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NEWSMAKERS P17

Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ An investigation by a state agency is under way in Revere, Mass., of a residence condemned by local officials as (according to a neighbor) "worse than any Stephen King movie" because it reeked of garbage, feces and cockroaches. It is the home of Andrea Watson, a child-rights advocate who lived there (until the condemnation) with her two children and two grandchildren. Watson's colleagues told the Boston Herald that she is a tireless activist for children who put her "heart and soul" into Parents for Residential Reform.

■ Sarasota, Fla., dermatologist Michael Rosin was sentenced to 22 years in prison in October for subjecting numerous patients to unnecessary, frightening cancer surgery so that he could bill them (and Medicare) for millions of dollars. An FBI investigation had revealed that Rosin had once detected aggressive cancer from a slide that contained not a skin sample but chewing gum and another time from a slide that contained plastic foam.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1843 "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

1986 Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

1986 The Soviet Union announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner.

WORD UP!

opportune *lop-uh-TOON*; -TYOON, *adjective*: Suitable for a given purpose or occasion; timely.

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The final cut

Brooke Leslie shaves the letters 'LA' into the back of Brian Wickersham's head on Saturday night at the Cock N Bull Pub on Lincoln Boulevard. Leslie and Eric Willett (back) took part in a promotion by Rudy's Barbershop on Main Street, offering up free haircuts to bar patrons. Wickersham took on the local logo before moving to New Zealand this week.

Michael Tittinger editor@smdp.com

SM Place to have its day in the sun

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — The owners of Santa Monica Place have taken the first step towards revitalizing the aging indoor mall, submitting preliminary plans that call for the roof to be removed along the "central spine" of the building to create an open-air, multilevel complex that better connects with the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Pier and Civic Center.

Santa Monica-based Macerich Co., one of the nation's largest retail real estate investment trusts with 73 regional shopping centers in its portfolio, submitted a "pre-application" last Friday to city staff, who will review the initial draft concept and make comments prior to a for-

See SM PLACE, page 8



Manager Yuri Murokh places a sign in front of his apartment complex along Ocean Avenue on Monday. A one-bedroom unit is available for \$2,000 per month.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Shopping for digs

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — The holidays are a wonderful time of year for apartment hunters as those seeking a place to live get a breather in Santa Monica's competitive rental market.

While most people are out doing

their last minute shopping, landlords are also "shopping" for tenants as they become desperate this time of year to fill vacancies in their apartments, said Anthony Yannatta, chief executive officer of apartment search company WestsideRentals.

See HOLIDAY RENT, page 7

Carter killer found guilty

Teen convicted for '03 Pico killing

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — A Santa Monica man was found guilty Monday of first degree-murder for the death of 19-year-old Jalonnice Carter, who was shot and killed more than three years ago while walking in an alley near his Pico Neighborhood home.

It took a jury five days to find Mathew Felix Vargas, 19, responsible for Carter's murder, according to a court clerk. The trial, which got underway Nov. 29, went to the jury early last week.

Vargas, a suspected gang member who went by the name of "Lil Rooster," will be sentenced Jan. 23. He faces life in prison.

Carter, who was known by friends and family as "Little Bear" and "Pooh Bear," was shot in the back in the alley east of 20th Street with a .22-caliber bullet that pierced his heart. He died a few hours later at a local hospital.

Though there were five gang-related shootings in the area earlier that summer, family members and police officers all said at the time of his funeral that Carter was not a member of any gang. Family members described him as a hard-working young man who was studying for a career in computers

See MURDER TRIAL, page 7



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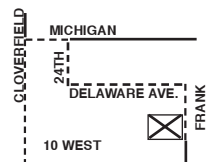


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THE WESTSIDE TODAY

IT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica High School Orchestra's Winter Concert

601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Orchestra performance under the direction of Joni Swenson at Barnum Hall. For tickets, call the box office at (310) 458-5939.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive

Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Brentwood Country Mart's Holiday Events

225 26th St., noon — 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive

Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Brentwood Country Mart's Holiday Events

225 26th St., noon — 2 p.m.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
Santa Monica Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon with guest speakers.

Santa Monica Fitness Group for Women

Santa Monica, 6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Dianetics & Scientology

2716 Wilshire Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Daily Press
To post your event
visit smdp.com/events
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.



STATE

Neighborhood councils seem to be a failure

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Neighborhood councils, designed to promote public participation and hold leaders accountable, have failed to bring change in city policy and they don't reflect the diversity of their constituents, a report shows.

But proponents of the grass-roots network of 86 neighborhood councils, formed seven years ago, said more time is needed to make them effective.

The draft report by the University of Southern California's Civic Engagement Initiative said the neighborhood councils have been stunted by a lack of communication with city departments and poor community outreach.

A lack of ethnic and economic diversity has stymied the system's efforts to gain strength and authority, according to the report released Saturday at USC.

"To the extent that neighborhood councils do not reflect the composition of their own neighborhoods, they don't have legitimacy," initiative director Terry Cooper said. "They still have to be aggressively involved in outreach to be sure that demographic profile is involved."



The not-so-great white way

Emergency responders tend to the scene of a Monday morning accident at the intersection of 29th Street and Pico Boulevard. One man sustained head injuries and was transported to St. John's Hospital. Santa Monica Engine 124 and Gerber Ambulance responded to the accident.

Photo courtesy of Santa Monica Fire Department

Blast from the past: 'Shotgun' gets grant

The bygone-era house is due for makeover

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — A local conservancy group fighting to restore the city's last known "shotgun" house has received a holiday bonus.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Santa Monica Conservancy to help in its efforts to rehabilitate and reuse a historic shotgun house originally situated in Ocean Park.

Shotgun-style houses are small buildings, usually one story, that are narrow and long in length with each of the rooms — typically about two or three — connected back-to-

back. The distinguishing feature separating a shotgun-style house from a normal residence is the doorways all line up, so if a person fired a gun from the entrance, the bullet would travel through all the rooms and out the back exit undisturbed.

The grant will pay for half of a \$5,000 historical assessment on the house, constructed around the 1890s, to provide the conservancy with a report on the original elements of the structure and how it should be rehabilitated in order to retain authenticity. The consultant will most likely be Peyton Hall of the Historic Resources Group in Los Angeles, said Sherrill Kushner of the Friends

See SHOTGUN, page 6



File photo

RE-ASSESS: The city's last intact 'shotgun' house is transported to its current location in Mid-City.

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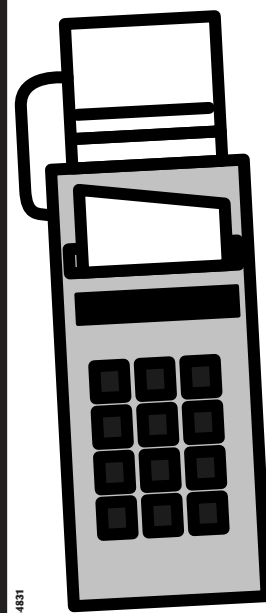
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

These are lean times indeed

Editor:

I am outraged by the facts and statements reported in your recent article about the meatpacking plants being raided in six states ("Meatpacking plants raided in six states," Dec. 14, page 10). Don't they know that Santa is watching them? What justifies these glaring hypocrisies, callousness and anti-American actions?

This is what I noted as I read this holiday gift:

"No charges were filed against Swift." This company, which estimated that a raid would remove up to 40 percent of its 13,000 workers, asked a federal judge to prevent the raids. At the same time, its CEO claims that the company has never knowingly hired illegal workers and does not condone the practice. If it is illegal to hire these people and they have hired them by the thousands, why are they not being charged? Why are they only targeting the poor employees and not the rich company who employs them? Why are they not enforcing the immigration laws equally?

Sen. Wayne Allard says, "I'm glad that ICE is enforcing our immigration laws in light of the illegal immigration crisis we face across the country."

Are they really enforcing the laws? In addition, "advocates of stricter immigration control praised the raids and pointed out that they targeted people suspected of committing other crimes in addition to being in the US illegally." The Immigration and Customs Enforcement numbers show 65 out of 1,282 people were arrested for "other crimes." Meanwhile, 94.9 percent of the people were held for "immigration charges alone." Do these proportions make sense? Is this a viable part of the war on terror? Who pays for all of this enforcement of our laws if the deep pockets are allowed to go free?

The current immigration crisis we are facing, if it is a crisis, is a direct reflection of what you think it means to be American and live free in an open democratic society. We need to work harder to stay together and not let politics and sound bites determine the fate of millions of human beings and fellow citizens. God bless us all. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

John Brown III

Santa Monica



Back to basics means giving what matters



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Tonight is the fifth night of Hanukkah, we have six days to go until Christmas and seven for Kwanzaa. Boxing Day is the day after Christmas and is the traditional feeding frenzy of bargain shoppers. I personally like to go Stats to stock up on all the decorations that I avoided purchasing prior to Christmas. The stores will be humming with the screams of frazzled clerks, the cacophonous ringing of cash registers and the shrill cries of children who want all the toys they didn't already get.

Our social fabric has been woven with a message that we must buy gifts for people who have more than they could ever use. We supply our homes with enough food, toys, gadgets and gizmos that we forget how to live simply.

