



**SHOPPING COUNTDOWN
SEE PAGE 3**

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STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 14

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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 22-23, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



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(Corner of 20th & Santa Monica Blvd.)

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Cut-throat deals at Todd's

4639 Hollywood Blvd., L.A., 6 p.m. — 11 p.m.

As a tie-in to the Tim Burton movie, "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," Sweeney Todd's Barber Shop is offering "cut-throat" deals on razor shaves and haircuts along with a special-for-the-day cocktail called "Barbicide." For more information, call (323) 667-9690.

Indie Hurts so Good

12249 Venice Blvd., 8 p.m.

Good Hurt is getting into the spirit with an Indie Rock holiday show featuring Fire at Play, Let Live, Family Matters and Disarm the Speaker. For more information, visit www.goodhurt.net.

Olvera's Posadas

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

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

'Extraordinary Deceptions'

3116 Second St., 2:30 p.m.

The Powerhouse Theatre presents magician Michael Gutenplan, who will bring some magical Christmas cheer by catching a bullet, sawing someone in half and more. Tickets are \$25. For further information, call (310) 396-3680, ext. 3 or visit www.powerhousetheatre.com.

Candid Claus

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007

'A Christmas Carol'

7051-B Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., 3 p.m.

The Celebration Theatre is spoofing "A Christmas Carol" in a gay old way. Scrooge is portrayed as a Goth who is visited by a disco-queen, a party hunk and a mute specter. For ticket information, call (323) 957-1884.

'The Nutcracker'

Royce Hall, 2 p.m.

Set to Tchaikovsky's sprightly score, E.T.A. Hoffman's fable narrates the Christmas adventures of young Clara and the nutcracker doll she adores. For more information, visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Candid Claus

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

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

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

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

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.



Shopping deadline

As Christmas nears, shoppers have one last weekend to hunt

BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE
Special to the Daily Press

THIRD STREET PROMENADE Ready or not, here it comes — the last weekend before Christmas has snuck up again.

What does that mean to anyone who might shop here this weekend? Don't expect a lot of personal space.

Fully aware that this weekend could be a make or break sales event for 2007, retailers have been preparing for the expected rush by staffing up and lengthening store hours for shoppers.

So far, most shops along the promenade have been doing pretty well this holiday season, reporting sales figures similar to last year's — a good thing considering the rumors of a recession floating around.

The alternative clothing and furnishing store Urban Outfitters, located on the 1400 block of Third Street, has seen nearly the same sales as last year's, except for their women's clothing, which has been selling better this year, according to Aaron Johnson, the store manager.

Meanwhile, the store managers at Lorin, a hip specialty shoe store further north on the promenade, are counting their blessings.

"You have to pick the right shoes to stock (up on). It's tough and we got lucky this year," said John Marifian, a manager, adding that their big sellers this time

YOU HAVE TO PICK THE RIGHT SHOES TO STOCK (UP ON). IT'S TOUGH AND WE GOT LUCKY THIS YEAR

John Marifian
Store manager



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

SEE SHOP PAGE 12

SECRET SHOPPER: A gift seeker stalks the Third Street Promenade for presents on Friday.



Photo courtesy of Heart Beet Gardening

GROWING A SOLUTION: Planter boxes brimming with vegetables occupy an outdoor staircase at Pine Street School. Three childhood friends started Heart Beet Gardening as a means of ending widespread hunger.

Vegetables are just a snip away

Venice-based group hopes to end hunger

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE A group of Westsiders are hoping to end hunger in the Los Angeles area, one garden at a time.

Aiming to foster food security in Los Angeles through urban agriculture, childhood friends Megan Bomba, Sara Carnochan and Kathleen Redmond launched the Venice-based Heart Beet Gardening in January, a business in which the three recent college graduates travel to homes and schools to design, build and maintain organic vegetable gardens.

