



BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH XMAS
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE ROLE-PLAYING AT BARNEY'S ISSUE



Rendering courtesy

BUILDING ANEW: A view of Site C at The Village, looking south on Ocean Avenue. Developers have proposed a revised concept that includes three buildings of varying size, the tallest being 96 feet.

A different scale

New scaled-back designs for Village pass muster with city

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER Apparently, size does matter, at least when it comes to The Village, a mixed-use residential and commercial development planned for the city-owned vacant lot adjacent the RAND Corporation on Main Street.

City officials and residents had problems with the mass and scale of the proposed development by Related Company of California and Santa Monica Community Corp., which is overseeing the construction of 160 affordable housing units

that will be subsidized by the sale of roughly 165 market rate condominiums and artist lofts to be located on three sites spread out across three acres.

In August, the City Council instructed city planners to meet with the architect and Related to discuss ways to decrease the size of the development so that it didn't loom too large over the street or a park planned on the north side of Olympic Drive.

SEE VILLAGE PAGE 11

PUBLIC SAFETY



READY, SET, CROSS

WALKERS RIP SAFETY MEASURES

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

WATCH IT: A woman warily makes her way across Ocean Park Boulevard at 18th Street, the site of another pedestrian accident over the weekend — just after the street was restriped for enhanced safety.

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Calendar

2

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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



Maybe You Missed It Movie: 'Stardust'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Main Library's screening series of recent hit movies continues with the fantasy film, "Stardust," starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Claire Danes. Free screening. Seating is first come, first served at the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Olvera's Posadas

845 N. Alameda St., L.A., 5 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Olvera Street presents Las Posadas — a depiction of the nine-day journey of Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to Bethlehem with singing and a candlelight procession. Free champurado, pan dulce, hot punch and candy.

'Cool School' revisited

1611 Electric Ave., Venice, by appointment only

The "Cool School" exhibit, named for the film which features Ferus Gallery artists, will be on display through Jan. 11. A portion of the proceeds from sold paintings will go to the "Films for Schools" outreach program. For more information, visit www.VeniceTrust.com.

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

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

Candid Claus

1300 block of Third Street Promenade, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Take a moment out of the Black Weekend massacre to visit with Santa Claus, who will sit still for some candid moments with the kiddies.

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007

Montana Avenue Branch book group

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Join us to discuss Irene Nemirovsky's "Suite Francaise."

Jewish story hour

1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Story time at Chabad is for children ages 3 — 7. It is recommended that participants RSVP to this free event to ensure there are enough materials for all children. For questions or to RSVP, call (310) 393-7379 or e-mail srljs@juno.com.

Grown Up Fairy Tales Book Group: 'Stardust'

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

Neil Gaiman's book "Stardust" is discussed. This free group is open to all and will meet in the Community Meeting.

Griffith Park Light Festival

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

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



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On the lookout for sniffles

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN LA The first case of the flu in Los Angeles County was reported over the weekend, prompting public health officials to remind people that it's never too late to get vaccinated.

The patient diagnosed with Influenza A was a child who resides in the eastern San Fernando Valley, officials with the county's department of public health said.

Influenza A is the leading cause of pneumonia and accounts for 110,000 to 200,000 hospitalizations, and 20,000 to 40,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Receiving the flu shot is the most effective way to prevent the flu and its complications, said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, director of public health for the county.

"I urge everyone who has not already done so to get a flu shot," Fielding said. "Be prepared this year and protect yourself and your family. There is still time to get a flu vaccination."

There is no shortage of flu vaccine this year, so everyone should be able to get a flu shot or the FluMist nasal spray, Fielding said. It is especially important for infants and children 6 months through 5 years of age to get vaccinated because they are at the highest

risk of serious complications from the flu.

Other people at risk include anyone over the age of 50, residents of long-term care facilities, women who will be pregnant during the flu season, health care workers, and people with a medical condition that puts them at risk for flu complications such as those with chronic heart or lung conditions, diabetes or HIV/AIDS.

"There are a number of steps everyone



BE PREPARED THIS YEAR AND PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY. THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET A FLU VACCINATION."

Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, director of public health for Los Angeles County

can follow to help prevent the spread of the flu," said Dr. Laurene Mascola, director of the acute communicable disease control unit for the county. "These include covering your mouth with a tissue or handkerchief when you cough or sneeze, and washing your hands frequently with soap and water. These health habits will help reduce the chances of catching any number of respiratory viruses, including the flu.

Those already experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a combination of high fever, cough, headache and muscle ache should stay home during the first three to five days of their illness to avoid exposing others to the disease, Mascola said.

"It is important to drink plenty of fluids and use acetaminophen or ibuprofen if needed for pain and fever," Mascola said.

Aspirin should be avoided in children less

than 18 years of age so as to avoid inducing Reye's syndrome, which is a deadly disease that strikes swiftly and can attack any child or adult without warning. All body organs are affected, with the liver and brain suffering most seriously. While the cause and cure remain unknown, research has established a link between Reye's Syndrome and the use of aspirin and other salicylate-containing medications.

The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention estimates that at least 132 million doses of flu vaccine will be available nationwide.

Although most people think of autumn as the best time of the year to get their flu shot, the vaccine is actually recommended throughout the flu season, which typically runs through mid-March. Flu vaccination can prevent the flu or reduce its complications, but only in people who receive it before they are exposed to the virus.

Roughly 500 people have received flu shots for free or at a reduced cost from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, which held two community clinics last month, a spokesman from the hospital said. The flu has not surfaced yet at the hospital.

For more information regarding the hours and locations of flu vaccinations clinics at public health centers, go to www.lapublichealth.org, or call 211LA, the county information and referral line. There is also www.findaflushot.com, which lists those pharmacies that are administering the vaccine.

"The supply of flu vaccine is at record levels this year," said Dr. Alvin Nelson El Amin, the director of the county's immunization program. "There is no shortage of flu vaccine."

news@smdp.com



A HEARST-CASE SCENARIO

Workers begin to install 16 large white pillars at the site of the Marion Davies Estate on Monday, as work progresses on the Annenberg Community Beach Club construction project. The 29-foot pillars are intended to evoke the iconic white columns of the original estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Work on the pillars is expected to continue through much of today.

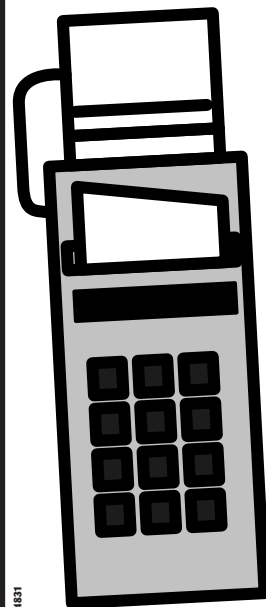
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Here's one for the bicycle riders

Editor:

(Re: "Ticket to ride," Dec. 15-16)
Bravo!
And thank you.

Danny Gamboa
Santa Monica

Maybe the DP could do everything

Editor:

Eric Cooper wants only letters on stuff that is in the Daily Press. Well, while looking over the ads, I noticed something very disturbing. Two different people are selling their hot tubs. This could mean the economy is getting worse, and they need the money. Yet, it could also mean they want to get rid of them because they are getting better ones. Hence, the economy is getting better.

Perhaps the Daily Press can investigate that.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Bush: A man of the people

Editor:

Did he slip in the polls? I just heard President Bush gave a speech to a Rotary Club at a Holiday Inn. Whoa!

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

Elect Republicans at your own peril

Editor:

Indiscriminate shooting sprees now happen with depressing regularity and gun nuts still want to arm all citizens. Can you imagine every emotional live-wire armed to the teeth?

Republican politician Kit Bond says waterboarding torture is no different than a leisurely swim. Have you seen demonstrations of waterboarding? America needs a new direction. Elect any of the GOP presidential candidates in '08 and it will be a continuation of the Bush era – more war, more debt, more lies, corruption and secrecy.

The anti-immigration movement equals discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, racism, hatred and ignorance. And how safe will your vote be next year?

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica



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What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Just don't believe all that recession hype

NOW THAT WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF the holidays, let the shopping begin, the anger at the stupidity of other drivers, the parking lot brain death, and the joy of the season ring out across the land.

'Tis the season for shopping, and with that comes the inevitable — parking chaos. Traffic officers are sprouting all across our fair city. Fourth Street is awash in traffic cones, meter maids writing tickets as quickly as their little printers can print, all the while accompanied by the symphony of frustrated drivers honking at someone who is desperate to get that "good" parking spot on the first level, while causing traffic to back up onto the street for a block.

