



Santa Monica Daily Press

NICE KNOWING YA, E3
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE CSUF ALUMNA NEEDS TO LEARN HOW TO SPELL TUESDAY ISSUE

DEVELOPMENT

THE WAITING GAME

The plans are set for the mall's makeover, but Macerich needs a permit
STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 10



Reusable is all the rage

Plastic bags might be hard to come by today in stores

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE There's paper or plastic, and then there's paper, plastic or heavy-duty reusable canvas bag.

Consumers might want to opt for the latter when asking their grocery workers to bag their purchased goods today as local environmentalists are making a push to change consumer behavior when it comes to their usage of disposable and ecologically harmful plastic bags.

Retailers and non-profit organizations across Los Angeles County will participate in the first "Day Without a Bag" event today, encouraging consumers to ditch the plastic carriers in favor of a more Earth-friendly mode of transporting products. Santa Monica-based Heal the Bay is sponsoring the day-long campaign, along with various corporations and municipalities, including the city of Santa Monica.

"The intent is to educate people how easy it is to use

reusable bags rather than plastic throwaway bags," said Jessica Belsky, spokeswoman for Heal the Bay. "It makes a huge impact on the environment and our hope is that people will continue to use the reusable bags throughout."

Each year, Californians use more than 19 billion plastic grocery bags, approximately 6 billion of which come from Los Angeles County, averaging to about 552 bags per person. The usage of plastic bags is believed to generate more than 147,038 tons of waste, which can span the globe more than 250 times, according to figures provided by Heal the Bay. The cost to California taxpayers is in the range of \$25 million to collect plastic bags that end up in the landfill every year. The disposable bags oftentimes end up in marine life, consumed by and ultimately killing sea animals that mistake them for food.

Santa Monica businesses will be joining in on the green festivities today, handing out free promotional bags or offering discounts.

All of the 99 Cents Only Stores in the county will be giving away a free reusable bag on purchases of more than \$50, while the eco-chic free bags will be distributed at Ralph's and



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

THE PLASTICS: Grocers like Ralph's will participate in the first 'Day Without a Bag' by distributing free reusable bags.

SEE BAGS PAGE 9

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BANKER

Calendar

2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



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

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

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Potty Mouths

"Bathroom talk" is a improv sketch comedy show about the exciting and off the wall things that go on in the ladies room at a nightclub. The production is staged every Friday night at the Promenade Playhouse. For reservations or information, call (310) 430-8228.

Friday, Dec. 21

Say cheese, Santa

Third Street Promenade — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Every day through Dec. 24, children of all ages can have their picture taken with Santa Claus on the Third Street Promenade, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of photo packages are available. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

Boxed in

Ocean Avenue, Palisades Park

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes display is open in Palisades Park, along Ocean Avenue near Arizona Avenue, with narration of the Christmas story and Christmas music. The 14 lighted scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through the end of the year for free viewing.

The free display will remain up through the end of the year, continuing a community tradition that began in 1953.

Got Alcott?

Humanities Center Theater — 8 p.m.

A new adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," a classic novel about a family of women in the Civil War-era in New England. There will be six performances of "Little Women" in the Humanities Center Theater (170 seats). Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors and \$15 for adults.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Web site, www.smclo.org or calling the box office at (310) 458-5939.

Ice, ice, baby

Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue

Bring back childhood memories, or create new ones, as you slice through the ice at the city's new public rink. Located less than two blocks from the Third Street Promenade, the outdoor ice rink is open daily. For more information, visit www.winterlit.com.

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





Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

COAST IS CLEAR: Concerns regarding pedestrian safety for the elderly have been raised in light of recent accidents involving aging drivers.

Learning to walk

Education could be the key to preventing pedestrian accidents

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER When it comes to making the streets safer for pedestrians, perhaps wider sidewalks, one-lane streets and lighted crosswalks aren't the things City Hall should be spending money on, members of the Commission for the Senior Community said Wednesday.

Instead, elected officials should consider investing in an education campaign

that reminds drivers to have more respect for those on two feet, and emphasizes to walkers the importance of looking both ways before crossing the street.

"I'm concerned about education," said Commissioner Elizabeth Wilson. "We need to change people's attitudes when it comes to driving. It seems people are more careless and have a disregard for public safety."

Commissioners were discussing the issue of pedestrian safety at a time when the number of major accidents involving pedestrians and autos in 2007 has reached 14 — six of which were fatal.

That number is considerably higher than in years past, with the elderly representing a majority of both drivers and victims, raising concerns about pedestrian safety and the ability of elderly drivers to navigate Santa

Monica's increasingly congested streets.

The latest fatal accident occurred Dec. 1, when a 94-year-old driver struck and killed an 80-year-old female who was walking across Colorado Avenue at 16th Street in a marked crosswalk.

Lucy Dyke, City Hall's transportation manager, said many accidents that occur in the city are caused by a driver's "bad behavior" and suggested a need for programs to address that aspect of the crashes.

In the past, City Hall has used celebrities like June Lockhart for pedestrian safety campaigns that included "Slow Down, Santa Monica" and the more recent "Let's Look Out for Each Other." The public safety announcements aired on the

Playing the Playstation back in L.A.

The game is over for E3 in Santa Monica

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES One of the world's largest video game expos will be moving back to the Los Angeles Convention Center next year after just one year in Santa Monica.

The Entertainment Software Association announced on Tuesday that the E3 Media & Business Summit will head back to its old stomping grounds at the Los Angeles Convention Center in July 2008, the same venue that hosted the video game circus from its inaugural year in 1995 until it uprooted and switched to Santa Monica this summer.

Officials with the ESA — the association for the video game publishing industry — decided to give the LA Convention Center another try after participants commented they preferred a more centralized location, according to ESA spokesman Dan Hewitt.

The news was a blow to Santa Monica civic and business leaders that worked hard to bring the Electronic Entertainment Expo to the city by the sea, seeing the immense benefits of hosting an event that used to attract more than 70,000 industry professionals and dedicated video gamers year in and out, until it was switched to a small business summit.

