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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

Volume 9 Issue 22



SWEET TOOTH CONTRACTORS
SEE PAGE 7

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE DRYING OUT ISSUE



AFTER THE STORM

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A rainbow can be seen through a break in the clouds in Santa Monica on Monday following the first extensive rain storm of the season. A rainbow is an optical and meteorological phenomenon that causes a spectrum of light to appear in the sky when the sun shines onto droplets of moisture in the Earth's atmosphere. They take the form of a multi-colored arc, with red on the outer part of the arch and violet on the inner section of the arch.

Man arrested in death of 2-month-old stepdaughter

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica detectives on Monday arrested a man for allegedly murdering his 2-month-old stepdaughter, her death the result of a type of child abuse called "shaken baby syndrome," police said.

Donald Hillman, 33, was arrested in North Hollywood around 3:30 p.m. Monday after the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office declared the death a homicide.

Police did not provide any further details before presstime.

The baby girl was injured on or around Oct. 4 in the 1000 block of 12th Street. Police said Hillman brought his stepdaughter to a local hospital around 12:30 a.m. She was in full cardiac arrest and was not breathing. Emergency room staff was able to resuscitate her twice and placed her on ventilator.

The SMPD and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services were notified.

An initial examination by a medical specialist revealed injuries to the victim that were consistent with "shaken baby syndrome," also known as abusive head trauma, the result of violently shaking an infant or small child, causing the fragile brain to bounce back and

SEE **ARREST** PAGE 8

Holiday sales extend to apartment market

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN As retailers slash prices to attract cash-strapped holiday shoppers, local landlords are following suit.

Apartment rental rates are down as much as 15 percent from the peak of the market about 18 months ago because of increased vacancy, landlords say, prompting many owners to offer additional incentives to fill their buildings.

"With a lot of vacancy, property owners are getting creative trying to market their properties," said Bill Dawson, vice president of Sullivan Dituri Co., a property management firm. "They're having more open houses, they're trying to do more expensive amenities in the units to make them more attractive, maybe offering a little free rent."

December is typically a slow month in the rental market, but this year the weak economy is combining with the seasonal lag to make for an especially renter-friendly market, said

SEE **RENTS** PAGE 8

Construction underway on new history museum

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Construction has begun on the new, permanent home of the Santa Monica History Museum, a project of the city's historical society.

Louise Gabriel, president and CEO of the museum, made the announcement Monday and unveiled the museum's new name and logo.

"We are thrilled that we will soon see the realization of our dreams to create a permanent home that will preserve Santa Monica's history and culture for future generations to cherish," Gabriel said. "It will be the crown jewel of Santa Monica."

A name change had been in the works for several months and with a new home now under construction,

SEE **MUSEUM** PAGE 9

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Christmas Events

THE CHORALIERS
Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy a Christmas concert and a dessert reception. Free admission with a donation of canned food for the *Ocean Park Community Center.*

CAROLING PARTY
Thursday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m.
Bring holiday cheer to seniors by singing Christmas carols with a chorus of First Pres members and friends. Lyrics are provided.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 p.m.
Come enjoy the fun pageantry of the children at First Pres re-enacting the first Christmas!

Family Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.
Family celebration with contemporary music.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 24, at 8:00 p.m.
Traditional music sung by The Chancel Choir.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST PRES
Contemporary Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Highspeed networking
The Yard
119 Broadway, 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Come and exchange business contact information one-on-one with a host of business professionals. Hosts say you can make more business contacts in one night than most people do after months of networking. The event includes complimentary snacks and a cash bar. The event costs $20 for Networking for Professionals members. Non-members pay $30 or $35 at the door. For more information, visit the NFP Web site at www.networkingforprofessionals.com.

Write away
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., noon — 2:30 p.m.
Calling all writers! Get inspiration, guidance and support for free. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Montana Avenue, 4:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
This is a gentle beginner's yoga class that emphasizes breathing, stretching, slow movement, strengthening, balance and relaxation — a relaxing and invigorating class for beginners and anyone looking for a gentle approach to yoga. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel and a suggested donation of $10. E-mail meghanmbowen@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 9. 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a lesson and dance after on a 3,000-square-foot floor. Learn the waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle, various Latin dances and other dances by request. No partner is required. Parking is available next door. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Kicking it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon with guest speakers. Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

AK Gallery
2323 Main St., Suite 106, 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Enjoy a new, exciting, and colorful photography exhibit by Rob Kalmbach. "Custom" is a series of photographs concerned with the simple beauty of parked cars, local roads, and backgrounds bathed with light. Food, drink, and music will be provided. The event is free to the public. For more information contact Rob Kalmbach at (213) 952-4059.

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.

City Hall expected to upgrade audio visual system

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City Council is expected to buy itself an early Christmas present at its meeting tonight, approving the purchase of a $257,000 audio and visual system for the council's chambers.

The new gear would replace a 10-year-old system that "has become unreliable and increasingly unsupportable," according to a city staff report.

The proposed system is manufactured by Spinitar and would provide enhanced projection quality, touch-panel monitors, wall-mounted flat-screen displays and better sound quality, according to the report by David Yeskel, a City Hall systems analyst.

The total cost of $256,850 includes a 10 percent contingency allowance and one year of maintenance.

The new system is part of a $641,850 spending package included on the agenda for tonight's City Council meeting.

NEW DRUG TEST PROVIDER

Pre-employment medical exams and drug and alcohol testing for city employees will be conducted by a new medical group under a proposed contract expected to be approved by council tonight.

The proposed contract for $220,000 is with Westchester Medical Group Center for Heart and Health. The group would replace Santa Monica Bay Physicians Medical Group, which for the past five years has conducted City Hall's pre-employment medical examinations.

INTERIOR DECORATING

When employees of City Hall's Business & Revenue Operations Division move into new office space in January they'll have $165,000 worth of matching new furniture, under a proposed contract with Knoll Products expected to be approved tonight.

The new office space consists of 6,500 square feet at 1717 Fourth Street that City Council leased for the division in March.

POSITIVE CASH FLOW

The council is expected to approve a 30-month lease extension for the city-owned property at 1800 Stewart St.

The extension will allow the lessee, CF Santa Monica Office V.I., LP, to continue to negotiate to sublease the space to Agensys, a Santa Monica biotech firm specializing in cancer-fighting drug treatments.

Under the suggested agreement, the lease termination date would be extended from July 1, 2030 to Jan. 1, 2033. The lessee currently pays the city $866,000 per year to lease 124,000 square feet.

The council is also expected to approve an air rights licensing agreement that would bring City Hall $54,280 in revenue.

The proposed agreement is related to a three-level pedestrian bridge the developers of the new Travelodge Hotel are seeking to incorporate into their project. The bridge would connect portions of the 164-room hotel, slated for construction at 1515-1525 Ocean Ave. and 1530 Second St.

The proposed agreement is for air and subsurface rights related to the project for a 75-year period.

nickt@smdp.com

Nine L.A. homes evacuated over threat of a mudslide

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press Writer

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. Nine Los Angeles canyon homes were evacuated Monday and people in nearby foothill communities packed their cars and got ready to flee in case a rainstorm brought mud and rocks flowing down from fire-blackened slopes.

The National Weather Service predicted a cold storm from Canada would bring strong winds and an inch or two of rain in most areas of Southern California, with up to 4 inches in some locations.

Nine homes were placed under mandatory evacuation in Sunland, one of a chain of foothill communities northeast of downtown Los Angeles that were threatened by the huge Station Fire this summer.

That blaze charred 250 square miles of Angeles National Forest while burning 89 homes and reducing slopes of water-retaining timber and brush to stumps and ash.

A task force several months ago identified the nine canyon homes as being in a potential site of mudslides or flooding, but no problems had been reported by early afternoon, said Chris Ipsen, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Emergency Management Department.

People in 13 other homes were warned to be prepared to evacuate if the situation worsens, Ipsen said.

Sandbags and concrete barriers were put in place not long after the fire was doused.

Mudslide worries remained high in La Canada Flintridge, about 14 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

In the Paradise Valley neighborhood, homeowner Gary Stibal kept watch on the burned mountain slope that rises sharply from his backyard. His yard was freshly cleared of 5 feet of mud that gushed down during a brief cloudburst earlier this fall.

"People are nervous," he said as raindrops pattered on his umbrella. "It's letting up a little bit now, but I guess there's more heavy stuff coming in later."

His car was packed and, like others in the neighborhood, was parked in the driveway facing the street for a quick getaway.

Stibal also kept an eye on runoff.

"It's starting to get a little muddy now; earlier this morning it was clear water coming down but now as the ground gets more saturated it's more of the ash," he said.

Residents who see signs of any problem shouldn't wait to be ordered to leave, said Bob Spencer of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

"If they can see debris flowing down the street ... the best, wisest and safest thing to do is just get in the vehicle and just go down the hill and leave," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Up and running

For the first time in nearly three years the Santa Monica Fire Department today will field emergency calls directly from residents when it flips the switch on its dispatch center.

Challenged by a staffing shortage and outdated technological equipment, the center closed in early 2007 when the SMFD decided to merge dispatch operations with the Los Angeles Fire Department Regional Dispatch System to improve efficiency.

