



Santa Monica Daily Press

LOOKING GOOD, FOR BRITNEY
SEE PAGE 15

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HOLD THE WRITERS' HANDS ISSUE

BUSINESS



TO WINE AND DINE

Promenade welcomes new French bistro

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 10

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

Schools and city learn to share

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER Plans to further joint use opportunities between the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica city government are moving forward for the redevelopment of Santa Monica High School and the adjacent Civic Center.

The Community & Cultural Services Department is planning to secure a consultant that will study the master plans dictating the redevelopment of Samohi and the Civic Center area and determine where joint-use ventures would be possible, which could include shared recreational and cultural facilities.

Joint use is defined as a use that produces mutual benefits to both the city and the district, according to Barbara Stinchfield, the director of the Community & Cultural Services. Financing for such projects are not usually formulaic, but instead tap into the resources available to each agency — one might have access to land while another might have more funding.

With limited resources available, joint use projects allow the invested parties to maximize their dollars to the fullest extent possible, said Superintendent Dianne Talarico.

“There’s a possibility of doing some transformational things where students’ and the broader community’s benefits can increase tenfold when you do it through joint-use agreements,” she said.

SEE JOINT USE PAGE 12



Gary Limjap

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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007

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A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Montana Avenue Branch book group

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

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

Jewish story hour

1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.

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

Grown Up Fairy Tales Book Group: 'Stardust'

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

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

Griffith Park Light Festival

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007

Samohi's Winter Choral Concert

1030 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Samohi's third annual winter concert of perpetual motion, "Motus Perpetuus III," will take place at Barnum Hall. Students sing from all corners of the venue continuously and as soon as one group ends, another one begins. "Motus Perpetuus" is primarily focused on the music pieces of Johann Sebastian Bach. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students and seniors (purchased at the door).

Fiesta!

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.

The Main Library is celebrating the season in español with Spanish stories, songs and a piñata. Ages 3 and up.

What's New This Week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Santa Monica Laughter Club

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

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

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.



Leaving a lasting impression

Edelman vacates post as city homeless czar after helping to forge a regional approach

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After working for two years as Santa Monica's homeless czar, helping to establish a homeless community court and move two major food providers indoors to connect the down-and-out with services, Ed

Edelman is saying good-bye to his colleagues in City Hall, but he will not bid farewell to the cause.

The former county supervisor who helped create the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in 1993 said the seeds he has planted while working for Santa Monica have taken root, providing a strong

foundation for the future, and he plans to continue working to find solutions to homelessness.

"I've had a great opportunity here to do some things that have helped Santa Monica and helped the region," Edelman said during a phone interview Tuesday, a week after he received a commendation from the City Council for his efforts as the special representative on homeless initiatives.

"That said, there is still plenty of work that needs to be done," Edelman added. "I would like to take some time to relax and see

what develops. I certainly want to remain involved in the public domain as long as I have something I feel I can give because there is nothing more satisfying than working for the public."

Edelman was hired in December 2005 as the city's special representative on homeless initiatives, charged with the difficult task of bringing regional cohesiveness to the growing homeless problem, particularly on the Westside.

SEE CZAR PAGE 13

Huckabee defends his Christmas ad

BY LIZ AUSTIN PETERSON
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee on Tuesday defended his Christmas ad amid suggestions that the ordained Baptist minister had gone too far mixing religion and politics.

The ad, which is airing in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, shows Huckabee in front of a Christmas tree as he says, "Are you about worn out by all the television commercials you've been seeing, mostly about politics? Well, I don't blame you. At this time of year sometimes it's nice to pull aside from all of that and just remember that what really matters is the celebration of the birth of Christ and being with our family and friends."

Huckabee is courting evangelical voters and other religious conservatives in his bid to win the Iowa caucuses Jan. 3.

In Texas for a fundraiser, he said the ad was a harmless holiday greeting even though it excludes other religions.

"If we are so politically correct in this country that a person can't say enough of the nonsense with the political attack ads could we pause for a few days and say Merry Christmas to each other then we're really, really in trouble as a country," Huckabee said.

Catholic League president Bill Donahue said Huckabee went beyond wishing people a joyous holiday.



WHERE IS THIS, BOSTON?

Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul staged a Boston Tea party reenactment at the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday, marking the 234th anniversary of the Bostonian uprising that helped ignite the American Revolution. Rather than dump tea into the bay, supporters looked to dump money into the campaign coffers of the Texas congressman.

Photo courtesy of Sean Paul



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Language fear stems from slavery
Editor:

How interesting it is to read a letter to the editor (“Don’t be rude, learn the language,” Dec. 14) rationalizing a desire for the exclusive use of English in our melting pot, multi-ethnic nation. One would think that because of the polyglot make-up of our population, hearing a language different from one’s own would be something taken for granted. After all, in most advanced countries, people are not offended or paranoid when a language they do not understand is spoken in their proximity.

All over the European Union, different languages are spoken and the reaction is not “they are talking about me.” That is a U.S. thing. We are still living with the heritage from our era of slavery. Slaves were severely punished for speaking in their own tongues. Not only did the slave owner feel the slaves prone to make uncomplimentary comments about the master, but that they could be plotting a revolt. Slave rebellion was always a present danger and bloody possibility, and slave owners took any steps they deemed necessary to nip such a possibility in the bud. Consequently, “English only” was mandatory. This was described to house slaves as simply bad manners to speak in a language the master’s family did not understand. Whites rationalized they were only teaching proper manners to their slaves.

Today, when slavery and the fear of slave rebellions are long gone, the fear and paranoia of foreign languages is still alive and well. When will we be able to rid ourselves of the down deep psychological scars of slavery that breed fear and distrust among us? Wake up, America! It’s 2007. The world has changed.

Luis Valdez
Santa Monica

Hope doesn’t keep the rain away
Editor:

First, let me thank the City Council for the RDA Voucher. This Santa Monica Housing voucher pays first month, last month and security too. All I have to do is find a vouchered dwelling.

Six months and not even one lead from the Santa Monica Housing Authority. The voucher is for a single or one bedroom. I have found one lead, to date, from local papers. It was from this paper I found the only lead. It was perfect, too. I asked to afford an application, but was told the last vouchered resident had taken a checkbook from the owner and forged her name ... I was told that vouchers were not of interest any longer. I watched as a cash-paying applicant turned in her application.

How many people have put in the same efforts? How many of these RDA Vouchers were issued? I would like to know if more than 1 percent found housing, if anyone for that mater.

I have only one lead at this time. The building is full now, but people don’t live forever. I’ll be waiting ...

Thank you, again, Santa Monica City Council for the hope of housing. The thing is, hope won’t keep the rain off you.

Drew Feldman
Santa Monica



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Your column here
By Members of the Judiciary Committee
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It’s time to impeach
the vice president

ON NOV. 7, THE HOUSE OF Representatives voted to send a resolution of impeachment of Vice President Cheney to the Judiciary Committee. As members of the House Judiciary Committee, we strongly believe these important hearings should begin.

