and brushing their bottoms when they slipped and fell. Grandparents watched from the rink's edge, snapping pictures and waving as their loved ones went by.

Seated just outside the rink, Duncan Burns was enjoying some chocolates while his children, Analisa and Duncan, and their friend Amanda Padilla, waited for the Zamboni to clean the ice. Each had a large smile on their faces as they talked about all the fun they were having skating.

"To me, the rink is just another exam-

ple of how Santa Monica is a wonderful, thoughtful place," said the eldest Burns. "The price is amazing and it's just a great place. I don't want to advertise it too much or people will flock to it."

**TO ME, THE
RINK IS JUST
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF
HOW SANTA MONICA IS A
WONDERFUL,
THOUGHTFUL PLACE."**

Duncan Burns
father, skater

Padilla said she learned how to skate at the rink and wants to come back as often as she can before the rink closes on Jan. 6.

"It's really fun," she said. "I like when they clean the ice. It makes it easier to skate on."

Tanya Schenk and her twin 8-year-old sons, Christian and Hans, were also at the rink Wednesday enjoying a few laps on the ice. The two boys were just learning how to skate and found the rink to be a great place to practice.

"We're getting the hang of it," Hans said. "It's really cool to skate outside."

Tanya Schenk said the best part about the rink was the price.

"It's very reasonable," she said. "It's probably one of the least expensive things you can do with your family. I think it's great."

And it's likely to continue, Rawson said.

"I think we'll be skewered if we don't do it again," she said.

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

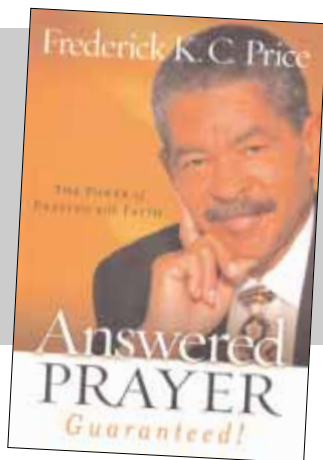
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Another twist in the ficus debate

FROM TREES PAGE 3

dais if a member who voted on the prevailing side requests it be brought back. The streetscape project, in its entirety, was approved 6-1 in August with Councilmember Kevin McKeown, an advocate for the trees, being the lone vote of opposition.

Katz said in the past that he would bring the matter back if he thought it was necessary.

The streetscape improvement project calls for the end of 23 structurally deficient ficus trees and the relocation of 31 healthy trees, according to city staff reports. The tree removal and transplantation constitutes only a small portion — about \$600,000 — of the streetscape improvement project, which would enhance lighting, fix broken sidewalks and add curb bump-outs on Second and Fourth streets from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard. Each of the empty ficus tree plots is to be replaced with two ginkgo biloba trees.

The project is being funded by eight different sources, including approximately \$800,000 from city coffers and another \$2.5 million from the Redevelopment Agency.

Some councilmembers have expressed concern that if the project is delayed any further it could jeopardize millions of dollars in funding and possibly cost the city thousands of dollars in contractors' fees that have already been expended.

Work on the trees was supposed to begin on Oct. 8, however, a residents' group called Santa Monica Treesavers was granted a temporary restraining order on Oct. 5 preventing City Hall from moving forward

with the plan. The basis for filing the temporary restraining order was that the Treesavers felt that City Hall violated the California Environmental Quality Act and failed to submit an environmental impact report, a claim City Hall has disputed.

The Treesavers have since dropped their challenge, and instead have focused on the landmark process as a way to protect the trees. Any structure or tree being considered for landmark status is protected until the process has been completed.

Jerry Rubin, co-founder of the Treesavers, said he will ask the Landmarks Commission to grant him more time to compile research for his argument as to why the trees on Second and Fourth streets warrant landmark status. Rubin already asked for an extension in November, which was granted, and he is not sure that the commission will give him another.

"During the holidays, it is difficult to get the information that we need," Rubin said. "This is also an unprecedented landmark request and it seems to me that we deserve another postponement. We deserve that time."

If the commission chooses not to landmark the trees, the Treesavers will have 10 days to appeal to the council.