The change however led to problems, including confusion caused by emergency calls that came from addresses that existed both in Santa Monica and Los Angeles. After nearly two years, the City Council in January decided to reactivate the old communications center in the Public Safety Facility, agreeing to address the issue that led to its deactivation in the first place, including staffing and equipment.

The revised center will allow the SMFD to take advantage of significant technological advances, including an updated computer aided dispatch system and an automatic vehicle location system. This technology will provide a higher level of safety and service to the public, fire officials said.

The reactivation of the dispatch center will not require the public to change the way they request resources to respond to an emergency. The public will continue to dial 911, and as a convenience to the public, the non-emergency phone numbers previously in use are still in operation and will be posted on local Web sites and sent to the media.

DAILY PRESS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Parents can do God's work

Editor:

I just read Mr. Whitehead's editorial concerning the west forgetting God and placing material values ahead of spiritual ("Have we forgotten God? Nov. 30), and while I agree wholeheartedly that materialism is a rampant problem, I wholeheartedly disagree that the answer lies with God.

The fundamental problem with God as a solution is that his will is open to interpretation by incredibly unintelligent people. You cannot deny that the worst atrocities committed against humanity were conceived and implemented in the name of God. I understand I am speaking in extremes here so I would like to give you an example from my own personal life, so maybe you can understand why blind faith for so many is an impossibility.

My name is Noah and my brother's name is Jonah and needless to say my mother is a devout, born again Christian. When I was 11, my father left my mother with two young adolescent boys just trying to figure out the world with no real father figure. Needless to say, it was a time of great stress and heartache for my mother, so she sought the advice of her pastor. Her pastor's flock was that of Calvary Chapel in Colorado Springs. I am sure you are aware that Calvary is know for its accepting atmosphere where everyone is welcome and is fairly liberal as far as Christian churches go, as well as having a congregation with well over 5,000 members. His advice to my mother came in the form of a gift, it was a 2-by-10-inch board cut down into a paddle with a bible verse burned into it concerning sparing the rod and spoiling the child, with the admonishment that she should be beating her children on a more frequent basis. I will never forget the day she came home with that paddle, and the total alienation I felt concerning God.

My point is this, instead of relying on God as a crutch, maybe we should focus more on educating our children as to what is important. I have three sons that go to school in Santa Monica, and every day one of them tells me about something his friend has that he needs, and every day we discuss why we think he needs it, and in the end he is generally happy with what he has.

So maybe forgetting God is OK as long as parents are willing to pick up the slack.

Noah Bishop
Santa Monica

Loss of freedom found in rent control

Editor:

In response to A. Borden's letter of Dec. 2 concerning prohibition of smoking in apartments, A. Borden wrote, "When one person's freedoms are diminished, we all suffer." The diminishment of freedom in Santa Monica started in 1979, when rent control diminished an owner's property rights. We feel the results today, under a paternalistic local government that now has no hesitation in regulating every aspect of our lives. Santa Monica has long been sledding down the "slippery slope" that A. Borden worries about. I agree we should be safeguarding everyone's freedoms. Let's start with challenging one of the greatest affronts to freedom, rent control.

Thomas A. Nitti
Santa Monica





Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Solutions for a cleaner, greener future on Earth

AS THE 192 LEADERS FROM EVERY COUNTRY at the United Nations meet in Copenhagen to address climate change, there are a number of things each of us can do to reduce our respective footprints.

Human beings are exceptional problem solvers and for every problem there are at least three solutions.

One of the biggest challenges facing us today is how we source our energy. Currently, we depend upon coal, oil and gas or fossil fuels derived from prehistoric forests of the Carboniferous Period of 354 to 290 million years ago.

Burning these fossil fuels has elevated the most publicized of the greenhouse gases — CO2 — about 36 percent higher than they were in the 18th century. Moreover, in the U.S. 86 million barrels of oil are consumed daily; two-thirds of it are being used by cars, trucks and planes. The remaining one-third or 28 million barrels are currently used for making synthetic wardrobes and ubiquitous plastics. Man-made fertilizers and pesticides are also derived from fossil fuels.

Clearly, our insatiable demand upon fossil fuels will not change over night. However, there are tremendous green business opportunities that many blue-chip corporations like General Electric, Google, Intel, Apple, and Pacific Gas and Electric are utilizing innovation, increasing their market share and creating jobs — at the same time lessening our dependence upon fossil fuels.

Each of us can help out. Here are a few suggestions that will save you money and reduce your footprint.

A professional home-energy audit will save you at least 30 percent on your utility bills and reduce your CO2 emissions by 9,515 pounds a year. Also, CarbonFootPrint.com offers excellent tips on reducing your home's energy loss.

Many electronic appliances, even after they've been shut off, continue to draw electricity — this is known as a "phantom load." Phantom loads account for more than 28 million tons of CO2 emissions in America each year and cost a whopping $4 billion a year on electricity for things we are not using.

The phantom load from your house could be as high as 15 percent of your monthly electricity bill. Purchase smart power strips with on/off switches so that you can turn off when you are not running anything, or when you go to sleep and when you go on holidays.

When purchasing any new electronic equipment make sure that it has been EnergyStar certified (www.EnergyStar.gov). By using EnergyStar appliances in 2006, Americans saved $16 billion on their utility bills or the equivalent to taking 26 million cars off the road.

Plant trees strategically around your home. They will shade your home in the summer, lowering wall and roof temperatures by 20 to 40 degrees, keeping your home naturally cooler. A row of evergreen trees can function as an effective windbreak and significantly reduce your winter heating bill and provide habitat for urban critters.

Being water smart not only makes good sense but it can save each household $300 a year. Consider installing low-flow toilets and showerheads and reduce shower times from 7 to 4 minutes. Each home can easily save 7,500 gallons of water a year.

The average American household spends $600 a year on personal care products, many of which are never fully consumed. In addition, many of those products contain ingredients that are hormone disrupters and those man-made chemicals have been found in over 80 percent of streams tested in the wild. Consider supporting Tom's of Maine (http://TomsofMaine.com) or Burt's Bees (http://Burtsbees.com).

Over 100 years ago the phrase "you are what you eat" was coined. Eating organic food and regularly exercising is central to every anti-aging program. Consider shopping at Whole Foods or Jimbos. Safeway, Sam's Club and most grocery stores have bays of organic foods, which are affordable, especially if you buy in season. Only buy organic honey because about 40 percent of honey supplied to America annually comes from China — a country with lax pesticide regulations.

A 2007 survey showed that only 42 percent of workers turn off lights and only 34 percent turn off their computers when work is done. If those workers did shut off the lights and shut down their computers over $4.5 billion in energy costs would be saved along with 29 million tons of CO2 emissions.

Consider taking your own lunch to work each day and you can save $2,000 a year and help reduce American landfills by 2 million tons of trash annually.

Irrespective of whether you work from home or at a company office, think twice before you print, and when you print please use both sides of the paper.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council the pulp and paper industry contributes more to environmental degradation than any other industry by polluting waterways with dioxins and other known cancer-causing chemicals and destroying wildlife habitat. Only use recycled content paper http://greenhome.com/products/office/office_supplies/.

At the end of the day it is up to each one of us to do the right thing: Reduce, reuse and recycle, and by all of us lending a helping hand we can ensure a healthy future for our children.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker, conservation biologist and author of "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to tax plastic bags

ALMOST FOUR YEARS AGO I WROTE A column about plastic bags. It was called "Trashing poo bags." In it I wrote:

"I'd like to propose that as a society we resolve to make this world a better place to be. This is not one of those, "Help the homeless, feed the poor, cloth the naked," types of columns. No, what I'd like to see is very simple. I'd like to see this city, and perhaps this state, if we can get someone in the state Capitol to pay attention, to tax the use of those horrible plastic bags at the grocery store. Those super thin, non-recyclable, plastic bags are a wonder. They can hold 30 pounds of potatoes, but if I have a carton of milk and a dozen eggs, the handles break."

That column resulted in me meeting with the president of the lobbying group for the plastic film manufacturers who told me of the great strides the industry is making in recycling and education of the users. I recall him telling me that the grocery stores are trained in the proper use and filling requirements of the bags and that the practice of double bagging is generally not necessary. Well, I still get my bags double bagged at Ralphs — even when I request them not to.

I received feedback from our local City Councilmember Kevin McKeown who told me the council was working on a proposal and that he was the leader of the charge. I reviewed the proposal by then Assemblymember Lloyd Levine who wanted to implement a proposal for the reduction of use and recycling of the bags.

When I proposed a tax on the bags, even though I used them prolifically for the mandated clean up of my dog's droppings. I thought that it would be a good idea to have a $1 tax per bag.

At the time I wrote, "In Santa Monica there are about 86,000 residents, not including the daytime inflow of office workers and tourists. At an average of 300 bags a year, that means about 26 million bags a year are used. We could definitely cut down on the use of those things. I'd like to see the tax be $1 per bag and the funds earmarked for purchasing green space in the city. I'm reasonably certain that a tax of $1 per bag would decrease the amount of the bags in significant ways almost immediately."

I still think that If we taxed them at $1 per bag, and that caused usage to drop by 95 percent, we would reduce our annual use by 24.5 million bags. The remaining usage would generate about $1.3 million — just enough to buy a corner lot somewhere in the city.