The issues at hand are too serious to ignore, including credible allegations of abuse of power that, if proven, may well constitute high crimes and misdemeanors under our Constitution. The charges against Vice President Cheney relate to his deceptive actions leading up to the Iraq war, the revelation of the identity of a covert agent for political retaliation, and the illegal wiretapping of American citizens.

Now that former White House press secretary Scott McClellan has indicated that the Vice President and his staff purposefully gave him false information about the outing of Valerie Plame Wilson as a covert agent to report to the American people, it is even more important for Congress to investigate what may have been an intentional obstruction of justice. Congress should call Mr. McClellan to testify about what he described as being asked to “unknowingly [pass] along false information.” In addition, recent revelations have shown that the administration, including Vice President Cheney, may have again manipulated and exaggerated evidence about weapons of mass destruction — this time about Iran’s nuclear capabilities.

Some of us were in Congress during the impeachment hearings of President Clinton. We spent a year and a half listening to testimony about President Clinton’s personal relations. This must not be the model for impeachment inquires. A Democratic Congress can show that it takes its Constitutional authority seriously and hold a sober investigation, which will stand in stark contrast to the kangaroo court convened by Republicans for President Clinton. In fact, the worst legacy of the Clinton impeachment — where the GOP pursued trumped-up and insignificant allegations — would be that it discourages future Congresses from examining credible and significant allegations of a Constitutional nature when they arise.

The charges against Vice President Cheney are not personal. They go to the core of the actions of this administration, and deserve consideration in a way the Clinton scandal never did. The American people understand this, and a majority support hearings, according to a Nov. 13 poll by the American Research Group. In fact, 70 percent of voters say that Vice President Cheney has abused his powers and 43 percent say that he should be removed from office right now. The American people understand the

magnitude of what has been done and what is at stake if we fail to act. It is time for Congress to catch up.

Some people argue that the Judiciary Committee can not proceed with impeachment hearings because it would distract Congress from passing important legislative initiatives. We disagree. First, hearings need not tie up Congress for a year and shut down the nation. Second, hearings will not prevent Congress from completing its other business. These hearings involve the possible impeachment of the vice president — not our commander-in-chief — and the resulting impact on the nation’s business and attention would be significantly less than the Clinton Presidential impeachment hearings.

Also, despite the fact that President Bush has thwarted moderate Democratic policies that are supported by a vast majority of Americans — including children’s health care, stem cell research, and bringing our

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troops home from Iraq — the Democratic Congress has already managed to deliver a minimum wage hike, an energy bill to address the climate crisis and bring us closer to energy independence, assistance for college tuition, and other legislative successes. We can continue to deliver on more of our agenda in the coming year while simultaneously fulfilling our Constitutional duty by investigating and publicly revealing whether or not Vice President Cheney has committed high crimes and misdemeanors.

Holding hearings would put the evidence on the table, and the evidence — not politics — should determine the outcome. Even if the hearings do not lead to removal from office, putting these grievous abuses on the record is important for the sake of history. For an administration that has consistently skirted the Constitution and asserted that it is above the law, it is imperative for Congress to make clear that we do not accept this dangerous precedent. Our Founding Fathers provided Congress the power of impeachment for just this reason, and we must now at least consider using it.

ROBERT WEXLER (D-FL), LUIS GUTIERREZ (D-IL) AND TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI) are members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A. Members of CNPA, AFCC, CVC, Associated Press, IFA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Dispatches from Dystopia

Ryan Hyatt

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This neighbor's pussy is off limits

I SHOULD HAVE LIED TO THE DETECTIVE.

I should have told her I have never seen the black cat "Dimer," and knew nothing of his whereabouts.

Instead, I told the truth, and in so doing learned a valuable lesson. Honesty can get you nowhere fast in LA's legal system.

My girlfriend Marisa and I gave Dimer to a pet adoption agency after he made countless intrusions into our home during the summer of 2006, entering through the pet door as we and Bella, our gray Persian, slept.

I can not describe how absurdly terrifying it is to be startled awake by the awful, high-pitched wale signifying a cat fight. Dimer ate Bella's food, pissed on our rugs and raised hell several times a night, several nights a week. Bella — or I, in a horribly recurring nightmare — would chase him out.

To deter the intrusions, water guns and rattles were used and failed. Dimer, perhaps neglected at home, seemed determined to ruin ours.

Closing the pet door wasn't an option, because Bella relieves herself outside. Besides, Marisa and I weren't about to let our pet or ourselves be held hostage by a terrorizing feline.

Neighbors said Dimer belonged to Ted De Rang'd, an irritable, senile hippie, often watering the weeds in the front yard of the house he rents next to ours. They cautioned us not to approach him on the grounds he's crazy and has a history of suing residents who don't see things his way.

They suggested we take Dimer to the pound, where he'd be euthanized, or drop him off in a field far from Tarzana.

We just wanted to be good neighbors and get a good night's rest without harming the cat. So I approached De Rang'd. He spoke at length about the need for effective communication, not like "Bush" and his "bombs." After a few meetings, I realized De Rang'd had no intention of keeping Dimer in his house at night.

I said if Dimer continued to invade our home, we would give him away. He did, and we did.

For the next year, De Rang'd assailed Marisa and me in the streets, cursing and spitting. He called us cowards and said he would get revenge for taking my friend away.

With or without Dimer, it seemed, we were becoming prisoners in our own home.

Last May, De Rang'd confused a nearby res-

ident and his sister for me and Marisa, detaining them for an hour frothing and fuming about the cat he claimed they took from him.

Bella was missing when I returned home from work the next day. I called the police. They didn't have to come far, serving a restraining order for another matter across the street.

De Rang'd peered out his window as I explained to officers why I believed he stole my cat. Then Bella showed up in our yard, suggesting I was paranoid or De Rang'd's dumped her from his side of the fence.

Marisa left a message on De Rang'd's answering machine politely stating that if he touched our cat or continued to threaten us — or people he mistook for us — we would request mental health services evaluate him, as the police advised we do.

Soon after, I received a phone call from LAPD Det. Jennifer Trappy. I assumed she was following up with the original call I made regarding Bella's disappearance. No such luck. She was investigating Marisa's "threatening message" left for De Rang'd.

After hearing the story, Trappy assured me the city attorney's office would likely request a mediation meeting. Whatever would help enlighten De Rang'd despite his entitlement issues was fine by me, I told her.

Well, Marisa was summoned to appear at the Van Nuys court to answer charges she left a threatening message on De Rang'd's answering machine. Unfortunately, the message didn't exist. Neither the police nor city attorney's office ever heard it.

The case was eventually dropped at the urging of a rational representative of the city attorney's office, and soon after, De Rang'd wrote Marisa a conciliatory letter.

But justice didn't come without headaches, and I now have first-hand experience that government is often a comedy of errors.

It's nice seeing taxpayer money funding a legal bureaucracy that placates deranged citizens at the cost of those who are forced to take time, money and effort to rectify the mess.