This mad rush to acquire more, hold on to everything and buy gadgets and gizmos is infectious and cancerous. We have more than we could ever need and yet we still continue to acquire more.

The problem is that we collect junk. We store stuff we don't need. We have fear of not having enough or losing what we have so that we are now incapable of letting go of our useless junk and instead, we store it.

My partner and I are guilty of this particular quagmire. We have a storage unit that we had not visited for almost two years. In it was an old China cabinet from my mother that doesn't even vaguely blend in with the style I like. I don't want to store it, yet I don't want to use it in my house. We have thousands of yards of Blue Screen (Now that is a something that would only happen in Los Angeles!), some old snowboards and a high-end keyboard that hasn't been used in years.

Why do we have such an easy time collecting things and such a hard time letting go of the past? What is the source of our societal passion for hoarding?

I think it comes from two places. One, our desire to keep up with the neighbors. If they have something, we want one just like it, but a little better. It is this constant competition that allows marketers to introduce new products every year with the ever-popular "new and Improved" moniker that is so cherished.

The second one is the sense of fear that we are fed on a daily basis., not just of the al-Qaida variety, but the fear that we might need something and not have it. We get this message from our parents, from our Scout

leaders, from the television and newspapers. My parents grew up in the Depression and my mother instilled me with a sense of: "Better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it."

Reporters are always warning us about some dire emergency right around the corner, and asking us if we are prepared for the next firestorm, winter storm, earthquake, hurricane, tornado or depression. It is this sense of impending doom that keeps us always wanting to hold tighter to the past. This feeling that somehow we will lose out if we let go of the junk.

Buying a lot of junk is good for the economy and makes the President look successful, but we can do better in our economy by using our money wisely, and more importantly, the gifts can be more valuable.

Take the time you would have spent on the freeway ... and write a letter to your sister and let her know how you really feel about her.

I'd like to suggest that this holiday season, rather than collect junk, or worse, give someone else junk that they then feel the need to keep for sentimental reasons, do something different. Give a donation to the TreePeople, buy some dinners at your favorite local restaurant and have them prepped for take out and give them away to that family you know that has less than you. Send your great aunt a card with a note saying you love her and spent \$200 on her favorite charity. Honestly, she doesn't need another counter-top kitchen appliance ... ever.

Take the time you would have spent on the freeway, in the parking garage and in the checkout line, and write a letter to your sister and let her know how you really feel about her.

This holiday season, give your spouse something they really want — your attention and some affection. Make a thermal carafe of hot chocolate and take a walk on the beach. Go ride the carousel at the Pier together. It's not great for the President's economy, but it'll do wonders for your home life.

Plus, you don't have to pay to store it.

David Pizarra is a lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY DANNY GALLAGHER

Maybe Christmas carnage is just an expression of love

Christmas is that special part of the year when all of America takes time away from their busy days of flipping burgers, yelling at the imaginary people in our television sets and auditing homeless people to leave their homes, get together and battle each other in mortal combat for the cheapest, most thoughtful gifts they can find.

If you haven't seen a busy Christmas shopping season with your own eyes because you shop online and don't worry about lonely hackers using your credit card information to buy the entire anime aisle at Best Buy, take this year off and go to a store near you. It is a sight to behold. This is what the apocalypse will look like, only there's less blood. The best thing that could happen is it will haunt your memory for years to come, and make you marvel and wonder at the depths that humanity has sunk. The worst thing that could happen is it will make your head explode in your car and you can finally put that window squeegee that Aunt Nippy bought you last Christmas to good use.

Witnessing the Christmas carnage will make you believe that man has evolved from lower species, and can revert back just as quickly when they are placed in the appropriate setting. If George W. Bush, Jerry Falwell, Ralph Reed and Pat Robertson did their own Christmas shopping, they'd put down "Stop pushing intelligent design" as one of their New Year's resolutions.

The mall is the best example of holiday de-evolution. Malls aren't my favorite place to shop because they're more flashy, impersonal and expensive than Terrell Owens. But when it comes to Christmas shopping, I don't mind hanging around them because the behavior of the customers is downright comical. It's Abbott & Costello meets Abercrombie & Fitch.

Shopping in them is another story. It's like stepping into "Dawn of the Dead" except

George Romero's zombies move faster and have more decency for their fellow man. Women fight each other for sale sweaters the way starving cavemen would fight over the carcass of a sabertooth tiger. When a parent refuses to buy a toy for their son or daughter, the little snot machine turns into a human car alarm. People claw, reach and gnaw on each others' bodies for a chance to max their credit cards out on junk that's just going to be given right back to them next Christmas.

Toy stores give the best armageddon audition in the bunch. If you've ever seen a child up close in the wild, you know what I mean. The world spends billions upon billions of dollars convincing them to buy crap that isn't worth the sweatshop wages it took to make it. Of course, they can't buy it, so they go their parents who, despite being bigger and able to smack them so hard they would be able to communicate with dead relatives, actually camp out in front of these stores for a slim chance of buying one of them. Do children have mutant, pyrokinetic powers or weapons of mass destruction now?

But maybe there's a manner for all this madness. Maybe there's a basis behind the bloodshed. Maybe there's a cause for all this Christmas carnage. Christmas isn't just about getting gifts. It's about giving them, and part of the giving comes from the journey it takes to get them. Maybe all the fighting and clawing and kicking and biting and stabbing is an expression of love just as much as the gifts they are buying. Would you shoot a man in the shin with a crossbow to buy a non-spill coffee mug? I didn't think so.

What we witnessed wasn't chaos. It was the Christmas spirit.

Danny Gallagher is a freelance writer, reporter, humorist and all-round nice guy. His Web site is www.dannygallagher.net.

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The Q-Line

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Incidents of gang violence, parking attendants being held-up in city parking structures, school lockdowns, threatening transients, low-priority marijuana use ... with a new chief of police taking the reins last week, much will be made about his priorities for the SMPD. Despite crime statistics having dropped to a 50-year low during his predecessor's run as top cop, Chief Tim Jackman will have his hands full with resident requests. This week's Q-Line question asks:

What should Chief Jackman's priorities be in addressing crime in the City of Santa Monica. Where is more focus needed?

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



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A shot at history

SHOTGUN, from page 3

of the Shotgun House.

After the conservancy secures the remaining funds needed and after the consultant completes his assessment, which is expected to take a couple of months, members of the Friends of the Shotgun House will go before City Council to make a recommendation for a permanent location. The shotgun house, which measures 12 feet by 36 feet, is currently stored at the city lot at the old Fisher Lumber yard on Colorado Avenue and 14th Street.

Kushner expects the city staff will begin soliciting applications for prospective tenants to occupy the house in its new location.

The conservancy would like to open a preservation resource center in the house to hold archival material and distribute preservation information.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a private non-profit organization that aims to preserve old and historic structures, awarded the grant to the conservancy for three main reasons — the grant committee was impressed with the extensive research conducted on the remaining shotgun houses in the city; the NTHP is familiar with the conservancy, having worked with the group on many occasions; and the grant committee was pleased with the selection of Hall and the Historic Resources Group.

"We've seen his name in many cases before," said Melita Juresa-McDonald on Monday.

During the late 1800s, the shotgun houses were heavily concentrated in Ocean Park when it was still a separate city from Santa Monica.

"The shotgun houses were plentiful in the New Orleans area and the south," Kushner said on Monday. "Elvis Presley was born in one."

The houses, many of which were prefabricated, were shipped into the city in pieces via railroad and assembled on site. For the residents who could not afford the pricey mansions in the ritzy parts of Santa Monica, the shotgun homes were an attractive option. Its location near the ocean made for an even better deal as the configuration of the shotgun home gave way for a nice ocean breeze.

"Ocean Park had a lot more vacation housing and it wasn't as a highbrow com-

munity as the city of Santa Monica," said Joel Brand, past president of the Santa Monica Conservancy, on Monday. "A lot of people tend to focus on the houses of the very wealthy. There is an important place in preservation for houses like the shotgun house, which were much more of an every person kind of home."

Brand likened the shotgun house of the late 1800s to the mobile homes of today. While many would not consider a mobile home as an architectural masterpiece, preserving a structure as old as the shotgun house is important, Brand said.

The home, originally located at 2712 Second St. was designated as a city landmark in 1999.

"It reflects the really important part of Santa Monica's beach history," Brand said.

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'Rooster' gets sentenced Jan. 23

MURDER TRIAL, from page 1

while working two jobs.

Carter is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, which is located in the Pico Neighborhood.

Family members could not be reached for comment following Monday's verdict.

Former Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, who led the department at the time of the murder, praised the detectives who worked on the case and said he hoped the verdict would bring closure to Carter's family.

"While I realize that nothing can be done to bring back Jalonníe, I hope that his murderer being brought to justice brings some comfort to his mom, father and his family," said Butts, now director of the Los Angeles World Airports police. "I want to applaud the work of Santa Monica's finest — the homicide detectives — in their unwavering commitment to bring justice for Jalonníe and his family."

