

Santa Monica Daily Press

SHIA'S A FREE MAN
SEE PAGE 15

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE OVER THE HUMP ISSUE

Smoking ban to expand

Businesses to be held liable for allowing patrons to smoke

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Promising to invest in a marketing and education campaign that emphasizes the positives of being smoke-free, the City Council on Tuesday directed attorneys to draft a law that would make business owners and their employees liable for knowingly or intentionally allowing customers to smoke in outdoor dining areas.

The 5-0 vote in favor of strengthening the city's existing

smoking ban was in response to complaints from residents and non-smoking advocates that some restaurants and bars were allowing customers to light up nearly a year after the ban went into effect, some going so far as to set out ashtrays.

Smoking is currently prohibited at all beaches and parks; the Santa Monica Pier, except in designated areas; within 20 feet of the entrance or window to an open business; the Third Street Promenade; all Farmers' Markets and all outdoor dining areas and waiting areas like bus stops and ATM lines.

"The important thing here is that this is to protect the people," Councilman Kevin McKeown said. "This is not a new direction. This is an ordinance we've already passed and that was to make it safe for people to eat at a restaurant."

The council will have the option of setting the fine for

non-compliance.

It was suggested by staff to make the fine \$250 — the same charged to smokers who are cited for smoking in areas covered by the ban. However, some councilmembers learned that a \$250 fine could grow to nearly \$900 because of penalties assessed by the courts, and suggested a lower amount for the first offense.

"I think the fines should be more commensurate," Councilman Ken Genser said. "The fine struck me as fairly high for the offense."

Several representatives from the business community said they are in favor of protecting the public from the

SEE SMOKING PAGE 10

PHOTO ESSAY

THE BIBLE: BOXED SET

For more than half a century, passersby have had visions of Christmas past

PHOTOS BY FRANK CAPELLO PAGE 11

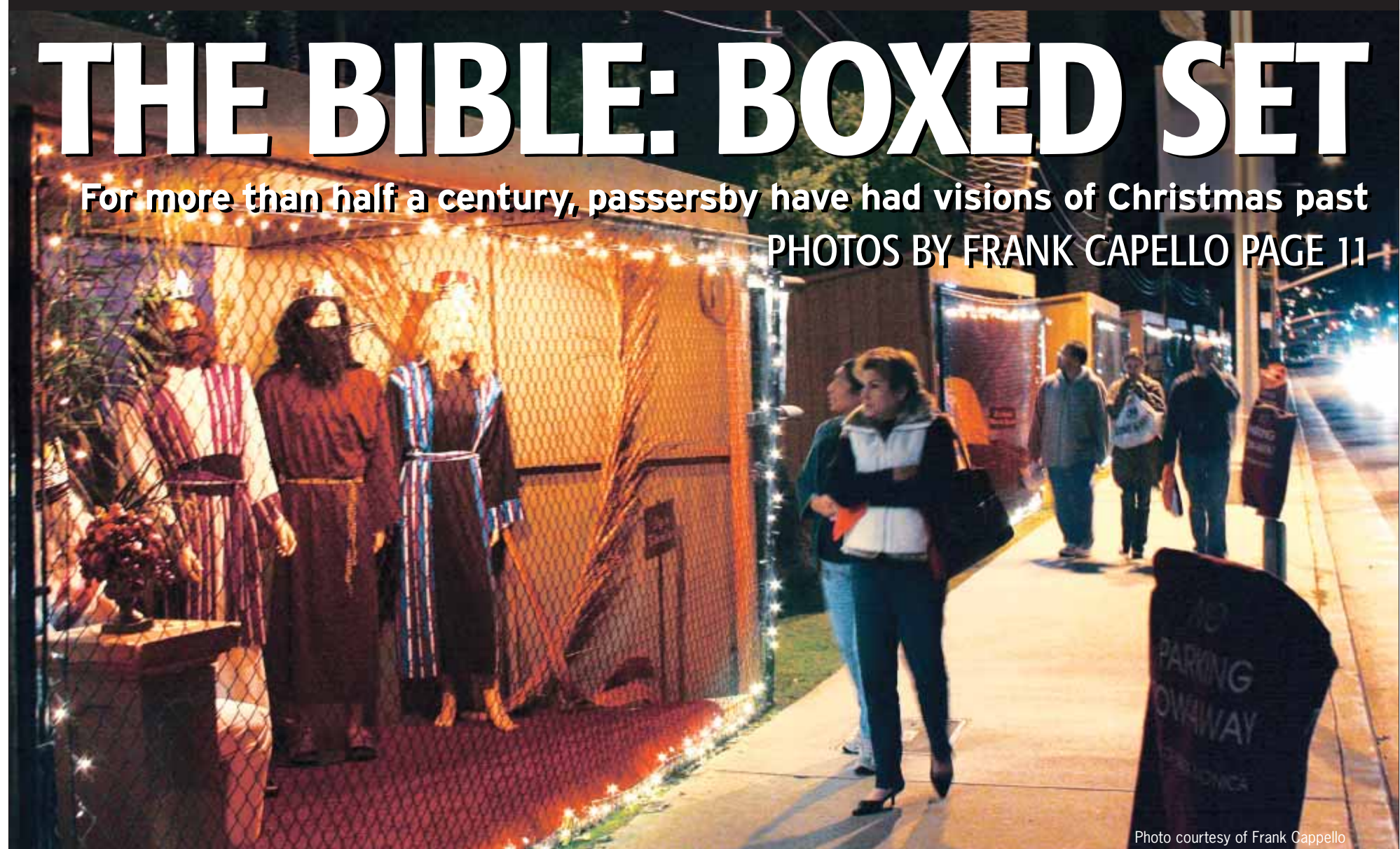


Photo courtesy of Frank Cappello

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Calendar

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



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

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

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



A 'Naked' book reading

8853 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.
"Naked in Paradise: The True Story of Three Men in Love," by Len Richmond, is a humorous tale of a trio of erotic neurotics — a hard-drinking, aging heartthrob; a frustrated academic with sex on the brain; and an obsessive-compulsive, Jewish comedy writer. Richmond will read from his book at A Different Light Bookstore tonight.

'Your Voice, New Vision'

Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
"Your Voice, New Vision" is a national grassroots initiative to add patients' voices to health care policy discussions. "New Vision" will be at the promenade soliciting people's input via audio, video and written word. "New Vision" will be shared with policymakers and posted on a new interactive Web site — www.yourvoicewision.org. Gifts will be distributed to participants.

Santa Monica Laughter Club

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon
The Laughter Club meets at Shakti's Elements for a Laughter Yoga class led by Kim Selbert. For more information, call Kim at (310) 471-5773. Donations are welcome.

What's New This Week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Santa Monica Nativity display

Palisades Park, open viewing
The annual Santa Monica Nativity scene, featuring 14 lit scenes with life-size figures, will be on display through the end of the year — continuing a community tradition that began in 1953.

Friday, Dec. 14, 2007

Pack it away for the needy

3021 Airport Ave., call for times
One Voice is packaging holiday food for needy families at the Barker Hanger. To volunteer, contact One Voice at (310) 458-9961.

Star of Wonder

1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Travel back over 2,000 years for an astronomer's look at possible explanations for the Star of Bethlehem. For ticket information, contact the Santa Monica College Planetarium at (310) 434-3000.

Samohi's 'Little Women'

601 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Santa Monica High School will perform a new adaptation of Alcott's classic novel about a family of women in the Civil War-era in New England. Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors; \$15 for adults. Call (310) 458-5939 or visit www.smclo.org for tickets.

Abbot Kinney Holiday Tree Walk

1616 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The holiday walk will begin at Capri Restaurant where a list of participating merchants will be provided. Each participating business will invite the public in for holiday cheer and to view their beautifully decorated trees. All contributions received will be donated to Venice Arts.

'A Lesson in Proper Bow-Fluffing Technique'

1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
In his Ovation Award-nominated solo performance, Trey Nichols unwraps the truth about what goes on behind the scenes of the customer service department of an unnamed department store during the busiest shopping season of the year. All seats are \$18. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 1 or purchase tickets online at SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

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.



Cutting back on the H2O

'20 Gallon Challenge' seems to be working

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE It looks as if residents and businesses are up to the challenge of reducing their water usage by 20 gallons a day, according to figures released by City Hall that show water consumption down considerably since July.

Santa Monicans are currently using 12.45 million gallons of water a day — a 6.81 percent decrease from a month ago. In July, Santa Monica was using 15.11 million gallons, said Neal Shapiro, a water resources section supervisor and urban runoff management coordinator for City Hall.

Shapiro credits increased media attention to the record dry conditions for making people more aware about their water consumption, as well as City Hall's "20 Gallon Challenge," a call for residents and businesses to save 20 gallons of water each day to protect Southern California against severe water shortages next summer.

"It's great that people seem to be embracing it, which is important," Shapiro said. "If they don't, then it could lead to mandatory reductions in the spring and summer, which is something we don't want to do."

Shapiro said part of the drop in consumption could be because of recent rains, but the numbers clearly point to a concerted effort amongst Santa Monicans to reduce water usage.