Whenever the law encourages us to lie to protect our rights, we must challenge what's wrong with it.

Otherwise, truth is worthless.

RYAN HYATT is a writer seeking a publisher for his second novel, "Stay Younger Longer," a political thriller that takes place in LA in 2046. He can be reached at ryanhyatt@gmail.com.

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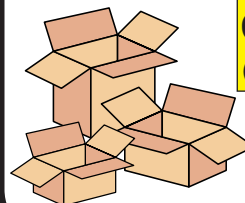
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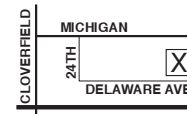
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The Q-Line

A share of the road

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

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

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

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

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Over the fence

Border Patrol agents criticized for firing tear gas at neighborhood

SAN DIEGO Border Patrol agents are firing tear gas and powerful pepper-spray weapons across the border into Mexico to repel what the agency says are an increasing number of attacks by assailants hurling rocks, bottles and bricks.

The counteroffensive has drawn complaints that innocent families are being caught in the crossfire.

"A neighbor shouted, 'Stop it! There are children living here,'" said Esther Arias Medina, 41, who on Wednesday fled her Tijuana, Mexico, shanty with her 3-week-old grandson after the infant began coughing from smoke that seeped through the walls.

A helmeted agent on the U.S. side said nothing as he stood with a rifle on top of a 10-foot border fence next to the three-room home that Arias shares with six others.

"We don't deserve this," Arias said. "The people who live here don't throw rocks. Those are people who come from the outside, but we're paying the price."

Witnesses in Arias' hardscrabble neighborhood described eight attacks since August that involved tear gas or pepper spray, some that forced residents to evacuate.

The Border Patrol says its agents have been attacked nearly 1,000 times during a one-year period.

The agency's top official in San Diego, Mike Fisher, said agents are taking action because Mexican authorities have been slow to respond. When an attack happens, he said, American authorities often wait hours for them to come, and help usually never arrives.

"We have been taking steps to ensure that our agents are safe," Fisher said.

Mexico's acting consul general in San Diego, Ricardo Pineda, has insisted that U.S. authorities stop firing onto Mexican soil. He met with Border Patrol officials last month after the agency fired tear gas into Mexico. The agency defended that counterattack, saying agents were being hit with a hail of ball bearings from slingshots in Mexico.

U.S. officials say the violence indicates that smugglers are growing more desperate

as stepped-up security makes it harder to sneak across the border. The assailants try to distract agents long enough to let people dash in the United States.

The head of a union representing Border Patrol employees said the violence also results from the decision to put agents right up against the border, a departure from the early 1990s when they waited farther back to make arrests.

"When you get that close to the fence, your agents are sitting ducks," said T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council.

WE DON'T DESERVE THIS. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE DON'T THROW ROCKS. THOSE ARE PEOPLE WHO COME FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT WE'RE PAYING THE PRICE."

Esther Arias Medina
Tijuana evacuee

Border Patrol agents were attacked 987 times along the U.S.-Mexico border during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, the agency said. That's up 31 percent from 752 attacks a year earlier, and it's the highest number since the agency began recording attacks in the late 1990s.

About two-thirds of the attacks were with rocks. Many of the rest involved physical assaults, such as illegal immigrants getting into fist fights with guards.

About one of every four attacks occurred in San Diego, and most of those happened along a heavily fortified, 10-mile stretch of the border starting at the Pacific Ocean.

Agent Joseph Ralph estimates he has been struck by rocks 20 times since joining the Border Patrol in 1987, once fracturing a shoulder blade. "You find yourself trying to take cover," he said.

STATE BRIEFS

CARLSBAD

Power plant plans draw praise, concern at public hearing

About 200 people packed a hearing to comment on plans to replace an aging power plant near the Pacific Ocean.

NRG Energy Inc. would build two, smaller plants capable of powering nearly 400,000 homes and shut down the three older generators. At a later, unspecified date, it would build additional small plants and demolish its existing massive plant.

At a hearing of the state Energy Commission Monday, residents said they were concerned that the project would invite noise and blight. Others were eager for the city to rid itself of the existing plant.

"The power plant's an eyesore," said resident Ted Viola. "If you can find something appealing about it, I'd like to know."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA BARBARA

College soccer player convicted of rape

A former University of California, Santa Barbara, soccer player has been convicted of raping a student 10 months ago.

But jurors acquitted Eric Frimpong of sexual battery against another female student in an earlier incident. The jury deliberated less than two days before returning the verdicts on Monday afternoon. He faces a maximum sentence of eight years in prison.

The 21-year-old native of Ghana was charged with raping the woman on an Isla Vista beach. Frimpong, a senior midfielder, was considered a key player in Santa Barbara's victory over UCLA in last year's national championship.

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Massive health care reform bill gets nod

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The state Assembly on Monday approved a massive health care reform plan that will expand coverage to nearly 70 percent of the state's uninsured and require most Californians to buy health insurance.

Lawmakers approved the \$14.4 billion plan on a party-line, 45-31 vote.

"Fundamentally, health care is a right and not a privilege, and it ought to be afforded to everybody," Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, the bill's author, told his colleagues before they voted. "Make no mistake about it, this is truly a historic effort."

Funding for the health care package relies on fees imposed on hospitals and employers, as well as boosting the tax on cigarettes. If the plan is passed by the Senate, it will go to voters in November 2008.

It would represent the largest health care overhaul undertaken by any state if voters give their approval.

Of the 5.1 million people who are considered permanently uninsured in California, 3.7 million would be covered under the plan, according to Nunez's office. That includes children from low-income families, employees at small businesses that cannot afford to provide health insurance and Californians with pre-existing medical conditions who have trouble finding coverage.

The Assembly leader struck the deal last week with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who made health care reform his top policy priority this year and broke ranks with his party to get it done.

"It is time for the people to stop living in fear of losing their medical coverage, of living in fear that they are literally one hospital stay away from having to file personal bankruptcy," Schwarzenegger said at a news conference after the Assembly vote, surrounded by Democratic lawmakers.

Members of his own party, health insurance companies and business groups criticized the proposal, in part because they say it relies on risky funding sources. They also said it penalizes California employers.

The tobacco tax would bring in about one-tenth of the health care program's funding, but critics said the amount of money generated by the tax increase will decline as fewer people smoke and buy cigarettes in California. The program also relies on \$4.5 billion in federal matching dollars that Republicans say may not materialize.

Republicans said the state cannot afford a massive health care reform plan as it faces a budget deficit projected at \$10 billion to \$14 billion over the next two fiscal years.

Committing to such a long-term expenditure with questionable revenue could create "a fiscal meltdown in California," Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine, told his fellow lawmakers.

Some states not stocking up on pandemic medicines

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Seven states have yet to participate in a federal program to buy antivirals for a potential influenza pandemic. Thirteen states do not have adequate plans to distribute vaccines and medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile.