"We are very disappointed, as this was a good fit for Santa Monica, but we are glad that it is staying in the LA region," said Misti Kerns, the president and CEO of the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, which had a hand in bringing E3 to Santa Monica. "We will happily assume that we will see overflow business and evening events here in Santa Monica from those who will want to entertain at the beach."

More than 3,000 people walked through the doors at the Barker Hangar, where the main event for the 2007 E3 Media & Business Summit was held over a three-day period from July 11-13. The summit was spread over various sites throughout the city — the main exhibitions and video game test

SEE PEDESTRIAN PAGE 12

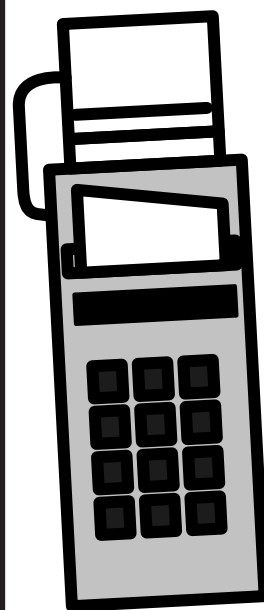
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Decision-makers should step off

Editor:

(Re: "Ready, set, cross," Dec. 18)

The people that made the decision to change this section of Ocean Park Blvd. from four lanes to two lanes should be forced to drive on it during rush hour.

Ed Hoffman

Santa Monica

If we don't learn from history ...

Editor:

One lane on (Ocean Park Boulevard)? Why not just block OP at Lincoln, and again at Centinela, so we can have a giant 24-hour block party? Who needs internal combustion engines anyway?

Thinking out of the box is generally a great thing, but when we ignore history and fail to incorporate lessons learned we may be in for a bumpy ride ... no puns intended.

Please, pull out some old photographs (Ansel Adams took a few) and you will quickly discover this pedestrian problem was solved in the '40s. I was born in Santa Monica, served as a police officer and issued quite a few tickets on OP. These citations were given to past generations of aggressive, impatient drivers who also mowed down "peds" crossing with impunity. How was this problem solved? The Douglas Aircraft plant was located on the south side of OP, and each morning and each afternoon, a portable tri-light traffic signal was wheeled out and controlled by a man in uniform that pushed a little button. One of my tasks was to ensure the light was in place before the hordes of people crossed. And what do you know? Accidents were reduced, more pedestrians survived and traffic was "calmed." I don't believe people back then needed as much calming as they do now.

Take another look at the problem – one lane is a dumb idea. Just pull up a chair on 28th (Street) and Ocean Park at 5 p.m. and watch just how "calm" the drivers are!

City of Santa Monica, take it from an old, retired cop, you are going to piss off many people and do little to enhance the community. My advice to the person responsible for this fiasco: Look at a few old photos, ask a few old-timers' opinions and "calm down."

Armando Lopez

SMPD, retired

Fed up with affordable housing

Editor:

(Wednesday's) Daily News had a story regarding (Los Angeles City Councilmembers) Jan Perry and Bernard Parks calling for the dismissal of CCSM director Joan Ling from the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Commission.

Joan Ling is pushing for the development of "Cabrini Green West," with the development of huge residential towers in the SM Civic Center ... some units will be rented to low-income persons and the others will be condos. The city should require the developers, Joan Ling, the head of the City Housing Division and executives from Related Companies to buy and live in the condos for five years, but I bet the developers won't.

If you are not familiar with Cabrini Green in Chicago, just put "Cabrini Green" in your search engine – the crime, drugs and gang activity was so bad at this low-income housing project the Chicago Housing Authority evicted all the tenants and then blew the building up as the only way to reduce crime.

So why is SMRR making the same mistake here?

Mathew Millen

Santa Monica



Barnes Burning

Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Christmas has been canceled

SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS? AND WHAT have they done?

How about this doozy: This morning at a joint press conference, the secretaries of state from Iowa and New Hampshire announced that they were canceling Christmas, effective immediately.

Iowa Secretary of State Lee Murphy somberly leaned into the podium and announced the bad news.

"We'd love for everyone to be able to gather around the tree with loved ones and hot chocolate on December 25th," said Murphy, with tears brimming in his eyes, "but the fact remains that voters just haven't made up their minds. They need to devote more time to the important process of deciding who our next president is going to be. As of now, I've directed law enforcement to enter private residences and remove all forms of Christmas cheer: Tins of cookies, Christmas trees, stockings and presents, advent calendars, cinnamon sticks, fluffy red reindeer sweaters, and that ridiculously cheesy elf village that grandma insists on putting up each year. We'll also be confiscating sugar plums, if in fact anybody in the modern world still consumes such a seemingly disgusting food item. We've also been working with the major television networks, and they've agreed to suspend all Christmas programming, instead playing political ads on a rotating loop from all the major candidates 24 hours a day. I'm Lee Murphy, and I hate to say it, but I approve this message."

As Murphy walked off the stage, he turned once more to the microphone and bawled, "You practically had a whole year people! And you still can't decide on who to vote for? Jeepers! Both races are too close to call, the difference between the leaders is well within the margin of error. Jiminy Christmas!"

While many have criticized the media's coverage of the 2008 presidential election, fingers hadn't been pointed at the American public. Until now. And when New Hampshire Secretary of State Guy Bannister took to the podium, he assumed the role of bad cop as he hectorated and cajoled New Hampshire and Iowa residents to make up their minds. "It's not American Idol, where you need to wring your hands and check in with your 15 best friends on MySpace to make sure you're picking the best contestant. It's the leader of the free world, it should be pretty obvious who can do the job and who can't. Now you've really done it. So say good-bye to the Christmas goose and hello to Hillary Clinton and John Edwards discussing the

nuances of semi-privatized health care. And if you can't pay attention to that, we're going to roll out Joe Biden, who will discuss his sophisticated Plan for Iraq, which involves splitting the war-torn country into Kurdish, Sunni and Shia sections. If you think 'A Wonderful Life' makes you sleepy, you have another thing coming to you."