Southern California is experiencing unprecedented dry conditions. That, coupled with a recent federal court decision restricting the amount of water that can be pumped from supplies in Northern California by as much as 30 percent, are creating the potential for a shortage in 2008, said Bob Muir, with the Metropolitan Water District, which sup-

SEE WATER PAGE 12



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

A BANGIN' SPOT: The city's last remaining 'shotgun house' will be relocated to this lot on the corner of Second Street and Norman Place, adjacent to the Ocean Park Library. The historic home — less than 400 square feet — will house a preservation resource center for the Santa Monica Conservancy.

A new lease on life

No shotgun marriage for SM Conservancy and historic home

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The last remaining intact "shotgun house" in Santa Monica was provided a caretaker Tuesday night when the City Council granted a 20-year-lease to the Santa Monica Conservancy to run a preservation resource center from the tiny and aging facility.

The non-profit is the same organization that created an offshoot committee that dedicated itself to preserving and finding a new home for the 109-year-old, white and slightly dilapidated house that sparked preservation efforts among residents in

1998, when the previous owner filed a demolition permit application. The roughly 396 square-foot shotgun house — so-called because the rooms align back-to-back so that a bullet would travel freely from the front door out the back — has been stored at various Santa Monica locales since the now-defunct Ocean Park Community Organization purchased it earlier this decade — from its original location at 2712 Second St. to the Santa Monica Airport to the former Fisher Lumberyard site, where it remains today.

The shotgun house, roughly the size of a studio apartment, will be relocated to a city-owned parking lot at the corner of Norman Place and Second Street, adjacent to the Ocean Park branch public library and two blocks from its original location. The house will face east, the same as its original orientation, and will take up about one parking spot.

Preservationists on Tuesday celebrated

the near-conclusion of an eight-year-long battle to save the building.

"I sort of feel like the dog in that old Coppertone ad hanging on to that baby's diaper," said Sherrill Kushner, the chair of the conservancy's Shotgun House Committee. "Yeah, I'm not letting go."

After the City Council approved the Ocean Park lot as the permanent location in June, a request for proposals was sent to 76 non-profit organizations that receive city funding to see if any had interest in operating out of the shotgun house and taking on the responsibility of rehabilitation and maintenance. The Santa Monica Conservancy was the only one that submitted a proposal.

The conservancy is proposing to operate a preservation resource center that would teach owners of historic homes how to reha-

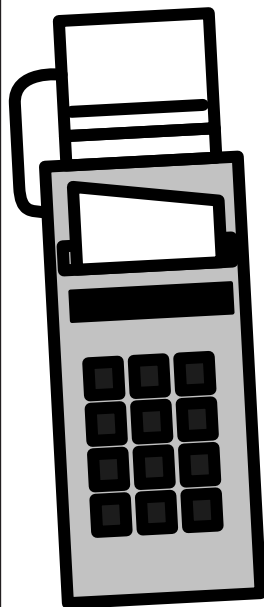
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let's keep letters on local subjects

Editor:

(Re: "A letter on a letter," Dec. 12)

I have been reading the wonderful community paper – the SMDP – for several years now. I have read at least 75 "Letters to the Editor" by Ron Lowe and not one of the letters has been in response to anything written in this fine paper. Example: The Bush Administration is having firemen spy on us.

I don't mind an occasional side point here and there, but when every letter he writes is a subject not covered in the paper ... it makes it feel less like an organic public forum and more like one man's agenda.

If Ron Lowe has that many nuggets of new information, then he should get his own column. If not, then stick to responding to the many diverse articles already in this exceptional paper.

Let's go over this again. I read something in the SMDP and I responded to what I read in the SMDP. That is all I'm asking.

Eric Cooper

Santa Monica

A crude awakening for Californians

Editor:

Nice front page photo of the man talking on his cell phone on the beach ("Let it rain," Dec. 11). Those two ships out behind him in telephoto squeeze are not military ships doing exercises in the bay, however, as the caption maintains.

Those are oil tankers, unloading crude oil from Asia or Arab nations, into undersea pipelines for the El Segundo and other local oil refineries. Those tankers travel out just beyond the edge of the 200-mile U.S. economic zone boundary and siphon off crude oil from supertanker oil carriers that are too big to dock in Southern California. This transfer of raw, crude oil on the high seas is unregulated and largely unknown by Californians.

Hans Laetz

Santa Monica

Give all the firefighters their due

Editor:

Surely, (letter writer) Steve Keats, jests: 1980 edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. It's almost 2008! Get a new dictionary, go online or get out more.

The current OED defines "fireman" as a male firefighter. Wikipedia explains: "A firefighter (also called a fireman or firewoman, although these terms have fallen from use in many countries) is trained and equipped to extinguish fires." Pictures in the Malibu Times show female, as well as male, firefighters who fought the fires.

Give all firefighters the credit they deserve. It's not castigating the language to use "firefighters." It's being correct. We've come a long way since 1980 (although, evidently, not far enough).

Susan Hartley

Santa Monica



The Rand Stand

Elan Journo

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is Washington with us or Libya?

EVER SINCE PRESIDENT BUSH'S you're-either-with-us-or-with-the-terrorists speech in 2001, his administration has been regarded as shaping its defense policy according to black-and-white moral judgments. If you haven't already been convinced that that speech was empty rhetoric, the other week offered another depressing piece of evidence.

Washington refused to oppose, or even protest, Libya's election to a seat on the U.N. Security Council.

A genuine commitment to the principle of justice would entail recognizing that Libya's character — like that of an individual — is the sum of its words and conduct across years, and that it cannot be transformed overnight.

No one would believe a career thief who claims that he's renounced his vile behavior and transformed his character instantly. It is the thief's responsibility to go out of his way to acknowledge and condemn his past actions, to make restitution where possible, and to demonstrate a commitment to the law across years. The burden, in other words, is on him to prove he has reshaped his moral character and is no longer a threat.

Likewise, no one should believe that a vicious regime such as Libya has (as it claims) suddenly transformed itself into a civilized, peace-loving country. Remember, among other heinous attacks, Libya is responsible for the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed over 200 passengers.

Before Libya will even deserve a hearing, it must bend over backwards to prove its commitment to peaceful co-existence with other nations, across many years. For example, Libya must reject dictatorship, dethrone Gaddafi and prosecute him. It must exhaustively confess and document the regime's crimes. In the name of restitution, it must declare that all Islamic terrorists are its enemies, and not simply name a few names, but actively combat other terrorist regimes such as Iran. Such steps would constitute only the very early beginnings of what Libya would have to do to make credible its disavowal of aggression. Before we can regard Libya as a non-hostile nation, it must prove unequivocally,

in word and deed, that it has undergone a fundamental transformation.

But when in 2003 Libya promised to end its terrorism and to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, Washington took Gaddafi's word as golden and decided that, suddenly, Libya was our ally against terrorism. So Washington agreed to restore diplomatic relations and lift economic sanctions.

Has Libya truly renounced terrorism? About a year after its overture to Washington, the regime was discovered to be fomenting a terrorist plot in Saudi Arabia. And although the U.S. State Department had re-affirmed Libya as a sponsor of terrorism as recently as March 2006, only two months later Washington removed Libya from the list of terrorist states. Has Libya diligently tried to make restitution to victims of its terrorism? Hardly. It grudgingly agreed to compensate the families of its victims, and then unrepentantly dragged its feet in making payments.

Libya has not even come close to changing its character — yet the Bush administration warmly opened its arms to the dictatorial regime.

Why? It wants to send Iran the signal that it could similarly resolve the conflict over its nuclear quest and its longstanding terror war against the United States. Explaining the rationale, Secretary of State Rice said: "Libya is an important model as nations around the world press for changes in the behavior by the Iranian and North Korean regimes." This is America trying to project itself as a morally confident nation that will not tolerate evil regimes ... by hastily forgiving the evil Libyan regime. It is a pathetic joke, and will do nothing to deter Teheran from its nuclear ambition.

The Bush administration has mocked justice — and thus shown our enemies that they have nothing to fear from us.

If we are to form true alliances and protect ourselves from hostile regimes, America must steer its foreign policy according to the objective requirements of justice.

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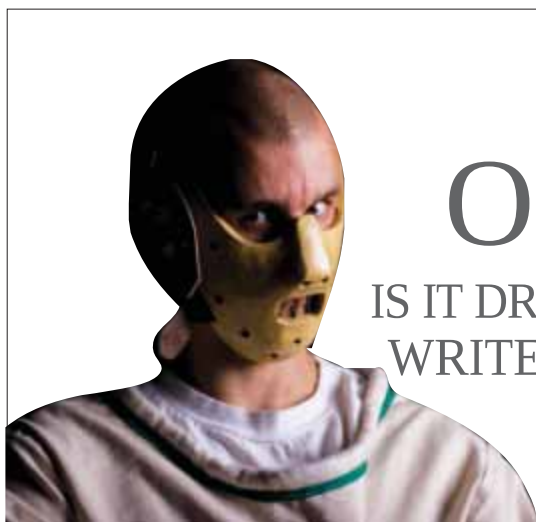


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Good intentions are the real gifts

OTHER THAN THE UNADULTERATED JOY

I'm bound to receive every time I hear Gene Autry sing about the magic in that old silk hat belonging to Frosty, I don't expect much in the way of presents this holiday season.

Due to some unforeseen expenses over the summer, my husband Rick and I have decided against exchanging gifts this month. Our gifts to each other are instead being redirected to a select few credit card companies and doctors' offices. We wish them all the best during this festive time of year.