Those findings and others are part of a new report on how well states have prepared for public health emergencies. The report concluded that states have made significant progress since the terrorist and anthrax attacks in 2001. However, critical gaps remain.

Seven states performed adequately in each of the 10 categories that were measured, which earned them a score of 10 from the Trust for America's Health, a research group. The top scores went to Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia.

The states that got the lowest score were Arkansas, Iowa, Mississippi, Nevada, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The federal government has had a difficult time measuring progress when it comes to the billions of dollars it has sent states over the past six years to improve preparedness.

The money went to upgrade laboratories, buy medical supplies and conduct training exercises.

The Bush administration has encouraged states to stock up on antivirals in the event of an influenza pandemic. Under one program, the federal government will pay for a quarter

of the cost of buying Tamiflu or Relenza, and states pay the remainder for a combined investment of about \$680 million. Antivirals reduce the severity of influenza.

Seven states have so far declined to purchase any antivirals, according to the report: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, North Dakota and Rhode Island. Several more have bought only a fraction of what they're entitled to under the federal program.

IF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STATES DON'T PICK UP THEIR SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY, THEN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IS LESS PROTECTED."

Jeffrey Levi
executive director of Trust for America's Health

"If a significant number of states don't pick up their share of responsibility, then the country as a whole is less protected," said Jeffrey Levi, executive director of Trust for America's Health.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services said that states have until June 2008 to get their orders in.



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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale

	Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
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North of Montana	= \$ 3,988,880	\$ 1,855,556
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,045,856
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,062,250	\$ 691,958
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,386,056	\$ 730,000
Ocean Park	= \$ 2,096,222	\$ 968,308

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

A home is more than a commodity

THERE IS A BATTLE OUT THERE. IT'S NOT between the forces of good and evil. The fate of the world is not dependent on its outcome. It's between sensationalistic journalism and real estate sales people trying to get their listings sold.

Some people think real estate agents have everything to gain from telling people it's always a good time to buy. These same people have forgotten that we are subjected to the same market forces as everyone else. If the market isn't paying what we are asking for a property, we have everything to gain from being able to explain to our sellers that now is a good time to reduce their asking prices. We make our money when a property sells, not when it doesn't.

From 2001-05, the real estate market in Los Angeles was red hot. Still, throughout this period the newspapers were warning people of an inevitable collapse. Every other month the "crash" was right around the corner. The media seems to have the most to gain from negativity, while salespeople have the most to gain from optimism. I spend my days accepting this and make my decisions based on what works for me at the time.



Simon Says

Simon Salloom
Send comments to
editor@smdp.com

No one knows what the future holds, no matter how brilliant they think they are. Your home is something you experience every day, it's not a commodity like a stock or bond purchased for its ability to rise in value. It's an emotional experience that you feel every day. It's a refuge from the strains of the outside world. It's an expression of who you are and how you like to live. And, at the end of the day, it may help to remember that coastal California has appreciated around 9 percent a year for the past 50 years. U.S. property values have gone up about 6 percent a year since the end of World War II.

I do most of my business in Santa Monica and Brentwood. In these areas, the lower end of the market has been hit around 3-5 percent in depreciation since last year. This is taken from my personal experience. Real estate isn't like gold or potatoes, every proper-

ty and transaction is different, and I am sure different agents in different parts of the city have a different story. I can find statistics to back either a negative or a positive view of the local market. Basically, properties I could have sold for \$1 million last year seem to be going for a little less this year.

The more expensive a property is, the less depreciation it appears to be experiencing. This has a lot to do with the profile of the buyers in these different markets. A lower end or younger buyer with less savings can't weather a tumble as well. They also tend to be more susceptible to media hype because they lack the experience of older and/or more sophisticated buyers. First-time buyers are getting ready to make a big leap into the largest purchase of their lives — hearing on the news that the real estate market is in shambles is pretty scary. It's enough to get many of them off the diving board and back into their rental properties.

Agents are getting better at listing properties at the right price. A lot of sales are closing at prices where, after the tax savings, the expense of owning the property is the same

or less than renting. So, yes, at the right price, it is always a good time to buy. To buy for immediate appreciation, well that's another story. No one knows where the top of the market is, or where the bottom of the market is.

It now looks like if you bought in the past year or two and need to sell now, that wasn't a great buy. If you are living in and enjoying your property right now and have no plans to move in the very near future, you're good. If you bought your property in 2001 and need to sell now, you're going to make a lot of money. Remember, when a market hits its bottom or it's top, no one knows it's happening until after it's happened.

A general rule of thumb for buying and selling real estate is buy and sell in one year, you lose money; buy and sell in two years, you probably break even; buy and sell in three years, you will break even or make money. This takes into account a 6-7 percent transaction cost.

SIMON SALLOOM is a local Santa Monica- and Brentwood-based realtor with Coldwell Banker (www.WestsideSimon.com).

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GOLDEN OPPORTUNISTS

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Models mill about atop a makeshift stage on the Third Street Promenade over the weekend, as MAC Cosmetics celebrated the opening of its Downtown Santa Monica store. The gilded models sat and danced around to create a scene representing a winter wonderland on Saturday.

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Saving the Earth in the new year

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
Associated Press writers

The New Year is a time of renewal — maybe you're ditching the ice cream and promising to call your mother more often. But you're not the only one in need of some improvement. This year, think about your home.

Unlike traditional personal resolutions that are typically embarked upon cold turkey on Jan. 1, New Year's resolutions for your home can consist of a doable list that you will work to accomplish throughout the year.

The last thing that you want to do is sabotage yourself (and your partner or family) by setting unrealistic expectations. Your resolutions should consist of projects that can be accomplished during the year with available resources.

We have taken the liberty of suggesting five New Year's resolutions for your home. They consist of five general tasks — in order of importance — that we believe apply to most homes and that you should consider before starting your dream bath or gourmet kitchen.

SAFETY

The best "home" resolution that you can make in the New Year is to make your home safer for yourself and your family. Check to make sure that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed and in good working order. Test them regularly. Check major appliances for proper

operation. Fuel-burning appliances should be properly vented to the exterior and gas connections should be checked for leaks. Make sure that your electrical system is safe and in good working order. Flickering lights, burned fuses and popping breakers are signs of a problem. Make sure that handrails, grab bars and other safety devices are properly anchored. Consider hiring a home inspector for a more thorough report.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

One of the best things that you can do for your budget in the New Year is to prevent small maintenance projects from becoming BIG repair nightmares with bills to match. Repairing a leaking roof, sealing gaps in siding, painting bare wood, replacing damaged decking, patching cracks in concrete, caulking around sinks, tubs and showers and other preventive maintenance tasks will keep your home in tip top shape and save you lots of money in the long run.

CONSERVE ENERGY

Whether you're worried about utility bills or the environment, this is a resolution for everyone's list. Some energy conserving upgrades to consider: install a programmable thermostat; replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lighting; prevent drafts with weather stripping around doors and windows; and install low-flow shower heads and aerators.

Can we talk?