Rubin is hoping the request by Katz will give the council another opportunity to debate the tree removal and reverse their decision.

"We want so much for the City Council to understand this is a movement of love and respect for the trees and the environment," Rubin said. "We should be given every opportunity to be heard."

kevinh@smdp.com

Merger creates video gaming powerhouse

FROM ACTIVISION PAGE 1

and subscription-based online games, Activision Blizzard will be the only publisher with leading market positions across all categories of the rapidly growing interactive entertainment software industry and reach the broadest possible audiences," Activision Chairman and CEO Robert Kotick said in a statement released earlier this week.

A video gaming industry veteran, Activision was founded in 1979 and has really made a name for itself with popular franchises like "Call of Duty" and "Guitar Hero." Irvine-based Blizzard Entertainment is the creator of the top multi-player online role-playing game franchise, "World of Warcraft," which currently has more than 9.3 million subscribers worldwide. Both "Guitar Hero" and "World of Warcraft" have become pop cultural phenomena, marketable to both video gamers and non-gamers alike. In fact, one of the major demographics for "World of Warcraft" is middle-aged women, according to Swain.

"If they can continue to expand the demographic, it just makes it a bigger business and more culturally relevant business," Swain said.

As games become more expensive to produce, the video gaming industry is seeing more consolidations of corporations in order to make the products more profitable, according to Steve Butts, the executive editor of IGN.

The downside is the larger companies tend to minimize risk to the point where they minimize innovation, Butts said.

"Eventually, creativity can stagnate," Butts said.

The deal could also give Activision a leg up on the competition between "Guitar Hero" and EA's "Rock Band" because the Santa Monica company could have access to Universal Music and music rights, Butts said.

"People are already drawing the lines between UMG and "Guitar Hero," Butts said.

Kotick will assume the role of president and CEO of Activision Blizzard while Bruce Hack, the current CEO of Vivendi Games, will be the vice-chairman and COO.

The Associated Press contributed to the reporting of this story

melodyh@smdp.com

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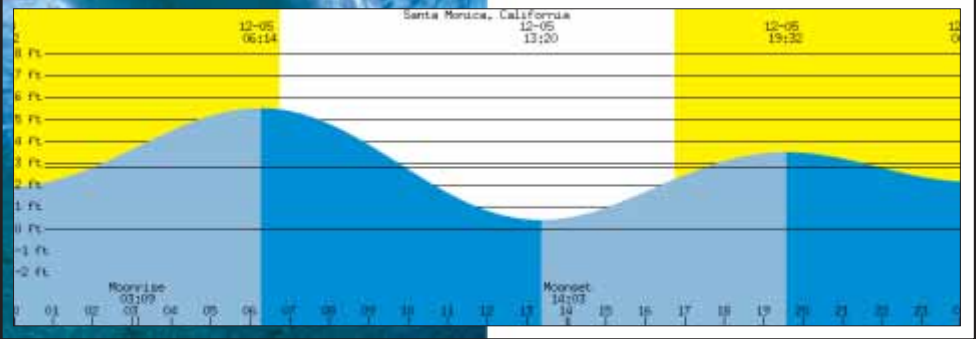
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SURF REPORT



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


BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LEGEND

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



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

Battle of best at the ‘Open’

Roger Federer leads talented pool of stars in Aussie tournament

By The Associated Press

MELBOURNE The strongest field in the Australian Open's 103-year history was revealed Wednesday, with every one of the world's top 100 men taking part and 99 of the top 100 women competing in January's tournament.

Three-time champion Roger Federer heads the men's draw, while world No.1 and the 2004 winner Justine Henin leads the women.

The only omission from the top 100 women is Russia's world No.44 Vera Dushevina, who is out with a right-foot injury.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said he was thrilled with the line-up.

"It's fantastic news to know that all of the world's best tennis players are coming to Melbourne in January for the Australian Open," he said.

"The field is sprinkled with genuine superstars, rising stars and Australians, which will no doubt lead to some brilliant tennis.

"At this stage, it's the strongest field in the event's history and we're sure this will

equate to one of the most exciting tournaments yet."