The business model has proven to be successful, particularly on the Westside, where land is sparse and residents hold organic produce at a premium. The team is responsible for the creation of 26 urban gardens, planted in private residences, preschools and charter schools across

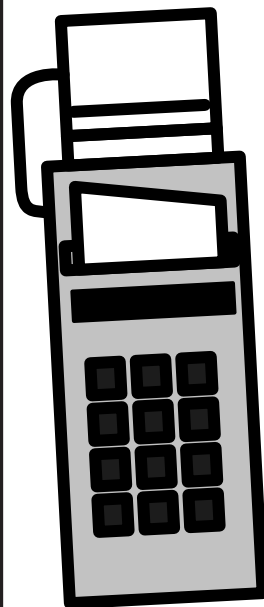
SEE GARDEN PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New bike lanes, good
Editor:

(Re: "Ready, set, cross," Dec.18)
The new bike lanes on Ocean Park Boulevard, from Lincoln to Cloverfield, are a wonderful holiday gift to cyclists! Thank you, Santa Monica Transportation and Planning staff, and thank you, nearby residents and merchants, for giving this a chance. Now cyclists traveling east-west in this part of the city have an easy route choice and less need to go out of their way to reach important destinations like SMC, the beach and shopping areas.
The bike lanes add much-needed safety for cyclists, as well as providing a buffer that improves visibility for pedestrians and motorists trying to cross the road.
Some drivers will probably lament the loss of a travel lane in each direction. However, as we've seen on Main Street, Broadway and Montana, these roads can function quite well with two travel lanes and a median for turning movements. But the most significant benefit is felt by pedestrians, cyclists, shoppers and outdoor diners due to the diminished speed and presence of cars. This has created more desirable shopping places close to residential areas, thereby reducing the need to drive. This is an important piece of making Santa Monica a more livable, sustainable community.
Kent Strumpell
Santa Monica

Mitt Romney, a hypocrite?
Editor:

GOP, the party of prejudice; hypocrisy at its best. On Dec. 6, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney asked Americans to view his candidacy with a sense of tolerance.
"We believe that every single human being is a child of God," he said. "We are all part of the human family." In the next breath, he demeans and demonizes immigrants (part of the human family) playing to the lowest common denominator of the Republican Party – the intolerant Southern white base. Republican presidential candidates are diving all over each other to be the best anti-immigration hard-liner.
Hey, Mitt, why don't you just call hard working, brown-skinned Hispanics "terrorists"? It works for Homeland Security.
Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

Nothing plural in the laws
Editor:

Are Santa Monica Critical Mass (SMCM) bike riders in default with the actions and response they are having with the city of Santa Monica and its police department? Yes. Group riding is a event which distracts/obstructs normal operation upon public streets. This sort of group event requires a permit. Obtaining a proper permit will give SMCM or any other group activity the safety and respect from the public, the city of Santa Monica and the police department – a safe passage with no unsafe hurdles to clear. Riding in a group lies/falls under different rules/regulations that requires different procedures.
There is nothing plural about the California Bicycle Code. Just like the vehicle code, it states everything singular. One bicycle, one vehicle. This means, if you are riding in a group and your bicycle or others in this group are not operating/complying with the California bicycle laws, you/they will be cited. In addition to state laws, many communities have local ordinances such as Santa Monica. Check with your local police department regarding bicycle registration, licensing and regulations. Respect and obey the simple laws, rules and regulations. The police are not out there to hassle or harass anyone. They are there to protect and serve.
Geno Schotte
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'Tis the season
for big tipppers

I like giving gifts to people, whether they are friends or family. I like seeing them smile. I don't get upset if I give someone a present and he or she doesn't give me one. I really get into the spirit of giving, and I think most people do. But the problem comes when we have to give gifts to people we hardly know or don't know at all. I'm talking about those who have "service jobs," those who deliver our newspapers and mail, those who cut our hair, and the guys who wash our cars at the carwash are among those that many of us give "tips" or holiday gifts to.