Santa Monica Police arrested Vargas in April 2005, after the Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant and charged him with first-degree murder, one count of personal use of a firearm causing bodily injury, two counts of the intentional discharge of a firearm and one count of gang enhancement that contributed to the furtherance of gang activity.

Vargas was picked up by SMPD officers at a juvenile detention facility in Sylmar. Because he was a minor at the time, authorities couldn't discuss the previous crime for which Vargas was serving time.

Vargas, who is Hispanic and lives in the Pico Neighborhood, is allegedly a member of the Santa Monica 17th Street Gang, which frequently is at odds with the city's other gang, the Graveyard Crips. The former is Latino, the latter black.

Less than two months after the murder, Carter's mother and stepfather, Shirley and Larry Joseph, hired retired Los Angeles Police Department detective supervisor Jim Vuchsas to work on the case as a private investigator.

In April of 2004, the City Council authorized a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Carter's murderer.

Mayor Richard Bloom said Carter's "senseless" murder hit the community hard, much like the death of 15-year-old Eddie Lopez, a Santa Monica High School student and star athlete who was gunned down in similar fashion in February of this year. Police are still searching for Lopez's murderer.

"Like Eddie, Jalonníe was a teenager who was just going about his business when he was murdered," Bloom said on Monday.

"I'm pleased that justice was served," Bloom added. "It is very frustrating for the families of the victims, and in particular a family which loses a young man like Jalonníe, to have to wait through a police investigation ... and then for the judicial system to run its course. So I'm particularly happy for the family, and hopefully, they will be able to put a little piece of this behind them. I can't imagine how they must feel."

kevinh@smdp.com

With preoccupied shoppers, landlords are cutting rents

HOLIDAY RENT, from page 1

"This is the one time of year when the supply and demand imbalance actually weakens and renters have some purchasing power," Yannatta said on Monday.

The demand for housing decreases as apartment seekers ease off on their hunt for a place to live because they become preoccupied with family commitments and are busy planning for holiday events. The period from Nov. 15 until the end of December is also an unpopular time because the days are shorter and because the cold weather forces hunters to stay at home.

At WestsideRentals, Yannatta has seen listings stay posted for a longer period of time, an average of four to five days longer than in the busy season of summer and fall. When demand is low, landlords become flexible with move-in dates and security deposits, he said. Sometimes, landlords will even slash rent if they become desperate enough.

The change is more apparent in other Southern California communities since Santa Monica and other Westside communities are desirable all year long. But there are fewer people searching in Santa Monica too, Yannatta said.

Maria Pietroforte, president of apartment search site, Move.com, said on Monday that both occupancy and rental rates are currently on the rise and statistics show the trend will continue into 2007.

Yannatta suggests tenants who are on month to month leases should take advantage of the slow market around the holidays by switching to a November to November or December to December leases.

"Do holiday shopping at clearance sales in late January and shop for yourself to take control of your biggest expense," Yannatta said.

But those who have put themselves out

there in the rental market have gotten burned.

Karyn Saunders and her husband have until Jan. 1 to find a new place to live. The couple already submitted their move-out notice because the landlord was going to raise the rent by \$50.

The couple is looking for a one bedroom apartment in the Westside for about \$1,000, about \$300 less than what they currently pay for a one bedroom in Brentwood. Saunders' husband is currently a student at Santa Monica College and is planning to increase his time in the classroom and cut his work hours to concentrate on his studies.

"We find it stressful," Saunders said on Monday. "I had three instances where the manager did not show up for the appointment."

Over the weekend, the couple submitted an application for an apartment they "absolutely loved." The manager called on Sunday to say they would get the apartment pending a credit check. The news was less than positive on Monday as Saunders found out the manager had posted the wrong rent.

"It was actually two hundred more," Saunders said. "It crushed us both."

Saunders is specifically searching in Santa Monica, Palms, and Mar Vista and has bookmarked on her computer about 20 different Web sites for property management companies so she could constantly check for vacancies. Compared to May and June when students are moving out of their apartments, finding a place to live around the holidays is gruesome, she said.

"People are so busy right now, they don't want to move," she said. "We wish we didn't have to move because we're not able to put up a Christmas tree."

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Emily Post's Holiday Tipping Guidelines for 2006

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Fitness / personal trainer	Up to the cost of one session
Housekeeper / cleaner	Up to one week's pay and / or a gift
Live-in help	One week's to one month's salary based on tenure and customs in your area, plus a personal gift
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Yard and garden worker	\$20 to \$50

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Macerich's scaled-back plans for mall move forward

SM PLACE, from page 1

mal submission set for early 2007, said Robyn Young, senior manager of development relations for Macerich.

"This is really just the nuts and the bolts of the project plan," Young said. "We have our most talented people working on this project because this is such a special place, being in our corporate backyard and located so close to the promenade and the pier. We want it to be special and, at the same time, fit in with the surroundings."

The application comes almost one year after the City Council asked Macerich to abandon its plan to demolish the mall and replace it with three, 21-story office towers that would have included space for offices, retail and housing.

Residents balked at the idea because the towers and massive development would have been out of character for the neighborhood and likely bring more traffic to the downtown area.

Admitting they made a mistake, Macerich officials this summer met with community members in a series of 14 meetings and used the input to craft a dramatically different concept that incorporates six key requirements identified by residents.

These elements are:

Build something of reasonable scale, in line with Santa Monica's aesthetic sensibilities:

Create a better connection with the

promenade;

Include open-air views and street-retail elements;

Develop an environmentally sound project;

Make retail the primary use at the mall;

Pay attention to traffic and parking.

"Our goal is to retain the current scale by working within the same general footprint and height limits, featuring just three stories," the Macerich application states. "In fact, the center will have slightly less retail space than currently exists."

The project currently calls for a third level, open-air dining deck "that includes ample open space to heighten visitors' enjoyment of ocean views and outdoor breezes."

Young said that Macerich will be looking to attract a broad base of quality retail stores and restaurants to provide shoppers with options.

The parking structures will remain, but be enhanced aesthetically, and impact on traffic and parking is expected to be limited during the course of construction, Young said.

"We'd love to have an opening by 2009, but at this point in time, it is still very preliminary," Young said. "This project is in our backyard and something we take a lot of pride in."

"We are definitely putting special attention to try to make it a premier shopping destination."

kevinh@smdp.com



Renderings courtesy of Macerich Co.

TIME TO SHINE: An open-air food court (top) is among the proposed changes for Santa Monica Place.

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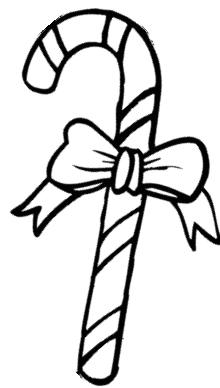
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Clamping down on oil and gas

BY KIM NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Facing federal pressure because of a growing ozone problem, the state Sunday approved the first-ever statewide emissions controls on the booming oil and gas industry.

Members of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission said the new rules would reduce emissions by 68 percent from tanks that collect the liquids and other byproducts. They will take effect next May if the Legislature approves them.

An environmental group said it would have liked lower limits but was content. "But this is the first emission regulation rule (on oil and gas companies) in the state ever," said Bruce Baizel, staff lawyer for the Durango-

based Oil and Gas Accountability Project.

But other environmental groups criticized the decision not to adopt rules as stringent as those along the Front Range, from the Denver area north.

"We do not understand why the industry is allowed to pollute the Western Slope but held to a higher standards on the Front Range," said Duke Cox a Garfield County resident and member of the Western Colorado Congress.

The commission said it would conduct annual reviews of the level of emissions, when the tanks are vented, and the health impacts of the industry.

Commissioners also considered tougher ozone regulations for the oil and gas industry in a nine-county area stretching from the south Denver area to parts of Larimer and

Weld counties. After 44 years of restrictions ranging from the banning of trash burning to pollution controls on cars, it had appeared the area's notorious brown cloud was history.

Officials, who four years ago said the smog problem was gone, say the booming oil and gas industry has brought it back and it is a problem in western Colorado as well. Ozone, a primary component of smog, is a colorless gas and is itself a threat to people with asthma and children.

Mike Silverstein, manager of planning and policy for the state air pollution control division, has said much of the problem stems from oil and gas wells. And the problem is expected to worsen without new controls.

The state had predicted emissions of 146 tons a day by next year, but revised that

upward to 233 tons. The emissions react with sunlight to form ozone.

The industry says it is being unfairly singled out. Officials counter that emissions from other sources have declined, and local communities also support emission controls.

The Environmental Protection Agency has given the state until July to come up with a plan to reduce ozone along the populous Front Range. Meanwhile, rising energy demand has led to increased drilling north of Denver.

The EPA has agreed to put off declaring the Front Range and other communities in violation of the Clean Air Act if they meet certain milestones.

Colorado is headed toward a record 4,650 permits for new oil and gas wells this year, up 6.5 percent from the record set last year.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Activists sharing hopes for the New Year

Progressive activists will share their activist-related 2007 New Year's resolutions at this year's last monthly Activist Support Circle public gathering. The special resolution sharing event will take place Wednesday, Dec. 27, beginning 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting Hall, located at 1440 Harvard St. The Activist Support Circle is an emotional support group for progressive activists.