I like getting presents just as much as the next girl, but I'm not completely heartbroken because, except for the Ugg Cardy Classic Boot (in oatmeal), there's nothing I really want. And although he's quite possibly the world's most loving partner, Rick ranks only slightly higher than the Greeks who came up with the Trojan horse on the gift-giving scale.

I'm not sure where or when in his life he veered off the good gift-giver course. He seems to have started on the right track, as Rick's mom tells about the time he begged her to take him shopping to buy Angela Cushman a diamond ring when she was his date to the eighth grade Christmas dance. She declined, but she did let him get Angela Cushman a pair of costume earrings.

He had the best of intentions then, and he still does today. He just hasn't quite conquered how to effectively channel those good intentions into even better gifts.

Shortly after we started dating, Rick had the occasion to buy me a gift. But he apparently mistook my we've-only-been-dating-for-three-months-so-at-this-very-fleeting-moment-in-time-I-think-everything-you-have-and-do-is-enchanting vibe. Because he reacted with, "Wow, she really likes the fish in my 55-gallon tank, so surely she'd love a tank and some fish of her own." Clearly, though, the fish sensed my ambivalence to being the keeper of living things and promptly died after being in my charge for a few weeks.

For that same birthday, Rick also gave me a pair of binoculars and a harmonica. He knew I loved music, and we've both always wanted to play an instrument in addition to the piano, so he thought it would be something we could learn together. The rationale behind the binoculars had something to do with us taking up bird watching. To this day, we have mastered neither the harp nor the humming-

bird, but at least we have proper tools ready should we ever decide to take up either.

After we had been dating for a year, Rick presented me with a giant stuffed bear that doubles as a footrest. He explained that it was partly a nod to my fascination with bears and partly a respite for my aching legs after long runs. It was incredibly thoughtful, and although not quite the romantic gift I had hoped for, at least I could say it was the first stuffed animal I had been given since the plush Snoopy doll I got in third grade.

For the holidays a few years ago, Rick got some swanky bath soaps and gels. If I had actually taken a bath even once since my parents stopped washing me as an infant, I'm convinced I would have loved them. Regardless, at least I have the security of knowing I am equipped at any time to take a high-end soak.

But while he has yet to hit a gift grand slam, Rick is a much better gift-giver than, say, the guy who gave Abraham Lincoln the tickets to see "Our American Cousin." And I still relish everything he offers because of the genuinely lovely way in which he does it. Like a kid at, well, Christmas, he bubbles with excitement at the prospect of giving. A month or so before an occasion, he asks, "Do you want me to tell you what I'm getting you?"

To which I always reply, "No. Surprise me."

"Don't you want even a little hint?"

"Nope."

Once we were standing in a supermarket checkout line when he nudged me to look at the magazine rack.

"You should get that," he said with a wink, pointing to an issue of Modern Bride magazine.

I rolled my eyes. "Why would I get that?"

"Oh, no reason," he beamed.

It seemed to surprise him when less than a week later I wasn't entirely surprised at his surprise marriage proposal.

Of course, going gift-less this month isn't the end of the world. It'll just give me extra time to figure out how to start dropping hints at what I really want for the next special occasion. (By the way, in case anyone was curious, Nordstrom carries those Ugg boots.)

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



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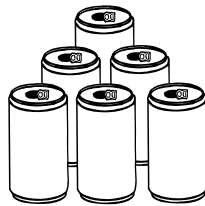
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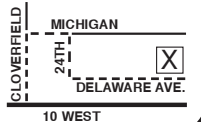
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The Q-Line

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Making a list ...

The year has seen some highs ('No Country For Old Men') and has seen some lows ('Fred Claus').

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What was the most memorable film of the year. Be candid and just for fun throw in your pick for least memorable movie as well.

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



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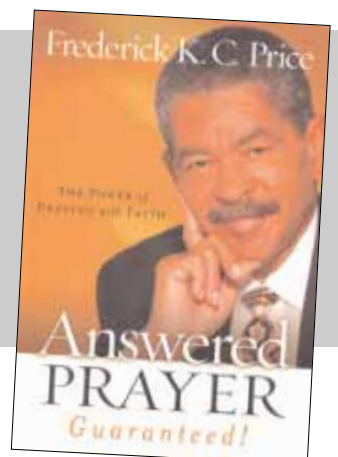
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Going solar in foggy San Fran

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO It doesn't seem like an ideal place to promote solar energy, but foggy San Francisco has come up with an ambitious plan to encourage businesses and homeowners to tap the sun's power for their energy needs.

The program announced Tuesday would offer companies and residents government-funded loans and rebates to offset the costs of installing solar panels, city officials said.

"There is a perception, a myth in our city, that because of our climate we are not ideally situated for solar," Mayor Gavin Newsom said. "The reality is the climate in the Bay Area, the climate in San Francisco specifically, is ideally situated for solar."

The initiative comes on the heels of a solar incentive plan approved last month in the neighboring city of Berkeley, which is financing the cost of solar panels for homeowners who agree to pay the money back through a 20-year property tax assessment. Marin County offers a \$500 rebate to property owners who install rooftop solar systems.

Under San Francisco's proposal, companies would be eligible for rebates of up to \$10,000 and allow residents to receive between \$3,000 and \$5,000 off the cost of installing solar panels depending on whether they used a local contractor and had property in neighborhoods polluted by power plants.

The city would underwrite the cost of the loans, which commercial and residential owners would be expected to pay back through annual tax assessments on their properties.

While many states now have tax credits and rebates to encourage solar power and some small utility companies provide financing incentives, San Francisco's program may be the most ambitious by coupling the refunds with loans that eliminate the need to come up with thousands of dollars upfront, said Monique Hanis, a spokeswoman for the Washington-based Solar Energy Industries Association.

"As far as we know, this is probably the most sweeping program seen on a municipal level and even compared to some on the state level," Hanis said.

About 660 homes and buildings already have solar installations in San Francisco, a number officials said they hope to bring up to 10,000

over the next decade by cutting property owners' out-of-pocket costs in half, if not more.

The loan piece of the program would need to be approved by voters as a ballot initiative, while the refund part would need the support of the Board of Supervisors, San Francisco's equivalent of a city council. Newsom said he hopes to have the whole package in place by next summer.

**THE REALITY IS
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FOR SOLAR."**

Mayor Gavin Newsom
San Francisco

While property owners would have to apply for the rebates, they would actually be paid to contractors who install the panels when the work is completed, according to Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting. The installers would be expected to knock the rebated amount from what they charge owners, he said.

For a typical homeowner in San Francisco, installing a 3-kilowatt, rooftop solar electric system costs \$24,000, according to Barry Cinnamon, president of the California Solar Energy Industries Association. Between a \$4,000 city rebate, a similar \$7,000 refund available through the state and a federal tax credit of \$2,000, they would be able to get the price down to \$11,000, Cinnamon said.

If that amount were underwritten through a city-backed loan, the costs would be spread out over time and eventually recouped in under a decade through lower electricity bills, he said.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Charges filed against man in stabbing, dismembering

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A parolee accused of stabbing a man to death, dismembering his body and dumping it in two trash bins was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder.

Frank Ruiz, 21, pleaded not guilty during his arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court. A court commissioner ordered him held on \$1.12 million bail pending his next court appearance Dec. 21.

Ruiz faces life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted in the killing of 47-year-old Patrick Moore.

It was not clear whether Ruiz had been assigned a defense lawyer.

Ruiz was arrested Sunday by police investigating body parts found near an east Hollywood group home for mentally ill adults and parolees.

A maid at the group home called police after finding what appeared to be meat in plastic shopping bags in Ruiz's room, prosecutors said. Investigators tested blood found the room and linked them to the remains found in the trash bins.

Deputy Chief Ken Garner said Ruiz admitted stabbing the victim in the throat and cutting up the body to try to hide the crime. The criminal complaint alleged Ruiz used a knife to commit the crime and that he had a 2004 burglary conviction, prosecutors said.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Supervisors tentatively approve tobacco fee for stores

In an effort to combat underage smoking, Los Angeles County supervisors tentatively approved a \$235 annual fee on stores that sell tobacco.

The health department will levy the fee on about 1,000 stores in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles to fund anti-smoking campaigns aimed at those under 18. The money will pay for sting operations.

Supervisors Mike Antonovich and Don Knabe voted against the fee, saying it would hurt small businesses. But Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky argued they could afford it.

After a second and final vote next week, the tobacco fee will be levied in about 30 days.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE

Feds say UC Irvine did not discriminate against Jews

Federal civil rights investigators say the University of California, Irvine, acted fairly in disputes between Muslim and Jewish students.

The Zionist Organization of America complained in 2005 about alleged anti-Semitic speeches and actions by Islamic student groups, saying the university discriminated against Jewish students by failing to act against the Muslims.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights says in a report released Tuesday that some Muslim student activities were offensive to Jewish students.

But the report concludes the speeches, marches and other activities were based on opposition to Israel policies, not the national origin of Jewish students.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Furutani faces two minor-party candidates in 55th

Democrat Warren Furutani faces two minor-party candidates in a February runoff election for the 55th District Assembly seat representing voters from Carson to Long Beach.

Furutani, a Los Angeles college trustee, got the most votes in Tuesday's balloting with 49.2 percent compared to fellow Democrat and Carson Councilman Mike Gipson's 38.4 percent.