We don't even know some of their names, but we feel obligated to give them presents. Which ones should we tip, and which ones may we skip? Is money appropriate for all of them? If so, how much? All of these questions create an anxiety that can easily destroy the holiday spirit in many of us. Maybe those who feel this intense anxiety should have given bigger tips to their therapists.

Many service workers depend on holiday gifts as part of their income — just as many people depend on tips throughout the year. I don't resent this at all. What makes it difficult is that there are no guidelines. We tip a waiter or a waitress based on a percentage of the bill. But how do you figure out a percentage of what you're supposed to give a letter carrier or a newspaper delivery person since you're not paying them anything?

One method, of course, is to ask your neighbors how much they give them. But maybe the neighbors are being stingy, or maybe they're being overly generous. Or maybe they're being devious, and purposely giving you a low number so they'll look good.

Again, I'm happy to give gifts to the many people who perform services — especially for those who go "above and beyond" the call of duty. For years, we had a wonderful FedEx delivery woman who not only carried the boxes to our house and hid them in our secret place if we weren't home, but she always had treats for our dog. Obviously, it was our pleasure to give her a holiday present. Our letter carrier is pleasant and helpful, and our newspapers are always left just where we like them. I'm happy to give these people holiday gifts.

But sometimes these presents can fall under the category of "defensive gifts." It goes completely against the holiday spirit, but often, people feel they have to give a person a gift ... or else. Admit it. Haven't you ever worried that if you don't give the person who delivers your newspaper a good Christmas gift that your paper will end up in the bushes for the next year?

Hasn't it at least crossed your mind that if you don't give your haircutter a nice holiday tip, your next hairstyling might render you bald? And if you park in an underground garage, do you worry that some dents might mysteriously appear on your car if you don't slip the guy who manages the garage a few extra bucks at this time of year?

Of course, we shouldn't have any of these thoughts. Odds are, even if they don't get a tip or a present, the people who perform services for us will continue to do so just as if they got a wonderful gift from us. We hope.

Another weird thing about these oblig-

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IN THE HANDS OF
SOMEBODY YOU NEVER
INTENDED. BY PROXY,
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atory gifts is that the people we give them to have to give obligatory gifts, too. After all, whoever delivers your mail has his or her newspaper delivered, garbage picked up and, yes, mail delivered. So the money — or gift — you give one of these people might be passed on to someone who serves them and so on and so on. Your money or chocolate chip cookies could end up in the hands of somebody you never intended. By proxy, you could be giving a gift to your letter carrier's manicurist.

So, where does it stop? Right here. I'm happy to tell you that I'll continue to see the world in my own weird way even if you don't give me a gift. In fact, I don't expect any presents from you at all. There. That should take some pressure off you. Of course, I do tend to write my best columns when I'm wearing a new sweater.

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.

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YOUR OPINION MATTERS!
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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“Testosterone is tough to control.”

— Odus Jackson, Casey Aldridge's uncle, on his nephew's decision to move to California to be closer to his girlfriend, Jamie Lynn Spears, which resulted in a teenage pregnancy

“Talmudic scholars teach us the yarmulke is to show humility, but as it happens, it's also ideal for covering that embarrassing bald spot.”

— Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Jack Neworth

“Right now, Jessica Simpson is not a fan favorite — in this locker room or in Texas Stadium.”

— Terrell Owens, wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys, joking about the singer's appearance at a game where her boyfriend, quarterback Tony Romo, played poorly

IT'S BROWN AND IT SMELLS.”

— Jennifer Argenti, a surfer, on what her friends told her she missed by not surfing during this past week's rainy days

“I have to knock on wood because, any minute now, the wicked witch will come in and ruin it all with a poisoned apple.”

— Actress Katherine Heigl on her fairy tale life

“Our allies today become our enemies tomorrow.”

— Tighe Barry, Santa Monica peace activist, referring to the U.S. and Pakistan, who are currently allies, though Barry believes the U.S. will invade Pakistan

“We would like to return to work with our writers. If we cannot, we would like to express our ambivalence, but without our writers we are unable to express something as nuanced as ambivalence.”

— Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert announcing that they're resuming production on their Comedy Central shows despite the continuing writer's strike

“They do whatever the f-ck they want whenever the f-ck they want.”

— A Critical Mass rider criticizing the Santa Monica Police Department during last Friday's monthly ride

“It is like saying good-bye to a loved one.”

— Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen on officially retiring his character Borat due to the wide exposure he's received from the film “Borat.”

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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O HOLY NIGHT!

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24, 2007

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass – Gymnasium

4:15 p.m. Mass – Church

6:15 p.m. Mass – Church

9:00 p.m. Mass – Church

Midnight Mass

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Gymnasium

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Church

Additional Parking is available on Christmas Eve from 4:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Crown Parking Lot, 1211 7th St., south of Wilshire.

Christmas, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007

7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m., and 1:15 p.m. Church

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The QLine

THE MASSES SPEAK UP ON CRITICAL MASS

This past week, Q-line asked:

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

Here are your responses:

"THOSE CRITICAL MASS BIKE RIDERS ARE an annoying, showboating, dangerous mess. The current roadways are not built for bicycles, period. Ride the bike path. The roads are overcrowded as it is. They don't need the merry men in spandex. This ongoing situation is ridiculous. We do not need to promote bicycling on these overcrowded, traffic-clogged roadways, and yes, they do flaunt the laws. The police just need to continue citing them like an other lawbreaker. They have better things to do than educate these ego-trippers."

"WHILE THE EXCELLENT SANTA MONICA Daily Press is on the subject of bicycles again, as an avid senior citizen bike rider, I would like to relate a humorous experience I had while bicycling on the parking lot area south of the Santa Monica Pier. As I rode, coming up behind me at a rapid rate of speed with both pedals to the metal on a very expensive bicycle, which I am nearly certain was just illegally commandeered, was a young man who was verbally articulate, but for a reason only known to himself, was filthy dirty as though he had just finished a 16-hour shift in a coal mine. I do not believe that he was homeless. As he neared me, he shouted, "Out of the way, geezer!" I responded by shouting back, "Anything you say, whippersnapper!" At which time, I saw the back of his left hand rise above his left shoulder giving me the infamous one-finger salute. Before I could reply, "same to you," he was nearly out of sight, making his getaway. Still, I find our rapid analysis of one another to be correct. Webster defines a geezer as being an odd character, and indeed I am. Webster also states that a whippersnapper is an impatient, insignificant person, especially a young person – that he was. Alas, just another bicycling day in paradise."

"IF THE CRITICAL MASS PEOPLE DON'T LIKE getting tickets, then all they have to do is follow the laws: Stop at all the stop signs and the red lights. They don't have the right to commandeer intersections or commandeer the whole road. They think they own the road, but they don't. They have to share the roads with everybody else. If they don't, they should get tickets. If they don't like it – tough."

"CRITICAL MASS IS JUST ANOTHER A-hole group in a city full of the same. These two-wheeled equestrians were yelling loudly as they road by; just what we need in a city full of noises, like jets, helicopters, motorcycles, cars boom radios. Then half of them kept yelling and taking pictures of the police, who had stopped one of them for running a stop sign. Too bad the police had to use only a ticket book. Riding a bicycle is mostly about common sense and awareness. Assume the car has the right-of-way, because you'll come out second in an accident. And also don't count on anyone being aware of you riding. The funniest thing about Critical Mass are the stories about your intrepid, transplanted East Coast reporters. Not much for stamina or backbone. Maybe their next story could be a ride on the Ferris wheel. Hey, how 'bout a breast-feeding class for new mothers at St. John's? Just what all these cry-babies need."

"I THINK THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT should continue to crack down, because when bicyclers are not following the set laws, then we have accidents, and it's not safe to drive anyway, because of all the cars and traffic. We must follow the rules. I was invited to join Critical Mass and I declined due to the fact that they are trying to show that they want to take over the roads, instead of cars."