The purpose of the monthly gatherings are to:

■ Guard against activist-related burnout.

■ Share activist-related frustrations and fears, as well as hopes and aspirations, in a supportive, safe environment.

■ Turn feelings of despair into feelings of empowerment.

■ Learn helpful coping skills and ideas from other like-minded supportive activists.

The gatherings are free and there is free parking on-site. The Web site is: www.activistsupportcircle.org.

For further information call the Activist Support Circle at (310) 399-1000.

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LACMA seeks a few decent docents

The Docent Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is seeking volunteers to lead tours of the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions.

An art background is not required; however, prospective docents should have an interest in learning about art, working with students, and facilitating positive museum experiences for visitors. In addition to giving tours, docents enjoy special opportunities including behind-the-scenes tours at LACMA, invitations to view private collections around Southern California and attend lectures given by leading scholars.

Upon completion of the interview process, new docents have the benefit of a one-year training course in art history and touring techniques.

Application information for the next docent training class can be obtained by e-mailing a request to Admissions@lacmadocent.org or by phone at (323) 857-6119. Applications are due no later than March 23, 2007.

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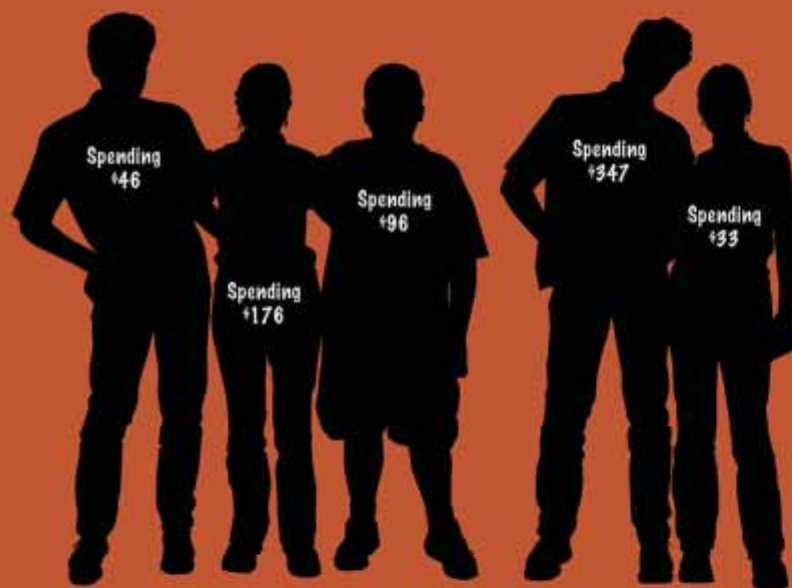
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REPORT: LA County jail violence increasing

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Guard mistakes contributed to violence in Los Angeles County jails that left 14 inmates dead in the past six years and cost taxpayers millions of dollars to settle lawsuits, it was reported Sunday.

The Los Angeles Times said its review showed the Sheriff's Department, which oversees the nation's largest jail system, failed to protect some vulnerable inmates and reduced discipline actions against dozens of deputies whose lapses contributed to deaths and injuries.

Meantime, jail disturbances rose from 47 in 2001 to 112 this year. Those included several riots that left two dead and at least 100 injured.

Violence by jail workers also increased. The use of significant force rose 60 percent between 2000 and 2005, according to records kept by the county Sheriff's Department, which oversees the jails.

Incidents resulting in hospitalization or verifiable injury to inmates almost doubled in that time, from 186 to 339.

The county paid \$6 million since 2004 to compensate inmates and their survivors for errors, negligence and brutality. That included \$1.25 million paid earlier this year to relatives of Raul Tinajero, a 20-year-old who was strangled in his cell by an inmate he had testified against in a murder case.

The inmate had been allowed out of his own cell after falsely claiming he had a court appearance, and wandered unescorted through the Men's Central Jail for hours.

When a dozen jail workers were disciplined for the Tinajero killing, most of the suspensions were reduced to written reprimands, the Times said.

In another case, an accused child molester was placed in a dormitory with 80 other inmates even though he had been ordered segregated for his own protection. He was severely beaten.

On Tuesday, the county Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on a settlement that would provide his family with \$2.8 million for lifelong care.

"I'm certainly of the belief that we can always do better," Sheriff Lee Baca said. "I don't think any death in the jail is acceptable."

Baca said the department has taken steps to reduce violence, such as segregating Hispanic gang members to avoid racial clashes with black inmates. However, he said the Sheriff's Department needs more resources to properly staff jails that increasingly handle violent offenders.

STATE BRIEFS

SAN CLEMENTE

Line in the sand in San Clemente

The first phase of the 2.3-mile San Clemente Coastal Trail will be completed next month, but the lone bid for phase 2 came in over budget and the city is struggling to find the money.

The bid for the second phase was \$4.4 million, some \$3.5 million over budget, officials said.

The 1,000-foot-long boardwalk built during phase 1 ends abruptly at the Mariposa Beach access ramp. But most of the trail is complete and people can walk the entire length from North Beach to Calafia Beach without phase 2.

Phase 2 calls for extension of an elevated boardwalk beyond the Mariposa Point beach access, construction of an underpass to the beach, beneath the railroad track, at Mariposa Point and signalized pedestrian crossings of the railroad track at Dije Court, El Portal and Lasuen.

The city also wants to build stairs to the beach over railroad rocks at the Court and El Portal rail crossings.

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SANTA ANA

Gang attack leaves two teens dead

Two 14-year-old boys were shot to death and a 16-year-old boy was critically wounded in what police called an apparent gang-related attack.

The 14-year-old boys were dead at the scene of Sunday's 4:30 p.m. shooting on East Camile Street, an area southeast of downtown that isn't considered hard-core gang turf, police Officer Victor Standke said Monday.

The survivor of the attack was hospitalized in critical condition, he said. The names of the victims, who live in Santa Ana, were withheld.

Anti-gang detectives were investigating the shooting but details of the attack weren't disclosed.

There were no arrests.

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Dear Dorie,

My 13-month-old just started walking, but she seems to fall down after just a few steps. Should I encourage more crawling or just pick her up again?

Wobbly One

Dear Wobbly,

Congratulations on entering the "bonk" phase of parenting. Every time you turn around, your new walker will be bonking into something as she navigates obstacles with

the walk/crawl combo. This is a great time to give your arm muscles a break, but watch out for the posture — bending down for extended periods of time can take a toll on your back.

The fall after a few steps is perfectly normal. It takes practice to become bipedal and that involves quite a few sit-downs. I would check the shoes just to be safe. When at all possible, allow her to be barefoot. That should be most of the time, unless you're outside the home. Then stick with

the suede booty-style shoes for comfort. These allow her to stretch her foot muscles and grip with her toes as she gets more comfortable being upright. Avoid expensive tennis shoes — they are too heavy, too stiff and she'll grow out of them in a month or two.

When she does fall down, allow her to crawl or attempt to get back up again by herself. This gives her the opportunity to use the muscles in her legs and establish upright balance. Try offering your hand to her, but let her decide whether to take it or not. In a blink, she'll be running and waving back at you. Good luck.

Dorie

Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center. Submit your questions to meek@smmusd.org.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
TOYS for TOTS – The SM Fire Dept., in conjunction with the American Red Cross, is very active in the holiday “Spark of Life” program that collects and distributes toys for local social service agencies. Drop off an unwrapped toy at any SM Fire Station until Dec. 23. For more info call 310-458-8666.

NOW THRU DEC. 22, 4:00 p.m.
Chanukah Celebration Festival of Lights at Santa Monica Place – The Chabad of SM celebrates with a traditional lighting of the Menorah at Center Court on Level 1. Also Sat., Dec. 31 at 6:00 p.m.

TODAY! DEC. 19 and THUR., DEC. 21 – 2:00 p.m.
ALL ABOUT SANTA at the SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE
Enjoy this romantic- musical as it follows a newly appointed Santa as he tries to prove his worth to Father Claus, save the spirit of Christmas and find the nerve to win the heart of the future Mrs. Claus. \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

THURS., DEC 21 – MON., DEC. 25 – DISNEY ON ICE!
“A Disneyland Adventure” – Mickey and Minnie Mouse tell the story of what happens when everyone’s favorite family, The Incredibles, take a fun-filled vacation to Disneyland. Various times, \$15 - \$60, 213-480-3232, Staples Center.

SAT., DEC. 23 – HOLIDAY SING-ALONG – 2:00 p.m.
Belt out the songs of the season with your family at Walt Disney Concert Hall. \$23 - \$69, 111 S. Grand Ave., LA, 323-850-2000.

NOW THRU JAN. 1 - REINDEER ROMP at the LA ZOO
Santa’s reindeer are in town for a special visit! Get your picture made with them, and make antlers and other holiday crafts. Free with general admission: \$10 adults, \$5 children. 5333 Zoo Dr., Griffith Park, LA, 323-644-4200.