The numbers of bags that are used are staggering when you consider it on a statewide basis. But if we did this on a statewide level, here's what the numbers would look like. With a population of almost 36 million people, we use almost 11 billion of those bags a year, probably more. If use dropped by 95 percent and we had $1 tax per bag, we could raise $540 million. I think it would make great legislation. It would accomplish two goals that are hard to argue with, in a non-confrontational manner.

I went to the state Web site to determine what the status was of Assemblymember Levine's proposal, as he was termed out in 2008, it turns out, nothing has happened. Well, that's not totally true, there are a pair of proposals in the Assembly and state Senate to promote a recycling plan, one of which has a per bag cost of $0.001. Yes, you read that correctly, one tenth of one cent.

I did however find that the Assembly has continued to be consumed with the proper regulation of excrement. Assemblymember Dymally introduced AB 311 in the 2007-08 session calling for the regulation of colon-hydrotherapists, students and establishments. Yup, this is what we send them to Sacramento for. It also established a board for the review of practices and procedures, setup a fund that must be contributed to by the practitioners of hydrotherapy. Thankfully this idea seems to have been flushed.

Back to our little burg, I'd like to see the city of Santa Monica create a tax that I could stand behind with full support. It's been years, and the only thing we have to show for the improvement is carry-out plastic has been reduced — a noble cause no doubt — but seriously, can we deal with these bags already? It's a much bigger problem than the carry-out box for my take home part of my amazingly huge omelet at the Omelet Parlor.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Raising future couch potatoes

A recent state report on the physical fitness of fifth, seventh and ninth grade students throughout the state found that not even half of Santa Monica's students could pass all six requirements of the test.

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

What do you think about the state of physical education in schools? What role should parents be playing?

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

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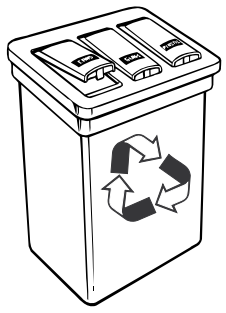
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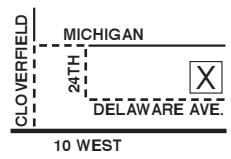


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Santa Monica From A to Z

Alisandra Rand and Melissa Rader
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sweet tooth contractors

FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS, THE Fairmont Miramar Hotel has displayed a gingerbread replica of Santa Monica during the holidays. In addition to the bank with its gold coined roof, the post office, library, Fairmont hotel, school and church, this year's city boasts surfers catching waves made of rock candy off a replica of the Santa Monica Pier, with a Ferris wheel on one side and a circus tent (representing Cirque du Soleil's Kooza) on the other. Just behind the pier are a Farmers' Market and the promenade's giant Christmas tree. This veritable masterwork of gingerbread is the centerpiece of the Fairmont's "Meet Me Under The Fig Tree" community event. This year 10 classrooms from local schools helped create the gingerbread city.

On the way to the Fairmont we ran into Victoria Taylor, 6, and her mother Maria. This is their third year attending. Maria was surprised there wasn't any advertising for it this year. Victoria thinks maybe that's a good thing; she tells me she's been looking forward to it for months. Although her class wasn't one of the ones competing for the grand prize, she plans to meet her friends from school and our first stop was the voting.

After casting our votes for best gingerbread house, we headed to the festive outdoor area. The first thing Victoria noticed was the bouncy. (What is it with those things?) But along the way we were all distracted by a table of treats from the Vanilla Bake Shop that looked like it was straight out of a fairy tale. We sampled miniature puddings, tiny cupcakes and yummy cookies.

A cookie or two later, while her mom and I waited for an espresso, Victoria was off and into one of the front bungalows that had been converted into a holiday arts and crafts house for the evening. When we went in to check on her, she was first in line for the OC Balloon Dude, who made her a very cute yellow dog. Before diving into ornament making and cookie decorating, she was determined to find some hot cocoa, which was delish.

When she went back to do crafts, I decided to check out the silent auction benefiting Chrysalis, an nonprofit that helps the homeless become self sufficient. Maria told me that last year she got a present for her boss and the year before she got a great trip to Whistler. I would have loved to bid on the photo shoots but there was no way my family would make it 'til 6:30 p.m. We did get a big kick out of the snow fall on our way out.

Inspired by the gingerbread city, we decided to construct a simple gingerbread house for ourselves at home. Since Halloween, I have been hoarding candy with "do not eat" marked all over the bag. Amazingly, the skittles survived and we were able to follow the instructions provided by Lisa Rowland Snow in American Cake Decorating magazine, a terrific source for learning about the design and construction of cakes (Dec. 2006 issue, illustrations by Ray Turner. See our blog for template and recipe). The baking went very smoothly and the gingerbread actually tasted delicious, especially considering we were expecting a mouthful of cardboard.

Unfortunately, the intricacies of gingerbread building were beyond the 2-year-old brain. Zora and Addison spent their time swiping candy off the table and sneaking bites from a roof or a door. At one point, Zora found the food coloring and ended up looking like the Joker before I chased her down with a bucket of wipes.

Dash, the 4-year-old, loved putting the house together, although he needed some help with frosting application. He thought it was a big, delicious, three-dimensional puzzle. His patience wore out before we reached the decoration stage, and most of the construction materials ended up in his stomach. Snow's best idea was to use a sugar cone as a tree base and cover it with green frosting to make a Christmas tree that could be decorated with M&Ms. Of course, before we got around to attaching the candy, the cute, frosting tree was just a memory.

Next time, we would build the houses ahead of time, and just have the kids decorate them with candy. Also, we would also dole out the candy in small amounts instead of setting it out on the table. A giant bag of candy is just too much temptation for kids who aren't usually allowed to eat food coloring and preservatives! Older kids suffering through geometry and algebra might enjoy designing the house (or a mansion, lighthouse, or yurt) as a practical way to employ their hard-won skills. Also, the recipe is so simple that children of all ages can participate in the baking (I just wasn't feeling that brave this time).

For those who have trouble with a stove, Wilton offers a pre-baked gingerbread kit that includes all the candies and frosting that you may need. Find it at stores like Michael's and Jo-Ann Fabrics. Costco has a kit that comes with the house already frosted together. Sur la Table also has a bake and make kit that requires a little more effort.

In addition to viewing the gingerbread city at the Fairmont Miramar, there are other activities we did to reinforce the whole gingerbread concept. For story time, we read the classics "The Gingerbread Man" and "Hansel and Gretel" (the witch lived in a gingerbread house). We also plan to check out the exhibit "The Science of Gingerbread" at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana. It's a bit of a trek, but you can participate in activities and learn interesting things about the sweet treat, such as the fact that Queen Elizabeth used to present honored guests with their portraits in gingerbread decorated with gold-dipped cloves. The Science Center also has a gingerbread house contest every year. It will be fun to compare our efforts to the big winners. Maybe next year … .

Find a local calendar of children's events and helpful links at smatoz.blogspot.com, or leave a suggestion for places to visit.

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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
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Christmas, Oy vey!

Right near our house, on the corner across from Whole Foods and next to the car wash, there is an empty lot. My son and I pass this lot multiple times a day on our way to school in the car, running errands or just grabbing a bagel.

Normally, this is not a big deal. Sometimes, though, it is a huge deal, like when they transformed the lot into a pumpkin patch. I thought how lucky are we that we can just stumble right outside our door for this much fun.

But now the pumpkins are gone. Then Ben asked what comes next and I, not wanting to lie, said the Christmas trees.

And then every day, Ben kept a lookout until the trees arrived. He would crane his neck from the car seat or from the stroller, depending how we passed by. I was excited by his excitement. We rejoiced when we saw the trucks arrive setting up the lot for the trees. But suddenly then Ben was really excited, like really, really excited. Suddenly Ben was noticing Santa on chocolate lollipops at Whole Foods from aisles away. Suddenly Ben was realizing it was Christmas. Suddenly Ben wanted a tree.

This may not seem like a problem, just a 3-year-old getting into the holiday spirit. But we're Jewish. Actually, at first I didn't think it was any different from admiring the big blow-up turkey at Ralphs or visiting the pumpkin patch, but Halloween and Thanksgiving are not religious holidays.

I have never had a Christmas tree in my house (even somehow when I had non-Jewish roommates) and neither has my husband. And I don't plan on having one. This time of year, my home has a menorah. I love Christmas trees and their lights and decorations, but it is a celebratory expression of a religion that is not mine.

But how do I explain to Benjamin that this tree that has sparkly pretty lights with beautiful decorations that he has been drooling over with weeks of anticipation is not something we have in our house? So far I have just told him that we are not buying one and he has not yet crossed into massive begging. He seems content to just visit and admire.

But then we went to the mall to play on the ride-on games and Benjamin noticed (and when I say noticed I mean became transfixed) by their huge tree and by Santa.

It was like Santa was a movie star. Ben hid behind my leg, poking his head out to make sure he was still there and then hiding again, not able to handle his beauty. Perhaps I didn't help because I was excited by Santa as well. Santa even gave him a candy cane and Ben said thank you in a barely audible whisper, unsure if he was allowed to speak directly to the actual Santa.