"FOR A CITY THAT TOUTS ITSELF AS BEING bike-friendly, I think they definitely should work with the bicyclists, if that's what they want to do. After all, we're the city of Samolicious."

"THE CRITICAL MASS RIDE IS A GOOD thing, generally, except when they ride on streets that already have bike lanes, because then they don't need to be protesting there. So the police should help the Critical Mass ride get through the town, except on streets that already have bike lanes."

"NO, THEY SHOULD NOT PROMOTE bicycling, and especially a bunch of guys that love to show off their buns and their cute little spandex pants. To solve the problem, we just need less people."

"ABSOLUTELY, THE SMPD SHOULD work with the Critical Mass or any bicyclists to promote bicycling in Santa Monica. I am not a bike rider, but I just moved to Santa Monica for the simple reason that this is the only city in Southern California where cars are not necessarily needed. I loved to watch the bicyclists from our balcony on Dec. 7, and watch them go by. The only sad part was seeing the SMPD following them and ticketing them, while these big monster cars did not even stop at the stop signs and just ran across, as they do every day at the corner on Washington Avenue and Sixth Street. I just hope that, finally, Santa Monica will live up to their reputation that it is friendly to human beings and not to monster trucks. The cars do not observe any of the rules in this city. I am a walker every day, and I almost get overrun every day."

"THERE ARE THOSE THAT SUGGEST THAT cyclists are clogging up the city streets – one day of the month – and I'd say if you're going to unclog the streets, then let's do it, and let's do it 30-31 days out of the month, which means let's get after those that are most guilty of clogging up the streets – motorists. Westside motorists are phenomenally famous for clogging up the streets, so let's start fighting them. Let's make it excruciatingly expensive and painful to clog up the streets. If you get behind someone who's not moving, thereby contributing and participating to gridlock, let's start writing tickets – cyclists, pedestrians, motorists, mass transit users. If we're going after crowds of anything, herds of anything, flocks of anything, let's start writing tickets across the board. As long as it's fair. Fair is fair, that's all I'm asking."

"THE POLICE SHOULD WORK WITH PAR-ticipants of Critical Mass to help them promote bicycling. The police are there for public safety and to help visitors and residents alike enjoy Santa Monica. This has been touted and talked about as something that has been beneficial to a part of the ride. And it is also beneficial to Santa Monica, with its traffic problems. Getting more people on bikes will relieve other problems such as parking and pollution."

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Real estate hitting rock bottom

Factors such as job growth factor into housing slump

BY ALEX VEIGA | AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Would-be buyers and frustrated home sellers across the nation have one thing in common: They want to know when the downtrodden housing market will finally hit bottom.

Yet even as sales and prices keep dropping in California and other states, experts say pinpointing the bottom of the market isn't as critical or as simple as many people think.

Unlike stocks, when turnarounds can come suddenly, changes in the housing market typically occur much more gradually.

"The bottom is a process, it's not a time point," said Delores Conway, director of the Casden Forecast at the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate.

Prices are not going to immediately jump even when the market does hit bottom, she said.

"You have time. You have at least six months, maybe a year," she said.

In addition, divining whether the bottom is around the corner or farther down the road involves more than watching price and sales figures. Job growth, loan financing and new construction also factor into the equation, experts said.

Market-watchers in California got their latest jolt of bad housing news on Thursday, when a real estate tracking firm said the state posted its 26th consecutive month of year-over-year declines in home sales and another drop in median home prices.

California was among the first states to see home prices soar at the start of the boom. The San Diego metro area saw prices skyrocket a year ahead of the rest of the nation and was also among the first markets to see prices tumble.

The latest California figures echo similarly dismal numbers in many other U.S. markets that, like California, were enjoying huge run-ups in prices only two years ago.

In all, 25,578 homes were sold last month in California, down 38.8 percent from the same month last year — the steepest decline for November in more than 20 years, according to DataQuick Information Systems.

Meanwhile, the statewide median home price plummeted 11.9 percent to \$414,000, compared to the year-ago month.