The good news is that the heavier the traffic, the better our economy must be doing, both locally and nationally. While on the one hand, the political pundits are prepping the country for a recession, with their talk of continued depressed real estate prices and higher joblessness, the shops and malls are telling another tale.

I went this past Sunday to pick up a gift for a friends' birthday, she asked for iTunes, so I had to go to the Apple Store on the promenade. As I came up Fourth Street, each of the three parking structures were near full and had lines of cars honking their way in and causing general mayhem.

Coming down Second Street was no better. Those lots were packed and had streams of cars also trying to get a spot. Thanks to a lucky break on my part, I was able to find a spot on the street, as someone was just leaving. I grabbed my dog, and we began the trek along the promenade, and it was like something just short of a teen pop idol concert. The mall was jammed with people.

There was the usual congregation of listeners as a group of carolers performed near Wilshire, lending a festive air to the whole experience. I was jostled by many folks who were running with packages and bags filled with gifts for their loved ones.

The Apple Store was a hub of shoppers whipping out their credit cards to make Steve Jobs a richer man. Every seat was taken at the pub I was going to stop in and get a warming cup of joe.

The promenade looks great this year. The "wintery" feel of the displays, however, are reminders that there are those who want to abolish all symbols of the holidays, or rename them into linguistic nonsense. Making a Christmas tree a "holiday tree" is as pointless doublespeak as calling a tax cut a "revenue reduction." No one wants to rename a menorah a "holiday candle hold-

er." That would be stupid. It is what it is.

I love this time of year: It creates a wonderful space for us to express how we feel about each other; it is a time to share more than the crass commercialization of the season; and it is a time to share more than our individual religious differences. It is a time that should make us go beyond our differences and share in our humanity.

As a society, we change our focus at this time of year. The message from the marketers is one of consumption, but the charities are out loud and proud about helping others, for me, it is a welcome respite from the constant drum of "buy this to be happy" and "you're not enough unless you look like this," as much as I disagree with much of what the Salvation Army does, at this time of year, their message of love and helping others, rings out like their volunteers who ring their bells, seeking our change.

MAKING A CHRISTMAS TREE A "HOLIDAY TREE" IS AS POINTLESS DOUBLESPEAK AS CALLING A TAX CUT A "REVENUE REDUCTION."

This year, when clearly the economy is doing better than the pundits would have us believe, take a break from the shopping and go do something that makes a difference in the lives of those who have less than you. It doesn't have to be a major event, just something small like go help out at a shelter, or make some sandwiches and give them out to people who have less than you, you'll find them on the promenade or at the freeway entrances and exits.

You won't solve the problems of this world alone, but you can contribute to the solutions. When there is so much bad news in the air, and so many things wrong with the planet, it is tempting to escape into a frenzy of shopping and forget the things of real value.

It will be a great day when the charities have to turn people away who wanted to help, instead of those who needed help.

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Student sues over his 'Jesus glasses'

By the Associated Press

MISSION VIEJO A history teacher has been sued for making what one student calls anti-Christian comments in the classroom.

The case has sparked a debate about the role a teacher's convictions should play in their lessons.

Capistrano Valley High School sophomore Chad Farnan and his parents filed the lawsuit against James Corbett last week.

They allege that Corbett's remarks during an advanced European history class violated a clause in the First Amendment that prohibits the government from promoting religious intolerance.

Court papers cited tape-recorded classroom comments that allegedly included Corbett saying, "When you put on your Jesus glasses, you can't see the truth" and other remarks that troubled Farnan.

Farnan claimed Corbett's lessons were one-sided.

But Capistrano Valley junior Doug Kalagian said Corbett, who has taught at the school for 19 years, was being sarcastic "to help prove a point."

Supporters said Corbett routinely uses tactics in the classroom that question the merits of religion and force students to think about their convictions and faith.

The lawsuit set off passionate reactions from both sides. More than 260 comments

were posted on OCRegister.com in response to ongoing story.

"Corbett has been a powerful reminder to me that we 'Christians' do not have the monopoly on truth," Capistrano Valley High geography and history teacher Tom Airey wrote in the Orange County Register's opinion section. "In an age where there is probably too much emphasis on teaching to the standards and getting 'the facts' right, Corbett is training young students to think critically."

Federal and district guidelines don't ban teachers from discussing religion, especially in a history class where discussion of religious historical events is common. But teachers are expected to be fair and neither promote nor denigrate religions in their treatment of the topics.

"All of his opinions would have been fine with us if he had invited opposing points of view and the class was actually debating," said parent Birgit O'Hearn, 46, of Mission Viejo, who pulled her daughter out of Corbett's class this year. "But the opinions he was putting forth are not opinions that are worthy of an instructor."

School officials were more reserved about passing judgment.

"Obviously, the district will be looking into everyone's rights and responsibilities, and the safety and welfare of the kids," Capistrano Unified school board President Mike Darnold said.

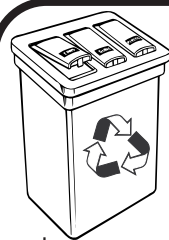


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'No Country,' 'Blood' top flicks

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The crime tale "No Country for Old Men," the oil saga "There Will Be Blood" and the legal drama "Michael Clayton" were among critical favorites that landed on the American Film Institute's list of the year's 10 best movies.

Also on AFI's list released Sunday were the jewel-heist story "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead," the stroke-victim tale "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," the road drama "Into the Wild," the pregnancy comedies "Juno" and "Knocked Up," the animated rodent comedy "Ratatouille" and the sibling comic drama "The Savages."

Unlike other film honors, the institute does not rank films or pick one as the year's best. The filmmakers behind the top-10 choices will be honored at a luncheon Jan. 11.

Many of the films on the list picked up Golden Globe nominations last week and

are expected to compete for Academy Awards. Nominations come out Jan. 22.

Among Globe best-drama nominees were "No Country for Old Men," Joel and Ethan Coen's Texas thriller starring Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem and Josh Brolin; "There Will Be Blood," Paul Thomas Anderson's California oil-boom epic with Daniel Day-Lewis; and "Michael Clayton," Tony Gilroy's corporate-lawsuit drama starring George Clooney.

The AFI also released a top 10 list of TV shows and movies for 2007, featuring "Dexter," "Everybody Hates Chris," "Friday Night Lights," "Longford," "Mad Men," "Pushing Daisies," "The Sopranos," "Tell Me You Love Me," "30 Rock" and "Ugly Betty."

The top 10 lists were chosen by two 13-member panels, one each for movies and television. Members included actress Melissa Gilbert, filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan and critics Leonard Maltin and David Ansen.

The Line

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A share of the road

The crackdown on Santa Monica Critical Mass bike riders continues by Santa Monica police. Bicyclists claim they are being unfairly targeted; the police contend the riders should get a permit if they are going to clog up city streets every first Friday of the month.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Are Critical Mass riders flouting the city's laws or should the police work with them to help promote bicycling in the city?

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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Sitting on Santa is made simple

Preparing little ones for a lap session can eliminate some stress

BY HILLARY RHODES
Associated Press Writer

Santa has seen it all: the wigglers, the squirmers, the criers and the over-askers. Every kind of kid has taken a turn on Kris Kringle's lap at one time or another.

Here's some advice to parents from one expert about how to best prepare a Santa visit with your young one. Tim Connaghan (also known as Santa Tim), who owns holiday event company The Kringle Group, LLC, offers the following tips:

PLAN AHEAD

Talk to your son or daughter before they visit with the man in the red suit. Generally speaking, they're not supposed to talk to strangers, so show them that Santa is a known character.

Books, animated films and television programs can help take the mystery away from the man.

WATCH OTHER KIDS

If you're waiting in line for your own visit, you can encourage your child to watch their peers interact with Santa. They'll get the idea that there's nothing to be scared of.

"See that Santa's a nice person and there's a nice situation there," Connaghan says.

FOCUS ON THE BIG PICTURE

Encouraging your child to sit on somebody's lap and rattle off a wish list could send the wrong message to your child: that Christmas is all about them and what they want.

"I like it when parents can tell the children that this is the season of giving," Connaghan says. He suggests asking your child if he can think of anybody in class who might need a present, or dropping off canned goods at a place collecting for a homeless shelter.

MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE

Avoid discomfort that might make children irritable, such as overdressing them in winter-themed clothing when they are spending a lot of time waiting in line in an overheated mall.

Connaghan suggests asking Santa's camera crew what time to come to avoid the really long lines. "It takes a lot of planning, but in planning you can make a lot of fun," he says.