I hadn't really thought yet about how to handle explaining religion or the differences in religion to my 3-year-old son. I do plan to explore and explain it, hopefully with great respect for all religions, but I figured the concepts might be too big for him now. To be honest, I haven't even really explained Chanukah to him yet. But here we are with Christmas everywhere, and I want him to understand why I may say no to certain things, like buying a tree.

But honoring our religion doesn't mean we can't participate in the customs of other religions. I distinctly remember going to the mall with my grandmother and great grandmother, both two very religious women, and seeing Santa. To me, it was not about Jesus or religion. It was about a special visit to the mall with my grandmothers. I can't remember if my very observant Jewish grandmother let me sit on Santa's lap for a picture, but I am sure if I had asked she would have.

IT WAS LIKE SANTA WAS A MOVIE STAR. BEN HID BEHIND MY LEG, POKING HIS HEAD OUT TO MAKE SURE HE WAS STILL THERE AND THEN HIDING AGAIN, NOT ABLE TO HANDLE HIS BEAUTY.

And even though I thought seeing Santa was really cool, I still never had a tree. The trips to the mall did not change who I am.

My mother will be here this year for Chanukah and she has already had shipped to our house a play menorah and plastic latkes for Benjamin. As his grandmother, perhaps she will provide a more traditional experience of this holiday, as my grandmother did for me. Though, for the record, she is also the one who sparked his initial interest in Santa, though it was by accident when she bought him The Polar Express, since he loves trains.

Having my son fawn over Santa is not the worst thing in the world, in fact it is pretty adorable.

We will make our way through each holiday season, finding the right balance between encouraging his curiosity with the world around him and our traditions. We will find our way. And though I am pretty sure we will never have a tree, perhaps someday he'll have his picture taken with Santa, if he wants to. But that day at the mall, even though we kept going back to admire the big tree and to gape at Santa, he wasn't interested. And I admit, I was relieved.

Rachel Zients Schinderman lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

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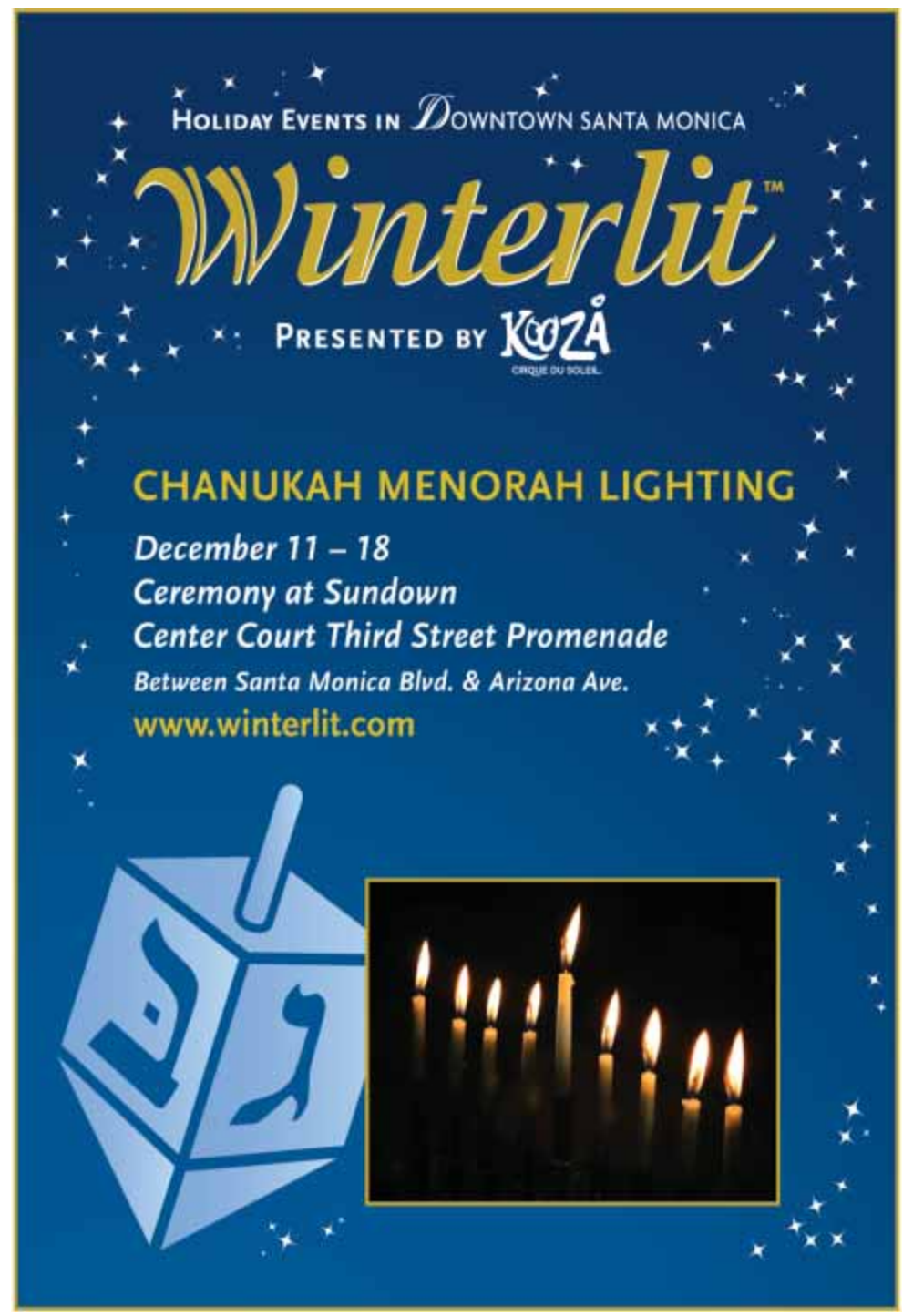


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Crying, frustration leads to baby shaking injuries

FROM **ARREST** PAGE 1

forth inside the skull, causing bruising, swelling, and bleeding, which can lead to permanent, severe brain damage or death.

There are various signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome. The consequences of less severe cases may not be brought to the attention of medical professionals and may never be diagnosed, according to the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome. In most severe cases, which usually result in death or severe neurological consequences, the child usually becomes immediately unconscious and suffers rapidly escalating, life-threatening central nervous system dysfunction.

In the case involving Hillman, the baby was taken off of life support per a court order. She was pronounced dead at 10:24 a.m. on Nov. 22, more than a month after she was initially injured.

On Nov. 25, an autopsy was performed and the coroner found evidence consistent with the previous medical findings and declared the death a homicide.

The investigation is still ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact SMPD Detective Michael Bambrick at (310) 458-8932 or Sgt. Ira Rutan at (310) 458-8959 or the Santa Monica Police Department (24 hours) (310) 458-8495.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can call the We-Tip hotline at 1(800) 78-CRIME (27463).

When a baby is shaken, the brain rotates within the skull cavity, injuring or destroying brain tissue. When shaking occurs, blood vessels feeding the brain can be torn, leading to bleeding around the brain. Blood pools within the skull, sometimes creating more pressure within the skull and possibly causing additional brain damage. Retinal bleeding is very common.

The long-term consequences can be learning and physical disabilities, blindness, cerebral palsy and seizures, among others.

Shaken baby injuries usually occur in children younger than 2 years old, but may be seen in children up to the age of 5, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Prevention is similar to the prevention of child abuse in general. New parents, babysitters and other caregivers can be warned about the dangers of shaking infants. A child's crying and irritation are common triggers for the frustration that can lead to violence in the caregiver. Some experts offer caregivers strategies to cope with their own frustrations; for example, they may be reminded that they are not always responsible when babies cry.

kevinh@smdp.com

Rental market offers ‘opportunity for bargain hunters’

FROM **RENTS** PAGE 1

Mark Verge, who owns Westside Rentals.

“If you’re trying to make a deal, this is the time. Do it now, do not wait until January first,” he said.

“There’s some presents to be had. December’s always slow but this year’s slower than most.”

Wes Wellman, president of Action Apartment Owners Association, which represents about 500 landlords in Santa Monica and the Westside, agreed the market favors prospective tenants.

“The next month or so represents a real opportunity for bargain hunters,” he said. “We’ve seen a pick-up in activity just in the last week or two in response to price slashing by apartment owners.”

An apartment hunter who gave her name only as Linda said she lived in Santa Monica for 18 years but left after developing an illness that limited her income. After noticing recent sharp declines in rental prices, though, she said she re-entered the market.

“Two years ago I wouldn’t even be looking,” the part time Santa Monica College instructor said.

Vacancies have increased as tenants have been forced to move out after losing jobs are suffering pay cuts. They have looked to other areas of Los Angeles County for more affordable rents.

GOING COMMERCIAL

While Santa Monica commercial districts have avoided the skyrocketing vacancy rates that have plagued some Southland cities, commercial brokers have seen deals slow to a crawl in the past year.

“This has been the toughest year that I’ve seen in the 20 years we’ve been on the [Third Street] Promenade,” said Barbara Tenzer of Tenzer Commercial.

Rafael Padilla, principal of Santa Monica-based PAR Commercial Brokerage, said retail and office rents in the city are down 20 percent to 25 percent from a year ago. Office vacancy, he said, has gone from less than 5 percent to about 12 percent.