Because he didn't get 50 percent of the vote, Furutani now faces Libertarian Herb Peters, who got 5.8 percent of the vote, and American Independent Charlotte Gibson, who got 3.9 percent, in the Feb. 5 general election.

There were no Republican candidates on the ballot.

The seat was vacated by Laura Richardson, who was elected to Congress.

AP

NEWPORT BEACH

12-year-old brings bomb components to OC school

A 12-year-old boy was arrested for bringing an acid bomb to a Newport Beach school, which was evacuated after the explosive device was found in a locker.

Police Lieutenant Evan Sailor says the makeshift bomb was made with a concoction of sulfur and vinegar, a device that could have hurled acidic debris some 300 feet.

The lieutenant says it isn't known why the youngster brought the explosive to Horace Ensign Intermediate School. The boy was arrested and booked at Juvenile Hall for investigation of felony possession of an explosive device.

Classrooms were evacuated for 2 1/2 hours Tuesday while authorities conducted a campus-wide search.

AP

SANTA BARBARA

Alleged drunk driver slams into 50-foot Christmas tree

A suspected drunken driver slammed his Lincoln into Santa Barbara's 50-foot Christmas tree.

The Lincoln was heavily damaged, but the State Street tree emerged from Friday's crash unscathed and continues to spread holiday cheer.

Police Lt. Paul McCaffrey says Linda Teague Goggin apparently mistook the lights of the tree for lights strung between buildings. She drove the 1993 Lincoln through a ring of traffic cones and crashed into the tree's metal stand.

Investigators say the 66-year-old woman is facing drunken driving charges.

AP



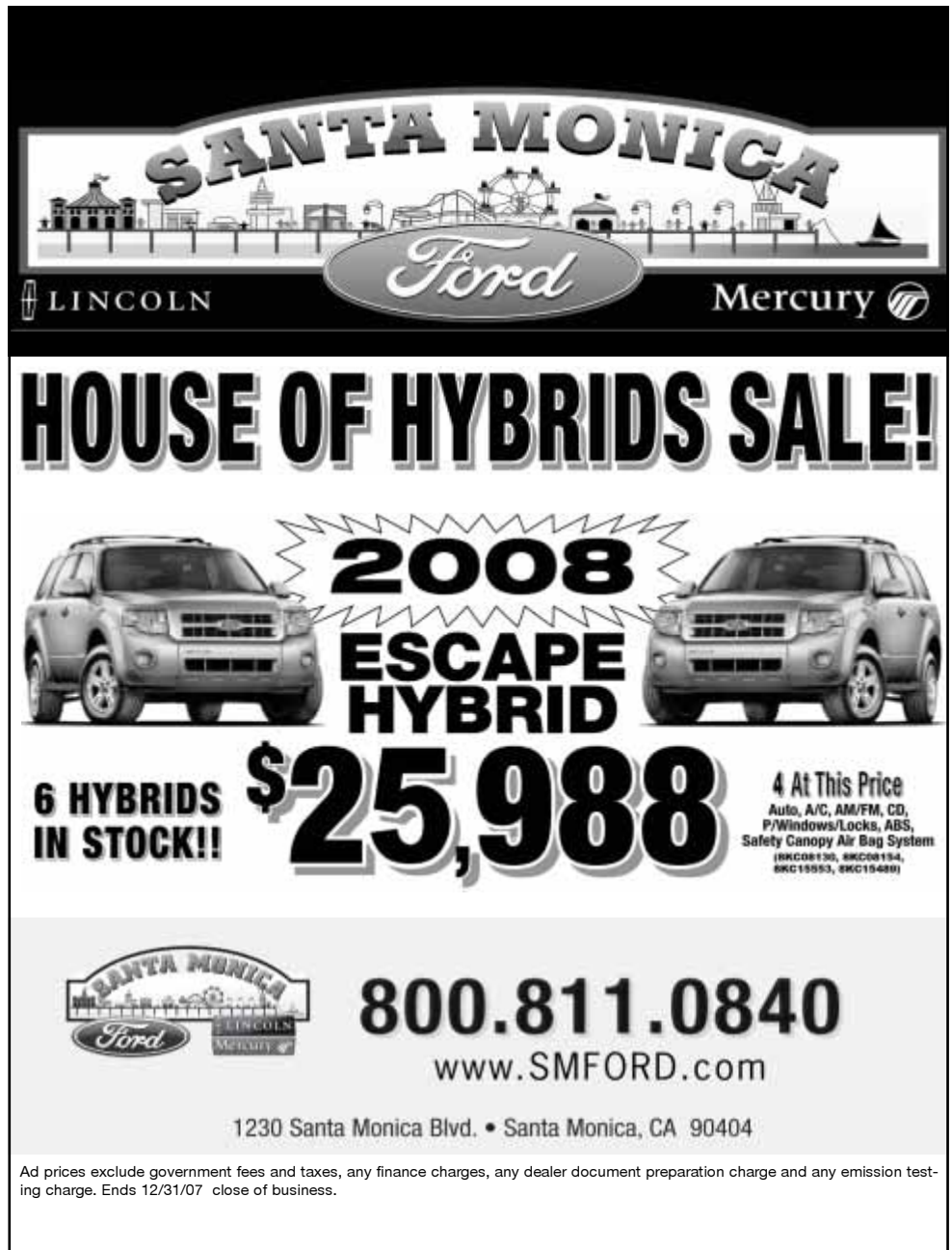
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The selected contractor will work with the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee and the Pier Restoration Corporation to produce a program of events, activities, partnerships and programs which celebrate the Pier's 100 years of history, its status as an international icon and the promise of its future.

The RFP is available for viewing/download at www.santamonicapier.org

Please submit proposals no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008 in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format to info@santamonicapier.org or mail proposals to:

Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
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Library grounds to be smoke-free

FROM SMOKING PAGE 1

damaging effects of second-hand smoke, which has been classified as a toxic air contaminant. However, they believe more needs to be done to inform people of the law and called on the council to set aside enough money to produce attractive signs, posters and fliers similar to what Beverly Hills has done with its "fresh air dining" campaign that features "90210" signs, with the emphasis on the "02" for oxygen.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce believes a lack of funding to educate residents, visitors and businesses on the proposed change would place an undue burden on the business owners and managers expected to comply.

"We can put a positive spin on this, as Beverly Hills has done," said Tom Larmore, chamber board chairman.

When City Hall passed the ban on smoking in outdoor dining areas late last year, no signs were visible along the Third Street Promenade for weeks, and it took even longer for businesses to receive "Fresh Air Santa Monica" signs to hang in their windows.

Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson said city staff plans to present the ordinance early next year at a time when the council will be considering adjustments to the city budget. Funds could then be made available for outreach efforts.

EXPANDING COVERAGE

In addition to making businesses liable, the council also requested that a new law be drafted prohibiting smoking anywhere on the grounds of Santa Monica libraries after com-

plaints were received about smokers congregating at entrances and in parking lots.

Apartments and condos could be next, as the council asked city staff to provide information on what other California cities are doing to control smoking in multi-unit housing.

Information on tobacco retail licensing will also be provided in that report. Jurisdictions across the state have passed laws requiring tobacco retailers to pay local licensing fees before selling cigarettes or cigars. Money generated is often used to fund anti-smoking campaigns and undercover options targeted at businesses selling to minors.

The council is also interested in pharmacies. City attorneys have been asked to bring forth a non-binding resolution that would recommend local pharmacies refuse to sell any tobacco products.

SOME SEE THE LIGHT, OTHERS THINK IT'S A DRAG

Those who can't stand breathing in second-hand smoke praised the council for adding liability and libraries into the mix. They complained of eating at restaurants and watching waiters do nothing as customers puff away. Others mentioned being hit in the face with a cloud of smoke as they entered libraries around town as smokers took the last few puffs before walking in.

Willow Evans, a resident since 1986, said she has tried to patronize more restaurants and show her support for fresh air dining, but she has had her meals "ruined by second-hand smoke."

"Honestly, if you go out late at night ... all the smokers are out," Evans said. "It's like a smoking party and they are really rude to

anybody that tells them there's an ordinance that you can't smoke. It's been pretty rough.

"I just feel like the pulse on what's really going on has to be felt by a few more people."

Smokers had a very different reaction to the council's decision. They feel as if their rights were being trampled upon given that tobacco is not illegal and is sold in places where smoking is not allowed, such as the promenade.

Some also worried about the council's interest in possibly restricting smoking in apartments.

"This is criminalizing a non-criminal activity ...," said resident Bruce Cameron. "They've gone into the restaurants and the bars and they are coming into your house pretty damn soon."

It is still unclear if the council will ban smoking in rental housing. It has been done in other cities, including Belmont, however, there is some concern about what the ban would do to rent controlled tenants.

Would landlords use it as a way to evict tenants, or could the ban be considered a loss of an amenity, requiring some kind of reduction in rent?

"I think we should hear from the rent control board," Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom said.

As for creating a new licensing fee to sell tobacco, the Los Angeles County board of supervisors is considering a \$235 annual permit fee for merchants in unincorporated areas. The money would be used to strengthen efforts to keep minors from smoking.

Critics say it would hurt mom-and-pop stores already struggling because of high taxes and expensive rents.