NOW THRU JAN. 16 – OUTDOOR ICE SKATING at PERSHING SQUARE
Take a trip downtown to enjoy this annual attraction. Skate under the sun and stars and enjoy free concerts on weekends and Wednesdays. Mon. – Thurs., noon – 9:00 p.m., Fri. – Sun., 10:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m. \$6 per session plus skate rentals. 532 S. Olive St., LA, 213-847-4970.

NOW THRU DEC. 29 – HOLIDAY LIGHT FESTIVAL at GRIFFITH PARK
5:00 – 10:00 p.m. daily. Enjoy this holiday tradition at you drive through or walk a mile-long stretch of lighted displays and seasonal messages. FREE! Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park, LA, 888-527-2757.

Some holiday schedule changes have been included, but you may want to call and confirm during the next two weeks.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelitems for details.

Storytelling and Library Programs
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Baby Time – 10:15 & 11:00 a.m., babies up to 2 years, next session Jan. 9 – Feb. 13.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 450-0443.
Toddler Story Time in Spanish – 10:00 a.m., ages 2-3.
Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2, next session Jan. 2 – Feb. 6
Twilight Story Time 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 392-8304
Story Time for Twos – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., next session starts Jan. 2.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Exhale Center for Sacred Movement, 245 S. Main St., Venice. Pre/Post Natal – 11:25 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. 450-7676, exhalespa.com. Single class \$17, package of ten \$135.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
YoMama Yoga – 1404 3rd St. Promenade, St. 201. Parent & Me – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Yoga for parents with kids ages 6 wks – 6 years. Kids interact with each other and toys. \$15 single class, \$65 for five classes, \$120 for ten classes.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups – 4:30 p.m.- separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling and Library Programs
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-5. Next session Jan. 3 – Feb. 7 for both.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Baby Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2, next session starts Jan. 3.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. -392-3804.

Spanish Bilingual Stories – 11:20 a.m., ages 2 – 5, session thru Dec. 27.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border’s, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
YoMama Yoga – 1404 3rd St. Promenade, St. 201. Parent & Me – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Yoga for parents with kids ages 6 wks – 6 years. Kids interact with each other and toys. \$15 single class, \$65 for five classes, \$120 for ten classes.
Prenatal Yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$18 single class, \$85 for five classes. yogababyla.com
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroup – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling and Library Programs
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., next session starts Jan. 11.
Preschool Story Time – 11:20 a.m, ages 3 – 5, next session starts Jan. 11.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 a.m., next session starts Jan. 4.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5. Ongoing.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
12/21, 12/28 & 1/04 – Crafty Storytimes for the Holidays – 3:30 p.m. – Enjoy seasonal stories and make a craft to take home, Grades k- 2.
Baby Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. Babies to 2 years. Next session Dec. 28 – Feb. 1.
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 – 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Exhale Center for Sacred Movement, 245 S. Main St., Venice. Pre/Post Natal – 11:25 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. 450-7676, exhalespa.com. Single class \$17, package of ten \$135.
YoMama Yoga – 1404 3rd St. Promenade, St. 201. Parent & Me – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Yoga for parents with kids ages 6 wks – 6 years. Kids interact with each other and toys. \$15 single class, \$65 for five classes, \$120 for ten classes. yogababyla.com
Prenatal Yoga – 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. \$18 single class, \$85 for five classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com

for more info.

Breastfeeding Groups
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups
11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05; 12:30 p.m. – playgroup for babies born since March 2006. Call or e-mail Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.
Parent’s Night Out at Child’s Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.childsplayonline.net

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; Playtime/Parent Support – 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Kid’s Yoga Circle Class at Exhale Spa – 3:30 p.m., for ages 5 – 11, 1422 2nd St., 260-2736 or yogaforkids@hotmail.com.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid’s Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children’s Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA – 10:30 a.m., every other Sat., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 Swarthmore Ave, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info
@825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes
YWCA – Toddler & Me – 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.; Parent Enrichment once per month , 11:00 a.m. – noon, call Barbara Olinger at 452-3881 for rates and dates.

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamon-icayoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
YoMama Yoga – 1404 3rd St. Promenade, St. 201. Parent & Me – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Yoga for parents with kids ages 6 wks – 6 years. Kids interact with each other and toys. \$15 single class, \$65 for five classes, \$120 for ten classes.
Prenatal Yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$18 single class, \$85 for five classes. yogababyla.com

Other
The Bridge Cinema Deluxe - Enjoy a G-rated movie for kids every Sat. and Sun.
Tickets are \$3.50. 6081 Center Drive, LA, 310-568-3375.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
“A Faery Hunt” – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children’s show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.
Artful Weekends at the Getty Villa – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sat. & Sun. Create your own works of art inspired by objects in the collection. Free admission; timed tickets required. 17985 PCH, Pacific Palisades.

SUNDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE

The Bridge Cinema Deluxe - Enjoy a G-rated movie for kids every Sat. and Sun.
Tickets are \$3.50. 6081 Center Drive, LA, 310-568-3375.
Main Street Farmer’s Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
NexGen Family Sundays at LA County Museum of Art – 12:30 – 3:15 p.m. – Hands-on, artist-led activities for families. FREE! 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-857-4737, www.lacma.org. Next event is Jan. 7.
Artful Weekends at the Getty Villa – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sat. & Sun. Create your own works of art inspired by objects in the collection. Free admission; timed tickets required. 17985 PCH, Pacific Palisades.
Yoga Pre/Post Natal – 9:15 a.m. Exhale Center for Sacred Movement, 245 S. Main St., Venice, 450-7676. exhalespa.com. Single class \$17, package of ten \$135.



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Powell doubting Bush

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Secretary of State Colin Powell is casting doubt on a plan under consideration by President Bush that would increase troops in Iraq, calling the U.S. Army overextended and “about broken.”

The incoming Senate majority leader, however, offered qualified support for a troop surge, saying it would be acceptable for a few months as part of a broader strategy to bring combat forces home by 2008.

“If the commanders on the ground said this is just for a short period of time, we’ll go along with that,” said Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., citing a time frame such as two months to three months. A period of 18 months to 24 months would be too long, he said.

Bush is reviewing options for a change of course in Iraq and plans to address the nation in early January.

On Sunday, Iraq’s Sunni vice president called for more American soldiers in Baghdad to quell sectarian violence — even though the Shiite-dominated government has proposed shifting U.S. troops to the capital’s periphery and having Iraqis assume primary responsibility for security in the city.

“Who is going to replace the American troops?” asked Tariq al-Hashemi, who met with Bush in Washington last week. “Iraqi troops, across the board, they are insufficient, incompetent, and many of them corrupted.”

There are about 140,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and about 5,000 advisers. Combat troops make up less than half of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Powell, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman for the first President Bush during the 1991 Gulf War, said if more troops were proposed, commanders would have to make their mission clear, determine whether they can accomplish it and what size force is appropriate.

“I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work,” said Powell, who was secretary of state from 2001 to 2005. “We have to be very, very careful in this instance not just to grab a number out of the air.”

Increasing troops would run counter to recent recommendations by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which set a goal of withdrawing combat troops by early 2008 in support of more aggressive regional diplomacy.

Powell said that U.S. troops should not act as policemen. He described the U.S. Army as “about broken,” with a shortage of equipment, officers going on repetitive tours and gaps in military coverage elsewhere in the world.

“The current active Army is not large enough and the Marine Corps is not large enough for the kinds of missions they’re being asked to perform,” he said. “And the Congress has a serious task ahead of it, to make sure that the Army and the Marine Corps get the funds they need to sustain themselves and to sustain their equipment and their ammunition.”

Search of Mt. Hood cave fails to locate climbers

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

Associated Press Writer

HOOD RIVER, Ore. — Rescuers searched a snow cave just below the summit of Mount Hood on Sunday but didn’t find any of the three climbers missing since last weekend, an official said.

A sleeping bag, ice axes and rope were found in the snow cave, said Sgt. Gerry Tiffany, spokesman for the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office.

“I’m sure it is very frustrating for those guys on the mountain,” Tiffany said at a news conference. “I know I was frustrated.”

Tiffany said he assumes the snow cave was the one from which missing climber Kelly James made a distress call with his cell phone to relatives a week ago.

Despite the disappointment, Tiffany said searchers are drawing hope from discovery of the snow cave.

“They hunkered down in the snow and they survived there for a while, helping themselves, hiking out of there, climbing out of there.”

He said “they could have made another snow cave somewhere” else.

“We’re by no means ready to give up yet,” he said.

Earlier in the afternoon, searchers were lowered by helicopter onto a ridge over the snow cave.

INTERNATIONAL

N. Korea demands the lifting of sanctions before disarming

BY ALEXA OLESEN

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — North Korea defiantly declared itself a nuclear power Monday at the start of the first full international arms talks since its nuclear test and threatened to increase its nuclear deterrent if its demands were not met.

Reiterating those demands in its opening speech, the North said the United Nations must lift the sanctions imposed on the communist nation for its Oct. 9 nuclear test. It also said the United States must remove the financial restrictions that led the North to break off the six-nation nuclear negotiations 13 months ago.