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

CHECKING IT TWICE: Georgia, 5, looks for her parents last month as she stands next to Santa Claus on the Third Street Promenade. Experts say preparing kids for a lap session will help all parties.

Can we talk?

Continuing last year's discussion with
City Manager P. Lamont Ewell about
community priorities

Attend one of these neighborhood meetings to get an update on how the city has responded to the community's concerns, and discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities as the 2008-09 budget planning cycle begins.

BOTH MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Center
2200 Virginia Avenue

Monday, January 7, 2008

Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Avenue

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North of Montana Association
Ocean Park Association
Pico Neighborhood Association
Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Association



All locations are wheelchair accessible. For additional disability-related accommodations, or for more information about these meetings, please call (310) 458-8281.



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Tales from the crib

Angie Wagner

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Must the age of 2 really be terrible?

THE DAY AFTER MY BABY TURNED 2, she had what can only be described as a complete and impressive meltdown at the grocery store.

I had vowed the time before never to bring her to the store again because she easily slithers out of the grocery cart's kid-compartment (the kind like a truck cab), stands up and runs away as fast as she can.

But company had just left and I had nothing in the house to eat. Not even enough to make some sandwiches. I was desperate. So I broke my vow and took the little beast to the store.

Produce, deli, meat counters — all good so far. Then she climbed out of the cart while I was pushing it. "Walk," she demanded.

I warned her to stay by my side, but as soon as I grabbed a jar of pickles, she was off, bolting out of sight around the corner.

I left the cart where it was and ran as fast as I could to find her. Luckily the store was pretty empty and I caught up to her two aisles over. She was giggling wildly. We tried to check out, but there was Aubrey running down the soda aisle.

Why is she doing this? What is wrong with her? But then it dawned on me: Of course! She is 2 now. She has always had a wild streak and has tried to run away from me before. But this time seemed a bit more calculated and a bit more horrible.

So is there such a thing as the "terrible twos"? Or is it just an excuse parents have to describe bad behavior?

Parenting expert Michele Borba, author of the book "Don't Give Me That Attitude!," describes the tantrum behavior of 2-year-olds as no less than an "exorcism."

"It's developmentally normal. What your child is trying to do is to assert themselves and they don't have the skills," she said.

Clearly.

Two-year-olds, she said, are extremely egocentric, which may explain why Aubrey doesn't want me to get any grocery shopping done. After Aubrey ran away down the soda aisle, the checker asked me her name.

Then she got on the intercom and announced to the entire store:

"Aubrey turn around. Your mother is waiting."

I was mortified. The childless customers behind me were staring.

Aubrey looked up briefly at the ceiling when she heard her name, then kept right on running. When I finally grabbed her, she threw herself on the ground and cried.

Borba said once a child is in full tantrum mode, there is no stopping it. Don't pay any attention or the tantrum will end up lasting longer. Forget reasoning with the child. Borba equated that to reasoning with a goldfish.

She suggests the old Boy Scout motto of "be prepared," meaning don't take a 2-year-old to run errands during nap time or when she might be hungry. Or, in my case, Aubrey will never return to the grocery store until she is around age 10.

But let's get real. Sometimes I need groceries or I just have to mail that package. Borba said removing the child from the situation is ideal, but if that isn't possible, try to distract the child or speak in a soothing voice.

I guess that means no curse words. I admit I have resorted to promising lots of chocolate before and did see some improvement in the behavior.

The good news, Borba said, is that by age 4, most kids have grown out of the flailing arms, banging head, tearful tantrums that make parents cringe.

Only two more years to go for me. Please hurry.

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Amish man's new miracle idea helps home heat bills hit rock bottom

Miracle heaters being given away free with orders for real Amish fireplace mantles to launch the new invention that slashes heat bills, but Amish craftsmen under strain of Christmas rush impose household limit of 2

Saves money: uses less energy than a coffee maker, so leave it on day and night and never be cold again

By MARK WOODS
Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) Everyone hates high heat bills. But we're all sick and tired of turning down the thermostat and always being cold.

Well now, brand new HEAT SURGE™ miracle heaters are actually being given away free to the general public for the next two days starting at precisely 8:00 a.m. today.

The only thing local readers have to do is call the National Distribution Hotline before the 48 hour deadline with their order for the handmade Amish Fireplace Mantles. Everyone who does is instantly being awarded the miracle heaters absolutely free.

This is all happening to launch the new HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow™ Amish Fireplace that actually rolls from room to room so you can take the heat with you anywhere. That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately start saving on their heat bills.

For the first time ever, portable Amish fireplaces are being delivered directly to the doors of all those who beat the deadline.

These miracle fireplaces have what's being called the 'Fireless Flame' technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, smells, ashes or mess. Everyone is getting them because they require no chimney and no vent. You just plug them in.

The Fireless Flame looks so real it fools everybody but it has no real fire. So what's the catch? Well, the soft spoken Amish craftsmen who hand make the mantles are imposing a strict household limit of 2 during the strain of the Christmas rush.

"We can barely keep up ever since we started giving heaters away free. Now that it's really getting cold outside, everyone's trying to get them. Amish craftsmen are working their fingers to the bone to be sure everyone gets their delivery in time for Christmas," confirms Timothy Milton,



■ **GENUINE AMISH MANTLES MADE IN THE USA:** Amish craftsmen are pleased that Heat Surge officials have provided proof of certification of the coveted UL Listing for the miracle heater. Now, everyone wants to save money on heat bills this winter, so entire Amish communities are working from the crack of dawn to finish. These fine solid wood Amish made fireplace mantles are built to last forever. The solid oak mantle is a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars because all those who beat the order deadline by calling the National Hotline at 1-800-242-6155 to order the fireplace mantles are actually getting the imported hi-tech Fireless Flame HEAT SURGE miracle heaters for free.

National Shipping Director.

"These portable Roll-n-Glow Fireplaces are the latest home decorating sensation. They actually give you a beautifully redecorated room while they quickly heat from wall to wall. It's

the only way to dress up every room, stay really warm and slash your heat bills all at the same time," says Josette Holland, Home Makeover Expert to the rich and famous.

And here's the best part. Readers

who beat the 48-hour order deadline are getting their imported hi-tech miracle heaters free when encased in the real Amish built solid wood fireplace mantles. The mantles are being handmade in the USA right in

How to get 2 free heaters

The National Toll Free Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 48 hour order deadline to cover the Amish made Fireplace Mantles and shipping get the HEAT SURGE miracle heaters free.

They have imposed a strict limit of 2 per household. Since some home woodworkers want to build their own mantle piece, they are letting people get the imported miracle heater alone for just \$249. Or, with the Amish made mantle you get the miracle heater free.

Use the map below to locate the weather zone you live in and call the Hotline number for your zone.



Claim Code: FP1315



ON THEIR WAY: Christmas orders have turned country roads into pipelines to the big city delivery system. Everybody wants a fireplace that comes fully assembled with a handmade Amish mantle in oak or cherry and gets delivered by truck right to your door. All you do is plug it in.

EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Frigid Zone: 1
START CALLING AT
8:00 A.M. TODAY
1-800-242-6155

EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Cold Zone: 2
START CALLING AT
8:30 A.M. TODAY
1-800-310-7731

EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Frost Zone: 3
START CALLING AT
9:00 A.M. TODAY
1-800-625-7259

the heart of Amish country where they are beautifully hand-rubbed, stained and varnished.

You just can't find custom made Amish mantles like this in the national chain stores. That makes the solid oak mantle a real steal for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars since the entire cost of the miracle heater is free.

This free giveaway is the best way to finish all of your holiday shopping,

because it's one of the year's hottest Christmas gifts. The HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow Fireplace gives you all the beauty and warmth of a built-in fireplace but it can also save you a ton of money on heating bills.

Even people in California and Florida are flocking to get them so they may never have to turn on their furnace all winter. And since it uses less energy than a coffee maker the potential savings are absolutely

incredible.

"We are making sure no one gets left out, but you better hurry because entire communities of Amish craftsmen are straining to keep up with Christmas orders. For now, we have to turn away dealers in order to let readers of today's newspaper have two per household just as long as they call before the deadline," confirms Milton.

It's a really smart decision to get

HEAT SURGE Fireless Flame

How It Works: The HEAT SURGE miracle heater is a work of engineering genius from the China coast so advanced, you simply plug it into any standard wall outlet. It uses less energy than it takes to run a coffee maker. Yet, it produces an amazing 5,119 BTU's. An on board Powerful hi-tech heat turbine silently forces hot air out into the room so you feel the bone soothing heat instantly. It even has certification of Underwriters Laboratories coveted UL listing and comes with a full year Money Back Guarantee.



two right now because for only the next 48 hours you get both miracle heaters free. That's like putting five hundred bucks right in your pocket and you can save even more money on your monthly heating bills.