Several anonymous sources say that Santa Claus had not been consulted in advance of the cancellation announcement. The chief furry elf was said to be enraged about the development, which comes just as his high-tech North Pole production line is cranking into high gear. It's likely that all the toys and trinkets the factory has manufactured for this Christmas season will go to waste. Claus is also said to be upset at missing his yearly binge on milk and cookies.

SEVERAL ANONYMOUS SOURCES SAY THAT SANTA CLAUS HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE OF THE CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENT. THE CHIEF FURRY ELF WAS SAID TO BE ENRAGED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT ...

Some candidates, like Mike Huckabee, are trying to avoid the public backlash over the canceled holiday. Huckabee just rolled out a spot where he sympathizes with viewers who've been besieged with countless political entreaties from the candidates in all forms of media. "What really matters," says Huckabee "is the celebration of the birth of Christ." While that may be true, when this reporter set out to find out What Jesus Would Do about all this controversy, the Son of God was nowhere to be found.

Nativity scenes across New Hampshire and Iowa had been replaced with Campaign 2008 signs.

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Living vicariously through baby names

BABYCENTER.COM RELEASED ITS ANNUAL Top Baby Names List last week. There were few surprises among the most popular names, with mainstays like Jacob, Noah, Madison and Emily maintaining spots in the top 10.

Sophia landed at No. 1 on the girl's list, up six spots from last year. Olivia moved down two to No. 10, perhaps because the legions of well-meaning parents are finally realizing the popular children's book character after which they were naming their daughters is actually a pig (albeit a precious one), thereby setting themselves up for years of psychotherapy bills and eating disorder evaluations.

The name Reagan made its debut on the girl's list at No. 80. Fifty-six year old Rush Limbaugh is said to be considering becoming a first-time father in order to move the name up even more on next year's list, just in time for the presidential election. The name Layla shot up 60 spots to No. 40, perhaps because of the release of Eric Clapton's autobiography. Addison and Bailey also rocketed up the list in 2007 to Nos. 6 and 60 respectively, thanks to characters of the same names on the popular TV drama "Grey's Anatomy."

Of course, naming babies after celebrities isn't a new trend. The number of newborn girls named Shirley more than doubled between 1933 and 1935, which is when Shirley Temple had her breakthrough role in "Bright Eyes." Elvis shot up 527 spots on the Social Security Administration's 1,000 top baby names' list after the king of rock 'n' roll released "Heartbreak Hotel" in 1956.

After Tyra Banks appeared on the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue in 1997, her name surged more than 50 percent among newborns the following year. No word on if the name took a nosedive this year after the former supermodel appeared again on a beach in a swimsuit, but this time with an additional 30-plus pounds packed onto her frame.

In 2007, the name Ava fell two spots in popularity to No. 5 on BabyCenter's list. Part of the downgrade blame could potentially be attributed to the highly publicized divorce of actress Reese Witherspoon and actor Ryan Phillippe, whose 8-year-old daughter is named Ava. A new report out this year claims divorce has a crucial effect on global warming, so it's quite possible that eco-friendly parents don't want to associate their newborn baby girls with the child of a broken, non-environmentally friendly home. Maddox, the name of the oldest child in

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, did not make the top 10 this year, but its popularity has nevertheless surged threefold in the past few years. And apparently, new parents in Nebraska and Kansas have taken a liking to the name more so than new parents in any other state.

Likewise, the name of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter, Suri, didn't crack the list of most popular names, according to BabyCenter. However, that hasn't stopped residents in the great nutmeg state of Connecticut, in particular, from naming their baby girls after the daughter of the couple that landed in the No. 2 slot in Us Weekly's Couple of the Year issue.

Naming their daughter Apple has done little to help Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow and Grammy winner Chris Martin boost the frequency of children being named after fruit. Not only did Apple not make it onto BabyCenter's list, but it has never appeared on the Social Security Administration's list, either.

However, 3-year-old Apple Martin shouldn't take it personally, as nature's candy has always fared poorly in the first-name slot. The only exception is Orange. In 1884, 13 boys were named after the nectar of Florida's official beverage. Popularity of the name took a nosedive when only six boys were named it in 1892. However, it rebounded significantly — to approximately 12 namings — around 1898. In a show of solidarity, Olives everywhere are hoping for Apple and Orange comebacks in 2008.

Jayden, the name of Britney Spears' second-biggest surprise in life (biggest surprise and son No. 1, Sean Preston, was born a year before Jayden), made its debut this year in the No. 4 slot. BabyCenter noted the name had more varied spellings — 26 in all — than any other name on the list. Twenty-five of the different Jayden spellings are being attributed to Spears, who completed only one year of high school.

More outrageous names are expected among 2008's crop of newborns, who will be born just as a slew of celebrities give birth. Expectant mothers everywhere are hoping Jennifer Lopez, Christina Aguilera, Nicole Richie, Halle Berry, Jessica Alba and Paris Hilton (who isn't pregnant, but is sure to either get knocked up or arrested in the new year) don't let them down.

MEREDITH CARROLL'S columns appear each Thursday. She can be reached at meredithcarroll@hotmail.com.



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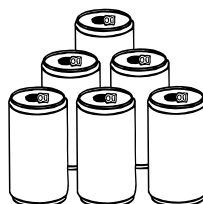
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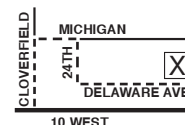
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The Q-Line

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A share of the road

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

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

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

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



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\$8.5

Mushroom Ravioli

brown butter, parmesean, sage

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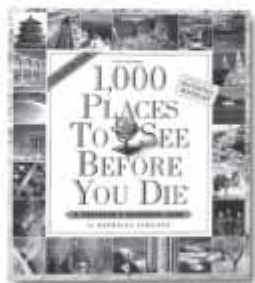
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Drugged docs still practice

BY MARCUS WOHLSEN
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Thousands of doctors hooked on drugs and alcohol continue to practice medicine while receiving treatment for substance abuse, yet most patients will never know about their physicians' addictions.

This is because of confidential "physician health programs" in nearly every state that allow doctors to keep diagnosing, prescribing and performing surgery as long as they stick with an approved rehab regimen.