Santa Monica once was home to some of the most expensive commercial lease rates in the region, with some landlords charging as much as $6 per square foot. That has dropped to $4 or less in some areas.

But both Tenzer and Padilla said they’ve seen encouraging signs in the second half of 2009.

Padilla said larger chain stores have begun to re-enter the real estate market after staying away in the first six months of the year. He noted recent retail deals in Santa Monica with Chipotle Mexican Grill and with phone companies Sprint and Verizon.

Tenzer said she’s noticed a trend of more foreign-owned business seeking retail space in Downtown, and more people willing to open up businesses.

“It seems that the scariness of what happened — people are sort of adjusting to it. It’s not going to be what it was but we’re all going to survive,” she said.

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Photo courtesy Santa Monica History Museum

NEW DIGS: **Museum President/CEO Louise Gabriel (right) taking measure of the new museum with associates Andrea Engstrom, director of development and project manager, image archives, and Ho Nguyen, director of operations and exhibits designer.**

Museum gets a new name

FROM **MUSEUM** PAGE 1

board members felt the time was right to go from the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum to the much shorter Santa Monica Museum, Gabriel said.

The new facility, which is being built on the east side of the Main Library on Seventh Street, is expected to be completed by April, 2010.

When finished, the project will double the size of the museum's current facility on Euclid Street, and feature state-of-the-art technology that will bring "alive" Santa Monica's vibrant and unique past and present for thousands of tourists, residents, school groups and others who are expected to visit the museum.

Hands-on interactive displays will include a Douglas DC-3 aircraft, Whirlwind Dipper roller coaster (where with the touch of a button visitors can be transported back to the 1920s Santa Monica Pier), "Santa Monica: Then and Now," and "In the Headlines" featuring front-page newspaper stories about Santa Monica. Permanent exhibits will include the Santa Monica and Ocean Park piers, Muscle Beach, bathing beauties, Third and Main streets, the city's early film industry, artists and architecture, Palisades Park and Route 66.

Early road races, tennis, golf, surfing, skateboarding and other popular local activities also will be highlighted through feature story cases, while other displays will honor prominent Santa Monicans such as General Jimmy Doolittle, Shirley Temple, Lawrence Welk, June Lockhart and Barbara Billingsley.

One of the museum's most popular gathering places is expected to be its Morley Builders Santa Monica and California Research Library, which will feature an extensive collection of rare books and documents. It will provide a hands-on, discover-and-explore environment for teachers, students, history buffs and others seeking digital access to rare images and artifacts.

"The infrastructure of the new 5,200-square-foot facility is in place, and the build-out is continuing at a steady pace," said Iao Katagiri, construction committee chairman. "With steel stud framing of the walls in place, the current focus is on installation of electrical, plumbing and museum-quality climate control systems. Once that work has been completed, alarms, fire sprinklers and other security systems will be installed to ensure the safety of the museum's rare historical collections."

Katagiri noted that the framing already reveals the new museum's stunning architecture, which will be highlighted by a dramatic pyramid ceiling in the lobby. Other highlights will be an extensive soffit for the museum's library wall that was specifically designed to display Work Projects Administration-Era paintings of Santa Monica's past, and the permanent gallery's graceful, exquisitely curved ceiling.

"Following some delays due to the recession and general economic slowdown, I am happy to report that construction is now proceeding on schedule, and that we expect to have the museum completed and ready for the public to enjoy by next spring," Katagiri said.

Glenn Ricard Construction is serving as the project's general contractor. The architect of the new museum is Kristina Andresen, Andresen Assocs. Architects.

Gabriel also acknowledged and thanked the hundreds of individual and corporate donors to the museum's capital campaign whose contributions helped make construction of the new facility a reality. Approximately $1.5 million has been raised to date to date to offset construction costs estimated to be about $2.3 million. Operating costs and maintenance are expected to run another $3 million.

"Without the generous contributions from the City of Santa Monica, Dr. John Gilmore, Bob Gabriel Co- Insurance, Morley Builders, Macerich - Santa Monica Place, Ron and Ann Funk, Billie Leone, the widow of Baron Michele Leone, and the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California and others, this would never have been possible," Gabriel said. "We hope others will follow their lead and contribute as well so the new facility will be able to serve our community for many years to come."

As for the name change, Gabriel said it was a matter of simplification.

"It's shorter, easier to remember and sums up quite well

everything we're about."

The new logo was created by Bernardo Dagraca, who received $600 as part of an online design competition that drew hundreds of entries.

The museum's board approved of the new name and logo at its last regular monthly meeting.

The Santa Monica History Museum is a non-profit organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and make accessible the rich history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area.

For more information about the museum and the capital campaign, go to www.santamonicahistory.org. Donations can be sent to Santa Monica History Museum, P.O. Box 3059, Santa Monica, Calif., 90408.

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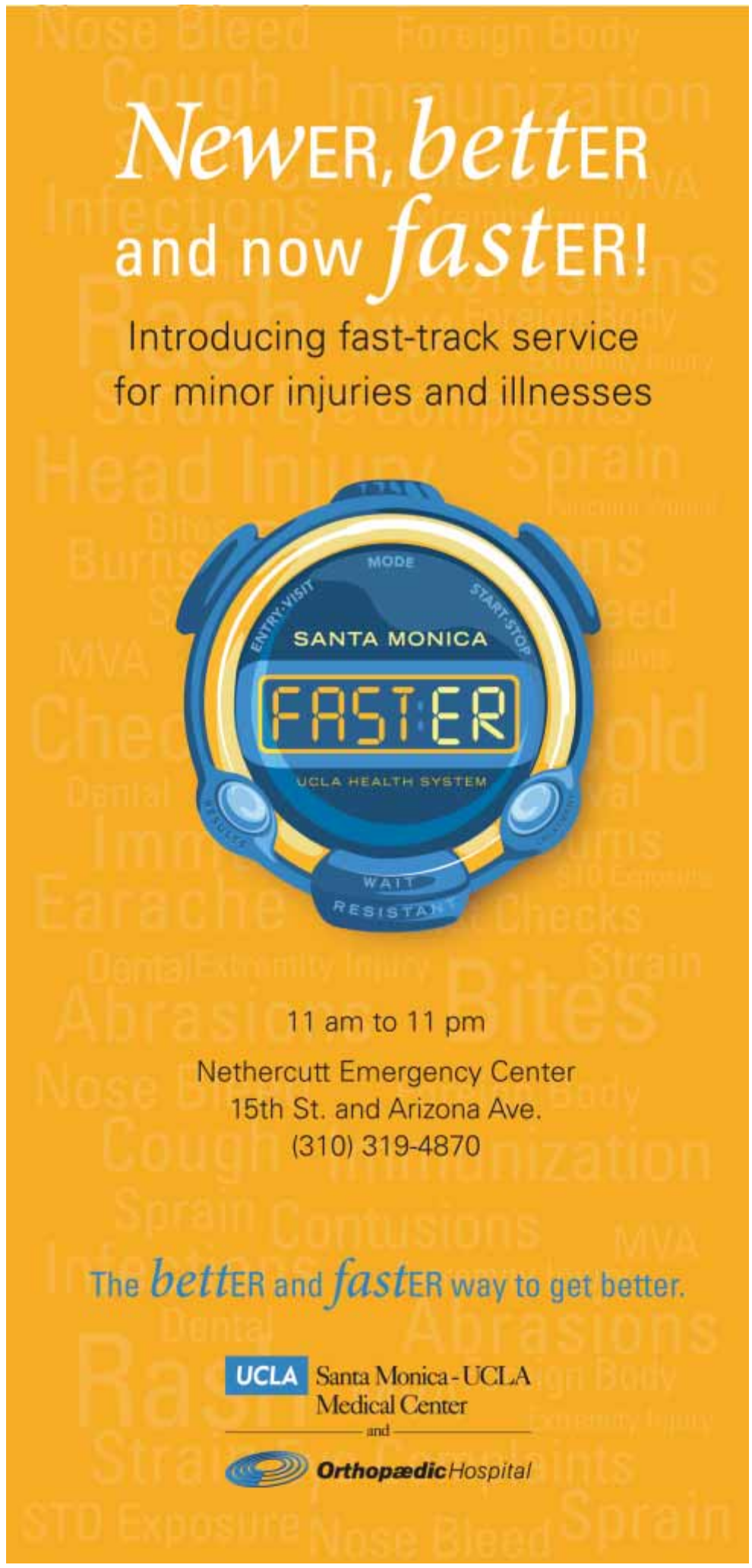








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Whitman says eBay didn't misuse Craigslist data

RANDALL CHASE
AP Business Writer

GEORGETOWN, Del. Former eBay CEO Meg Whitman said Monday she was unaware of any attempt by the Internet marketplace to misuse confidential data from Craigslist to help eBay develop a competing online classifieds business.

Whitman, a Republican candidate for California governor, was the first witness in a trial that began Monday in Delaware, pitting eBay Inc. and Craigslist.

EBay claims that Craigslist founder Craig Newmark and CEO Jim Buckmaster improperly acted to dilute eBay's minority interest after a falling out in 2007. Craigslist claims in a countersuit that eBay used its stake to gain information to help it form a competing classified service, Kijiji.