David Weiss of Lone Wolf Cigars & Mens



File photo

SMOKE OUT: Business will soon be held liable for patrons smoking in outdoor dining areas.

Accessories on Broadway just off the promenade, said the smoking ban has had a negative impact on his business and adding another fee would be more of a financial hardship.

He questioned why the council is so focused on cigarettes when people hurting themselves every day by eating fatty foods, drinking excessive amounts of liquor and breathing in polluted air caused by auto emissions.

"They are taking this too far," said Weiss, who would like the council to consider limiting tobacco sales to only tobacco shops as a way to make up for revenue lost because of the ban.

"When I'm having a meal, I don't like people smoking around me either," Weiss added. "I'm happy to have no smoking in patios and restaurants, but leave it alone."

"Stop trying to take it to the next level."

kevinh@smdp.com

Christmas at First Presbyterian Church

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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Caroling Party

Thursday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Meet in the church lobby.

Sing and bring holiday joy to the Santa Monica community.

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 23

Family Service at 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m.

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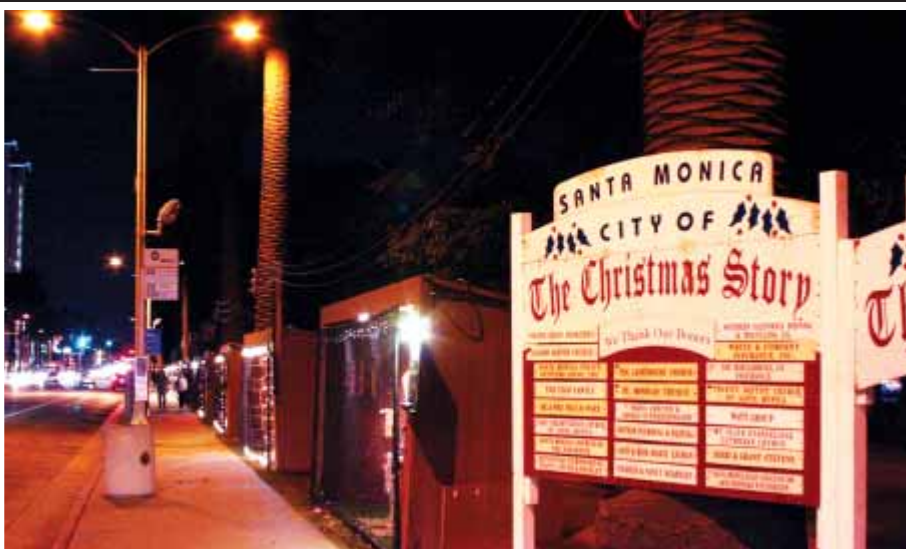
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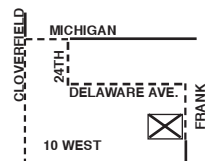
Photo courtesy of Frank Cappello

The Santa Monica Nativity Scenes with life-size Biblical figures depicting the story of Jesus' birth were unveiled this week, marking the 54th year they have lined the western sidewalk along Ocean Avenue. The interdenominational display now features 14 scenes. The city does not pay for the scenes. Donations defray the \$17,000 annual cost, which includes assembly, removal and storage of the booths.



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FROM SHOTGUN PAGE 3

bilitate their properties, running workshops and keeping a database of specialized suppliers, architects and engineers. The conservancy would also hold some of its board meetings at the shotgun house. Tours will also be conducted from the resource center, including for the Third Street Historic District, which is located just one block away.

The cost of relocation and rehabilitation — estimated at more than \$260,000 — will fall on the conservancy, which will gear for a 30-month-long fundraising campaign. City government will assume the cost for the \$84,000 for site improvements. Though the resource center will be run by volunteers, Kushner estimates it will cost about the \$10,000 a year to keep operations going, which the conservancy already raises through its various programs and fundraisers. The conservancy will pay an annual rent of \$1.

Mario Fando Bonardi, a Santa Monica architect who serves on the Shotgun House Committee, said planting the house on Norman Place and Second Street is like adding the missing piece to the historic buildings puzzle in Ocean Park, with several city landmarks located in the vicinity, including the Ocean Park Library and the California Heritage Museum.

The shotgun house is a symbol of Ocean Park's history, the neighborhood once cluttered with shotgun houses which have been compared to the mobile homes of today. The houses are still commonly seen in New Orleans.



File photo

HISTORIC LOCALE: The Shotgun House at its original location at 2712 Second Street in Ocean Park.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

While the conservancy was selected by a unanimous vote, the decision didn't come easily, as several City Councilmembers debated whether there is a potential for conflict-of-interest in the conservancy's role in advocacy.

City Councilmember Pam O'Connor said she hoped if a resident came in to the resource center with a rehabilitation

proposal that the conservancy opposed, that client would still be treated fairly.

"Preservation in this town is starting to become a neighbor against neighbor (situation) and it has become very adversarial, and I would hope the Santa Monica Conservancy would take the high ground if they're going to be operating in the next level of maturity as an organization and not take advantage of the position they'd be in," she said.

The conservancy's relationship as a city tenant would not enhance their status during Landmarks Commission or City Council public hearings, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, who added that any comments conservancy members offer would hold the same weight as the rest of the public's.

Councilmember Ken Genser questioned why O'Connor would see it as an issue, adding that city-owned properties are leased to non-profits that take part in advocacy, including Heal the Bay, which operates the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

Kushner assured on Wednesday that there would be no conflict-of-interest.

"There are other non profit organizations that are similarly situated and don't have any kind of restrictions concerning advocacy," Kushner said. "I don't see it as a problem."

melodyh@smdp.com

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State facing serious drought

FROM WATER PAGE 3

plies Santa Monica with 90 percent of its drinking water.

"We have embarked on one of the largest public outreach campaigns in history," Muir said. "We need to get serious about conserving."

The court decision stemmed from a lawsuit brought by the natural Resources Defense Council, which sought to protect smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a supply source for 25 million Californians.

TURN ONS, TURN OFFS

Whether you're a homeowner, apartment dweller or a business owner, saving water is easier than you may think. Just a few changes in routine can make a big difference in your water usage, city officials contend.

Oftentimes, it can be as easy as fixing that nagging leak in the kitchen, or replacing an outdated appliance or fixture. City Hall and MWD are offering several rebates for water-saving products such as new washers and toilets.

Since as much as half of all water use in Santa Monica is spent on landscape irrigation and other outdoor purposes, people are being reminded to think "inside and out" to maximize water savings.

Tips for saving water indoors include: Running the dishwasher only when full, turning off water while washing dishes, shaving or brushing teeth, and shortening showers. Using a toilet as a waste basket is also bad since it is estimated that 2 gallons of water are used per flush.

Businesses looking to conserve should also replace old toilets and install aerators with flow restrictions on all sink faucets.

When it comes to landscaping, residents are urged to water before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m. to reduce evaporation and wind effect. People should also try watering with a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle instead of using automated sprinkler systems. Adding two to three inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation can also help save 20 to 30 gallons per day per 1,000 square feet.

Conserving sounds simple enough, but for many people it's out of sight, out of mind, particularly renters, who rarely pay their own water bills.

Santa Monica is comprised roughly of 70 percent renters and 30 percent homeowners, creating some tall obstacles for city officials.



WE NEED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT CONSERVING."

Bob Muir, Metropolitan Water District

"People are motivated to conserve, generally, by charging them more for the resource," said Carl Lambert, president of Action Apartment Association, which represents landlords in Santa Monica. "Unfortunately, tenants do not see the water bill. They only know that it comes out of a faucet."

While the Santa Monica Rent Control Board takes into account increases in utilities when calculating rent increases every year, Lambert said it would be better if landlords could charge a small fee for water and give tenants a discount when they conserve a certain number of gallons.

"It's not enough to just add it to the rent," he said. "Tenants need to see there is a cost and see how much water they are actually using from month to month."

Bruce Kelly, a Santa Monica renter, said he tries to conserve where he can by taking shorter showers and turning off the water when he scrubs dishes, but he believes landlords could do more by installing new toilets and shower heads.

"I think we all could be doing more," Kelly said. "It's good that water use is down, but I think there's still a lot more that needs to be done to protect us and future generations from drought."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Sophia, Aiden top baby names

BY HILLARY RHODES
Associated Press Writer

After three years of Emma, it's Sophia's turn at the top of the class roster, joining Aiden for his third stint.

A growing Hispanic population might be credited for some name climbers on BabyCenter.com's list of most popular baby names for 2007, to be released Thursday. Sophia has more of a Latin or continental appeal than its proper English successor, Emma. Xavier, Sebastian and Isabella are on the rise, while newcomers to the top 100, to be released next month, include Lila, Maria and Adrien.

"It might be representing the changing face of America," says Linda Murray, editor-in-chief of the BabyCenter Web site.

But if anything sums up the Web site's latest hit names, it's a hunt for distinctiveness — a trend that has rendered the annual list way more volatile in recent years than it used to be 10 or 20 years ago, back when Michael could sit securely on his throne for decades.

Experts have seen an influx of untraditional names and alternate spellings, to the point where "unique" has become conventional. Attracted to the look of the optional "h" in names like Sarah and Hannah, Melinda Kong, in Nyack, N.Y., named her daughter Elianah — a variation of Eliana, which means "God who answers."

"We haven't seen it anywhere else," Kong says, referring to a virtue increasingly sought by new parents.