One major cause of the lagging sales in California and other high-priced states is tightened lending practices that have made it more difficult to get jumbo loans exceeding \$417,000 — the current limit on the amount that government-backed mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will buy from lenders.

Along with financing, experts look at several other key metrics to gauge housing markets, which vary widely from state to state and even neighborhood to neighborhood.

One key indicator of a turnaround would be sales that stabilize over several months. But that doesn't mean prices would stop falling immediately, according to Edward Leamer, a senior economist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Buyers don't need to worry about hitting the bottom exactly as far as sales volumes are concerned," Leamer said. "Even as sales volumes stop declining, prices won't stabilize for quite a while after that."

Another key indicator that the market has hit bottom will be home prices.

"If we see prices have stopped going down or are moving up, that's a very good sign," Conway said.

Some experts also suggest watching how aggressively homebuilders are discounting new homes.

The downturn left many major builders saddled with unsold inventory, and they've been dramatically slashing prices and offering incentives to lure buyers.

When builders begin to think the market has bottomed

out, they are likely to stop offering those discounts, Leamer said.

"Once that happens, those prices for new homes will stabilize," he said.

As builders gain confidence, they may also start to ramp up construction and land acquisition.

Leamer advised market-watchers to look for an uptick in applications for housing permits by builders.

Experts said job growth is another key indicator. If a housing market is adding jobs, people will be in better position to buy a home, and homeowners are less likely to become unemployed and lose property.

Job losses are closely tied to housing woes in Michigan, Ohio and parts of Indiana, which have shed auto industry positions. The result has been higher mortgage defaults and plunging home prices.

STATE BRIEFS

SANTA BARBARA

USS Ronald Reagan making return visit

The USS Ronald Reagan is returning to Santa Barbara for a visit next month. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will anchor outside the harbor from Jan. 11 to 14, bringing with it more than 4,000 sailors who will take shore boats to the pier for liberty.

The carrier will not be available for public tours.

Local Navy League spokesman Doug Crawford says the group is working to get hotel rooms for sailors at no more than \$100 a night. So far, only the Bacara Hotel and Spa in Goleta has offered 50 rooms for that price.

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PACIFIC GROVE

City's low-tech seal proposal: Pot-banging

Experts have come up with a low-tech method to keep seals off a Pacific Grove beach: Banging on pots.

The City Council got a report from its Beautification and Natural Resources Committee on how to deal with Pacific harbor seal invading Lovers Point Beach. Mother seals appear to be moving toward the beach during pupping season.

Because marine mammals are protected by federal law, the public could lose access to the beach.

The council was told the city should discourage the seal haul-outs by banging on pots and pans to chase them back to sea. Other noisemakers, scarecrows and human presence are also an option.

AP

SANTA BARBARA

Black bear hunting season ends early in California

California's black bear hunting season has ended early because takes reached the state Department of Fish and Game limit.

The season was scheduled to run through Dec. 30, but the limit of some 1,700 bears has already been reached. It's the first time since 2001 that the season was shut down early.

In 2002, the threshold for season closure was increased from 1,500 to 1,700 bears based on the health and expansion of the bear population. Tags show the harvest is already above 1,700.

Hunters are required to return bear tags to the Department of Fish and Game by Feb. 1.

They are also required to submit skulls of bears killed to DFG for extraction of teeth within 10 days of taking the bear.

The teeth are used to determine the animals' ages.

AP

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Photo courtesy of Heart Beet Gardening

ALL GROWN: This garden in Venice was established by Heart Beet Gardening, a business launched in January by three childhood friends out to teach others how to grow their own food.

Going organic on the cheap

FROM GARDEN PAGE 3

Southern California, the majority of which are in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

“We think of it as our own urban farm split into different parcels,” said Redmond, a Hollywood resident who graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in environmental studies in 2006.

The goal of the business is to decrease food insecurity by allowing households, schools and communities to grow their own vegetable gardens, giving them easy access to healthy food.