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

Attend one of these neighborhood meetings to get an
update on how the city has responded to the community's
concerns, and discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities
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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

A BIT OF THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES: The French bistro Monsieur Marcel has opened shop in the North Pavilion on the Third Street Promenade, offering up such authentic French fare as moule frites, cheeses and charcuterie, onion soup, salads, even foie gras and escargots.

French bistro has high-profile digs

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE Do you like wine and cheese? If your answer is "Mais Oui," then the Third Street Promenade is the place to be.

In the North Pavilion, located south of Wilshire Boulevard, French restaurateur Stephane Strouk has opened up a compact version of his popular Fairfax Farmers' Market restaurant, Monsieur Marcel, which specializes in French favorites like steak or moule frites, cheeses and charcuterie, onion soup, salads, even foie gras and escargots.

There is also an extensive collection of fine wines to sample, with experts on hand to suggest which wine goes best with what's on your plate or in your fondue pot, Strouk said.

"We wanted to find a location that reminded people of the Champs-Elysees, where they could dine on traditional French food and watch the people walking by," Strouk said. "We wanted it to feel like a traditional French bistro, where people can sit

and have a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and just enjoy the atmosphere."

Prices range from \$5.99 for a glass of chardonnay to \$10.99 for Lusac St. Emillion Chateau des Landes. Salads start at \$5.50 with cheese plates ranging from \$6 to \$21.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PLACE WHERE YOU SIT DOWN AND EAT. IT OFFERS A WHOLE EXPERIENCE THAT REALLY CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE PROMENADE."

Miriam Mack, director of economic development for City Hall

It took nearly two years for Strouk to realize his dream. He had to compete against 18 other restaurateurs and then go through a lengthy design and plan check process with the city that ultimately included revisions to the design, which features light and dark recycled wood elements with polished steel.

Strouk also had to build a railing around the restaurant and receive approval from the City Council to serve alcohol, said Miriam Mack, director of economic development, who worked closely with Strouk on the project.

think it's very elegant and shows a real investment in the presentation."

Kathleen Rawson, the executive director of the Bayside District Corp., which supported Strouk's concept, said the restaurant "maximizes the outdoor ambiance and is open and inviting."

Strouk has a five-year lease on the space with a five-year-option, Mack said. Strouk must pay City Hall \$7,000 a month in rent or 9 percent of his total gross, depending on which is higher. Strouk also pays to rent the outdoor dining space, something other restaurants with outdoor dining are required to do as well.

"We are very happy with the response of the customers," Strouk said. "It's been successful since the day we opened. We believe that we've found our niche here."

"There is not much competition, which makes us a good fit for the promenade."

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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UNDER A DARK CLOUD

Holiday shoppers were doused throughout Tuesday in Santa Monica, as intermittent showers took hold of the region. Rain is forecasted for both today and Thursday, according to Accuweather.

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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Big plans ahead for civic center

FROM JOINT USE PAGE 1

The vicinity of the Santa Monica Civic Center — bounded by Pico Boulevard to the south, Ocean Avenue to the west, Fourth Street to the east and Colorado Avenue to the north — is slowly undergoing a makeover, with bits and pieces of the neighborhood having been developed in the past few years, including the Public Safety Facility on the corner of Fourth Street and Olympic Drive and, most recently, the adjacent parking garage. The Santa Monica Civic Center Specific Plan, which outlines a vision for the area, includes more park space, residential development, athletic fields and a child development center.

In the meantime, the public schools in Santa Monica and Malibu are set to undergo their own series of renovations as laid out in the Facilities Master Plan (FMP), a 20-year outline of the facilities in the school district. The projects under the FMP will be funded in part by the Measure BB bond money, which brought in \$268 million to improve the facilities in the school district, approximately \$57 million of which has been earmarked for Samohi.

The plans for both the Civic Center area and Samohi call for the exploration of shared-use ventures, the latter of which specifically identifies shared parking between the two campuses as a possibility. The minimal number of on-site parking spaces at Santa Monica High School has long been an issue, with many neighbors complaining of students taking up neighborhood street spaces. The new Civic Center Parking Garage could be a potential place for students to leave their cars.

The Samohi Facilities Master Plan also suggests creating a student drop-off zone on the Civic Center site, linking the two campuses with a pedestrian bridge that would cross Fourth Street.

Joint use between the two campuses could also be a boost to Samohi athletics as a playing field is planned for the Civic Center area.

"We need to have better recreational facilities for our sports program at the high school," said Barry Snell, a school board member who has long advocated for the district to explore more athletic space for Samohi. "That would be an ideal location for parks for the residents and also develop fields so that we can play athletics on it."

Both City Hall and the school district have collaborated on other joint-use projects, including the city-sponsored after school CREST Program and the Playground Partnership Program, through which select elementary school playgrounds are opened to school-aged youth. In exchange for opening the playgrounds to the public, City Hall provides staffing and maintenance money.

"We have a long history with joint use ventures with the district," Stinchfield said. "This presents kind of a bigger picture, longer-range opportunities to do some pretty amazing things."

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF DOING SOME TRANSFORMATIONAL THINGS WHERE STUDENTS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY BENEFITS CAN INCREASE TENFOLD WHEN YOU DO IT THROUGH JOINT USE AGREEMENTS."

Dianne Talarico
 Superintendent,
 Santa Monica-Malibu Unified
 School District

melodyh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Send letters to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy

BIG PIMPIN': Ed Edelman (center), pictured here with city staff, is leaving his position as homeless czar at the end of the month.

Edelman isn't done yet

FROM CZAR PAGE 3

It was a position that Councilman Bobby Shriver and his fellow councilmembers felt was necessary to get other communities to do their fair share. In addition to establishing the community court, Edelman, who earned \$400,000 over the last two years, was responsible for reaching out to elected officials and service providers across the county and the nation, trying to find out what service delivery systems work best and which methods for solving homelessness are the most effective.

His work helped shape City Hall's response to homelessness, with more of a focus put on the housing-first model that places the homeless in a permanent residence that can give them a solid foundation for drug and alcohol treatment, job training and education.

Edelman also served as a mentor for city staff and councilmembers, lending his expertise whenever possible.

"I think that we really all benefited from his leadership and his wisdom," said Julie Rusk, human services director for City Hall. "He really invigorated us, helped us refocus our efforts. He exemplifies public service. He really did lead by example, showing us new ways to collaborate with people and he is such a problem solver."

"It was a pleasure to work with him," Rusk added.

Edelman served as a county supervisor from 1974 to 1994.

In addition to LAHSA, Edelman also is known for establishing the Skid Row Mental Health Center in downtown Los Angeles, as well as creating the detox program at the Weingart Center and the first drug court in LA County.

He has also assisted U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson in expanding services to homeless veterans at the West LA Veterans Administration facility.

In addition to his service as county supervisor, Edelman served on the LA City Council from 1965 to 1974 and held many intergovernmental posts, including chairing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board in 1994 and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, which he founded.