The North also said it wants a nuclear reactor constructed for it and help covering its energy needs until the reactor is completed, according to a summary of the speech released by one of the delegations involved. Five nations are trying to persuade the North to abandon nuclear weapons — the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

The North said that now that it is a nuclear power, it should be treated on equal footing with the U.S. It warned that if its demands aren’t met, it would increase its nuclear deterrent, according to the summary.

The U.S. offered in its opening comments to normalize relations with Pyongyang, but only after it halted its nuclear program.

A South Korean official who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the talks said the North was entering the negotiations with a maximum of conditions for success.

Opening the talks at a Chinese state guesthouse in Beijing, head Chinese delegate Wu Dawei urged the envoys to strive for the implementation of a September 2005 agreement in which the North pledged to abandon its nuclear program in exchange for security guarantees and aid.

“This session has significant meaning in building on past progress and paving the way for the future,” he said. “We hope that with the concerted efforts of all parties, we will be able to produce positive results.”

North Korea agreed to return to the six-nation negotiations just weeks after its nuclear test, saying it wanted to discuss U.S. financial restrictions against a Macau bank where the regime held accounts.

That issue will be addressed in separate U.S.-North Korean meetings expected to start Tuesday.

The arms talks have been plagued by delays and discord since they began in August 2003.

The U.S. has sought to line up support against Pyongyang’s nuclear ambitions by enlisting its neighbors in the discussions.

The North exploited divisions among the U.S. and its partners in an effort to change the subject and buy time to develop its atomic arsenal.

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COLLEGE RECRUITING

‘Reverse recruiting’ is the key for students to nab scholarship

BY LAURA MITCHELL

Special to the Daily Press

High School athletes across America often dream of making a team, playing for a national championship, playing in front of thousands of fans, and even going pro.

While most student-athletes will not reach that pinnacle, thousands of student-athletes do have life-altering experiences as athletes at America’s colleges and universities. Some play on scholarship, while some walk on -- or attend non-athletic scholarship programs.

Nearly any solid varsity athlete can find a place to play their sport in college. Let me repeat that -- almost every student athlete can find a place to play their sport!

Some NCAA colleges even have bowling and water skiing, so basketball and football don’t have to be your thing. Student-athletes may not be qualified to play at their dream school, but their dream school may be the college that is the right fit.

If you’re in high school, here are some things that you can do now to better your chances of playing a sport in college:

SENIORS

It’s not too late! Choose a few colleges that are places you can play. Call the coach and let him or her know you are interested. NCAA Division III and NAIA smaller colleges do much of their recruiting via the Internet, word of mouth and by fielding incoming phone calls from student-athletes who have a passion to play their sport at the next level.

JUNIORS AND SOPHOMORES

Now is the time of year for you to begin researching the many possibilities to play in one of the many colleges and universities across America. Remember, being a student-athlete can get your application preferential treatment at some of the nation’s most prestigious schools.

Keep planning out your off-season to improve your skills. This means attending college camps, taking private lessons, and playing on a club or travel program.

REVERSE RECRUITING

Student-athletes should be sending out letters to college coaches — or as I like to call it “reverse recruiting,” ideally, by the end of sophomore year. If you think you might be in that top percent of superstar athletes known as a “blue chip,” send your stuff out sooner.

For example, you can send a letter to the

coach and request to be on a summer camp information list. If an eighth-grader has a dream to go to Duke, one great way — perhaps the best way — to start on the path to that dream would be to attend Duke’s summer camp. Each year, many athletes exceed their scholarship expectations because they have shown a special dedication to a program over time or endeared themselves to a coaching staff at a school of their choice.

WHAT TO SEND

A short e-mail or letter with your grade point average, year of graduation and basic statistical information is the way to get in the door. Including an unofficial transcript is a plus. Be yourself and let your personality shine through in the letter. Follow up with a phone call seven to 14 days later. Student-athletes can always call a coach — it is not a recruiting violation when you call them. Remember, they may not return your call, because depending on what year you are, it could be a violation of NCAA rules. But they may send you a form letter and athlete profile sheet for you to fill out, letting you know that they cannot officially recruit you. Give that letter to your high school or club coach. Ask him or her to make a call to determine possible interest that schools have in you.

It is OK to reach for a school just out of your range — as long as you are a determined student-athlete willing to work hard and dedicate yourself to getting better, and as long as you have a couple of Plan B or backup schools lined up.

Be persistent! Stay positive. It only takes one “yes,” no matter how many “nos.” One yes from a college coach is what you need to reach that dream of being a college athlete.

WHAT IS THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE?

All seniors who have any chance of playing NCAA Division II or Division I athletics (even as a walk-on) must be registered for the NCAA Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse registration is not required for Division III or NAIA or junior college athletes.

Go to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net to register. It costs about \$50. Waivers are available if you qualify. Ask your counselor.

The NCAA Clearinghouse is the best Web site to use to keep track of the changes the NCAA makes for academic eligibility.

Laura Mitchell is CEO of Sports Dreammakers and also head coach for the Malibu High School Girls Varsity and JV basketball teams.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 61°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
It's looking smaller in the waist to chest high range at west facing breaks (ankle to knee at south facing spots). Winds should relax a bit, but the tide will be an issue for early and mid morning sessions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SLIGHT NW WITH SMALL SW MIDWEEK...
NW BY END OF WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD



Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 5, 2006**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills --	0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill --	8
Number of wet days --	4
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather --	37 / 31
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather --	10 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	F	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	A	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	A+	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	C	A
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 zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	ns	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	D
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	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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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Buy a holiday CD, Aries

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★★ Positive
★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Take in new vistas and be open to dynamic change or opportunities. Sometimes it might be a touch risky to take a leap of faith. Don't make it a big deal. Discover just how important a key friend is. Tonight: Walk in a new direction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Sometimes you might want to understand with greater depth those key people in your life. Ask questions more often and explore different ideas. Your openness heads you down a new path. Tonight: Make it close and make it intimate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You have a lot to say and, happily, draw a huge audience. Be willing to talk about your dreams and long-term desires. Allow life to take on a new dimension. Add enthusiasm and your vision to the mix. Tonight: So many people, so many places.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You'll get a lot accomplished, and quite quickly at that. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with others. You quickly get down to basics. Understand your limits and what might be a special opportunity. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to understand more of what is happening than in the past. Your lively side emerges with some laughter, silliness and brainstorming. The unexpected takes a toll on a partner or close associate. Help this person with solid thinking. Tonight: Fun and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Anchor in, knowing your choices and what will happen. You come from a solid perspective, yet you're not exactly sure what would be best. A new beginning stems from another's quirkiness. Listen to feedback. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your playfulness is easily expressed if you flow. An abrupt turnabout needs to be taken in stride rather than reacted to. You will find that many people want feedback. Share ideas and allow your creativity to flourish. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Expenses could be awesome, but don't take a risk or gamble, even if you feel it would be helpful. Walk the conservative path, and you will be much happier. Stay centered, but be a cynic with ideas. Tonight: Go over must expenditures. Do you need to make an adjustment?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You are all smiles, for good reason. You might want to try something differently or approach a situation in a more dynamic manner. Share your ideas, knowing you are heading down a new path. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Know when to step back and do the unexpected. You might want to understand more of what motivates others and yourself. The unexpected forces you to step back and think. Listen as well. Tonight: Answers are forthcoming for those who remain quiet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want, and be ready to head in another direction. Zoom in on what works for you, what might feel right. Loosen up in the company of a friend or a group of pals. Tonight: Happy as can be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might need to gain a perspective and some insight. Once you do, you might question how you could have stayed on the path you were on. Your imagination provides many solutions and ideas. Tap into this resource. Tonight: A must appearance.

Born Today

Happy Birthday Aurora Zepeda!!
Actor Kristy Swanson (1969)
Actress Alyssa Milano (1972)



Happy Birthday!

This year presents opportunities. Picking and choosing the right ones can define the next 11 years. You will be entering a decisive period in which, because of your choices, you will point the way to your future. You will be generally lucky and land on your feet, like a cat with nine lives. Fall 2007, you enter a new 11-year luck cycle. You also might have let go of a lot of what hasn't worked. If you are single, you will meet someone who might not be quite as he or she represents him- or herself to be. Back out if necessary.