Despite some unsettling cases, these arrangements have largely escaped public scrutiny until this summer, when California's medical board outraged physicians across the country by abolishing its 27-year-old program allowing doctors to get help without telling their patients.

A review concluded the state-run program failed to protect patients — or help addicted doctors get better. But the medical community fiercely defends confidential treatment, saying it keeps patients safer.

The emotional debate has revealed bitter differences over how much patients have a right to know, and touches on the unease many Americans feel about defining addiction as a medical instead of a moral problem.

"Patients have no way to protect themselves from these doctors," said Julie Fellmeth, who heads the University of San Diego's Center for Public Interest Law and led the opposition to California's so-called diversion program.

Nationwide, more than 5,000 physicians are enrolled in physician health programs,

according to the results of an upcoming study obtained by The Associated Press.

But that number is likely much higher, since not all states with programs participated in the survey, said Dr. Greg Skipper, head of Alabama's physician health program and a principal investigator on the not-yet-published Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study. Skipper says between 7,500 and 8,000 doctors are likely in treatment — about one percent of all physicians practicing in the U.S.

Most addiction specialists favor allowing doctors to continue practicing while in confidential treatment, as does the American Medical Association.

Supporters of such programs say that cases in which patients are harmed by doctors in treatment are extremely rare, and would pale next to the havoc that could result if physicians had no such option.

"If you don't have confidential participation, you don't get people into the program," said Sandra Bressler, the California Medical Association's senior director for medical board affairs. "And if they're out there, you're not going to know about them anyway."

California's program ends June 30. If no alternative program is adopted, the rules could revert back to the zero-tolerance policy in place before 1980, when doctors who were found by the medical board to have drug or alcohol problems were immediately stripped of their licenses.

No other state has followed California's lead. But the president of California's medical board, Dr. Richard Fantozzi, said that behind the scenes, regulators nationwide share his ambivalence toward such programs.

'American Taliban's' folks want to see him set free

BY PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The lawyer and parents of John Walker Lindh, the American-born Taliban soldier serving 20 years in prison after his capture in Afghanistan, renewed their call to President Bush on Tuesday to commute his sentence and set him free.

John Walker Lindh, 27, a Marin County native, was captured in Afghanistan in November 2001 by U.S. forces sent to topple the Taliban after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He was charged with conspiring to kill Americans and supporting terrorists but pleaded guilty in 2002 to lesser offenses of supplying services to the now-defunct Taliban government.

Lindh had converted to Islam and went to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban against the Northern Alliance in 2001.

"His only offense was serving in the army of Afghanistan," his mother Marilyn Walker said at a San Francisco press conference Tuesday. "He's admitted this was a mistake on his part."

But the father of CIA officer Mike Spann, who was killed in an Afghanistan prison uprising where Lindh was captured, called for Lindh to serve his full sentence.

Johnny Spann of Wingfield, Ala., said that

his son interviewed Lindh the day before the deadly uprising. Spann said he believes that Lindh knew that anti-American elements in the prison were preparing to riot.

The elder Spann said Lindh had a duty as an American to come to the CIA officer's aid during the attack and didn't.

"He could have helped save Mike's life," Spann said. "He could have helped save the lives of some of his al-Qaida cohorts."

Lindh's attorney James Brosnahan said he filed a formal commutation petition with President Bush and new U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey. It's the fourth such attempt by Brosnahan, who brokered the plea deal and 20-year sentence.

Brosnahan said it was the best he could do amid the political climate immediately after Sept. 11. He said a poll of potential jurors at the time showed that 38 percent of the respondents thought Lindh should be executed.

"The mood of the country has changed dramatically," Brosnahan said. "We are still feeling the effects of 9-11, but we aren't as fearful as we were. I think the mood is better."

Neither the president nor the Department of Justice have acted on the previous commutation requests.

A Justice Department spokesman didn't immediately return a call for comment.

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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

THAT LOOKS HEAVY: Shoppers, like long-time Santa Monica resident Irv Brod, might have to opt for a reusable bag today as Ralphs stashes the plastics in favor of eco-friendly baggies.

Dreaming of a green Christmas

FROM BAGS PAGE 1

the Third Street Promenade.

The Santa Monica Public Library, housed in a LEED-certified environmentally sound building, will remove the plastic bags from its checkout counter and hand out reusable canvas bags upon request.

The modernist-designed library was certified by the U.S. Green Building Council with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design award.

"It's a LEED-rated building in a very sustainability conscious city and we do use a lot of sustainable products ... yet we give out these plastic bags," said Head Librarian Greg Mullen. "That's a contradiction we want to address."

Library officials are considering shifting away from the plastic bags to the reusable bags, viewing today's campaign as the first step in a greener direction.

The library received several hundred shiny canvas bags from Heal the Bay, reading "Happy Holidays, one bag at a time."

"We're trying to honor and support the community priorities and this is one of them — sustainability," Mullen said.

Several cities across the country, including Santa Monica, are considering banning retailers from distributing plastic bags, following the lead of the cities of San Francisco and Oakland which have passed similar bans. The ordinance in Oakland is currently

being challenged in court.

The Santa Monica City Council directed city staff to explore such a possibility in the city. City staff presented a proposal, which included a ban on single-use plastic bags from retail stores in Santa Monica, to the Task Force on the Environment on Monday night.

The city staff proposal would have exempted certain businesses that fell under a yet-to-be-determined threshold to avoid affecting the smaller businesses that didn't use enough bags to warrant the cost of administering and enforcing the ban, said Craig Perkins, the director of Environmental and Public Works. But TFE members felt that an all-out-ban would be more straight forward, Perkins added.

"That's a perfectly valid approach," he said. "It's very clean and clear."

City staff plans to make a recommendation to council in February, a presentation that will include the pros and cons of a ban, whether a fee should be affixed, and whether the city should allow the use of bio-degradable bags that are made from corn starch, something city staff doesn't agree with because it could still contaminate the recycling stream if some people stick the bags in a regular trash bin rather than a composting bin, Perkins said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Ready to break ground

Redevelopment of SM Place expected to begin next year

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Executives with Macerich Co., the Santa Monica-based real estate giant that owns Santa Monica Place, said Wednesday that their plan to renovate and revitalize the aging shopping center has been approved by the various boards and commissions, and are now just waiting for city planners to issue a permit for construction.