"In some sense, Craigslist has been a competitor of eBay since the earliest days," Whitman said, noting that while eBay was much larger, both Internet companies provided alternative vehicles to facilitate person-to-person commerce.

Although eBay examined Craigslist's financial data and Web site metrics before it acquired a 28 percent stake in the company in 2004, Whitman denied that eBay officials later misused confidential Craigslist data to benefit Kijiji.

Asked by eBay attorney Michael Rhodes whether she was aware of any effort by eBay to surreptitiously acquire the "secret sauce" of ingredients that spelled business success for Craigslist, Whitman simply responded, "No."

Whitman also testified that eBay was not willing to offer a noncompete agreement to Craigslist.

"We were certainly not prepared to give a noncompete to Craigslist for a minority interest in that company. ... That was a deal breaker for eBay," she said.

In earlier testimony, Whitman noted that eBay made no secret of its desire to acquire Craigslist before settling for a minority share.

She said she met personally with Newmark and Buckmaster in 2004 before sealing a deal in which eBay acquired a 28 percent stake in Craigslist from Phillip Knowlton, whom Whitman described as a disgruntled shareholder upset about the direction of Craigslist and seeking to unload his shares.

"I said, 'Listen, we want to be a good partner; in the end we would like to own all of Craigslist,'" she recalled, adding that she knew that was an unlikely possibility, at least in the short term.

Newmark and Buckmaster rejected a sale but agreed to a three-year "courtship" during which the two companies could determine whether they were a good fit. But after attending just two Craigslist board meetings, eBay founder Pierre Omidyar expressed frustration in his dealings with the company and asked to be replaced as eBay's representative.

Whitman said she was discouraged by the frustration expressed by Omidyar.

"To be honest, I was starting to get concerned, because really nobody doesn't like Pierre," she said.

Omidyar testified that his first Craigslist board meeting was "a little rough," saying he had been looking forward to creating a cooperative partnership and finding ways to work together, only to find Craigslist officials rebuffing his suggestions on how eBay could help Craigslist expand and improve.

"It was (as) if they didn't really want that relationship," Omidyar said.

Omidyar also testified that neither Buckmaster nor Newmark expressed any concern about him serving simultaneously on the boards of Craigslist and eBay, and that he had made it clear to them that eBay was aggressively pursuing the online classifieds market, albeit without specifically mentioning Kijiji.

Testimony was to resume Tuesday morning.

Nissan to sell electric LEAF in San Francisco area

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO Nissan Motors says it will sell its new electric car in the San Francisco Bay area as part of a limited rollout, citing the region's commitment to building electric car infrastructure.

Company spokeswoman Katherine Zachary says the Nissan LEAF is a zero-emission, all-electric vehicle that will be on sale in the Bay area in December 2010.

Zachary says the price will be comparable to a mid-size family sedan, and that a final retail price will be announced in the spring.

Nissan says San Francisco and other area cities have vowed to streamline permitting for homeowners who want to install charging stations at home, making the area a perfect market for the LEAF.

The car, however, will not be compatible with the network of battery-swapping stations planned by local officials and Palo Alto-based Better Place.

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EPA: Greenhouse gases endanger human health

DINA CAPPIELLO & H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON The Environmental Protection Agency took a major step Monday toward regulating greenhouses gases, concluding that climate changing pollution threatens the public health and the environment.

The announcement came as the Obama administration looked to boost its arguments at an international climate conference that the United States is aggressively taking actions to combat global warming, even though Congress has yet to act on climate legislation. The conference opened Monday in Copenhagen.

The EPA said that the scientific evidence surrounding climate change clearly shows that greenhouse gases "threaten the public health and welfare of the American people" and that the pollutants — mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels — should be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

"These long-overdue findings cement 2009's place in history as the year when the United States government began addressing the challenge of greenhouse-gas pollution," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson at news conference.

The action by the EPA, which has been anticipated for months, clearly was timed to add to the momentum toward some sort of agreement on climate change at the Copenhagen conference and try to push Congress to approve climate legislation.

"This is a clear message to Copenhagen of the Obama administration's commitments to address global climate change," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., lead author of a climate bill before the Senate. "The message to Congress is crystal clear: get moving."

Under a Supreme Court ruling, the so-called endangerment finding is needed before the EPA can regulate carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases released from automobiles, power plants, and factories under the federal Clean Air Act.

The EPA signaled last April that it was inclined to view heat-trapping pollution as a threat to public health and welfare and began to take public comments under a formal rulemaking. The action marked a reversal from the Bush administration, which had refused before leaving office to issue the finding, despite a conclusion by EPA scientists that it was warranted.

Business groups have strongly argued against tackling global warming through the Clean Air Act, saying it is less flexible and more costly than the cap-and-trade bill being considered before Congress. On Monday, some of those groups questioned the timing of the EPA's announcement, calling it political.

"The implications of today's action by EPA are far-reaching...individual Americans and consumers and businesses alike will be dramatically affected by this decision," said Charles T. Drevna, the president of the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association. Drevna, in a statement, said "it is hardly the time to risk the remainder of the U.S. industrial sector in an attempt to achieve a short-term international public relations victory."

Any regulations are also likely to spawn lawsuits and lengthy legal fights.

The EPA and the White House have said regulations on greenhouse gases will not be imminent even after an endangerment finding, saying that the administration would prefer that Congress act to limit such pollution through an economy-wide cap on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Nevertheless, the EPA has begun the early stages of developing permit requirements on carbon dioxide pollution from large emitters such as power plants. The administration also has said it will set the first-ever greenhouse gas emissions standards for automobiles and raise fuel economy to 35 miles per gallon by 2016 to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The EPA's readiness to tackle climate change is expected to give a boost to U.S. arguments at the climate conference opening in Copenhagen this week, where the United States offer a provisional target to reduce greenhouse gases.

While the House has approved climate legislation that would cut emissions by 17 percent by 2020 and about 80 percent by mid-century, the Senate has yet to take up the measure amid strong Republican opposition and reluctance by some centrist Democrats.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., lead author of the Senate bill, has argued that if Congress doesn't act, the EPA will regulate greenhouse gas emissions. He has called EPA regulation a "blunt instrument" that would pose a bigger problem for industry than legislation crafted to mitigate some of the costs of shifting away from carbon emitting fossil fuels.

The way was opened for the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to cut climate-changing emissions by the Supreme Court in 2007, when the court declared that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Act. But the court said the EPA must determine if these pollutants pose a danger to public health and welfare before it can regulate them.

Senate confronts abortion in debate on health care

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The divisive issue of abortion emerged Monday as an obstacle to Senate passage of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul as a moderate Democrat proposed tough restrictions that liberals said they could not possibly accept.

The amendment by Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., would bar any private insurance company from offering plans to cover abortion if they receive federal subsidies. In practice, the restriction would apply to most plans within a proposed new insurance marketplace, or exchange, since most people shopping in the exchange would be using federal subsidies to purchase coverage.

The amendment also would block a proposed new government insurance plan from covering abortions except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life.

Joining Nelson in sponsoring the amendment was another anti-abortion Democrat, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, along with eight Republicans. The measure is unlikely to get the necessary 60 votes to pass, but Nelson has threatened to oppose the underlying health care legislation if it doesn't.

"As written, the Senate health care bill allows taxpayer dollars, directly and indirectly, to pay for insurance plans that cover abortion," Nelson said in a statement. "Most Nebraskans, and Americans, do not favor using public funds to cover abortion and as a result this bill shouldn't open the door to do so."

Other Democrats said the amendment, expected to come to a vote Tuesday, goes too far by making it difficult for patients to use their own money to purchase coverage for a legal medical procedure, since there could be few if any plans offering the coverage.

The amendment does let insurance companies set up separate plans with abortion coverage if they're supported solely by private money, but abortion-rights supporters say companies would be unlikely to do so since there would be little market for them, as most potential customers would be shopping with federal dollars.

The bill under consideration in the Senate attempts to solve the issue by allowing private companies that get federal subsidies to offer abortion coverage as long as they strictly segregate private from public funds and use only the private money for abortion coverage.

Nelson and other abortion opponents dismiss that as an accounting gimmick. But Democrats and abortion-rights groups contend that the underlying bill attempts to replicate existing federal laws barring public funds from covering abortion.

"It crosses a line," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich. "The Nelson amendment takes us back, it takes away options on health care coverage. And the biggest concern for me is that it goes beyond what we agreed to in terms of keeping in place a 30-year policy of the federal government to have no federal funding for abortion services."

Nelson's strict abortion language mimics language adopted by the House last month, at the insistence of anti-abortion Democrats over objections from liberals. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops played a large role in forcing the language in the House and released a letter to senators Monday urging passage of Nelson's amendment, contending that without it, the bill "violates this moral principle" against federal funding of elective abortions.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., cannot easily afford to lose Nelson's vote because Reid needs 60 votes in the 100-member Senate to overcome Republican stalling tactics and move forward on debate.

Nelson's defection could force Reid to instead look for support from one or two Republicans, such as moderate Maine senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins. Snowe may be lured if a compromise is reached on allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private businesses, and negotiations were under way Monday toward that goal.

Ohio killer awaits fate as 1st execution on 1 drug

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio A condemned killer scheduled to become the first person in the U.S. put to death with a single drug — in an execution that could take longer than previous procedures — arrived Monday at the Ohio death house.