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Heartbreak kid

Carter in love again after Playmate split

AARON CARTER, who broke off his engagement to former Playboy Playmate Kari Ann Peniche just a week after he proposed onstage in Las Vegas, says he's in love. Carter, who turned 19 on Dec. 7, is dating 18-year-old singer Kaci Brown. They hit it

off last week in Miami when he celebrated his birthday with twin sister, Angel, the pop singer's spokeswoman, Juliette Harris, told The Associated Press on Monday. "Now I'm in a great relationship. I've only known her for, like, seven days, but I have

a connection with her that's like nothing else I've ever experienced," Carter tells People magazine in a story posted Monday on its Web site. "It's really amazing." Asked what Brown, a friend of Angel's, gave him for his birthday, Carter

said: "She got me love." Carter, star of the E! Entertainment reality show "House of Carters" with his siblings, is working on a new album, Harris said. He proposed to Peniche, an ex-girlfriend of his 26-year-old brother,

Backstreet Boys singer Nick Carter, in September. Peniche is also a former Miss Teen USA. Brown opened for the Backstreet Boys during their 2005 summer tour, People reported.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garland has a hard time pushing sales

A pair of records made by **JUDY GARLAND** as a child from her first studio recording session have failed to sell at auction. The top bid Sunday for the acetate discs recorded in March 1935 was \$22,500, failing to reach the minimum amount, said Levi Morgan, a spokesman for auctioneer Bonhams & Butterfields. The auction house had expected the records to

fetch between \$30,000 and \$40,000. "Clearly, there was interest, but perhaps Christmas shoppers didn't want to dig too deep into their pockets," Morgan said Monday. The records, which have never been heard in public, feature renditions of four songs sung by 12-year-old Garland in her early vaudeville shows including "Bill" from the Broadway musical

"Showboat." They also contain a medley of "Good Ship Lollypop," "Object of My Affections" and "Dinah." The seller, who remains anonymous, discovered the records in 1960 while clearing out her Beverly Hills home where Garland once lived, according to Bonhams. It's unknown whether the records were the originals or whether they were pressed for Garland's personal collec-

tion. Morgan said Bonhams might work with private collectors to broker a deal for the records by the end of the year. Born Frances Gumm, Garland's career began at age 2 and continued until her death in 1969. Her film credits include "The Wizard of Oz," "For Me and My Gal" and "Meet Me in St. Louis."

AP



SPEARS

No husband, no Chihuahuas

When it comes to celebrity dog-parenting skills, **OPRAH WINFREY** is tops and **BRITNEY SPEARS** is the world's worst, according to an online vote by readers of two dog magazines. "Britney was the overwhelming choice" for worst celebrity dog owner for 2006, Hilary O'Hagan, editor of The New York Dog and The Hollywood Dog magazines, said in a statement.

"She once had three Chihuahuas ... and never left home without at least one of them on her arm," O'Hagan said. "As soon as she met K-Fed and had kids they (the dogs) disappeared." Spears has filed for divorce from aspiring rapper Kevin Federline. The 25-year-old pop singer and Federline, 28, have a 1-year-old son, Sean Preston, and a 3-month-old son,

Jayden James. Paris Hilton, 2005's "worst" winner, placed second for "treating her dogs like accessories," the magazines said. Winfrey, who owns five dogs, was voted this year's best celebrity dog owner. The talk-show host beat off competition from Tori Spelling, Nicollette Sheridan and Beth Ostrosky, Howard Stern's girlfriend.

AP

No cold shoulder for penguins

BY NICK DIVITO
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Forget polar bears. This winter's "it" critter is unquestionably the penguin. "Penguins have always been a popular animal, but they do seem to be taking the nation by storm these days," said Christina Slater, a self-proclaimed "penguinologist" and curator of the penguin exhibit at California's Monterey Bay Aquarium. America's love affair with penguins stretches from Hollywood to publishing to the Internet. First came "March of the Penguins" in 2005, which won the Oscar for best documentary. Now "Happy Feet," an animated movie about a penguin who can't stop dancing, is filling theaters. The film was No. 1 at the box office three weeks in a row and has just been nominated for a Golden Globe. "I think it's because penguins are incredibly charismatic," Slager said. "There's also their funny-looking upright stance, their inquisitive nature, their quirky behaviors — all

these make for one really intriguing bird." Though she might be biased, the aquarium's Penguin Cam, a 24-hour, live Webcast broadcasting the antics of the park's 18 penguins, has also enjoyed a surge of viewers in recent months. Average daily traffic to spy on the penguins before "Happy Feet" hit theaters was 2,000 hits. The week after the movie came out, daily hits doubled, according to Ken Peterson, the aquarium's spokesman. The Web site is popular not only with teachers and their students, but adults as well. "I watch the breakfast-feeding almost every day," said Kathy Davis of Dallas. "Sometimes my friends and I watch the breakfast-feeding together, via cell-phone." Of course, it's not the first time the tuxedoed bird has enjoyed the spotlight. Willie the Penguin peddled Kool cigarettes from the 1930s to the '60s, and a penguin-shaped cocktail shaker was the bar accessory to have in the '30s. Fast forward to 1992, when Danny DeVito personi-

fied an evil penguin in "Batman Returns." Tux the Penguin became the Linux Web site mascot in 1996. But lately penguins seem to be popping up all over the Internet. They're helping Flufacts.com spread the word on the dangers of influenza; Amazon.com recently added a single penguin to the top of its Web site. You can choose a penguin to be your icon when you send instant messages through America Online, while Yahoo's homepage features a penguin that skates around the Yahoo logo. Even Dawn dish soap is in on it, using penguins in national television ads to demonstrate how the soap helps clean off the birds covered in oil slick. "There's a lot going on with penguins recently," says Anna Burdick, a spokeswoman for Procter & Gamble, the Cincinnati-based company that makes Dawn. "After the 'March of the Penguins' and 'Happy Feet,' penguins seem to be a hot animal right now." She's not just blowing smoke. "We don't do anything without first doing

extensive consumer research, and obviously our test audiences responded quite well to the penguin in our ad." And then there's Miniclip.com's highly addictive "Club Penguin" game, an interactive time-killer that allows players to assume the identity of a cute little penguin and chat with others, hit the disco floor, decorate a penguin abode, ride bobsleds and throw snowballs at other penguins. The game, launched in March, has become the site's most popular, according to Miniclip spokeswoman Jo McKenna. Though she couldn't provide exact numbers on how many have signed up to play, she did say it was in the millions. "The popularity of penguins right now has definitely had an impact," on the game's popularity, she said. And while some have penguin fever simply because the animal is so darn cute, author Sandra Boynton chose to use the flightless waterfowl as the center her new children's book, "My Personal Penguin," because of its alliterative possibilities.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
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Thursday
It's a Wonderful Life
7:30

Friday
White Christmas
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Babel (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20

The Departed (R)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:45

The Good German (R)
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30

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

Apocalypto (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35

Blood Diamond (R)
12:50, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

Deja Vu (PG-13)
1:50, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

The Holiday (PG-13)
1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:45

The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8:10, 9:50, 10:50

Unaccompanied Minors (PG)
2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Bobby (R)
1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 9:55

Shut Up & Sing (R)
1:15, 7:00

Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13)
4:15, 9:45

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

Breaking and Entering (R)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

The History Boys (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50

Little Children (R)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

The Queen (PG-13)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

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

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:30, 4:00, 7:20, 10:30

Charlotte's Web (G)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

Eragon (PG)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Eragon (PG)
12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20

Happy Feet (PG)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

More information email news@smdp.com

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
SILVER

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

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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 LAST PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

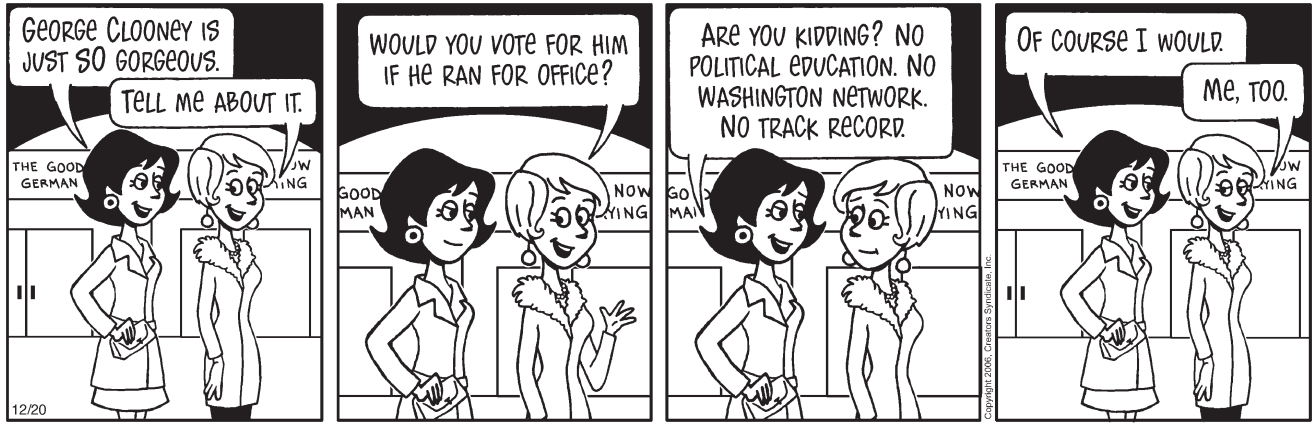
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Opening Lines, Pinky Probes and L-Bombs: The Girls & Sports Dating Playbook is available at: www.girlsandsports.com/book. Mention this newspaper for a free gift!