"People think things are changing for the better and I think so too," Councilman Ken Genser told Edelman. "The community court and moving the meal programs indoors will make a huge difference for this community and really set an example for others in the region."

Edelman brought along with him a pretty impressive rolodex. Having earned the respect of many elected officials through his years serving the public, Edelman could easily pick up the phone and contact the influential.

OPCC, one of the city's largest homeless services providers, credited Edelman with "getting the ball rolling" on several issues, particularly bringing the major food providers indoors as a way to connect the homeless with services and housing. Before, the providers would set up in local parks and on the front lawn of City Hall, which lead to complaints from some residents and concerns from city officials about public safety.

"I'm not in the position to say whether or not that could have hap-

**I THINK THAT WE REALLY ALL
BENEFITED FROM HIS LEADERSHIP
AND HIS WISDOM."**

Julie Rusk, human services director for City Hall

In an interview in May of last year, when the council opted to extend Edelman's contract for another year, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said simply, "When Ed calls, you pick up the phone. That's a tremendous asset to Santa Monica."

Edelman was influential in the selection of a new executive director for LAHSA, a job that went to Santa Monica resident Rebecca Isaacs, who has been credited with making dramatic changes within the authority, helping to put it back on track.

Isaacs said Edelman has "been willing to do whatever it takes" to help LAHSA and others on the issue of homelessness. She has relied on him many times for advice over the last year.

"You just really get the sense that he is committed to ending homelessness," said Isaacs, who would meet with Edelman regularly, sometimes for coffee at the Urth Caffé. "I think his presence really raised the profile of Santa Monica and showed the serious commitment the city has to ending homelessness and being a service to the region in terms of it being ahead of the curve."

An example of his leadership was bringing together representatives from throughout the region for a conference at RAND Corp. on the role courts can play in ending homelessness.

John Maceri, executive director of

opened without Ed," Maceri said. "If someone else was doing it, it could have happened. But he certainly had the background and the experience to get it done much faster than I think many people expected."

"Having him here, I think, helped to broaden the discussion beyond Santa Monica," Maceri said. "As we know, homelessness is not just a Santa Monica issue and it is important to continue to remind people of that and work together to find solutions."

That is what Edelman hopes people realize once he leaves his post. He believes that most people are not aware of what is being done in other parts of the region and, therefore, have a negative or cynical reaction to pledges made. That may also be why some questioned his role and the council's decision to pay him six figures.

Through his work, he believes he has raised awareness and would like to see that maintained if not enhanced.

"My job was to get more done regionally, to have more cooperation between the city and county of LA," Edelman said. "I think, hopefully, that I've been fairly successful."

kevinh@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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SURF REPORT



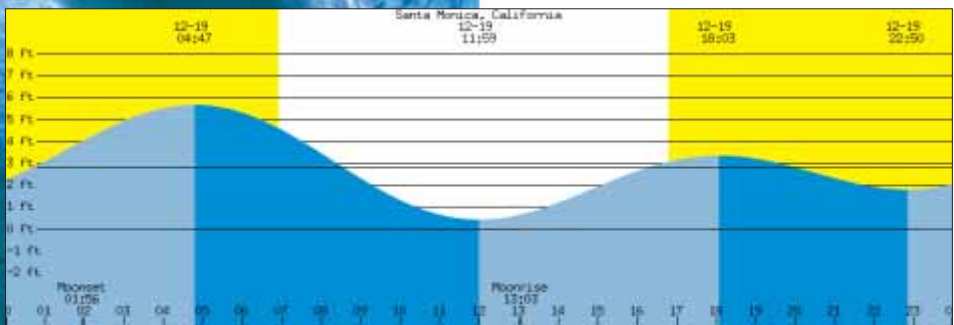
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 56°

SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)
Today should see surf decline a tad but conditions are not looking good at this point. Weather and winds will likely get the best of it then. Swell-wise though, west facing breaks can expect chest to head high waves, waist to maybe chest high at south facing spots.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
RADICAL TIDES BY END OF WEEK...
SMALL TO MODERATE SOUTH SWELL END OF WEEK...
TRACKING POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT NW FOR 24TH...
LIGHT SW ALSO DUE CHRISTMAS DAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

December 11, 2007

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth (sewerline)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasse and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns
Ladiga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
Saltine Canyon at San Blazquez County Beach	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A	ns
Surfside Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence	A+	A+
Surfside Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F
Mulliken Pier - 50 yards east	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+
Pine Creek at Los Tamien County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken

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

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

NFL

Abysmal Raiders have silver lining

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND The emergence of Justin Fargas as a featured running back has been the highlight offensively for the Oakland Raiders this season.

Now they will have to finish the season without their 1,000-yard back. An MRI on Monday confirmed that Fargas sprained the MCL in his right knee in Sunday's 21-14 loss, shutting him down for the final two games of the season.

The Raiders (4-10) will rely on Dominic Rhodes and LaMont Jordan this week against Jacksonville and in the season finale at San Diego. Coach Lane Kiffin said Monday he hadn't decided which back will start or whether he'll split time between the two this week.

"I'd like to have whatever works," Kiffin said. "I don't think there's a perfect formula. You can be great if you have a great running back, one great running back. And you can be great if you have two. So it all depends on where you're at, at that time.

For the most part we've gone with one all year just because that's how we felt at that

time. This week could be different."

Fargas finished the year with 222 carries for 1,009 yards despite starting only seven games. A backup for most of his first four seasons in the NFL, Fargas shined when he got his opportunity to start. His 676 yards rushing since he took over the starting role Nov. 4 are second best in the league to the 694 for San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson.

The timing couldn't have been better for Fargas, who can be an unrestricted free agent in the offseason.

"I've always been confident in my abilities, even going back to my rookie year," he said.

"But good things, accomplishments and things like that, come with opportunity and being recognized when it comes. And that's been the difference this year."

Neither Rhodes nor Jordan got much chance to play before Fargas injured his knee just before scoring the touchdown that briefly gave the Raiders a 14-13 lead over the Colts in the fourth quarter Sunday.

Jordan was inactive against the Colts and has struggled mightily since injuring his back late in the first half against Miami on Sept. 30.

NFL

Niners' QB Hill is ready to lead

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA Although Mike Nolan has already shown he doesn't know much about what his quarterbacks are thinking, the San Francisco 49ers coach is fairly certain Shaun Hill is happy to be a starter after six years holding a clipboard.

The Niners certainly are thrilled by Hill, who's providing a late boost to one big downer of a season.

Hill, the 27-year-old third-stringer who got his first NFL start Saturday, was outstanding in the 49ers' 20-13 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals, passing for 197 yards and accounting for two touchdowns.

Nolan said Hill will start the final two games for the 49ers (4-10), including Sunday's home finale against Tampa Bay.

After a disappointing season featuring a prolonged public miscommunication

between Nolan and Alex Smith over the severity of the former No. 1 draft pick's shoulder injury, Hill's steady play was a respite from the surge of bad news around the coach, whose future with the club is in jeopardy after just three seasons.