Bob Aptaker, vice president of development for Macerich, said he expects the permit to be issued by the end of February or early March, and that construction would begin shortly thereafter.

The Architectural Review Board unanimously approved the remodel on Monday. That is in addition to the support Macerich has earned from the City Council and the planning, arts and coastal commissions.

"It has been an amazing journey," Aptaker said. "We really owe a big thank you to the community for coming out and telling us what they really wanted in this project and then coming back and supporting it once we had the plan in place."

Macerich submitted a formal plan for the remodel in March that included removing the roof along the mall's central spine to create an open-air, multilevel complex that makes use of the ocean breezes and better connects with the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Pier and the Civic Center.

The parking structures, with just under 2,000 spaces, will remain and be open during construction, along with Macy's, but other stores will be closed. Aptaker said construction is expected to last 20 months, with completion by fall 2009.



Rendering courtesy of Macerich Co.

OUTDOOR FUN: This rendering shows the vantage point from the west entry of the remodeled Santa Monica Place, a proposed open-air, multi-level complex that would utilize the ocean breeze and better connect with the adjacent Third Street Promenade.

Macerich has agreed to retain the current scale and work within the mall's footprint and current height limit, featuring just three stories; the top floor to include a new food court.

The "adaptive reuse" plan came just over two years after the council asked Macerich, one of the nation's largest retail real estate investment trusts with 73 regional shopping centers in its portfolio, to abandon a 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 and elected officials felt that proposal was out-of-step with the community and were concerned about traffic impacts in an already congested downtown.

Admitting they made a mistake, Macerich officials last summer met with community members in a series of 14

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Photo by Michael Mazzoni

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council



Rendering courtesy of Macerich Co.

HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN: A building permit to construct the remodeled Santa Monica Place could be issued in the late winter and the new open-air shopping mall could be open by fall 2009.

meetings and used their 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.

When Macerich purchased the mall in 1999, the intention always was to redevelop the mall to make it more compatible with Third Street and the urban environment where it is situated, said Randy Brant, an executive vice president with Macerich. The mall, which was designed by architect Frank Gehry, was modeled after the suburban shopping centers of the 1980s and is very boxy and insular, acting like a barrier that obstructs the flow of pedestrians downtown.

"We are very excited that we have gotten past the city approvals, at least the major ones, and will soon be starting on a project that we believe can be one of the most exciting projects to be built in the last four or five years," said Brant, a Santa Monica resident who, like other executives with Macerich, has stated many times that Santa Monica Place is different than any other Macerich property because it is located in the company's hometown.

"Going out to the community was very valuable and they basically told us they were looking for a design that would improve connectivity and would be timeless," Brant said. "They weren't interested in having something built and then have it come back in 15 years."

Retailers currently at the mall may return once the remodel is complete. Brant said negotiations are ongoing. Some retailers have opted to relocate to other Macerich-owned properties, such as the Westside Pavilion. Brant said negotiations

are underway with a major retailer to help anchor the site. An announcement is expected in February.

A renovated mall should attract more shoppers, helping Santa Monica remain competitive with newly renovated malls in Century City and mid-town Los Angeles. That means more sales tax revenues to fund city projects and services, retail experts said.

Macerich is looking to attract an eclectic mix of retailers and restaurants to better serve residents, who have asked for more affordable options, particularly when it comes to everyday wear.

WE HAVE GOTTEN PAST THE CITY APPROVALS, AT LEAST THE MAJOR ONES, AND WILL SOON BE STARTING ON A PROJECT THAT WE BELIEVE CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING PROJECTS TO BE BUILT IN THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS."

Randy Brant
executive vice president for Macerich

"At the end of the day, we build beautiful malls, but people don't come to them because they have nice floors, a nice fountain," Brant said. "They come to our projects because we have a mix of retailers that fit the wants and needs of the community and that's what we plan to deliver here ... and the community will love it."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Seniors seek solutions to stroll safely

FROM PEDESTRIAN PAGE 3

Westside on such channels as City TV, ESPN, The Learning Channel, Discovery, VH-1 and CNN.

Commissioner Joel Greenberg said it might be time to create another PSA that reminds people to always be on the lookout for cars, especially when they are in the middle of a crosswalk.

"I think crosswalks hurt more people than they help," Greenberg said. "Oftentimes, people have a false sense of security and just assume people are going to stop. We have to educate people that crosswalks don't provide protection from being hit."

City Hall has taken a unique approach to crosswalks. Some areas have lighted crosswalks in the middle of busy streets while others have fewer crosswalks. It all depends on whether or not the crosswalk would disturb the flow of traffic, and if it is located too close to a traffic light. City officials would prefer people cross at stop signs or traffic lights, Dyke said.

"Sometimes crosswalks help and sometimes they don't," she said. "The city has not taken a one-size fits all approach. We are very careful about where we install them."

In addition to an education program, it was suggested that City Hall look into installing more street lights in areas where it is currently dark at night. That could help increase visibility and prevent people from tripping on cracked concrete or getting hit as they cross a street, Wilson said.



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

DON'T HIT ME: While City Hall has tried to improve crosswalks, some residents believe they provide a false sense of security.

The commission also recommended improved sidewalk repairs, which includes developing a more effective system for communication about poor sidewalk conditions. It also recommended extending the timing of signals so that people have ample time to make it across the

street before the blinking red hand begins to flash. In addition, all signals should have voice warning devices, commissioners said.

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Have a sweet holiday celebration!

Out with new, in with the old

FROM E3 PAGE 3

drivers were stationed in the Barker Hangar while press conferences and private business meetings were hosted by the local hotels.

“We were looking to try a new format in Santa Monica and they offered the space we were looking for,” Hewitt said on Wednesday. “They had all the logistics they needed for the show.”

The change was met with mixed reactions to the E3 regulars, some saying they preferred the larger expos of the past, others enjoying the relative tranquility of a small-scale event.