The men's field will be completed by 16 qualifiers and eight wildcards, while the women's field has 12 qualifiers and eight wildcards.

THE FIELD IS SPRINKLED WITH GENUINE SUPERSTARS, RISING STARS AND AUSTRALIANS, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT LEAD TO SOME BRILLIANT TENNIS.

Craig Tiley
Australian Open tournament director

The women's draw includes five former champions in Henin, Venus and Serena Williams, Amelie Mauresmo and Lindsay Davenport.

Among the men, Federer, Thomas Johansson and Marat Safin are all former winners. The tournament takes place in Melbourne from January 14-27.

OLYMPICS

The Beijing games displacing thousands of Chinese people

BY BRADLEY S. KLAPPER
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA China continues to evict 13,000 people each month in preparation for the Beijing Olympics, despite worldwide attention and increased scrutiny, a housing rights group said Wednesday.

The Center on Housing Rights and Evictions said a recent trip to the Chinese capital confirmed an estimate it made earlier this year that 1.5 million people would be displaced by the time the 2008 Games are held.

Beijing says the group is grossly inflating the number of people being relocated as a result of the Olympic preparations, and that residents are content with the compensation they have received.

"Despite courageous protests inside China, and condemnation by many international human rights organizations, the Beijing municipality and Beijing Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games have persisted with these evictions and displacements," said Jean du Plessis, the Geneva-based COHRE's deputy director.

The group — which claimed in June that 1.25 million had already been displaced — said it returned to Beijing in August and found that forced evictions were continuing

unabated.

In September, the Beijing municipality demolished several buildings in a run-down neighborhood called the "petitioners' village" in Fengtai District, which provided housing for thousands from all over China who came to complain to the central government about land seizures, forced evictions and corruption, COHRE said.

"Evictions in Beijing often involve the complete demolition of poor peoples' houses," the group said. "The inhabitants are then forced to relocate far from their communities and workplaces, with higher transportation costs driving them further into poverty.

"In Beijing, and in China more generally, the process of demolition and eviction is characterized by arbitrariness and lack of due process. In many cases, tenants are given little or no notice of their eviction and do not receive the promised compensation."

The group said it was pleased the International Olympic Committee is taking housing rights more seriously, including guaranteed commitments that local people would not be displaced in its deal with Russia for the 2014 Winter Games, which will be hosted by the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

What stalker? Former psycho turns down plea deal in Thurman case

A former psychiatric patient has rejected a plea offer that would have put him in a mental health facility and settled charges that he stalked

UMA THURMAN for nearly two years. Jack Jordan refused to plead guilty Wednesday to attempted coercion, a felony the court would have reduced to a misde-

meanor once he completed at least a year in a mental health program. Jordan, who is free on \$10,000 bail, is accused of following and contacting the 37-year-old

actress since 2005. The coercion charge stems from Jordan allegedly saying in an e-mail that he might kill himself if he saw Thurman with another man. Jordan, a graduate student at Mills College in Oakland, Calif., is living in Massachusetts with his parents.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

One of **LINDSAY LOHAN'S** former bodyguards says a celebrity magazine damaged his career as a protector of Hollywood's rich and famous by publishing a photo of him along with a tell-all article. Andrae "Doc" Renard Newman filed a libel lawsuit against Star magazine Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging he was misidentified as Lee Weaver.

AP

Jodie Foster still trying to figure it out after strong 42-year career

Despite being the guest of honor at the Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment Power 100 breakfast, **JODIE FOSTER** said, "I don't feel very powerful." "I feel fragile ... unsure, struggling to figure it all out," the 45-year-old actress-director-producer said Tuesday as she accepted the Sherry Lansing Leadership Award at the

event, held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Foster characterized herself as a "professional" and a "gentleman." But she also said that after working in entertainment for 42 years, "there's no way you can do that and not be as nutty as a fruitcake." "I always feel like something of an impostor. I don't know what I'm doing," she said. "I suppose that's my

one little secret, the secret of my success." Lansing, former chief of Paramount Pictures, said she was overwhelmed when the Hollywood Reporter decided to name its award for female leadership in entertainment after her. "I'm equally if not more overwhelmed to be presenting it to Jodie," said Lansing.