"I'm very pleased to see the way he's played," Nolan said Monday.

The soon-to-be unrestricted free agent provided six quarters of the 49ers' most competent quarterbacking of the season, including a strong second half against Minnesota the previous week.

If Nolan isn't fired in two weeks, he knows he'll be under pressure to re-sign Hill and allow him to compete with Smith next year.

The 49ers approached Hill with talks about a new contract earlier in the year, but he elected to wait until after the season, a decision that could pay big dividends if Hill is able to string together two more quality starts.

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Round two

Court commissioner makes no changes to custody agreement



The custody fight between **BRITNEY SPEARS AND KEVIN FEDERLINE** will go another round next year. A court commissioner made no changes to the couple's custody arrangements after a 90-minute hearing behind closed doors Tuesday. He postponed a scheduled January hearing to February.

Neither Federline nor Spears, 26, were in court while their attorneys argued the case. Spears and Federline have been wrangling for months over the custody of their sons, 2-year-old

Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James. Federline, 29, has temporary custody because Spears, who has limited visitation rights, has defied court orders. Sorrell Trope, Spears' attorney, declined to comment after the hearing. Federline's attorney was

still in court and not immediately available for comment. Spears and Federline, who were married in 2004, have been in court repeatedly about custody since they split. Their divorce was final in July.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

French president Sarkozy hooking up with supermodel-turned-singer Bruni

FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY'S new love interest is supermodel-turned-singer **CARLA BRUNI**, reports said Monday after the two were photographed together at Disneyland Paris. The respected news weekly L'Express posted a photo of the duo on its Internet site, and at least two other magazines said they would run the images. The president's office would not comment on their status. But the daily Le Figaro, seen as close to the conservative, newly divorced president, ran a front-page image of the Italian-French Bruni on

Monday with the headline: "Carla Bruni: The President's Girlfriend." Christophe Barbier, the editor of L'Express, said he called Bruni, whom he described as a friend, before going public with the story. "She confirmed the relationship," he said. Sarkozy and Bruni visited Disneyland on Saturday when the park was thronged with visitors, L'Express reported. Several photographers reportedly were on hand and openly snapped photos of the pair, who seemed at ease with the attention.

Colombe Pringle, editor of Point de Vue magazine, said she believed Sarkozy and Bruni made themselves available to photographers deliberately. "Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni wanted people to know," she told France-Info radio. "Otherwise, I don't know why they would have gone to Euro Disney to look at the Mickey (Mouse) parade." Point de Vue's cover said they visited the theme park "en famille," suggesting they were there with one or more of their respective children, though it was not immediately clear which.

Sarkozy, 52, basked in the media spotlight in his long race to the presidency leading up to his May election. He bristled, however, at the intense media attention at the end of his tempestuous marriage to Cecilia Sarkozy, a former model. They divorced two months ago. Bruni, believed to be in her late 30s, won critical and public acclaim for her first folk album in 2003. She has been linked in the past to a number of famous men, including rocker Mick Jagger and mogul Donald Trump.

AP

RAY KEEPS ON EATING

The Food Network has ordered extra helpings of **RACHAEL RAY**. A new prime-time series, "Rachael's Vacation," will premiere Jan. 12, the network announced Monday. Viewers will follow Ray as she discovers cities, countries, foods and lifestyles around the world. Ray, 39, signed a two-year deal for the series, the network said. There will also be 60 new episodes per year of Ray's daytime show, "30 Minute Meals," said Food Network President Brooke Johnson. Additional terms of the arrangement weren't disclosed.

AP

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

This year, add in a sprinkle of caution. A good idea can often backfire on you, especially professionally. Frequently stop and re-evaluate your priorities, especially your reaction to money, the materialistic world in general and your attitude toward a key loved one. Have you been kidding yourself lately about an important matter? Stop. If you are single, you might opt to date awhile before hooking up.

Born Today

Actress Cicely Tyson (1933)
Guitarist Alvin Lee (1944)
Magician Criss Angel (1967)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

All smiles, Taurus

- ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ No surprise, times are changing; you feel it in the air. You might be more tired than you have been in a while. Rethink your must-dos with the realization that you only have so much energy. Professionally, you are in a fortunate period. Tonight: Your treat.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Keep certain information secret, and you will be a lot happier. If a child or loved one starts acting strangely, don't be surprised. Give this person the space or attention you feel he or she needs. Don't make this person's attitude a big deal. Tonight: All smiles.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might want to rethink a decision with an eye to a better relationship with your family or a roommate. You cannot continue with the present situation. That fact becomes clearer. Communicate that, please. Tonight: Some time off.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Understand what makes you and others tick. You also might be more pivotal in others' moods than you are aware of. Loosen up and enjoy yourself. Still, a change or information you receive might not seem to need extra thought. Tonight: Where the action is.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ How you deal with someone could change as the result of your attitude. Investigate and think positively. Understand that your spirit and cheerfulness are needed. Go to the helm and accept your natural position. Tonight: Curb unneeded spending.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might be out of kilter, as you feel a major planetary change. Note information that might have been or will be coming up. Take your time as you analyze a situation. Investigate possibilities. Tonight: Honor a need to lie back.

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might be uncomfortable with a feeling or what you are sensing. Make it OK that others step up to the plate or want to lead. Their need to be dominant gives you plenty of thinking time. Tonight: Maybe chat with a dear friend or be alone.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ During this period, a friend might do a reversal, causing you to rethink the basis of that bond. Don't make a big thing out of the situation – for now. Use time as an ally. Discussions prove to be illuminating in the p.m. Tonight: Sort through possibilities.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Creativity puts an unusual slant on information. Allow yourself to flourish with the moment. Curb a tendency to overspend in order to make yourself feel better. Look at the real issue at the heart of the matter. Tonight: Easy does it.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Though others might find you silent and a touch reclusive, you are coming from an anchored position. Listen to what others are sharing. Creativity will team up with romance if you are open. Tonight: Be the ever-playful Goat.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be wondering what is going on with a specific friend. Don't make a big deal if someone seems more reclusive. Just keep your antenna up. Clear your desk and return messages. If you can, finish up errands. Tonight: You need all the rest you can get!
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to do something in a different manner. If you open up to change, you will see that someone has another view or opinion. You don't have to play follow-the-leader; you are your own person. Tonight: Hang out, finish errands and share eggnog.