Kenneth Biros, 51, was sentenced to die Tuesday for killing and dismembering a woman he met in a bar in 1991. It would be the first lethal injection under Ohio's switch from using three drugs to a new one-drug execution method.

In the event that method fails, a backup plan allows executioners to inject drugs directly into muscles.

Ohio overhauled its procedure after the failed attempt to execute Romell Broom, a procedure halted by Gov. Ted Strickland in September. Executioners tried for two hours to find a usable vein for injection, hitting bone and muscle in as many as 18 needle sticks that Broom said were very painful.

Broom, 53, has appealed the state's attempt to try again.

The state had two goals in changing its process. Switching to one drug was meant to end a 5-year-old lawsuit that claims Ohio's three-drug system was capable of causing severe pain. Injection experts and defense attorneys agree the single dose of thiopental sodium will not cause pain.

The backup procedure allowing muscle injection was created in case a situation like Broom's execution happens again.

States are watching Ohio's change, but none have made a similar switch. Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia are among those saying they will keep the three-drug method.

Biros reached the holding area for death row inmates at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville shortly before 10 a.m. Monday. The small cell is about 15 feet from the chamber where inmates are put to death.

It's the second trip to Lucasville for Biros, who spent more than 30 hours in the holding cell in March 2007 before the U.S. Supreme Court stopped his execution and allowed him to challenge Ohio's method at the time, involving three drugs. Biros was resting and appeared relaxed, prisons spokeswoman Julie Walburn said.

Injection experts agree the execution will take longer with the single dose of thiopental sodium than the previous three-drug system. Ohio inmates have generally taken about seven minutes to die. Mark Dershwitz, an anesthesiologist who consulted with Ohio, estimates death could now come in 15 minutes.

Witnesses will be allowed to stay and watch for as long as it takes, Walburn said Monday.

A federal judge earlier Monday refused to delay the execution, and Biros immediately appealed to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Biros argued that the state has failed to fix the problems that led to the unsuccessful execution attempt in September. He said the state still relies on unqualified executioners and lacks limits on how long they are allowed to try to find a vein.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 60°

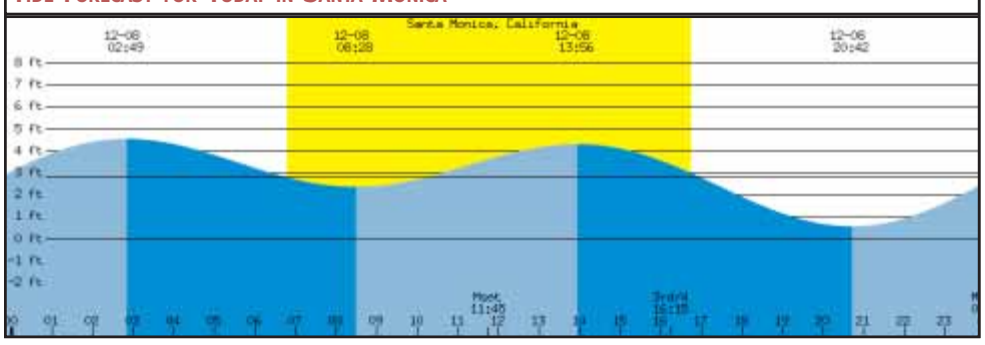
Swell Forecast

Swell would peak with similar size: chest high max for most west facing breaks, smaller at south facing spots. Weather should clear, but winds may still have at least a moderate onshore effect.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see some very significant surf hit the California coast.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **December 2, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- 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: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

MLB

Herzog, Harvey elected to baseball Hall of Fame

BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS Whitey Herzog spent a good, long time stewing about a blown call in the 1985 World Series. So in a strange way, perhaps this fits: He's going into the Hall of Fame, standing next to an umpire.

Herzog and longtime crew chief Doug Harvey got the call Monday, elected to the Hall by the Veterans Committee.

Herzog was a single vote short in his previous try, and might've made it sooner with another crown on his resume. But he was forever linked to Don Denkinger after the ump's infamous miss in Game 6 so long ago cost the St. Louis Cardinals a chance to clinch.

"No, I'm not bitter at Denkinger," Herzog said at Busch Stadium. "He's a good guy, he knows he made a mistake, and he's a human being. It happened at an inopportune time but I do think they ought to have instant replay in the playoffs and World Series."

As for Harvey, Herzog joshed: "I don't know why he should get in. Doug kicked me out of more games than any other umpire."

Like Herzog, Harvey fell one vote shy in the last election. This time, they both easily drew enough support to reach Cooperstown.

"I don't think I would've had my heart broken if I'd missed by another vote or two. But I'm damn happy it's over," Herzog said. "It was just in the last few years when I was only missing by a few votes that I thought, maybe I do deserve it."

Among those who came close this year was former players' union head Marvin Miller. He was on a separate slate for executives and officials, and fell two votes short.

Herzog was a fixture in major league dugouts for two decades. He won the 1982 World Series and three NL pennants with the Cardinals and three division titles with Kansas City. He became the 19th manager to make the hall.

"I think he was one of the guys who started managers looking at doing more creative things," said Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith, one of Herzog's star players. "You'd see him take a relief pitcher and put him in right field."

Smith was a late addition to the 16-member panel that considered managers and umpires. Candidates needed 12 votes (75 percent) to make it, and Herzog got 14 in voting Sunday at the baseball winter meetings. Results were announced Monday, and the 78-year-old Herzog was told he was in.

Dorrel Norman Elvert Herzog drew his nickname because of his light blonde hair while playing minor league ball. He wasn't much of a major league outfielder, but made his mark with the Runnin' Redbirds.

"He's the best baseball man I've ever been around," said Washington manager Jim Riggleman, a former member of Herzog's staff. "If you worked under Whitey, you had a chance to manage in the major leagues."

Herzog started managing in 1973 with Texas and compiled a .532 career winning percentage.

"He gave his entire life to the game," said Hall of Fame manager Tom Lasorda, another Veterans panel member. "When he didn't make it last year, I was very, very down. This year, everyone understood he belonged there."

Herzog and Harvey came close in 2007. They will be enshrined at the induction ceremonies on July 25.

Harvey umpired in the National League for 31 seasons before retiring in 1992. He worked five World Series and six All-Star games, and handled more than 4,600 games overall.

The 79-year-old Harvey was picked on 15 of 16 ballots this time, becoming the ninth umpire in the hall.

"Ten years into my career, my late father said to me that one day I would realize what I have achieved. When I woke up this morning and I received the call from Cooperstown, I realized for the first time exactly what that means," Harvey said in a statement.

"I accept this election ... on behalf of all umpires from the minor leagues to the major leagues and for those who umpire at every level," he said.

Harvey has been in frail health since being diagnosed with oral cancer in 1997. He often chewed a wad of tobacco.

Harvey was distinguished by his shock of silver hair, and players often called him "God" in tribute to his work. He helped bring a new style to umpiring, too. Rather than make emphatic, instant calls, as was the norm when he began in 1962, he would take a split-second to get a snapshot of the play in his mind.

"He had the players' respect. He had the pitchers' respect — most of the time," Lasorda said.

"Sometime you see umpires and you say that guy's not giving his best, he's getting lackadaisical. Not him," he said.

Danny Murtaugh, who guided Pittsburgh to a pair of World Series titles, and umpire Hank O'Day each received eight votes, four shy of election.

A separate 12-person committee that reviewed 10 executives didn't elect anyone. John Fetzer, who owned the Detroit Tigers from 1956-83, got eight votes and fell one vote short.

Miller, who became head of the players' association in 1966 and built the union into a powerful force, drew seven votes. Jacob Ruppert, who owned the Yankees when they acquired Babe Ruth, also had seven.

Roberto Alomar, Edgar Martinez and Barry Larkin are eligible for the first time in hall voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Results will be announced Jan. 6.

The next Veterans Committee vote for players is in 2010.

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AP Sports Writer R.B. Fallstrom contributed to this report.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min
2:05, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25

The Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

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

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00

Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min
2:10, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

Brothers (R) 1hr 50min
12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 10min
1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:25

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

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

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

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

The End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 59min
1:30, 7:00

Everybody's Fine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 48min
9:40

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
11:20 am, 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 7:10, 8:15, 10:10

Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:10 am, 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00

Armored (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

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

Sort it out, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Stay level and even when you need to let someone know that something is not OK. You might not have the influence you want and need, but ultimately, you will. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Let your creativity solve problems. When approaching others, do maintain a caring and gentleness. You might want to push someone to see a situation a certain way. This person won't accept your thinking. The old adage "you can lead a horse to water but you cannot force him to drink" comes to mind. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Everyone has his or her limits, and you are no different. How you handle someone and the choices you make could be more important than you realize. Stay centered with family and those close to you. Tonight: Go home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication moving, stay on top of your work and deal with people directly. You discover the importance of talking through problems and understanding limitations. Tonight: A talk could continue over drinks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You see the value in taking fewer risks and handling financial matters more strongly. Don't OK spending so easily, and tighten up that area of your life. Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a child or loved one. Tonight: Gather your bills together and then pay them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Understand your influence and the implications of a close friend's or family member's rebellion. You need to know when to pull back and say "enough." You know what you are doing. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Know that much is going on behind the scenes. Realize what limitations are stopping you. Think positively about what is happening, even if you are worried or uptight. Everything will work out eventually. Tonight: Keep your plans to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Understand what is happening between you and a friend. A meeting could be crucial in your decision-making process. Understand what makes others tick, especially if you need their support. It is nice to understand others as well. Tonight: Where people are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might have run out of alternatives. What someone suggests just might not make sense. The time might have arrived for you to step up to the plate. You understand a lot more than you realize. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Work with others directly and remain open to their ideas and perhaps a far-fetched concept. You need to find a way of accepting others for who they are. Tonight: Relax to a movie.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Understand what is happening between others and a key associate. Avoid developing the same attitude. You might want to listen to what another person presents. He or she might have much more to offer than you realize. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others run the show, and you come out ahead. If you want to think through a personal matter, do so now. You'll want to approach a key person tomorrow, when this person is more attentive. Tonight: Sort through your options.