Tal Blevins, the vice president of games content for IGN, a Web site that reports on trends in the video gaming industry and reviews new releases, said he was hesitant when he first learned last year that E3 would be relocated to Santa Monica, unsure of how the logistics would work since the event was to be spread out over various locations.

Blevins, who has attended the Electronic Entertainment Expo since 1995, was pleasantly surprised by how smooth his stay was in Santa Monica. Often working until the early morning hours at E3, Blevins said he enjoyed the fact that he could find restaurants in Santa Monica that were still open, something that he felt Downtown Los Angeles lacked.

“I would’ve liked to see them expand on the Santa Monica idea a little more,” Blevins said. “Going back to the convention center seems like a step back to the old.”

**I WOULD’VE
LIKED TO SEE
THEM EXPAND ON THE
SANTA MONICA IDEA A
LITTLE MORE.”**

Tal Blevins
vice president of games content for IGN

But what Blevins, who reported on the activities at E3, enjoyed the most was the intimacy of the expo, a show focused more on getting business done.

“(The old show) was usually so bloated — you had company A against company B, one trying to be bigger, louder and more flashy,” he said. “Something about the Santa Monica show toned it down, because it wasn’t Electronic Arts next to Activision trying to blow each other out of the water.”

melodyh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA

Red Cross looks to heat up ‘Spark’

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica, KABC Channel 7 and Southland Firefighters are teaming up today for the “Spark of Love Toy Drive,” accepting toys and sports equipment from donations dropped off by residents within a five-county area.

Toys, games and sporting goods for teen boys and girls between 13 and 18 years of age are especially needed.

The American Red Cross Chapter of Santa Monica is located at 1450 11th St., and those interested can contact Cory Russell at (310) 394-3773 during business hours (www.redcrossofsantamonica.org). Donations may also be dropped off at the local fire stations at 1444 Seventh St., 222 Hollister Ave., 1302 19th St. and 2450 Ashland Ave., as well as any CVS pharmacy in the area.

JARED M. FELDSCHEIBER

LOS ANGELES

Officials move to save winter shelter program

City councilmen and local officials are looking to avert a major homeless crisis by saving the emergency winter shelter program that serves the Westside. Union Rescue Mission, a non-profit homeless organization, had been requested to help assist councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Jan Perry and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to help save the Winter Shelter Program. Rosendahl and Perry sought an additional \$30,000 to help fund the program.

LAHSA administers the winter shelter program, an initiative providing overnight shelter for the homeless each year between December and March. In the past, the program operated from West L.A. Armory, but this year, the program was almost bumped for actual National Guard Training.

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PICO NEIGHBORHOOD

Woodlawn sponsors second annual Tree of Life

The city of Santa Monica is staging the second annual Holiday Tree of Life through Dec. 23, in which patrons have the opportunity to visit the Woodlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum to hang ornaments on the tree in memory of a loved one that has passed away.

Cemetery staff has issued an invitation to any willing participants who have lost a loved one accompanied by a complimentary booklet entitled, “Thoughts for the Holidays ... Finding Permission to Grieve.”

Hours are Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cemetery is located at 1847 14th St., across the street from Santa Monica College.

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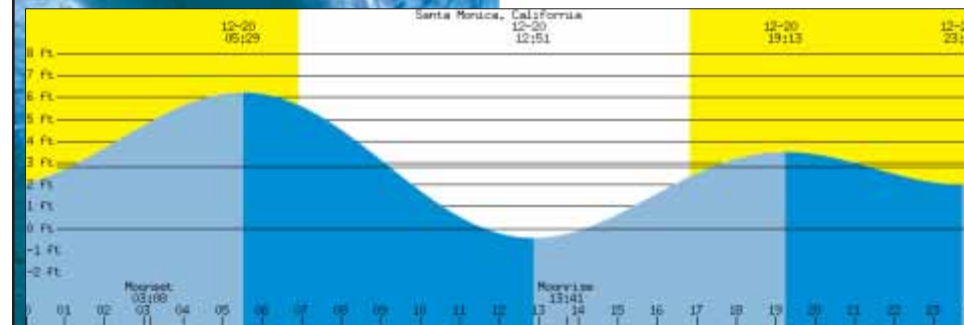
SURF CONDITIONS**WATER TEMP: 56°**

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

Today should be a chest+ wind swell day for west facing breaks in SoCal. Weather is still a bit iffy with precipitation chances in the forecast. As a result, winds could be problematic. The tide will also be an issue, pushing the 6-foot mark before dawn and receding to a negative low near lunchtime

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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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December 11, 2007

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 8

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

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth (sewerline)	A+	A+	Wil Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Wil Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Wil Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kentner storm drain	F	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Lediga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Saltine Canyon at San Blazquez County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Basin Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunbiter Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunbiter Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsell St.	A+	C
Mallory Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marias del Rey, Mothers' Beach - flagpole tower	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C	Deckweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
Wil Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken



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

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NFL

T.O. directs anger at singer Simpson

Loud-mouth receiver blames ‘Daisy Duke’ for Cowboys’ defeat

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas Terrrell Owens has a message for Jessica Simpson: Stay away. The 27-year-old singer-actress has become Public Enemy No. 1 among Dallas Cowboys fans because of a link being made between her appearance at Sunday's game and the poor performance of her new boyfriend, quarterback Tony Romo.

"Right now, Jessica Simpson is not a fan favorite — in this locker room or in Texas Stadium," Owens said Wednesday.

The Cowboys lost 10-6 to the Philadelphia Eagles and Romo had what was statistically the worst game of his career, all while Simpson sat in a luxury box wearing a pink No. 9 jersey she proudly showed off for television cameras.

The problem for her is, Romo's previous worst game came last December at home to the Eagles when then-girlfriend Carrie Underwood was in attendance.

"With everything that has happened,



AP Photo

WAS THAT, LIKE, A TOUCHDOWN? Jessica Simpson, wearing a pink Tony Romo jersey, watches the Dallas Cowboys quarterback play the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

obviously with the way Tony played and the comparison between her and Carrie Underwood, I think a lot of people feel she has taken his focus away," Owens said, echoing the chatter on sports-talk radio and blogs. "Other than that, she was high on my list until last week.