MOVIEGUIDE

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4

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(310) 458-1506

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

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

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

LAEMMLE'S MONICA

FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

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

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE

1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

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

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
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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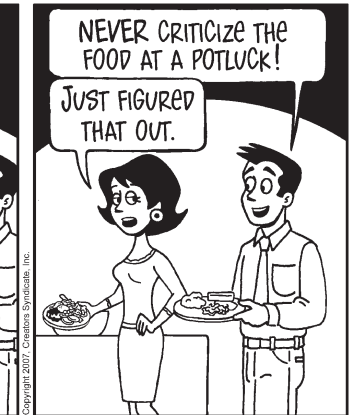
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Girls and Sports



By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila



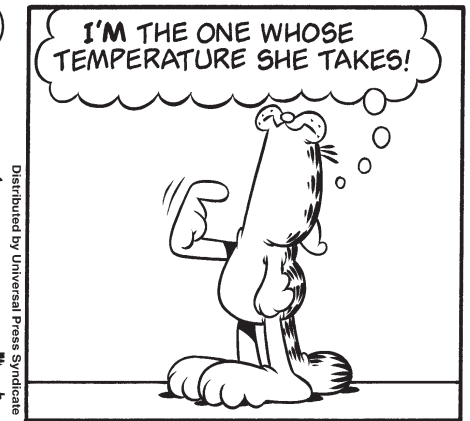
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast



By Adrian Raeside

Garfield



By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug



By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



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Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 Puts on the wall
 - 1 Misplaces
 - 6 Schooner feature
 - 10 Open, as aspirin
 - 11 Cavalry sword
 - 12 God
 - 13 Full of verve
 - 14 Tall tales
 - 15 Uppsala's nation
 - 16 Fancy planter
 - 17 Bit of ointment
 - 18 Break off
 - 19 Made a model of
 - 22 Diamond of music
 - 23 Bin fill
 - 26 Botched
 - 29 Dress line
 - 32 Sinking signal
 - 33 "CSI" evidence
 - 34 Slow passage
 - 36 Tees, e.g.
 - 37 Dome home
 - 38 Filer's worry
 - 39 Grand — National Park
 - 40 Book part
 - 41 Neighbor of Turkey
- DOWN**
- 1 Jason Bourne's creator
 - 2 Golfer's cleek
 - 3 School course
 - 4 Chow
 - 5 Bond, for one
 - 6 Like stallions
 - 7 Stomach
 - 8 Brad Pitt film
 - 9 Business direction
 - 11 Tenners
 - 15 Blue

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

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Misconception
- 20 Kipling book
- 21 "The Raven" writer
- 24 Included
- 25 Fencer's activity
- 27 Pigeon sound
- 28 Sticks
- 29 Half of Hispaniola
- 30 Yard tool
- 31 Island south of Sicily
- 35 Ruffian
- 36 Cocoon stage
- 38 Pipe waste

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Babies Out of Order:** (1) Amelia Spence, 29, gave birth in Glasgow, Scotland, in October to two babies, one just minutes before the other, but they were not twins. The apparently super-fertile Spence, though on contraceptive pills, conceived twice in a three-week period with eggs from successive monthly cycles ("superfetation"). (2) In Cary, N.C., a woman gave birth to twins early in the morning of Nov. 4, one at 1:32 a.m. and the other 34 minutes later, at 1:06 a.m. (after Daylight-Saving Time ended).

■ The prominent Rotterdam Natural History Museum in the Netherlands, which houses over 300,000 species, announced in October that it was missing a particular one that it fears is dying out: crab lice (pubic hair lice). In a June science journal article, researchers had hypothesized that the "Brazilian bikini wax" was in part responsible for the scarcity; said the museum's curator, "Pubic lice can't live without pubic hair."

■ Doctors at Mackay Base Hospital in Australia saved the life of a 24-year-old Italian tourist in August after he had ingested a large amount of poisonous ethylene glycol (found in antifreeze), perhaps in an attempted suicide. The antidote, pharmaceutical-grade alcohol, was in short supply at the hospital, but doctors improvised by setting up a gastric drip and feeding him vodka at the rate of three standard drinks an hour for three days. He made a full recovery, according to an October report in Melbourne's The Age.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1154 Henry II of England is crowned at Westminster Abbey

1606 The Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery depart England carrying settlers who, at Jamestown, Virginia, would found the first of the thirteen colonies that became the United States.

1777 A m e r i c a n Revolutionary War: George Washington's Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

1828 Nullification Crisis: Vice President of the United States John C. Calhoun pens the South Carolina Exposition and Protest, protesting the Tariff of 1828.

1835 The first issue of The Blade newspaper is published in Toledo, Ohio.

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

1912 William H. Van Schaick, captain of the steamship General Slocum which caught fire and killed over 1,000 people, is pardoned by U.S. President William Howard Taft after three-and-a-half-years in Sing Sing prison.

1916 World War I: Battle of Verdun - On the Western Front, the French Army successfully holds off the German Army and drives it back to its starting position.

1920 King Constantine I restored as King of the Hellenes after the death of his son Alexander I of Greece and a plebiscite.

WORD UP!

pari passu \PAIR-ee-PASS-oo; PAIR-ih-PASS-oo\, *adverb*: At an equal pace or rate.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

\$5⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Call us today start and promoting your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 40,000.

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(Prestigious Water Garden Complex)

Obituaries

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

Miscellaneous

\$\$\$CASH\$\$ - Immediate cash for structured Settlements, Annuities, Lawsuits, Inheritances, Mortgage Notes & Cash Flows. J.G. Wentworth #1. 1-800-794-7310.

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We have others From \$650.00 310-276-0881 www.apartmenthunterz.com

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Studio/1Ba, no pets, ref pool, quiet, , balcony, carpets, parking \$1300/MO
2bd /1Ba spac. lower unit, carpet, stove, D/W. F/P PKG \$1695/Mo
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SANTA MONICA \$1195 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets. Stove, Refrigerator, Parking. 2535 Kansas Ave. #104. Open daily for Viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit. Manager in #101.

\$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

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Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, CA 90401

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

THE MARKET

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<i>APR 7.35%</i>	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.25%
<i>APR 7.49%</i>	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.25%**
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*Rates subject to change
* As of August 29, 2007
** Denotes an interest only loan



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Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is given that on December 26, 2007 at
8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter
may be heard, petitioner will move for an order
adjudicating the Santa Monica Daily Press as a
newspaper of general circulation for the City of
Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles. The hearing
will be held in Department 20 of the Los Angeles
Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA
90012.

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

DATED: December 13, 2007
Lisa Grace-Kellogg
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press
14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 Dec 2007

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 20072533208 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as PRETTY
PRINCESS PARTY, PRETTY PRINCESS, YOUR
PRETTY PRINCESS PARTY, 4381 VENTURA CAN-
YON AVE. #5, SHERMAN OAKS, CA. 91423. The full
name of registrant(s) is/are: NIKKI IANIRO, 4381
VENTURA CANYON AVE. #5, SHERMAN OAKS, CA.
91423 This Business is being conducted by, an
individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun
to transact business under the fictitious name or
names listed herein.. /s/ NIKKI IANIRO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 11/13/2007. NOTICE:
THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EX-
PIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED
IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE
FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this
statement does not of itself authorize the use in
this state of a fictitious business name state-
ment in violation of the rights of another under
federal, state, or common law (see Section
14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code).
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish
12/12/2007, 12/19/2007, 12/26/2007, 1/2/2008

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Ad Council



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* Rates subject to change * As of Nov. 28, 2007 ** Denotes an interest only loan *** Denotes Neg Am

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