Venturing even further into the written wild is a nascent creative use of the apostrophe. Despite a population so often bewildered by the difference between "its and it's," some parents have used apostrophes and mid-word capitalization to transform Jayden, Cameron and Devon, for example, into Jay'Den, Cam'Ron and De'Von, BabyCenter's Murray says.

Unlike the Social Security Administration's annual run-down, which comes out in May, BabyCenter categorizes names by sound instead of spelling, and compiles its list from the 300,000 new births voluntarily registered on their

site this year. The Social Security list is more comprehensive — surveying millions of new card holders — but can also underemphasize the popularity of names like McKenzie that are spelled in several ways.

Last year, Social Security ranked Emily and Jacob as its top names.



IT MIGHT BE REPRESENTING THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA."

Linda Murray
editor-in-chief of the BabyCenter Web site

In a society obsessed with brands and labels, baby-name selections can be as fickle as the taste-making machine of fashion: once the masses are wearing it (or using the name), others move on.

Fairly common Adam and Robert fell 16 and 15 spots respectively last year, while Jayden plowed his way from 19 to 4 despite its association with the son of fallen idol — and poster child for bad parenting — Britney Spears.

Moms and dads are increasingly influenced by celebrities, says Pamela Redmond Satran, co-author of "The Baby Name Bible."

"So many have names that are really distinctive, and they're giving their kids names that are unique," she says. "You get the message that having a singular name makes you a singular person."

Now, once-favored Michael sits at 13th place, and the leading boy's name — Aiden — brings to mind a beloved boyfriend character on "Sex and the City."

An informal survey of new parents active on BabyCenter community boards reveals several names inspired by televi-

sion shows: Miranda ("Sex and the City,") Colton ("The Real Housewives of Orange County,") Dexter ("Dexter,") and Gideon ("Criminal Minds.")

Of course, it's not just celebrities driving baby name tastes. Other values or personal stories — some very heart-warming — shape new parents' wishes for their children.

Kayte Neal's 5-month-old son Tristan was named for the French word "triste," which means sad. Not only did she love the name, but she was feeling sad because her daughter, born 21 months earlier, had suffered from a birth defect called gastroschisis.

"I wanted another healthy baby badly," said Neal, of Raleigh, N.C. "And true to his name, Tristan has absorbed any sorrows I may have had and has made me happier than any one person ever had before."

Author Satran says parents give prospective names tests. They ask: "Is this name going to get him into Yale?" ... 'Does this sound like a kid who can catch a ball?' ... 'Is this a name that's going to get invited out on a date or invited to a party?'"

Kim Stinson, of Clearwater, Fla., and her husband have a self-styled set of "rules" for naming their sons. They used the guidelines to come up with Trevor Hawk Stinson for their first son, now almost 2, and they plan on revisiting them for the next boy, due in March.

They don't name their child until they meet him in person. They Google prospective names to make sure they don't unwittingly bind the baby with a bad reputation. "I wouldn't want to accidentally name my kid Charles Manson," Stinson says.

The Stinsons reject "goofy" spellings, names that rhyme with bad words or names that are also adjectives, verbs or nouns. (Their first son ended up with Hawk in the middle because it's a family name, which is allowed to trump all the other standards.)

And the final rule? It can't be one of the top most popular names. "If I meet another Ethan or Logan, I'm going to shoot myself," Stinson says.

Fees proposed for film, photography on public lands

Media groups fear the flow of information could be disrupted

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. Media organizations and lawmakers on Wednesday criticized a federal proposal to charge fees and require permits on public lands for some film crews and journalists, saying it could stanch the free flow of information.

The Department of Interior proposal would make permanent and expand a program requiring fees for film, audio and photography collected on 440 million acres under the agency's jurisdiction. Among the only clear exceptions would be material collected during a breaking news event such as a forest fire.

Representatives of several media groups warned that could discourage other types of news gathering, including investigative reports or in-depth stories about the environment. Park administrators or other public land managers could effectively stifle unfavorable stories, said Barbara Cochran, president of the Radio-Television News Directors Association.

"Journalists do more than cover brush fires," Cochran testified during a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., that was broadcast live on the Internet. "Under this standard, how could a journalist ever gather footage for an investigative piece that exposes a scandal or criticizes the park's administration?"

Agency officials defended the proposal as a way to ensure those who find profit from public lands also give something back in return. However, they agreed after Wednesday's hearing to take another look at the program before issuing a final decision.

"We will work through those comments and work with the department and other specialists and probably come up with another regulation," said Lee Dickinson, who helped draft the proposal as special uses program manager for the National Park Service.

Unveiled in August, the fee system was crafted in response to a 2000 law passed by Congress. At the time, lawmakers said they were seeking compensation from major motion pictures or other commercial film projects produced on public lands.

But the Interior proposal was written more broadly. Critics said it could be applied to news reports, documentary films, hunting and wildlife programs and still photography.

The debate illustrates the increasingly fuzzy line between news and entertainment stemming from the rise in the number and type of media outlets — from newspapers and Internet blogs to independent films and cable channels that specialize in outdoor issues.

"The distinction between news and commercial filming can be difficult to determine," said Mitch Butler, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks. He said the agency planned to examine the "unique characteristics" of each film or photography request to determine if it falls under the fee program.

Under a temporary program put in place last year, the National Park Service collected \$460,000 in "location fees" and \$1 million more to recover costs incurred by the agency

during filming, Butler said.

A similar program in the U.S. Forest Service, part of the Department of Agriculture, issued 1,056 permits and collected \$388,000 in fees during fiscal year 2007, said agency spokeswoman Leslie Weldon.

Rep. Nick Rahall, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, suggested the Interior proposal stemmed from the Bush administration's penchant for secrecy and said the administration had a "dismal" record of protecting public lands.

"Any hint that this new permit and fee structure could limit the free flow of public information regarding the very real consequences of these failures is simply unaccept-

able," he said.

The committee's ranking Republican, Rep. Don Young of Alaska, said the proposal appeared to be driven by Interior bureaucrats — not the administration. Young did agree the proposal was too broad, saying it needed to be re-evaluated to ensure professional news organizations were not impeded from pursuing stories on public lands.

Young proposed a journalist licensing program as a possible way to distinguish news organizations from commercial enterprises.

That idea was rejected by most of the media representatives at the hearing, who said it could place restraints on their work.

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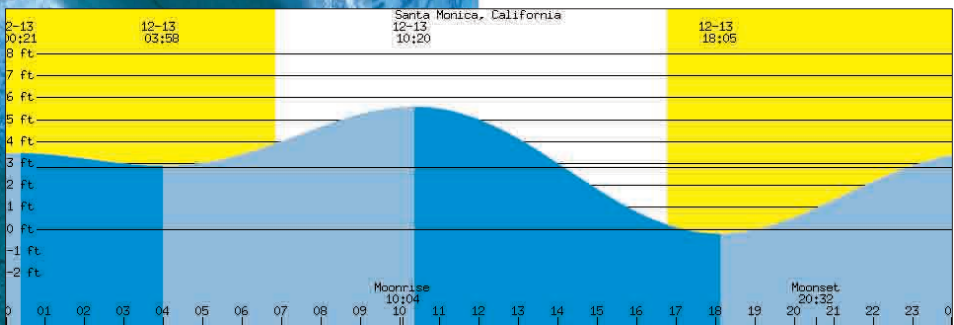
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 55°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today NW energy should pick up a tad, mostly north of LA. Also, some 220-degree southern hemi is due as well. Neither swell is impressive by any means, so only knee to waist high surf is expected most everywhere. This though should increase a bit Friday. Winds should be a bit more relaxed, lightly offshore in the morning. Tide will still be rather high in the morning, but later and slightly lower than previous days.

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December 4, 2007

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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 -- 4

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 19

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 14

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

MVPs outed, sources say

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK George Mitchell’s report on drugs in baseball will finger MVPs and All-Stars and call for beefed-up testing by an outside agency to clean up the game, The Associated Press learned Wednesday.

The report will not address amphetamines, which long have been recognized as part of the baseball drug culture, two sources with knowledge of the findings told the AP. But it will include names of 60 to 80 players linked to performance-enhancing substances and plenty more information that exposes “deep problems” in a drug culture that plagues the sport, one of the sources said.

The two sources were familiar with discussions that led to the final draft but did not want to be identified because it was confidential until its scheduled release on Thursday. They said the full report, which they had not read, totaled 304 pages plus exhibits.

The report comes at the end of a year when San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds broke the career home run record, only to be indicted on charges of lying to a federal grand jury about steroid use.

The first part of the report, the sources said, will identify players and offer information about clubhouse personnel who allowed steroids and other banned substances in clubhouses or knew about it and didn’t say anything.

None of the player names had leaked out Wednesday night.

The rest of the report, the sources said, will focus on recommendations that include enhanced year-round testing and

hiring a drug-testing company that uses the highest standards of independence and transparency. Baseball’s program currently is overseen by a joint management-union Health Policy Advisory Committee, with an independent administrator approved by both sides.

The report also is expected to recommend that baseball develop a credible program to handle cases with evidence of athletes receiving or taking drugs but not testing positive for them.

Just last week, Kansas City’s Jose Guillen and Baltimore’s Jay Gibbons were suspended for the first 15 days of next season, and media reports said they had obtained human growth hormone in 2005, after baseball banned it.