"Oh, I got a message for her when we make the playoffs. Just stay tuned."

NBA

Knicks fans hoping Isiah will go preach elsewhere

BY VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK New York Knicks fans angry over the team's losing streak rallied outside Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, holding aloft a giant pink slip and calling on management to fire coach Isiah Thomas.

Chanting "Fire Isiah! He's got to go! Good-bye!" two dozen irate fans signed the 8-by-4-foot pink placard urging Garden chief executive James Dolan to dump the coach, whose team is 7-17 going into Wednesday night's game with Cleveland.

Among the protesters was noted civil rights lawyer and longtime Knicks fan Norman Siegel, who criticized Knicks management for ordering a fan with a "Fire Isiah" sign to leave his seat at a game Monday night.

"The Knicks are trampling on what New York is all about — we're outspoken and we're zany at times," said Siegel. "But principles and values of free speech should be adopted. The Garden should rethink its policy."

Thomas has been hounded by bad publicity and calls from fans to quit since October, when fired team executive Anucha Browne Sanders won a sexual harassment lawsuit against the coach and the Garden. Just before the case was to return to court to decide compensatory damages, the lawsuit was settled for \$11.5 million.

More calls for Thomas to step down were expected at Wednesday's game, with unhappy fans getting some help from one of the city's tabloids. The Daily News

printed a large block letter sign in Wednesday's editions reading "FIRE ISIAH," saying it was meant to be held up during the "next Knicks blowout."

Toward the end of Monday's 119-92 loss to the Indiana Pacers, a disgruntled fan raised a "Fire Isiah" sign and was ordered to leave his seat by a Garden security guard. After the images were captured by news photographers and published in Tuesday's papers, the fan, Jason Silverstein, came forward to identify himself.

HOW MANY 25-POINT BEATINGS CAN WE TAKE?"

Jason Silverstein
Disgruntled Knicks fan

"The guy is killing our team," the 23-year-old Manhattan real estate agent told The New York Times. "How many 25-point beatings can we take?"

At Wednesday's rally, signs read "Dump Isiah" and "Restore Knicks Pride."

Thomas "is completely inept, he's a disaster," said protester Scott Francies. "He picked the players. And now, he's blaming them and destroying them. ... What kind of a person is this to represent this glorious city?"

The team has endured a barrage of bad publicity since October, when a jury ruled in favor of Browne Sanders in her sexual harassment lawsuit.

It wasn't me

Basketball star denies affair; claims he never met model

TONY PARKER has never met the French model who claims they had an affair, his lawyer says. "Tony adamantly and unconditionally denies ever having laid eyes on this woman, let alone having had an affair with her," Los Angeles-based attorney Stanton "Larry"

PREGNANT, 'STILL'

LILY ALLEN has something to smile about: She's pregnant. The 22-year-old British pop singer and her musician-boyfriend, Ed Simons of The Chemical Brothers, are expecting their first child, Allen's spokesman, Jon Bills, announced Wednesday. "As the pregnancy is at such an early stage, the couple will be making no further comment but they are obviously both thrilled by the news," Bills said in a statement. Allen's cheeky debut album, "Alright, Still," which includes the hit single "Smile," was released in the United States earlier this year.

AP

Stein said in a statement Tuesday. "The allegations of the supposed affair are entirely false and fabricated." Last week, Alexandra Paressant alleged in an interview with celebrity gossip Web site X17 that she had an affair with the San Antonio Spurs

star in September. She claimed she attended his July 7 wedding to Eva Longoria in Paris. "There were a lot of people at the wedding," Stein told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Did they remember seeing her at the wedding? No. We're trying to find out

about that." Stein said the newlyweds are "shocked and angered" by the allegations and are seeking damages for defamation and invasion of privacy. Parker, 25, and Longoria, 32, defended their marriage last week. "I love my wife," Parker

said in a statement from Longoria's spokeswoman, Liza Anderson. "She's the best thing in my life, and I have never been happier." "Tony has been nothing short of the perfect husband," said Longoria, who stars on ABC's "Desperate Housewives." ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged teenage girl-lover, R. Kelly, better not be a no-show in Chicago

R. KELLY could be facing arrest if he doesn't show up in court Thursday. The 40-year-old singer, who is in the middle of a 45-city tour, faces child pornography charges for allegedly videotaping sex acts with a young teenage girl. He has pleaded not guilty. Kelly missed a hearing Wednesday in Chicago after his tour bus was stopped by Utah State Police, said Kelly's attorney, Ed Genson. Cook County prosecutors asked Judge Vincent Gaughan to issue a warrant for Kelly's arrest, saying the court had been



R. KELLY

generous in allowing Kelly to embark on his tour. "The very least he could do is be here for his appointed court date," said Assistant State's Attorney Shauna Boliker. The judge entered the warrant, but put it on hold

until Thursday morning, when he ordered Kelly to appear in court. Genson told the judge his client tried his best to make it on time, but first snow, then Utah authorities, delayed the tour bus on its journey from a con-

cert date in Sacramento, Calif., to Chicago. Police pulled the bus over and discovered its log book didn't document enough rest time for the driver. Police ordered the bus to stop for eight hours, Genson said. Gaughan is expected to set a trial date in the case, which has been pending since 2002. The singer won't have to rush off to a concert after court. A Minneapolis show Thursday night has been canceled. The next scheduled tour date is Friday in Chicago, according to Kelly's Web site.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

A Christmas Story (PG)
7:30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10
August Rush (PG)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
Fred Claus (PG)
12:20, 3:10
I Am Legend (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 9:40, 10:40
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)
12:01am

More information email news@smdp.com

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

Happy Birthday!

How you handle yourself this year could be far more important than you might realize. Others will observe how you handle yourself under pressure. Your professional status will directly impact your finances. If you are single, you could meet someone with ease, though it might take awhile for the relationship to evolve. If you are attached, you will mistakenly focus more on work and not your relationship. TAURUS works well with you.