Happy birthday

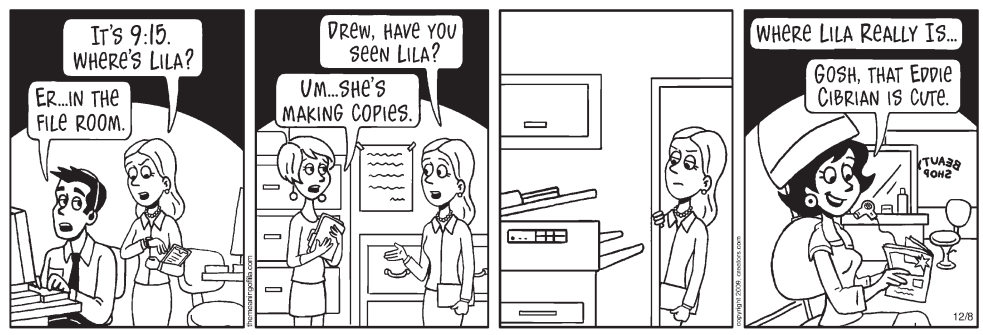
This year, you see life from a much different perspective. Honor more of what you feel, then you'll stay ahead of the game. Even if there is a backfire, you'll feel OK because you have expressed your core. Honor changes and be willing to flow with others. Many responsibilities fall on your shoulders. Others count on your meticulous yet enthusiastic style. If you are single, avoid mixing work and pleasure. You will meet someone quite interesting, but be sure this person is emotionally available. If you are attached, the two of you grow in a new direction because of a greater commitment to your community and/or your sharing more of your public life. VIRGO shoves you into the limelight.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



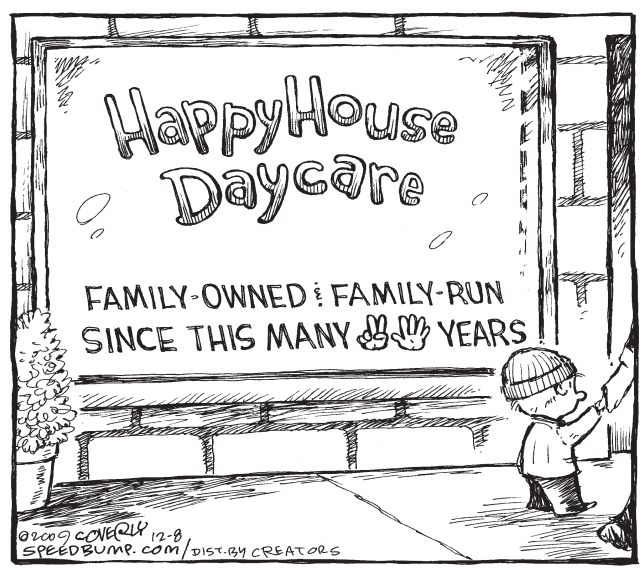
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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(310) 452-7802
1510 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 HMO fee
6 Snare
11 44th president
12 Cherish
13 Wyoming monument
15 Pupil's place
16 McKellen of "X-Men"
17 Poseidon's domain
18 Piano part
20 Strong winds
23 Texas Hold'em, e.g.
27 Way out
28 Furniture wood
29 Army doc
31 Handed over
32 November birthstone
34 Winter ailment
37 Chess piece
38 Masseur's place
41 Paris attraction
44 Keep away from
45 Make blank
46 Peevish
47 Holds a lease

DOWN

1 Program lines
2 Heed
3 Make roads
4 François' friend
5 New Haven students
6 Brief snooze
7 Bustle
8 Pulls along
9 Canada native
10 Zeus' wife
14 Despondent
18 Small, to Simone
19 TV comedian George
20 Sparkler
21 Chopping tool
22 Topper
24 Tease
25 Hydrocarbon suffix
26 Warning color
30 Funny stuff
31 Easy gait
33 Friend
34 Accomplishment
35 Not taped
36 Sky sightings
38 Graceful bird
39 Nuisance
40 God of war
42 In shape
43 Mine matter

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

12-8

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 33 41 51 56
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: $83M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 29 30 42 44
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $36M

Fantasy 5: 1 3 23 29 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 9 8
EVENING: 0 5 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.46.50

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Shipments of Ford passenger vans arrive each month in Baltimore from a Ford plant in Turkey, but each time, workers immediately rip out the non-driver seats and replace the side windows with steel. The reason, according to a September Wall Street Journal report, is to avoid an expensive tariff on imported "delivery vans," which is 10 times the tariff on "passenger vans." Ford found it less costly to re-fit passenger vans than to acknowledge importing delivery vans. Ironically, the tariff was imposed in 1963 specifically to protect the U.S. auto industry from foreign imports.

■ In October, Poland's Polskieradio reported a settlement in the 18-month legal battle between two neighbors in Mikowice over a plastic bucket worth about $4.50. One had sued, accusing the other of ruining the bucket by kicking it. The respondent had elaborately offered proof of innocence by submitting video of the neighbor continuing to use the bucket as before, but the neighbor had countered by calling an "expert" witness, who examined the bucket and concluded that it was probably damaged.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1982 In Suriname several opponents of the military government are killed.

1987 The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is signed.

1987 The Queen Street Massacre: Frank Vitkovic shoots and kills 8 people at the offices of Australia Post in Melbourne, Australia before being killed himself.

1987 The Alianza Lima air disaster.

1991 The leaders of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine sign an agreement dissolving the Soviet Union and establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States.

1991 The Romanian Constitution is adopted in a referendum.

1992 The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted.

WORD UP!

fatuous \FACH-oo-uhs\ , adjective; 1. Inanely foolish and unintelligent; stupid. 2. Illusory; delusive.

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1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1675/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1650.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

3623 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 3, $700 bachelor, lower, fridge, microwave, carpet, blinds, utilities included laundry, no parking, no pets (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2250 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1395 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA near Marina. Quiet area $1000/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

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Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit B lower duplex unit 1bdrm/1bath, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1599/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1150, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 213, Single stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $900/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1375/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #6 1+1 $1025/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. , 2+2 lower $1375/Mo stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1050/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA Prime location 2+2 hardwood floors, newely remodeled parking included $1795 & $1895. 1423 15th Street. Sarah (310)597-7211

For Rent

MV/MDR adj. $900 Large Studio, single, Full kitchen, stove & refrigerator, large closets, carpets, laundry, parking. Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

MV/MDR adj.$1100 one bedroom upper appliances, new carpet, private balcony, laundry, parking, free month with one year lease
Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6 p.m.

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1375/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS NEWER building ask about move-in specials $925 + singles. $1195 + 1bdr, $1545 + 2bdrm.Gated entry + park.Tile floors + granite, 2 elevators, A/C 3848 Overland Ave (310)839-3647

SANTA MONICA $1750/mo. 19th Street near SM. Blvd., spacious 2bd/1bath, Large private patio, new carpets, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry, parking, small building. Info (310)828-4481.or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m

WEST LA Large, bright 2br upper on Barrington near National. Very spacious, large closets, stove, fridge, closed garage, well maintained building. Free month with one year lease. $1685/mo. 310-828-4481 or 310-993-0414 after 6pm.

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 3 Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $795/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate #E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1200/mo $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 2606 S. Sepulveda $1145/mo. Excellent location. 1bd/1ba, lower very cozy. Hardwood flooring, appliances. Open Sat-Sun 10-2 (310) 666-8360

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091679589 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THEOMEGA-BOY, 17147 MARTHA ST, ENCINO, CA 91316. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : DAVID AMICHAI, 17147 MARTHA ST, ENCINO, CA 91316 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/5/2009. /s/: DAVID AMICHAI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/6/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2009, 11/24/2009, 12/1/2009, 12/8/2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091580308 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LETO REALTY; HOUSEGROUSE.COM, 11318 BIONA DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : BRIAN LETOURNEAU, 11318 BIONA DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: BRIAN LETOURNEAU
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/19/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2009, 11/24/2009, 12/1/2009, 12/8/2009

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On a Large Lot

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& Views

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Sunset Park Home

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December 13th 1-4 pm



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North of Montana
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North of Montana	$2,499,900	$1,580,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,400,000	$799,500
South of Wilshire	$865,000	$615,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$624,500
Ocean Park	$1,359,000	$962,475

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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