The process starts with a consultation, whereby the Heart Beet Gardening team determines the size of the garden and where it would be able to best maximize natural sunlight. The team then builds the garden, planting certain vegetables depending on the time of season. In most

cases, the team will return to the house periodically to maintain the garden, checking on the health of the vegetables and planting new seeds.

The team’s services start at \$500 and can run more than \$1,500, depending on the size of the garden. The gardens can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months to develop, depending on whether it’s an herb garden or a miniature farm of sorts, containing watermelon, corn and cucumbers.

One of the factors buoying the success of the girls’ business is vegetable gardens tend to thrive year-round because of the climate. The trick with growing healthy vegetables in the winter is sunlight, Redmond said.

Bomba and Redmond were both environmental studies students at Oberlin College when they first talked of starting an urban agriculture company if they ever

decided to move from the Ohio college back to Southern California. When the two former roommates did eventually move back home, they decided to make their dreams a reality, enlisting their childhood friend Carnochan, a teacher at New Roads Elementary School.

Their first project was a garden at Carnochan’s parents home in Venice, where the women planted cabbage, peas and other vegetables that blossomed in cold weather. That garden was followed by several other projects at relatives’ homes. Once the team saw feasibility in their business proposal, they decided to take Heart Beet Gardening off the ground in January.

Though the three friends run the business on a part-time basis — Redmond works in an afterschool program in the San Fernando Valley and Bomba is a substitute teacher at Crossroads Elementary School

— there are hopes of turning Heart Beet Gardening into a full-time, non-profit operation, branching out more to work with the local schools. The team is currently working with students to build a garden — what Bomba calls an “outdoor classroom” — at the Larchmont Charter School in Hancock Park.

Teaching students how to garden is an effective way to encourage children to eat their vegetables, said Bomba, who lives in Culver City.

“It’s amazing what kids eat when they grow it themselves,” she said.

Students gain a sense of ownership when they are taught to grow and maintain their own garden, Redmond added.

“It’s good to have that connection to the natural world,” Redmond said.

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GETTING 'ER DONE: Shoppers descended on the Third Street Promenade to look for last-minute gifts on Friday.

Shoppers' days are numbered

FROM SHOP PAGE 3

around are boots, especially those UGGs.

Just across the way at Puzzle Zoo, owner Jay Demircift seemed happy this week with his rate of business. His sales are up a little from last year.

"We're fortunate being on this street and that the weather has been so good this year," said Demircift, whose products range the toy spectrum. This year, the Havoc Heli, which flies by remote, has been a big seller, along with Pokemon and Transformer items.

At Restoration Hardware, the popular high-end store was fresh out of their hottest item — Scrabble in a wood box — thanks to the Oprah show and her "favorite things." They also carry the retro wooden box-style for Monopoly and Clue games, but those were sold out too.

Although most retailers and businesses will be having extra staff for the home stretch weekend, the See's Candy booth in Santa Monica Place mall will be manned by just one.

WE'RE FORTUNATE BEING ON THIS STREET AND THAT THE WEATHER HAS BEEN SO GOOD THIS YEAR."

Jay Demircift, Puzzle Zoo owner

The female worker seemed to take the fact in stride. "It just worked out that way," she said.

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Suffering a wax meltdown

Vinyl records are hard to come by on the Westside of L.A.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The old nostalgic musical medium of yore, the vinyl LP is leaving behind a sad track record.

But while the vinyl record industry struggles, specialty stores closing across the country, including most recently the House of Records on Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica, business for the gramophone record is experiencing a resurgence, most likely thanks to a subculture of record collecting fans, consisting of old timers that have been amassing records for years and newbies that have taken an interest in wax.

Unfortunately for these hardcore collectors, a vinyl record can be hard to come by if they're looking on the Westside, with options limited to a handful of stores, including Record Surplus in West Los Angeles.

Music aficionado Neil Cantor is the proud owner of more than 1,700 LPs and 2,000 RMP records, a modest vinyl record accumulation compared to some collectors.