Born Today

R&B singer JoJo (1990)
Tire magnet Harvey Firestone (1868)
Director George Roy Hill (1921)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Don't be alone, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ The sense of wanting to complete all your holiday errands might be strong. It's true that time is short, yet you do need to rein in your spending. There will be a tomorrow. Tonight: Off finishing up details, details!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your personality melts another's resistances. You have the energy to tackle whatever you want. Someone from a distance might be waiting to hear from you. Tonight: Stop and think who you might not have remembered.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Knowing when to back down might be as important as stepping forward. Much that is happening, especially on a domestic level, needs thought. No matter how you look at it, change is in the air. Tonight: Private time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Aim for what you want. A discussion might be far more important than you realize. Don't get distracted, and remain focused. Your focus could be more pivotal than you are aware of. Flow with the moment. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others continue to look to you as a role model. Right now responsibilities weigh heavily. Listen to what is being shared by an associate. An opening might not be forever. Be smart. Tonight: As late as need be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Question what is going on, but also be willing to assume a more liberal perspective than in the past. Your ability to move past a problem earmarks your actions. Listen well to feedback from a loved one. Tonight: Put on some holiday music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Work with individuals rather than several people. Apply this rule socially if you really want to enjoy yourself. Someone has a strong belief and ideas about what should happen. The ball is in your court, though. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others might need to dominate or express their feelings. Ultimately, you need to realize that it is your call if you go along or not. Follow your instincts, and you'll land on your feet. Tonight: Listen, then decide what to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ What you do and what you achieve depend on how much energy you are willing to put out. You could be very tired or withdrawn. Understand just how much you do give and what is needed here. Tonight: Finish up errands.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Consider rethinking a decision that involves someone you care about. In a sense, a child or loved one could be tormenting and lovable at the same time. How you juggle this combo is your call. Tonight: Don't forget to hang some mistletoe!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision that surrounds home and family. Could you be taking others for granted? You are in a period in which you are reviewing the past 10 years. Are you content with what has gone down? Tonight: Head on home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ The words and direction you choose very much define your long-term goals. A friendship could become very important to you in the next few months. Don't take someone for granted. Tonight: Take time to chat and catch up on someone's news.

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

8			3	5		9	7	
	9				1		8	5
4			8			1		6
7	6		1					9
		4				7		
2					4		6	1
9		8			6			2
6	3		9				4	
	4	1		7	3			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 YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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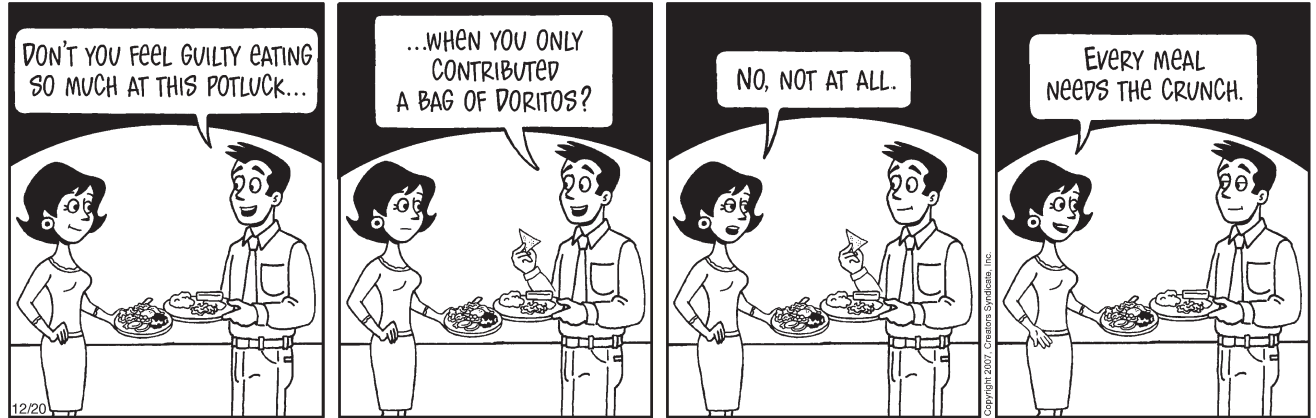
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



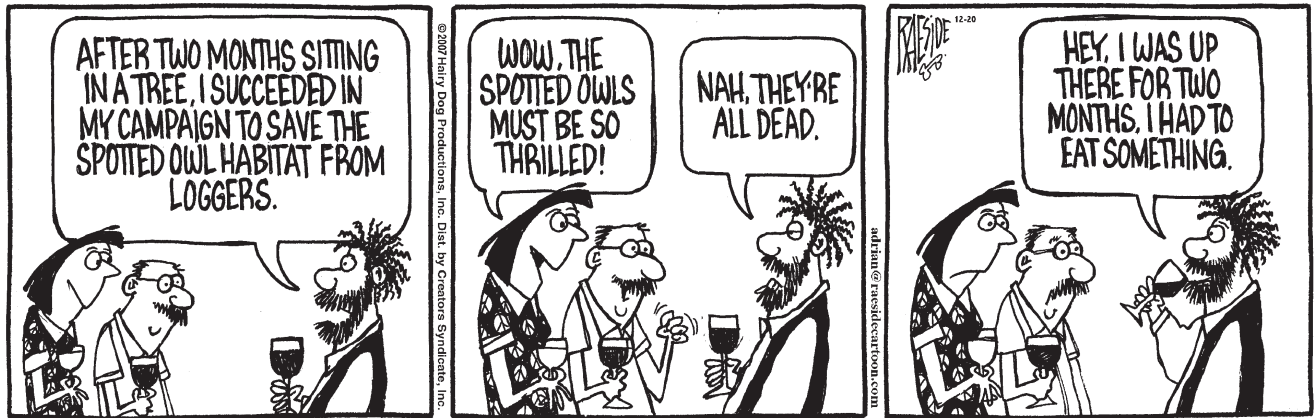
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA

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

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Notices

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

The Petition sets forth the following:
1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudicated under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica.

2. Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Santa Monica, California. The business address is 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

3. Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial paid distribution.

4. For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of Santa Monica Daily Press, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly each weekday in the City of Santa Monica.

5. During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles.

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

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