"Everyone's calling to get one but those who are getting their shopping done are surprising the whole family by getting two. So when lines are busy keep trying or log onto amishfireplaces.com. We promise to get to every call. Then we can have a delivery truck out to your door right away with your beautiful Amish made Roll-n-Glow Fireplace," Milton said.

"You'll instantly feel bone soothing heat in any room. You will never have to be cold again," he said.

On the worldwide web:
www.amishfireplaces.com

Rolls anywhere to throw an instant heat wave with no chimney, no vents, no wood and no smoke



EASILY ROLLS ANYWHERE: This is the portable Roll-n-Glow™ Fireplace that easily rolls from bedroom to living room. No vents, no chimney and no tools. Just plug it in.



SAVES ON BILLS: Everyone gets low bills and stays warm and cozy. Naomi Abrams' new Roll-n-Glow Fireplace saves a ton of money and makes her front room look like a million bucks.



SAFE: The Fireless Flame looks so real it fools everybody but there is no real fire. That makes it safe to the touch. It's where the kids will play and the cat and dog will sleep.



FREE: Get this \$249 miracle heater free. It is being given away free to all who beat the 48 hour order deadline for your choice of the oak or cherry Amish Mantles. The free heater comes already encased.

Bottling traffic gets panned

Ocean Park Boulevard made one-lane street; another walker struck

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK Another pedestrian fell victim to a notorious crosswalk here that business owners and neighbors have long complained is unsafe for its lack of signalization, the most recent incident occurring just one day after Ocean Park Boulevard was restriped to enhance safety.

According to eyewitnesses, a woman was walking across the crosswalk at 18th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard early Saturday afternoon when a man driving an SUV — which had stopped for the pedestrian — was rear-ended by another vehicle and pushed into the crosswalk, striking the woman.

A 12-block stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard — from Lincoln Boulevard to Cloverfield Boulevard — was restriped on Friday and Saturday, condensing the Sunset Park corridor from two lanes to one in order to calm the speed of traffic and enhance safety, a response by city officials to neighbors' concerns about the volume and speed of traffic along the bustling street.

Bruce Bair, who owns a yoga studio on the 1600 block of Ocean Park Boulevard, was driving to work around 12:25 p.m. on Saturday, waiting at the intersection of 18th Street, when he saw the pedestrian get struck by the car.

"It was like watching a mannequin," Bair said Monday. "It was really surprising. I have never seen that before."

There was no information available as to the pedestrian's condition as of press time on Monday.

Neighbors have long complained about the dangers posed to pedestrians that attempt to cross Ocean Park Boulevard at unsignalized intersections, mainly from 14th to 20th streets, which is home to several businesses and John Adams Middle School. Several pedestrians have been struck, some fatally, in the crosswalks over the past few years, prompting business owners and residents to call on city officials to implement some changes, many demanding a traffic signal or a flashing red signal be installed at 16th and 18th streets.



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

FEELING LUCKY? A pedestrian was struck Saturday in this crosswalk at 18th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard, just one day after city workers restriped the street in efforts to ensure walkers' safety. The pedestrian was struck after a car rear-ended another into the notorious crosswalk.

At both 16th and 18th streets are a set of lights that are embedded into the crosswalk, flashing when activated by a pedestrian. While the flashing lights seem effective at night, illuminating the crosswalk, many neighbors find it less visible during the day, saying it gives pedestrians a false sense of security.

In response to neighbors' concerns, city planners have met with Sunset Park business owners and residents over the past year and a half, presenting a list of possible short and long-term solutions in a series of workshops, which included reconfiguring Ocean Park Boulevard to have angled parking, adding full signal control at 16th and 18th streets, and transforming the street from a two- to one-lane corridor.

"The intent was to improve traffic safety and pedestrian safety by slowing down people who were speeding and making it easier to make a decision at the intersections and also

to provide more parking availability," said Transportation Planning Manager Lucy Dyke.

ONE-WAY THINKING

Some business owners criticize the decision to turn Ocean Park Boulevard into a one-lane street, claiming they have seen the impacts with traffic backing up.

"I've been here for 20 years and this street used to be dead," said Elizabeth Seiji, who owns Edelweiss Flower Boutique on the corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and 18th Street. "Now it's a thoroughfare, and when we had two lanes, it would take 20 minutes to get to Bundy (Drive) ... now I don't even know."

Seiji has observed that ever since the lanes were restriped, drivers — frustrated and sitting stalled in traffic on Ocean Park Boulevard — seem less inclined to let another driver pass through.

"They should've left it two lanes," she said.

Dyke added the one-lane configuration will help avoid the type of accidents that happens when an impatient motorist, stuck behind a car that is stopped for a pedestrian, will go into the second lane and possibly strike the pedestrian.

The restriping has also created a bike lane and can also increase parking spaces, Dyke added.

Nancy Lombardi, the owner of Artful on Ocean Park Boulevard, said while the new configuration might confuse some drivers who are unaware that Ocean Park Boulevard is now one lane, she's planning on withholding judgment until she sees what type of impact it will have on traffic flow.

"I'm willing to give it a shot," she said.

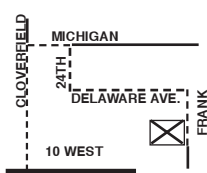
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Council praises new creative vision

FROM VILLAGE PAGE 1

Following a series of meetings that included a community workshop, the architect returned last week with a scaled-down version that featured plenty of setbacks and the creation of more open space. The council approved the massing concept and a shared parking plan for the development.

Much attention has been focused on what is known as Site C, which is located on Main Street at the southern end of the development, adjacent to the Viceroy Hotel. When Related first brought the design for Site C to the council, it was rejected for being too boxy and imposing at street level.

**IN MY OPINION,
THESE ARE THE UGLIEST
BUILDINGS EVER PROPOSED
IN SANTA MONICA."**

Ellen Brennan
a critic of the Village Development

Related's alternative replaces the more boxy design with three distinct buildings on a raised podium with private open space that is intended to enhance the livability of the units by increasing residents' access to open space, views and amenities. The three buildings are of varying heights, with the northernmost building being 76 feet. The middle building would stand at 86 feet and the third would be 96 feet tall. That building is located at the southernmost edge of the development, next to the Viceroy and RAND, both buildings helping to disguise the mass, city planners and the architect said.

"I just want to say 'bravo,'" said Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, who made the motion last week to approve the massing and shared parking plan, which calls for approxi-

mately 8 percent of the 612 parking spaces to be shared between residents and businesses.

"I think this project is really coming together," Bloom added. "Site C was the subject of a great deal of concern at the last hearing. It's dramatically improved ... I think this rendering shows us that we have something really special ahead of us."

City staff will continue to negotiate a development agreement with Related and Community Corp. based on the massing approved by the council. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the development agreement and will make recommendations to the council in early 2008. The council will then consider the approval of the agreement, in light of the Planning Commission recommendations.

The affordable housing component of the project is anticipated to be funded in part by the state Multifamily Housing Program (MHP). In order to participate in this outside funding, the project needs to receive development agreement and Coastal Commission approval prior to the funding application deadline of October 2008, according to a city staff report.

The revised plan from Related also includes shared parking, which sets aside approximately 8 percent of the 612 parking spaces for shared uses between commercial and residential, as these uses are located on the same site with the intent that residents will make use of the on-site neighborhood serving uses.

Many who attended last week's council meeting said they supported the revised site plans and the city's efforts to build more affordable housing units.

However, a few Santa Monica residents dislike the project's impact on traffic and the cubed shape of the residential units.

"In my opinion, these are the ugliest buildings ever proposed in Santa Monica," said Ellen Brennan, a critic of large-scale development downtown. "The world of architecture gets excited about ideas that seem new. The problem with new is that when it wears off, the ugliness remains and peo-



Rendering courtesy

MIXING IT UP: The Village will include market rate condos, artists lofts and affordable housing across three acres.

ple who live in affordable housing don't need to live in ugly buildings."

Jan Williamson, executive director of the 18th Street Arts Center, had a very different opinion. She said she liked the idea of having the artist lofts on what has been labeled the "livable street," a walkway that stretches through the middle of Site A and B, where the affordable units and lofts will be located, along with some of the market rate units.