Other speakers at the 16th annual event included "Hairspray" co-stars Queen Latifah and John Travolta, who played Edna Turnblad in the film. "I woke up saying, 'What dress do I wear today,'" Travolta quipped. "Because I'm a woman who believes in the power of women, I said, 'Wear the suit.'" AP

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

Think "weekend," Taurus

Happy Birthday!

You give 100 percent. Knowing what you want is the first step on the path to success. If you are single, don't make any assumptions. You will be all smiles at first; just make sure this person has the qualities you think you see. If you are attached, pull back and learn to understand your sweetie rather than judge him or her. You'll become much closer as a result. SCORPIO reads you cold.



Born Today

Musician David Brubeck (1920)
Guitarist Peter Buck (1956)
Comedian Steven Wright (1955)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ A partner often unloads his or her opinions, whether you want to hear them or not. You might need to negotiate. You don't need to stonewall a difficult person; establish boundaries instead. Tonight: Togetherness works.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ Others state what they want, and they will do whatever's necessary to have it. You might be surprised at the end results if you pull back. You identify with one situation; therefore, detaching might be difficult. Tonight: Think "weekend."
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ You come from a new place and might want to make a change. How you deal with a person who can be annoying could define the end results. Bypass being petty and say yes to the unexpected and dynamic. Tonight: Early to bed makes the Twin happy.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ Add your touch of creativity and lightness. If you want a new beginning, your efforts will help. It might be difficult to communicate the extent of your feelings to an associate. Mixed messages might result. Tonight: Pretend it's Friday night.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ You might want to get a different perspective, and an opportunity comes through to do just that. You might wonder what you need to do to get your message across, as someone cannot hear. Tonight: No wild risking! Stay close to home.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ You can speak your mind, but the reception of your thoughts depends on where others' heads are at. A domestic matter could become irritating if left unhandled. You might need to leap into action. Tonight: Just be available.

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ You easily could become exasperated with a financial situation. Relax and think positively. If you could have handled a situation differently, what would you have done? No wild risks, especially if you have second thoughts. Tonight: Hang out.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ You are personality plus and probably can glide over problems that other signs cannot. You might wonder what got you to this point. A friendship seems to be tipping the scales back and forth when it comes to your feelings. Tonight: As you like.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ Know when to call it a day, whether it is early or not. Honor your internal clock. Pressure builds within your immediate circle. An authority figure, your dad or a boss could be difficult. Tonight: Get some extra sleep; you are going to need it.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★★ Take the high road. If you see a situation differently, events might flow in another direction too. Your goodwill could redefine relationships and situations. Don't let confusion mark a decision. Tonight: Do only what you want.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ More eyes are on you than you realize. Take your time making a decision. You might not have all the answers, but you have some. A partner can be critical. Be willing to step in and do what is needed. Tonight: Count on a late night.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ You might want to try something very different. Don't hesitate to explore your options. You are only stuck if you want to think that way. Break patterns and head in a new direction. Others will follow the courageous Fish! Tonight: Let your mind relax with a favorite pastime.



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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
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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

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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
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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
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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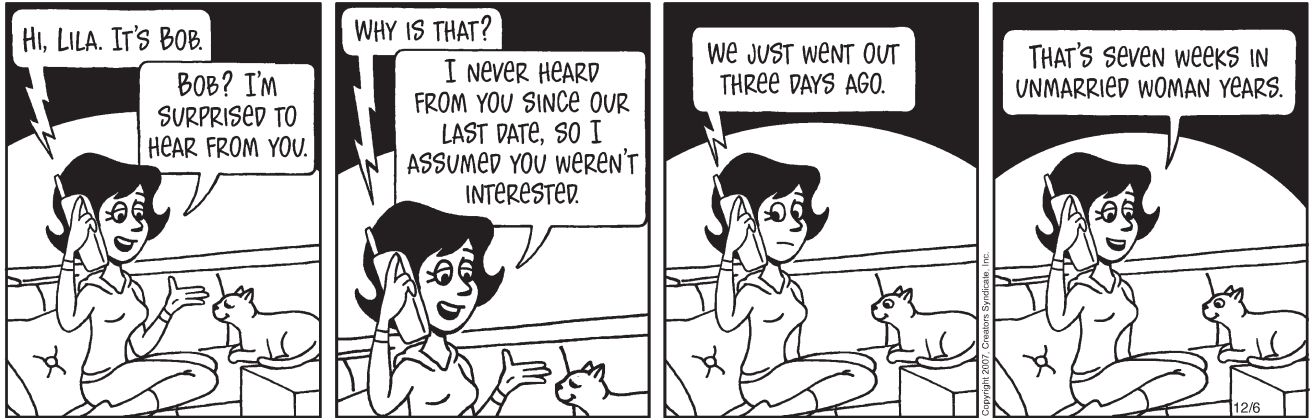
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