Mitchell, a Boston Red Sox director who is a former Senate majority leader, planned to release his report at 2 p.m. Thursday at a news conference in New York City.

Much of the first part of the report will be based on evidence obtained from former New York Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, and from information gleaned from the Albany district attorney’s investigation into illegal drug distribution that focused on Signature Pharmacy of Orlando, Fla., the sources said.

Radomski was required to cooperate with the investigation as a condition of his federal plea agreement last April. Radomski pleaded guilty to illegally distributing steroids, HGH, amphetamines and other drugs to players and is awaiting sentencing. Some professional athletes have been linked to the Signature probe, though none has been charged.

MLB

Golden Glover Rowand to join Giants for \$60M

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Aaron Rowand wanted some long-term stability, and so did the San Francisco Giants. Rowand agreed to a \$60 million, five-year contract with the Giants on Wednesday, giving the club a Gold Glove center fielder without having to trade young pitchers Matt Cain or Tim Lincecum.

The 30-year-old Rowand is expected to bat fifth for San Francisco after spending the past two seasons with the Philadelphia Phillies. Before that, he helped the Chicago White Sox win the 2005 World Series.

“Bottom line, I wanted to get in a spot where I would be long term,” said Rowand, who noted he weighed four or five similar multiyear offers. “In this day of free agency, that’s not commonplace. That’s really the thing I was looking forward to most.”

He is coming off his best season yet, earning his first Gold Glove award and All-Star selection while helping the Phillies to the NL East title. Rowand batted .309 with 27 home runs and career bests of 89 RBIs, 105 runs,

189 hits and 45 doubles in 161 games.

General manager Brian Sabean repeatedly said he hoped to hold onto Cain and Lincecum, but being a last-place team it was his responsibility to be open-minded and listen.

“With this move, we will no longer listen to any offers for Cain and Lincecum,” Sabean said. “We know the value of both individuals, believe me, maybe more so now that we’ve gone through this exercise. They might be the hottest two names in baseball.”

While manager Bruce Bochy had said Rajai Davis would get a chance to earn the center-field job in spring training, Rowand was brought in to provide a consistent, hard-nosed presence at that position. That means Dave Roberts likely will shift from center to left, replacing departed home run king Barry Bonds. Randy Winn will stay in right while Davis and some of the other young outfielders share time in a reserve role. That is, if the Giants don’t try to deal them — something Sabean said is a possibility.

The Giants haven’t reached the playoffs since 2003. They re-signed 11-time Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel last month.

Hilton goes green

Socialite tells reporters she's buying a hybrid

PARIS HILTON is making a personal contribution to protecting the environment. "I changed all the light bulbs to energy-safe light bulbs and I'm buying a hybrid car right now," the

26-year-old celebrity heiress said Wednesday. Hilton said she turns off the lights, doesn't leave the TV on or the water running when she leaves her house. "Little things that peo-

ple can do every day to make a huge difference," she said. She was in Berlin to take part in an advertising campaign for Rich Prosecco, a sparkling wine sold in cans. Hilton told reporters she's looking for a boyfriend and knows exactly what qualities Mr. Right should possess.

"Right now I'm single but I am looking for a nice boy," she said. "He should be funny, smart and loyal." Hilton said she was planning to visit one of Berlin's Christmas markets, the city's famous museums, and had already been partying at the city's trendy Cookies club.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

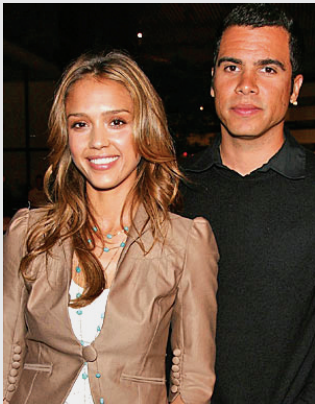


A BUN IN THE OVEN

JESSICA ALBA and her boyfriend, producer **CASH WARREN**, are expecting a baby. "I can confirm that Jessica and Cash are expecting a baby in late spring/early summer," Alba's publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said Wednesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The couple met on the set of "The Fantastic Four." Alba co-starred in the 2005 film and Warren was a director's assistant, according to People magazine, which first reported Alba's pregnancy on its Web site.

Alba, 26, stars in the new thriller "Awake," and recently appeared in "Good Luck Chuck" and "The Ten." The sex symbol first gained fame as an action star on TV's "Dark Angel," then in films including "Fantastic Four" and "Sin City."



ALBA AND WARREN

AP

Charges against LaBeouf go poof

SHIA LABEOUF no longer faces criminal charges for refusing to leave a downtown Chicago drugstore last month. The 21-year-old "Transformers" star was in a Chicago courtroom for only minutes Wednesday before prosecutors said they had received a letter from Walgreen Co. and a security company saying they didn't want to continue the case. LaBeouf, unshaven and wearing a black jacket, didn't speak but smiled at the news. He was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing after being arrested at about 2:30 a.m. Nov. 4. Police said a security guard told LaBeouf, of Glendale, Calif., that he

needed to leave the Walgreens store because he appeared to be drunk, but he refused. Police didn't administer a sobriety test because LaBeouf wasn't driving a vehicle. After the hearing, LaBeouf evaded reporters and fans. "All I can tell you is we're grateful and he's on his way back to work and so am I," said Terry Gillespie, one of the lawyers who represented the actor. LaBeouf co-stars with Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," due in theaters next year.

AP

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

Reach for different, Gemini

Happy Birthday!

The potential of this year could dissolve if you don't take action soon enough to milk all the rewards. Romance knocks on your door if you are single. You might not want the world to know about this bond just yet. If you are attached, you will have an opportunity to increase your closeness if you schedule special times just for the two of you. AQUARIUS is naturally intuitive about you.



Born Today

Actor Jamie Foxx (1967)
Guitarist Ted Nugent (1948)
Singer Amy Lee (1981)

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

★★★★★ With friends' support, your sense of confidence makes you feel like a king or queen. Meet with associates and have an inspired discussion about what might happen if you work as a team. Tonight: Whatever makes your world smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Investigate possibilities and know that you might be a lot luckier and more fortunate than you believe. You have pushed yourself very hard. Know what it is you want. Laugh and relax accordingly. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ How you visualize the big picture could make a huge difference in how you deal with quite a few people. Take the high road. You have style and a way of talking to others. Tonight: Reach for the different.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Look at your many choices. How you handle someone near and dear could change dramatically. He or she is finally far more willing to give and reveal him- or herself. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Encourage a chat about life and even dreamier circumstances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others walk toward you. You question your direction. Listen, observe and make your decision only when you are good and ready. Allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Be agreeable but don't feel as if you have to be committed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ An easy pace does a lot for many of you. If you are going to get past a problem, you might need to sit back and question your alternatives. Also, even if you are nibbling here and there, make sure it is healthy. Tonight: Run Santa errands.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your ability to laugh and dance to another tune allows you to flex in what many would think is a tough situation. You like the assortment of people and different possibilities. Enjoy looking at a loved one through rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to think through a decision more carefully. Listen to your sixth sense with a child or loved one. Listen to others' ideas, perhaps with an eye to security and mental strength. Tonight: Head on home, but stop on the way there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your verbal capacities hit a home run. Don't exaggerate what you need to do and why. If you do, ultimately you might be sorry. Consider your options more carefully with an eye to making dreams real. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your time with a situation that impacts your finances. Touch base with your sixth sense if you are questioning a financial decision. You might be picking up on what others are missing. Tonight: Treat yourself and/or a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You are the cat's meow. Others start treating you as you like. An increased sense of well-being and happiness takes you to a new level of understanding. Investigate an offer with an eye to productivity and success. Tonight: As you like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Take this opportunity to play recluse. Listen carefully to someone you like and respect. Your vision of possibilities makes a big difference. You might need to take in some information that you know but have not acknowledged. Tonight: Some time just for you.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Check theatre for showtimes

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

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
The Perfect Holiday (PG)
1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
Revolver (NR)
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15