"I'm really excited about the artist housing part of this project," Williamson said. "I can just imagine what the vibe will be like five years after everyone's moved in and the way that artists will activate the space. I like the amount of open space that is there and the variation of transportation opportunities that move through the space and tie it to the walkable street model."

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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MIRACLE ON THIRD STREET

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

The planned and the unexpected shared a dual-billing Saturday along the Third Street Promenade, where shoppers were surprised at almost every turn. (Clockwise, from above) Members of the singing group 'From the Top' belt out Christmas songs from the promenade stage as part of Winterlit; Abe Quigley wields his ax; a group of runners, yelling out that they were doing it for charity, grin and bare it on Third Street; Alexa Glaza and her father, Tom, put the finishing touches on her snowman during the snowman-making contest; models made up with MAC cosmetics sit and dance around a stage to represent a winter wonderland scene in celebration of the MAC store's Third Street opening.



White House likes Dems' concessions

A hopeful Bush says spending bill hinges on funding for Iraq

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Bush said Monday he is hopeful he can sign a \$500 billion-plus catchall spending bill emerging on Capitol Hill, but only after Democrats agree to accept funding for U.S. troops in Iraq.

Bush's Democratic rivals introduced a year-end measure early Monday that mostly sticks within Bush's budget even as it shifts billions of dollars into politically sensitive domestic programs he sought to cut.

"We're making some pretty good progress toward coming up with a fiscally sound budget, one that meets priorities, helps on some emergencies and enables us to say that we've been fiscally sound with the people's money," Bush said Monday.

The mammoth 1,482-page bill has been shorn of Democratic policy riders that drew White House veto threats, such as an attempt to ease restrictions on aid to overseas family planning groups that provide abortions and a provision to expand the Davis Bacon Act, which requires contractors and subcontractors to pay workers locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits.

The bill wraps together the budgets for

every Cabinet department except the Pentagon and is expected to pass Congress this week to allow lawmakers to head home for Christmas. The result is a defeat for Democrats, who had spent months on legislation to add \$27 billion to domestic programs, an almost 7 percent increase.

Bush sought a much smaller increase, less than 1 percent, for domestic programs other than military base construction; the Democratic bill provides more than a 3 percent increase, including "emergency" funding above Bush's budget.

Democrats succeeded in reversing cuts sought by President Bush to heating subsidies, local law enforcement, Amtrak and housing as well as Bush's plan to eliminate the \$654 million budget for grants to community action agencies that help the poor.

To find the money, lawmakers shifted \$6 billion from Bush's plans for defense, foreign aid and military base construction accounts. And they've added \$2 billion in future-year appropriations for education that, for practical purposes, adds to Bush's 2008 budget. Veterans would get \$3.7 billion more than Bush requested, but only if he changes his mind and decides the money is needed.

Democrats were able to put their imprint on the bill, saving programs such as the \$140 million Commodity Supplemental Food Program, targeted for elimination by Bush but given a 30 percent budget hike by Democrats. The program provides nutritionally balanced boxes of food to about a half-million mostly elderly poor people per month.

The bill is "totally inadequate to meet the long-term investment needs of the country, but it is a whole lot better than the country would have had had it not elected a Democratic House last year," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis.

Democrats touted, for instance, increases for Social Security administrative costs aimed at reducing backlogs for disability claims, \$544 million above Bush's budget to battle AIDS overseas, and a 16 percent boost for the National Endowment of the Arts, a frequent target of GOP conservatives. The chronically underfunded Consumer Product Safety Commission would get a 28 percent hike in its budget.

Conservative Republicans were generally expected to oppose the measure, but House GOP leaders held their fire, knowing many Republican votes will be needed to pass the bill once up to \$40 billion in Iraq funding is added to it by the Senate.

"This is a really bad deal," said Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. "Instead of passing a clean bill, Democrats have packed it full of controversial policy riders, wasteful earmarks, and budget gimmicks that add billions in additional domestic spending over the president's level."

The measure caps months of battling with Bush over the one-sixth of the budget passed each year by Congress for domestic programs.

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Latest wintry blast dumps on New England, Midwest

DAVID N. GOODMAN
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT A pre-winter blend of snow, sleet and freezing rain cut visibility and iced over highways from the Great Lakes to New England, dumping up to a foot-and-a-half of snow, stranding air and road travelers and causing an airliner to skid off a runway.

School districts across the region — including Michigan's largest, in Detroit — canceled Monday classes. A winter storm warning remained in effect Monday in northern Maine, where visibility was cut by snow blown by wind gusting to 35 mph.

Slippery roads caused by the big storm were blamed for four weekend deaths in Indiana, two in Michigan and one each in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and the Canadian Maritime province of Nova Scotia.

The northern New York state community of Peru had 18 inches of snow, and high wind Monday morning whipped up fallen snow across the state, the National Weather Service said. In Michigan, Ann Arbor measured 10.5 inches and parts of Indiana had 14 inches.

"It's winter," said Ann Arbor resident Linda Thelen, 53, as she and her husband dug out their home. "I expect a couple of these each year."

In Rhode Island, a U.S. Airways Express Flight from Philadelphia carrying 31 passengers and three crew members slid off the runway when it landed at T.F. Green Airport, which got nearly 8 inches of snow. No injuries were reported, but the airport had to close its runways for about 2 1/2 hours. Barb

Jones, a spokeswoman for Air Wisconsin, which operates the jet, said the incident was under investigation.

The storm canceled hundreds of flights at airports in Chicago and about 300 flights at Boston's busy Logan International Airport. Flights were also canceled at airports in Portland, Maine; Buffalo, N.Y.; and Manchester, N.H.

Few major problems were reported at airports in Philadelphia and the New York area, which had braced for plenty of snow but got mostly sleet and rain.

The storm knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses Sunday, including 137,000 in Pennsylvania, at least 10,000 in northern New England and 20,000 in eastern Canada, authorities reported.

Braving the elements Sunday in New York were fans of teen singer Hannah Montana, whose concert in Rochester drew Jolene Horton and her 8-year-old daughter, Paxtyn Brown.

They spent five hours on the road from Schuyler County in the Finger Lakes. "Normally it would have taken 2 1/2 hours, but we wouldn't have missed it for the world," Horton said.

The four storm-related deaths in Indiana occurred when a van carrying a woman and her three daughters skidded into a pond in Carmel, Ind. The driver, Batul Abbas, 47, was able to 911 from the van and give the location, but the vehicle was underwater when emergency crews Saturday night, authorities said.

Many churches canceled Sunday morning services as police encouraged people to stay off the roads.





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SURF REPORT

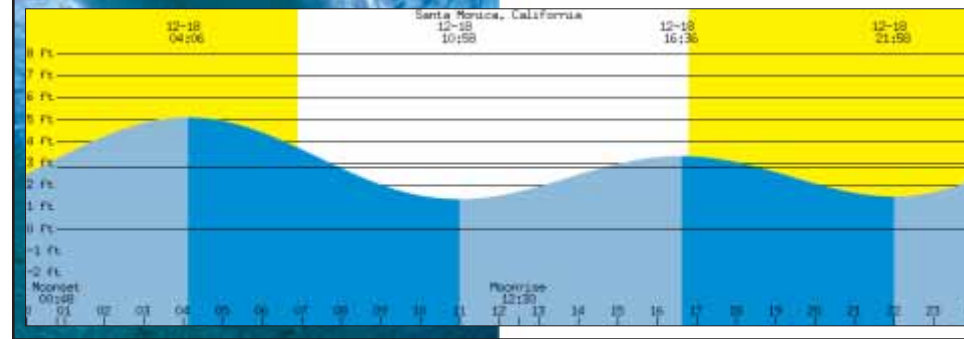


SURF CONDITIONS
WATER TEMP: 56°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Today should see an increase in NW wind swell, but this is linked to the storm bearing down on us. Size is expected to run chest to head high at west facing breaks that can work a 270- 280-degree angle. Periods would run around 12 seconds. Conditions though, at this point, are looking less than favorable with early onshore winds and rain. Tide though is looking quite level.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
RADICAL TIDES BY END OF WEEK...
SMALL TO MODERATE SOUTH SWELL END OF WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD


NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of
December 11, 2007

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)
Number of sewage spills — 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
Number of wet days — 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth (sewerline)	A+	A+	Wil Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Wil Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasse and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chastanaut)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	F	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ledger Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Saltine Canyon at San Blasco County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Baso Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunbiter Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunbiter Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsall St.	A+	C
Mallory Pier - 50 yards east	A	A+	Marias del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Los Tamien County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C	Dockweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
Wil 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.