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

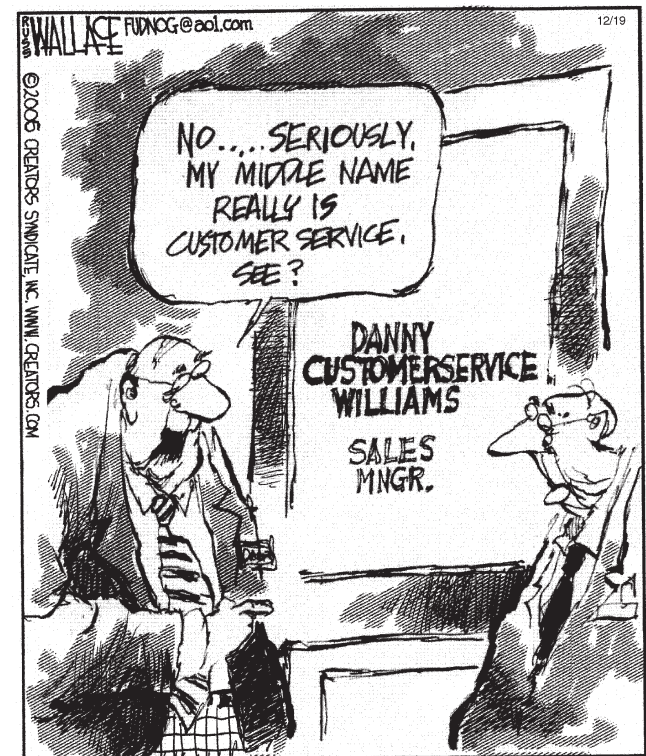


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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43 Welcome

DOWN 1 Fall

quaff

2 Find

irresistible

3 Kidney-

related

4 Prohibit

5 Biased

6 Brutes

7 Resis-

tance unit

8 Small fowl

for roast-

ing

9 Pizza herb

10 "The

Human

Comedy"

writer

11 Perfect

12 "Pal Joey"

writer

13 "Last

Dance"

singer

15 Pitching

stat

16 Bolt's

partner

17 Big head

18 Feels

empathy

20 Cow

chow

21 "— you!"

22 Musical

Horne

23 Carried

on

26 Rambled

27 District

28 Little lie

29 Carnival

city

30 Sense of

finality

34 Disfigure

35 Bran

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36 Not pos.

37 "Free

Ride"

musician

40 Shore

bird

41 Racket

B	R	A	F	F		H	E	E	D	
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I	N	T	R	O		W	A	I	V	E
A	T	E		S	C	I		T	I	N
R	O	C	K	T	H	E	B	O	A	T
				N	E	E		L	U	T
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M	I	S	S	T	H	E	B	O	A	T
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R	E	U	S	E		R	E	G	I	S
	S	P	E	D		O	D	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer

14 Famous

canal

19 Sailing

22 Research

sites

23 Most

cordial

24 Minos'

daughter

25 Florida

neighbor

26 In

revolt

28 Imperfec-

tion

30 Centers

31 Loosen a

lace

32 Baseball's

Pee Wee

33 Wading

bird

38 Spring

mo.

39 Neither's

partner

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to
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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			
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27					28					
29				30				31	32	33
34				35				36		
37			38					39		
40						41				
42						43				

12-19

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Employment

CASHIER FOR busy retail business in Culver City with some weekend work. \$12.50/hr. Fax resume to (310)204-4309

CASHIER WANTED, full-time, benefits, SM. Fax resume to 310.450.6401. and-Pharmacy compounding tech., part-time, experience preferred. Fax resume to 310.450.6401.

College radio music promoter (310)998-8305 xt.85

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings, day and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

Customer Service/Full Time- starting up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telephone services company in WLA with free secure parking. Experience preferred but will train. Good language skills and reliability a must. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

DENTAL ASSISTANT for Brentwood/Wilshire office. (310)473-2099

RADIO INTERVIEW campaign sales person p/t flexible SM (310)998-8305 * 84

Employment

FINANCE
AN independent investment firm has the following opening in Los Angeles, CA: Associate (Job ID# MALA-6NT2G6). Perform financial analysis & due diligence of investments in mezzanine securities of companies. Reference Job ID & send resume to Attn: HR, 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90025. EOE.

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the environmental service department of St. John's Health Center. Looking for housekeeper/floor tech. PT/FT. Hospital experience preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS open in the housekeeping department/transporters of Century City Doctors Hospital. All shifts available, PT/FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 557-7194 for interview.

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BATH ROBES available for Christmas presents Terry cloth, microfleece and velour. Starting at \$40. (310)394-1533.

SPA/HOT TUB 2006 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950 (310) 479-3054

Pets

CAT SITTER
I will watch your cat, water your plants, and take in your mail while you are away. Call Kirsten. References available (310)729-7258

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Art Classes
taught by established artist. Paint Sculpt and draw in a garden setting. Classes start February 1st, 2007. Your artwork and bio placed on www.campbellart.com free with sign up. Call 310-804-0335 for schedule and pricing.

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Travel

ARTIST DREAM IN FRANCE Silk Painting in Burgundy, 07/07. Learn unique art form in enchanting village with select group.
Sarah Pierce 310-899-1189
www.sarahsilk.com

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501 N. Venice. Unit 12, single, stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. \$975/mo. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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 2bdm/1bath \$2200/mo
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MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, stove, fridge, carpets, blinds utilities included, parking, no pets,\$995/mo (310)737-7933 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 203 1bdm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. \$1075/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA/Culver City Adj. \$1725 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths. "Twnhs-Apt." Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 2-Car garage. No pets, 12048 Culver Blvd #202. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

PALMS/BVRLYWD-ADJ.\$725. Bachelor, Stove, refrigerator, utilities paid, NO PETS, 2009 Preuss Rd., #1. Los Angeles, 90034. Open daily for viewing. Additional info in unit.

SANTA MONICA \$1175/mo 1 bdrm/1Bath, quiet, large unit, walk-in-closet, cozy kitchen, community courtyard, (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1213/mo 1brm/1bath-Charming/private, patio, mini blinds, a short walk to cafes. (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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SANTA MONICA \$1325.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #203 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

SANTA MONICA \$1400/mo 2 bdrms/1bath, hardwood floors, yard, ceramic tile floors in kitchen/bath (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1650/mo 2 bdrms/2baths, Carpet Floors, pool, spacious, bright unit, gated entry/parking (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2300/mo 3bdrms/2baths, Will consider pet with deposit, Carpet/Hardwood Floors, Carport parking, (310)395-RENT. www.westsiderentals.com

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Furnished Apts

Please call 310-410-2305
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Apartment Wanted

Fantastic 26 year old female looking for a guesthouse/ 1 bedroom/ studio with lots of light and great neighbors. Great references. Positive Influence. (805)455-1115.

Ideal Tenant. Filmmaker/writer female seeks West Side guest house. I am clean, quiet, responsible, and working. Call if you have a clean place in a quiet neighborhood! Great references. (310)717-6086

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1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

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Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):

☐ ALL CAPS ☐ bold ☐ italics

☐ Box (.50/day) ☐ Reverse(\$1/day)

Payment:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Check

Exp: ____ | 20 ____ **Check #:** _____

Make checks payable: Santa Monica Daily Press

NO CASH PLEASE

Signature: _____

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Fill out this form and mail to:
1427 Third Street Promenade
Suite 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Fax.

Fill out this form and fax to:
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ATTN: Classifieds

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* As of November 12, 2006
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WILLIAM JAY POLIN CASE NO. BP102016

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of WILLIAM JAY POLIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JEFFREY ROSE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JEFFREY ROSE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 01/16/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner JOHN A. ALTSCHUL LAW OFFICE OF JOHN A. ALTSCHUL 1180 S. BEVERLY DRIVE, #411 LOS ANGELES, CA 90035-1156 12/19, 12/20, 12/26/06 CNS-1062600# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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(2L016796)

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'03 Honda Accord

Red, 4 Cyl, 2.4L VTEC,

Stock #: I524A

\$13,994

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'05 Mazda 3 i Sedan

Champagne, 4-Cyl., 2.0 L,

5 speed, air bags, alloy wheels

(P1481)

\$14,993

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Moonroof, alloy wheels, air bags

(P1476)

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4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, Alloy wheels

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Vehicles for sale



'03 Audi A4 Sedan

Silver, V6 3.0L, leather,

Moonroof, alloy, airbags

(I6038A)

\$22,991

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'05 Volkswagen Jetta GLI Sedan

4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, A/C, CD,

Air Bags, Moonroof, Alloy

(I6311A)

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'04 Dodge Dakota

Maroon, automatic, V6 3.7L

(P1480)

\$12,494

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V6 3.5 Liter, Automatic, Leather

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'03 Audi TT Convertible

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'03 Lexus RX 300

Silver, V6 3.0L,

Low Miles!

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\$23,994

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(3G608497)

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Will Not Last

(4L915794)

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'05 Santa Fe 3.5L \$15,850

White/Grey, CD, only 16K Mi,

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Low miles, pristine

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R-Brds, Leather, CD, Pristine!

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2 to Choose-Black or Silver
Low miles, still has new
car warranty.

(U786948, U648625)
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Leather, CD, Pristine
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'01 CLK \$29,000
Silver/Charcoal, AMG sport pkg.,
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\$15,900
Silver, 55K Miles, Pristine
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Vehicles for sale



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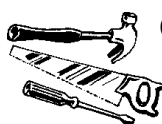
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