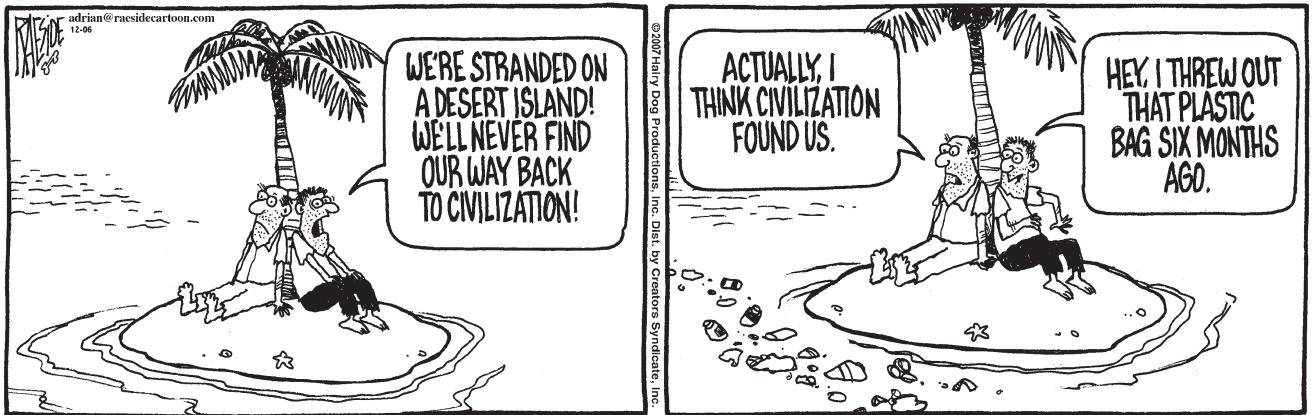
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



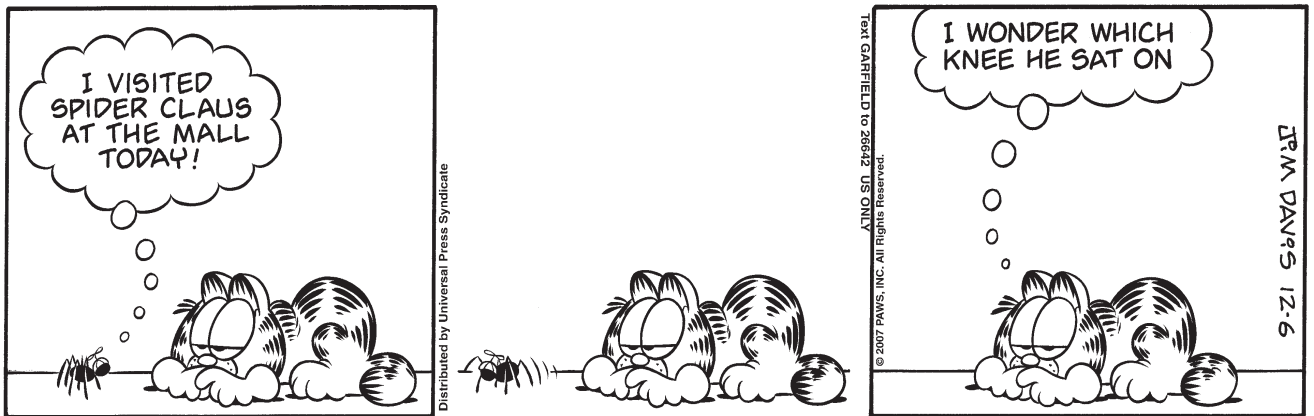
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