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‘Reckless’ Simon leaving the Isles

BY IRA PODELL
AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK Chris Simon took a leave from the New York Islanders on Monday, agreeing with the team that he needed time away from hockey following his latest penalty for attempting to injure an opponent.

Simon missed the first five games of this season while completing a 25-game ban — his sixth NHL suspension — meted out in March. He could be in line for another long penalty after he took down and stepped on Pittsburgh's Jarkko Ruutu last weekend.

“The actions of Chris Simon on Saturday do not reflect what the New York Islanders stand for,” team owner Charles Wang said in a statement. “They were reckless, potentially dangerous and against our team concept of grit, character and heart.

“We know Chris as a respected teammate and as a gracious man away from the playing surface and believe strongly that he has earned our continued support. The Islanders are going to provide some time for Chris away from the team and give him the counseling he needs and the compassion he deserves. When Chris is completely ready, he will be a member of our team again.”

Simon met with Wang, general manager Garth Snow and coach Ted Nolan during practice Monday and they agreed the 35-year-old left wing should seek help. That group then spoke with captains Bill Guerin, Mike Sillinger and Brendan Witt and goalie Rick DiPietro before a team discussion.

The NHL hasn't held a disciplinary hearing yet and no announcement on a suspension was expected Monday.

Late in New York's loss to the Penguins, with the Islanders trailing by a goal, Simon drew a match penalty when he pulled out Ruutu's leg with his, sending the forward to his knees between the team benches. Simon then stepped on the back of Ruutu's leg with his skate.

Simon was ejected and the Islanders were left a man short for all but the final 54 seconds of the 3-2 defeat.

“There is no excuse for my actions on Saturday night and I apologize to everyone involved,” he said in a statement. “The Islanders and I agree that the right thing to do is for me to take some time away from the team.

“I have enjoyed a long career achieving my dream of being a player in the National Hockey League and I'm proud of my accomplishments. But I acknowledge that time and assistance is needed before I return to the game.”

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CHARACTER AND HEART.”

Charles Wang
NY Islanders owner

Simon also apologized last season after he retaliated for a hit from Ryan Hollweg by striking the New York Rangers forward in the face and neck with a two-handed stick swing.

The forward was suspended for the rest of the regular season and all of the playoffs, forced to serve a minimum of 25 games.

Dodgers pitch Hiroki to fans

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Wearing a Dodgers jersey over his dress shirt and tie, Hiroki Kuroda took the Dodger Stadium mound for the first time on a sunny Sunday in Los Angeles.

The conditions were appropriate considering the free-agent Japanese right-hander said moments earlier at an introductory news conference that weather was a factor in his decision to sign with the Dodgers.

While it was nothing more than a photo opportunity, Kuroda seemed to enjoy the feeling of his new ballpark.

“You can tell it's going to be a great setting to play,” he said through a translator, mentioning the tradition as well.

For the Dodgers, it was a vision they've awaited for a long time.

“We've been thinking about this for well over a year,” general manager Ned Colletti said a day after Kuroda agreed to a three-year, \$35.3 million contract. “Our expectation is he's going to be a real solid pitcher for us, make a lot of starts, pitches a lot of innings.”

Kuroda, who turns 33 in February, receives a \$7.3 million signing bonus and will be paid

a salary of \$5 million next season, \$10 million in 2009 and \$13 million in 2010.

“I haven't even pitched over here yet. For a team to value me that highly, it's certainly because of the players who have come over here (from Japan) and succeeded,” Kuroda said. “I'm very thankful for that. In Japanese terms, it's an unbelievable contract.”

Kuroda acknowledged that with the kind of money he'll earn, there will be some pressure. But, he added: “The only thing I'm thinking about is going out and pitching my game, doing the best I can.”

Assistant GM Logan White, who scouted Kuroda several times, believes the pitcher's game will be difficult for the opposition to solve.

“He's got a loose, easy delivery, nice arm action,” White said. “He throws strikes, he's around the zone. His basic fastball is going to be in the 89, 95 (mph) range. He locates the fastball well, he's got a hard, late-breaking slider, it's sharp and crisp. He's got a forkball that dives straight down.”

Kuroda spent the past 11 seasons with the Hiroshima Toyo Carp of the Japanese Central League, where he had a 103-89 record and 3.69 ERA in 271 games. He went 12-8 with a 3.56 ERA in 26 games last season, working seven complete games.

Never too late

TV hosts come back amid writers' strike

NBC's two late-night franchises are coming back. Will the laughs come with them?

JAY LENO and **CONAN O'BRIEN** plan a Jan. 2 return with fresh episodes, ending two months of reruns brought on by the writers' strike, the network said Monday. But until the strike is settled, the hosts will be on their own.

By forging ahead without joke writers, can late night TV keep from stepping on toes – and still be funny?

'MAGIC' IS GONE FOR PAM & RICK

It seems like only two months ago that **PAMELA ANDERSON** was aglow with happiness over her quickie Las Vegas wedding to Rick Salomon.

Actually, it was.

But the 40-year-old ex-"Baywatch" beauty has filed for divorce from her 38-year-old husband after just two months of marriage.

Anderson cited irreconcilable differences in papers filed Friday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The documents were first obtained by the celebrity Web site CelebTV.com.

Anderson and Salomon wed Oct. 6 during a break between the 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows of "Hans Klok's The Beauty of Magic" at Planet Hollywood resort, where Anderson was starring as a magician's assistant. The couple separated less than 10 weeks later, on Dec. 13. Salomon is best known for making a sex videotape with Paris Hilton, his girlfriend at the time, and was previously married to actress Shannen Doherty.

AP

other staff members would be laid off if the shows remained dark. Some of the late-night stars covered employees' salaries during the holiday season.

Leno said that with talks breaking down and no further negotiations scheduled, he felt it was his responsibility to get his 100 non-writing staff members back to work.

Mike Sweeney, chief of the "Late Night" staff of 14 writers, said "we all know what a difficult position

Conan is in. He's been incredibly supportive of us."

Sweeney said he didn't want to comment on his boss' decision to come back without the writers, and the Writers Guild of America had no immediate comment about NBC's announcement.

The strike has left the nation's public discourse without its laugh track as the baseball steroids scandal spread, pop stars Amy Winehouse and Britney Spears continued to spiral

ASSOCIATED PRESS

McConaughey injures face doing some ultimate training



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY was in stitches – literally – after training for his upcoming fighter flick.

The 38-year-old actor cut his face while preparing for his role in "The Grackle," a new movie from his J.K. Livin Productions, his publicist, Alan Nierob, said Monday in an e-mail.

Nierob said McConaughey had been training Ultimate Fighting Championship-style. He did

not know when and where the injury occurred.

Photos posted Monday on celebrity gossip Web site X17 show McConaughey wearing a bandage over his left eye while riding in the passenger seat of a car.

According to the site, the shots were snapped last week after he delivered a eulogy at a funeral service for the late daredevil Evel Knievel.

AP

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

Buy a special gift, Pisces

Happy Birthday!

Investigate possibilities this year. Involve your innate talents, eyeing ways to enhance your financial status. You could reach an 11-year peak with funds. Build your savings account or investments. Your peak luck period will be in the next nine months. Avoid the trap of spending before investments, a bonus or pay raise comes in or reaches term. Some might see you as lucky, but the truth is you have worked hard.



Born Today
Actor Brad Pitt (1963)
Wrestler Rob Van Dam (1970)
Director Steven Spielberg (1946)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Excitement and change blow in the wind. Your intuition points you in the correct direction. Today you enter a year-long phase in which you will assume greater responsibility and prestige. Hope for a pay raise too! Tonight: Hook up with happy people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You will be encouraged to take an overview more and more this year. If you feel triggered, step back and allow greater insight. Excitement surrounds a friendship that might be at a distance. Tonight: Luxuriate with some extra private time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ How you deal with someone causes a reaction that draws a change in his or her attitude. You will see this occur repeatedly, especially within a key partnership. Pioneer your own path professionally with the help of an associate. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Be willing to investigate or try something very different. People will start working with you instead of challenging you. A surprise could involve a trip or a foreigner. Be open with a key partner. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Surprises could encourage you to open your mind and life to alternatives. You don't need to make a big deal about what heads down your path, but at the same time, you want to maximize an offer. Tonight: Accept a fun invitation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Partners simply aren't stable or anchored like you think they are. On the other hand, doors open up that had been closed previously. Your creativity surges, and if plugged into your work or daily life, smiles will surround you. Tonight: Accept another's overture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You are building for the future. Sooner rather than later, you will experience greater security and happiness. Be willing to take a step forward. Share a dream with a trusted loved one. Consider a real estate investment with care. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Getting the job done might take focus, as so many people seem to seek you out. What you are seeing is the stage of the future when your popularity calls and you are in demand. Tonight: Buy a special item for your home or for dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might simply feel a change more than realize it. Let your imagination go. What seems like a good risk could end up as a gigantic backfire. Knowing what you want could make a huge difference. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You greet a major year-long good-luck cycle today. Though you might feel a bit enclosed or restrained now, soon you will be letting go more. A family or real estate matter needs handling. Use care with spending. Tonight: Happy at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your imagination might affect many areas of your life. Apply it to your communications, and you will like what goes on. Kick back and put your feet up. How you deal with someone could change dramatically. Tonight: Catch up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You know what you want. Soon you will discover that it is only a question of asking for just that. You will be very happy with the end results. Get ready to network and spread your wings. Just be yourself. Tonight: Buy a special gift.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Check theatre for showtimes