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

American Gangster (R)
2:00, 6:00, 9:30
Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)
1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
Enchanted (PG)
1:05, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:05, 10:05
The Golden Compass (PG-13)
1:00, 1:30, 3:35, 4:15, 6:15, 7:00, 9:00, 9:45
Hitman (R)
2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
I'm Not There (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
10:00
August Rush (PG)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10
Awake (PG)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:50
Bee Movie (PG)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:01am
Lions for Lambs (R)
7:00, 9:40
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)
12:00, 2:30, 4:40
Strength and Honor (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:30, 7:50, 10:30
This Christmas (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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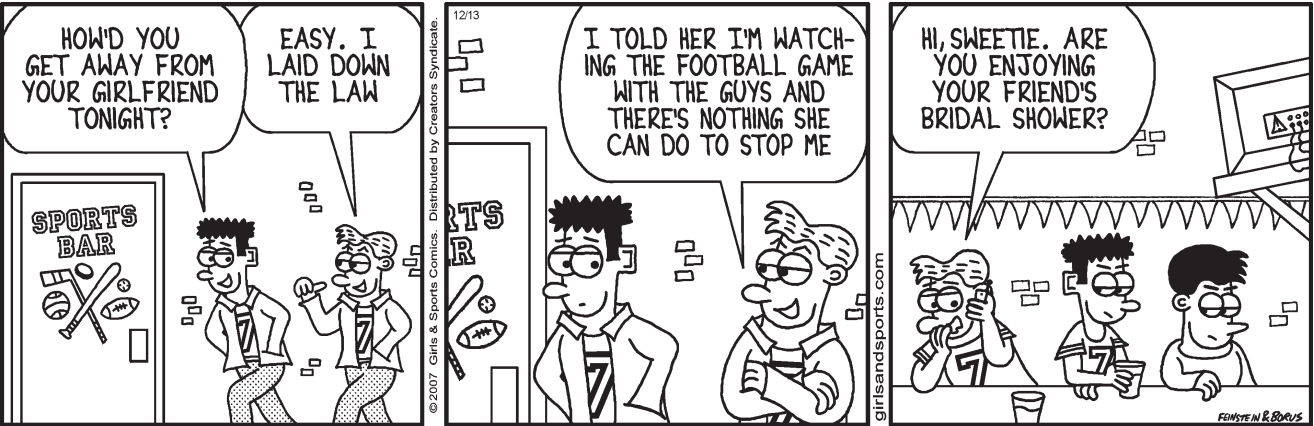
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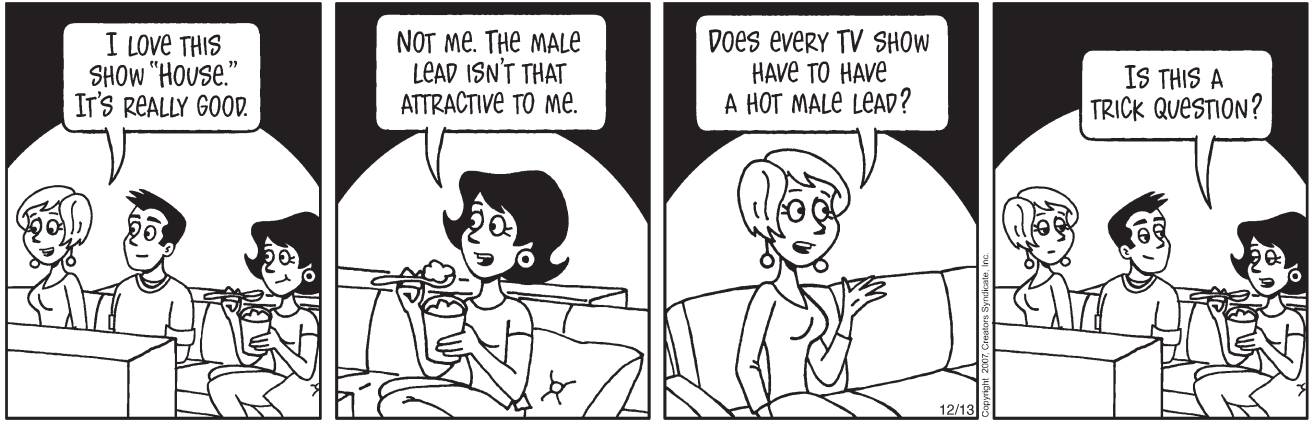
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



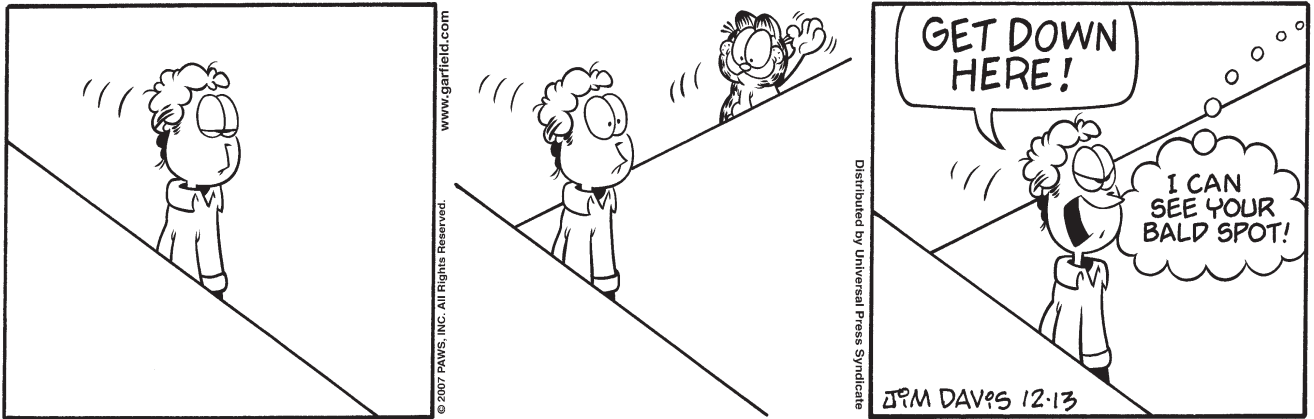
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Pygmalion" playwright
5 Swagger
10 River craft
12 Sports setting
13 Brat's opposite
14 Forum talk
15 100 cts.
16 Chipping tool
18 Midday break
20 Future fish
21 Affectation
23 Mess up
24 Cooks in the microwave
26 Later
28 Douglas, for one
29 Foal's mom
31 Likely
32 Total at the register
36 Pain reducer
39 Early hour
40 Forum figure
41 "Dallas" mom
43 Fiat
- 44 Dangerous gas
45 Takes a breather
46 Bad reviews

DOWN

- 1 A lot
2 Asian city
3 Geometry measure
4 Calamity
5 Store come-on
6 Catch
7 Watch recipient, perhaps
8 Tapestry subject
9 Oil carrier
11 Snobby belief
17 Roadster
19 Dunder-head
22 One walking a line
24 Address part
25 Goddess of the hunt
27 Brood watcher
28 More attractive
30 Pendulum path
33 Israel's Meir
34 Merger
35 Hammer parts
37 Concord
38 Tiny workers
42 Pet perch

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

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 6 25 27 30 45
Meganumber: 46
Jackpot: \$137M

Super LOTTO 17 18 26 31 38
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$15M

Fantasy 5 15 18 19 23 30

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 3 5 2
EVENING: 5 1 8

DAILY DERRY 1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.46

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Poor Dear! A federal magistrate in Tampa, Fla., ordered a doctor's appointment in October for the incarcerated Brian Wilcox, who is being detained on several child pornography charges, after he complained that he was suffering from a series of medical problems. He said that his back hurt from a 4-year-old injury; that he has problems with his eyes; that his feet and groin area are numb as if they are "asleep"; that there is a bulge on the left side of his groin; that he is worried about a mole on his nose because of his family history of cancer; that all of his remaining 16 teeth are either decaying or cracking (keeping him from eating, and he's lost 40 pounds); and that he has "severe flatulence at all times."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1642 Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

1769 Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

1835 Phillips Brooks, the American Episcopal bishop who wrote the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," was born in Boston.

1918 President Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

1928 George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.

1944 During World War II, the U.S. cruiser Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack that claimed more than 130 lives.

1978 The Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation in July 1979.

1981 Authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

1994 An American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

1996 The U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

2000 American Vice President Al Gore delivers his concession speech ending his hopes of becoming the 43rd President of the United States.

WORD UP!

dishabille \dis-uh-BEEL\, *noun*: 1. The state of being carelessly or partially dressed. 2. Casual or lounging attire. 3. An intentionally careless or casual manner.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA
Bonachea, Margaret C. Passed away on December 5, 2007 at the age of 92. Beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt. Services will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 10 A.M. Spalding Mortuary (323) 934-1181 may be contacted for further info.

Miscellaneous

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

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On the 20th Day of December 2007 at 10:30 AM at: AA Olympic 3250 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica, Ca. 90404
(310) 829-2525

Unit #
2408 - Joann Burns Waldron - boxes, lamp, bags
2332 - Elizabeth Singleton - boxes, plastic containers, luggage
2360 - Ray Rodriguez - plastic containers, clothes, boxes, luggage
2660 - Yuri Karjane - bags, plastic containers, office chair, duffle bags, printer
3053 - Magan Hoenig - computer, boxes, wicker basket, file boxes, belts, couch
2118 - I Media - trunk, file boxes, rug, fan, luggage
713 - I Media - boxes, file boxes, loveseat, keyboard
2266 - Tessanna Fulton - clothes, plastic containers, boxes,
2616 - Donald Thomas - boxes, iron board, stereo, wicker basket, chairs, plastic containers
2715 - Christopher Mendicino - boxes, batman, computer, dvd's, dvd player, stereo equipment, pictures, fan, tv, cd's, lp's
0006 - Jan Holtfreter - picture, bags, chairs, dresser, night stand, rocker chair

AUCTIONEER: K.E. AUCTION SERVICE 12127 Mall Blvd. A-178 Victorville, ca.92392 CA. BOND # FS836-21-31 fax # 760-418-4332
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN788726 12-20-07 Dec 6,13, 2007

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is given that on December 24, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner will move for an order adjudicating the Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 20 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- The Petition sets forth the following:
- Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica.
 - Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Santa Monica, California. The business address is 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, CA 90401.
 - Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial paid distribution.
 - For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of Santa Monica Daily Press, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly each weekday in the City of Santa Monica.
 - During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles.

DATED: December 10, 2007
Lisa Grace-Kellogg
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press
12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 Dec 2007

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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,045,856
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,062,250	\$ 691,958
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