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Gabrielle Harradine news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - 5 Action film staple
 - 10 Where El Misti rises
 - 11 Barters
 - 12 Bothers
 - 13 Bank jobs
 - 14 Most yummy
 - 16 Most pallid
 - 20 Geriatrics study
 - 23 General activity
 - 24 Cabaret fixture
 - 25 Sierra —
 - 27 Spreading tree
 - 28 New York player
 - 29 Most unpleasant
 - 32 Most impulsive
 - 36 Plan
 - 39 Sleuth's find
 - 40 Hitches
 - 41 Austen book
 - 42 "Breaking Away" director
 - 43 Elevator part
- DOWN**
- 1 Rotisserie
 - 2 Zeus's wife
 - 3 Sacred chests
 - 4 Cleaning aid
 - 5 Wave top
 - 6 Hispaniola nation
 - 7 Plugs
 - 8 Harden
 - 9 Curvy letter
 - 11 Not those
 - 15 Othello's betrayer
 - 17 "Return of the Jedi" creature
 - 18 Reasonable
 - 19 Squirrel's home
 - 20 Frank
 - 21 Country singer
 - 22 Blocks up
 - 25 Ultimate
 - 26 Lured
 - 28 Toady's words
 - 30 Opening music
 - 31 Poetic feet
 - 33 Sesame Street youngster
 - 34 Asian sport
 - 35 Rend
 - 36 Hog haven
 - 37 Chinese tea
 - 38 Crude shack

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

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Super LOTTO 6 15 18 24 35
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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

■ In interviews with reporters from McClatchy Newspapers in October, cemetery workers in Najaf, Iraq, lamented the recent downturn in violence in that city, as they admitted having grown accustomed to the income from the estimated 6,500 caskets a month that they serviced. (The number had fallen to less than 4,000 a month, and others dependent on the death industry around Najaf were said to be similarly suffering.)

■ In October, following 18 months' investigation, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission concluded that the state government requires too many reports (a total of more than 1,600). About one-fourth of them either were duplicative of others or were still required even though the receiving agency no longer exists or are dutifully prepared year after year even though it is evident that they go unread. The commission issued its findings in a 668-page report.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1790 Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

1889 Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans.

1907 The worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, W.Va.

1917 Some 2,000 people died when an explosives-laden French cargo ship collided with a Norwegian vessel at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the city.

1921 British and Irish representatives signed a treaty in London providing for creation of an Irish Free State a year later on the same date.

1947 Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Truman.

1957 AFL-CIO members voted to expel the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. (The Teamsters were readmitted in 1987, but disaffiliated themselves from the AFL-CIO in 2005.)

1973 House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew.

1982 11 soldiers and six civilians were killed when an Irish National Liberation Army bomb exploded at a pub in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland.

WORD UP!

segue (1) *intransitive verb* (in music and film) move without interruption from one song, melody, or scene to another : allowing one song to segue into the next. (2) *noun* an uninterrupted transition from one piece of music or film scene to another.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

BUSY FASHION company in West Los Angeles is looking for an energetic office assistant . Responsibilities include answering phones, filing, mailings, coordinating messengers and fed-ex packages and general office administration. Must have good typing skills, multi tasking abilities and be extremely organized. Email resumes to LAofficeassistant@gmail.com.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

Employment

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3053 - Magan Hoenig - computer, boxes, wicker basket, file boxes, belts, couch
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713 - I Media - boxes, file boxes, loveseat, keyboard
2266 - Tessanna Fulton - clothes, plastic containers, boxes,
2616 - Donald Thomas - boxes, iron board, stereo, wicker basket, chairs, plastic containers
2715 - Christopher Mendicino - boxes, batman, computer, dvd's, dvd player, stereo equipment, pictures, fan, tv, cd's, lp's
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		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,656,714	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,980,148	\$ 1,820,172
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,005,070
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,062,250	\$ 686,293
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,358,545	\$ 720,429
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,097,611	\$ 953,736

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