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

Atonement (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
The Perfect Holiday (PG)
1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50
Revolver (NR)
1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35

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

Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10
August Rush (PG)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
Fred Claus (PG)
12:20, 3:10
I Am Legend (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 9:40, 10:40

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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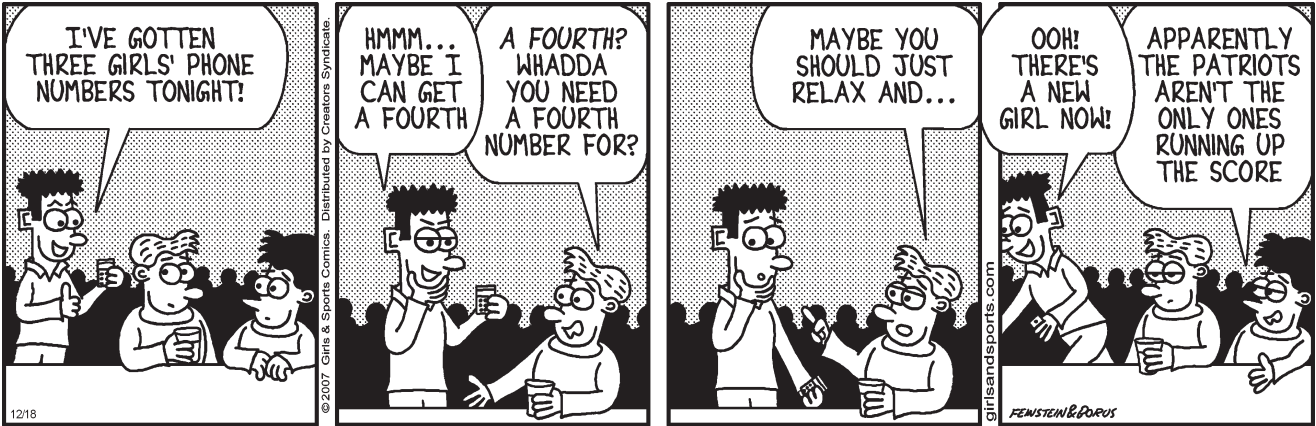
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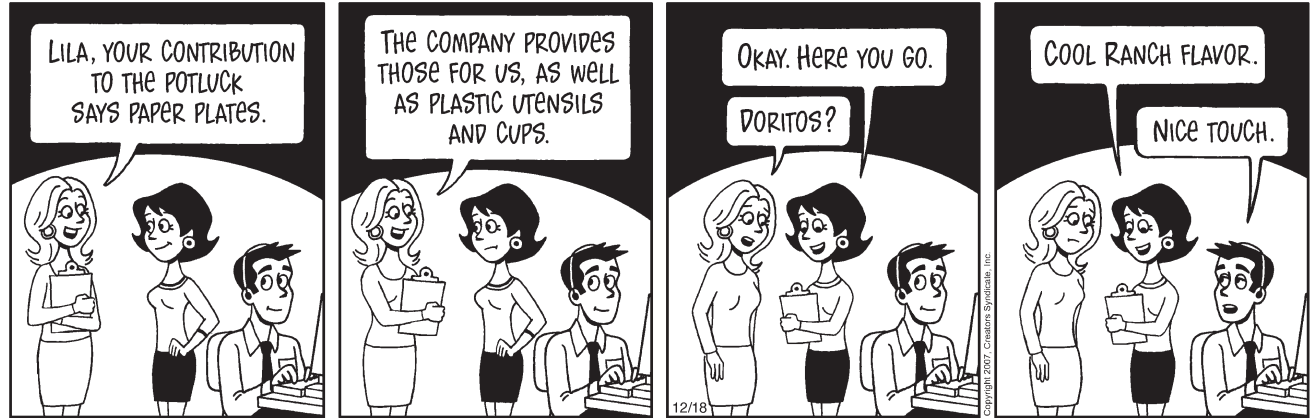
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



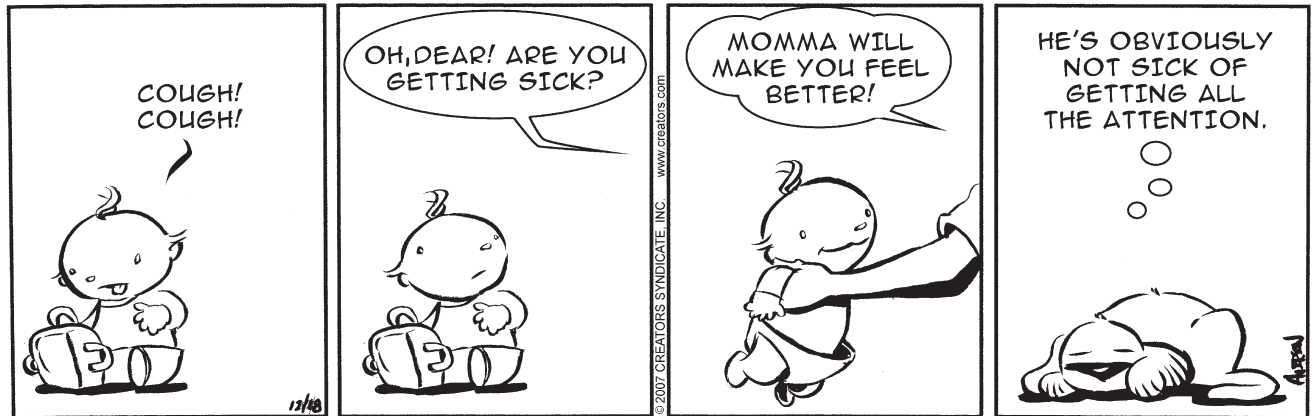
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



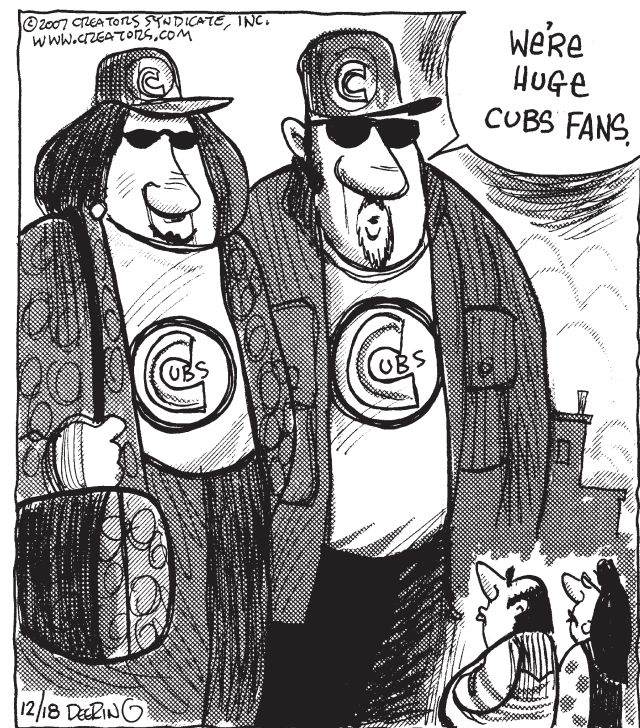
Comics & Stuff

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering

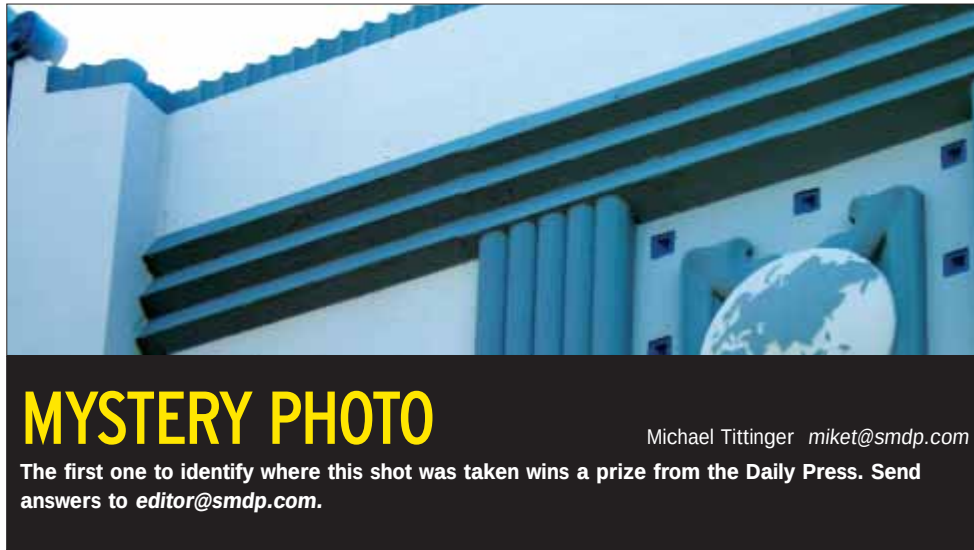


Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Dull fellows
6 Bette of “Jezebel”
11 Accept eagerly
12 Puccini creation
13 Exactly
15 Luau music maker
16 Truck part
17 Finale
18 Max Ernst, for one
20 Ewe’s mate
21 Director Spike
22 Long story
23 Lab work

- 27 Aware of
28 Posei-
don's
realm
29 Letter
after
upsilon
30 Poem
parts
34 — de mer
35 Pull
gently
36 Pipe
bend
37 Uncertain
of
success
40 Ice-cream
unit

- 41** Spine-tingling
42 Bedouin homes
43 Was malodorous

DOWN

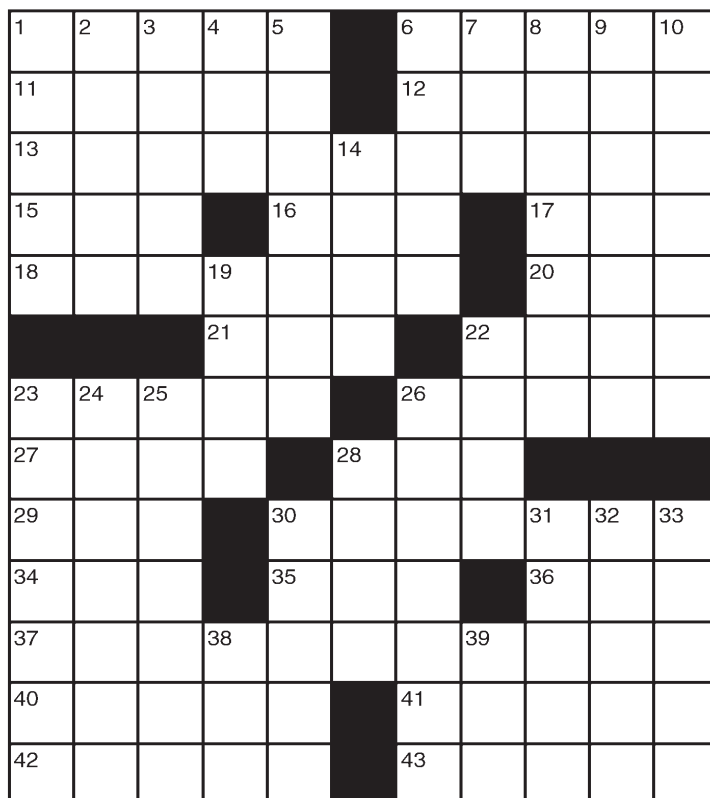
- 1 Sun blocker
- 2 Sri —
- 3 Selected
- 4 “Isn’t that obvious?”
- 5 Genus subdivision
- 6 Uncertainty
- 7 Gifted
- 8 Old hand
- 9 Tool-making time
- 10 Sleep bringer



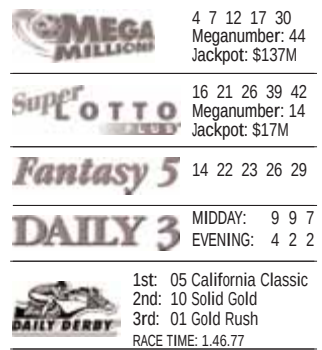
Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 14 Head-
quarters | 28 Ticket
half |
| 19 Singing
voice | 30 Dance
units |
| 22 Phillips of
“Dune” | 31 Striped
grazer |
| 23 Highest | 32 Wagering
every |
| 24 Augment | chip one |
| 25 Blue-
veined
cheese | has |
| 26 Sports
organiza-
tions | 33 Glossy |
| | 38 Very
popular |
| | 39 Wager |

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Pennsylvania Superior Court** judge Michael Thomas Joyce, 58, was indicted in August for fraud in connection with \$440,000 he received after his car was nudged (at 5 mph) in a 2001 accident. Joyce claimed that he was in such neck and back pain as to be prevented from certain activities such as holding a coffee cup, but prosecutors said he not only played golf frequently after that but went scuba diving, renewed his scuba instructor's license, went inline skating, and went through private pilot training and licensing (50 flights).

■ In testimony at his divorce hearing (according to transcripts obtained by KUSA-TV), federal judge Edward Nottingham admitted that he had visited strip clubs in Denver, and on two consecutive nights had run up tabs of over \$3,000, but that he didn't know what else happened those nights because he was too drunk. Judge Nottingham's behavior was not courtroom-related, but the charge against Cincinnati Municipal Court judge Ted Berry in July was. Berry had just sentenced Ivan Boykins to 30 days in jail, provoking Boykins to shout, "F--- you," which prompted a return "F--- you" from Judge Berry. (The bar association's response has not been reported.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1271 Kublai Khan renames his empire "Yuan" (? yuán), officially marking the start of the Yuan Dynasty of China.

1642 Abel Tasman becomes first European to land in New Zealand

1793 Surrender of the frigate *La Lutine* by French royalists to Lord Hood; renamed HMS *Lutine*, she later becomes a famous treasure wreck.

1865 The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified by Georgia, fulfilling the two-thirds requirement for ratification, and banning slavery in the United States.

1892 The first performance of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* is held at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

1900 The Upper Ferntree Gully to Gembrook Narrow-gauge (2 ft 6 in or 762 mm) Railway (now the Puffing Billy Railway) in Victoria, Australia opened for traffic.

1926 The first performance of Leo Janáček's opera *The Makropulos Affair* is held in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

1932 The Chicago Bears defeated the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Because of a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium, the field measuring 80 yards long.

WORD UP!

unfledged \uhn-FLEJD\, adjective: 1. Lacking the feathers necessary for flight. 2. Not fully developed; immature.

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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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is given that on December 26, 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:
1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudicated under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica.
2. 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.
3. Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial paid distribution.
4. 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.
5. 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 13, 2007
Lisa Grace-Kellogg
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press
14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 Dec 2007

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072442944 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MAMA'S LITTLE KITCHEN, 11852 ROSE ST. NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA. 91605. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SARAH SCHULZ, 853 NOWITA PL. VENICE, CA. 90291 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/ SARAH SCHULZ This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/29/2007. 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 11/27/2007, 12/4/2007, 12/11/2007, 12/18/2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072574226 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EMPIRE BY DESIGN, 3755 MENTONE #8, P O BOX 741963, L.A. CA. 90004, 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : LEVAR BROWN, 3755 MENTONE #8, L.A. CA. 90034 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)11/19/2007. /s/ LEVAR BROWN This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/19/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW

DBAS

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 12/18/2007, 12/25/2007, 1/1/2008, 1/8/2008

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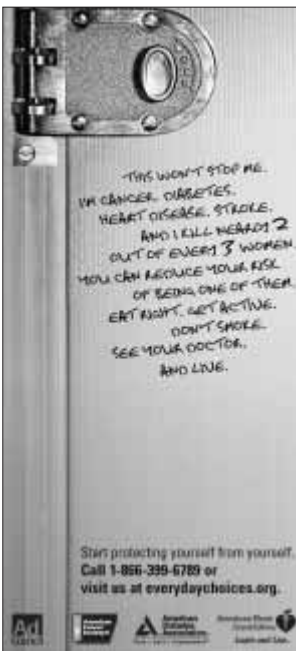
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,988,880	\$ 1,855,556
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,045,856
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,062,250	\$ 691,958
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