"I'm more about quality than quantity," said Cantor, a long-time employee at Record Surplus.

When Cantor decides to head out and



HOT WAX: Record Surplus in West Los Angeles is one of the few local businesses where audiophiles can find classic gems like these.

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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TRUE BELIEVER: Long-time record collector and New Yorker, Ryan Pettigrew, shops for hidden gems at Record Surplus. Located on Pico Boulevard in West Los Angeles, the store has been delivering quality music to the masses for 24 years. Owner Mike Colestock and his son Mike Colestock Jr. have been trying to keep the trend of record collecting alive in the area.

find a new addition to his beloved collection, his options are limited to swap meets, thrift stores and the slim pickings found at the few outlets located in Southern California.

I THINK MOST OF THE TRUE VINYL FANATICS ARE INTERESTED IN THAT TONE ... THAT TONE THAT A CD JUST CAN'T GET, THAT METALLIC AND TIN KIND OF SOUND."

Peter Lindblad
Editor and Chief, Goldmine Magazine.

During the glory days of the 70s and 80s, the business landscape of the Westside consisted of a multitude of options from where an LP could be purchased, from the Warehouse Music store on the Third Street Promenade to the Platterpuss Records on Lincoln Boulevard to the House of Records — once the oldest record store in Los Angeles — on Pico Boulevard, according to music lover and former Santa Monica resident Matthew Tepper, who recently compiled a "threatened" music store list on his personal blog.

"I think a lot of blame is being pointed in a lot of different directions and the end result is the consumer winds up with fewer choices," Tepper said.

That landscape has changed consider-

ably since then. While all three stores have since closed several have managed to weather the volatile music market, including Amoeba Music, which moved to the Sunset Strip in the late 1980s and Record Surplus, which set up shop on Pico Boulevard near Barrington Avenue in the mid-1980s.

In the past year, two Santa Monica record stores have closed — House of Records in the summer and Benway Music, which had just moved to the edge of the Ocean Park neighborhood last year, closed in November.

In an interview in October 2006, House of Records owner Phillip Smith said that music downloading had landed a big hit on business, especially the CD portion of his sales. But interestingly enough, LP sales had increased.

"An LP is like the first edition of a book," Smith said at the time. "It's always going to be the original way the item came out."

Smith was not available for comment for this story.

One of the biggest predators of the vinyl records is downloadable music, adding not only affordability, but convenience to the music browsing experience. David Bloom of the USC Marshall School of Business notes that vinyl records have two main audiences — the nostalgic folks that collect old copies and the DJs, that like mixing samples of the classics and R&B tunes. Even the latter subset is shifting toward digital format as new tools evolve making it easier for the DJs to do most of their mixing electronically, Bloom added.

Peter Lindblad, the editor and chief of Goldmine Magazine, which covers the vinyl records scene, agrees that the online

SEE WAX PAGE 16

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Vinyl is becoming scarce

FROM WAX PAGE 15

music industry has had an effect on vinyl records sales, but added that the medium has faced its share of challenges for decades because of its lack of mobility, people opting for the cassette tape-powered Sony Walkman to portable CD players and most recently, MP3 players.

But while many music experts are quick to point fingers at online music and CDs, the real culprit behind the downfall of vinyl record stores are rising rents, according to Marc Weinstein, the co-owner of Amoeba Music.

"Historically, record stores in general have taken a severe beating more than anything else because of real estate prices," said Weinstein, whose business also has locations in San Francisco and Berkeley. "Record stores are some of the founding members of communities around the country that turned into yuppie type of palaces and real estate wouldn't be able to afford the rent."

Record store owners are also a dying breed, especially those who have been on the block since the 1970s, nearing retirement age and cashing in their chips. Many of these store owners started their businesses with their own small collections, Weinstein added.

For Amoeba, part of their recipe to success has been to cater to different audiences, offering not only vinyl records but



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

LAST OF A DYING BREED: Record Surplus in West L.A. is one of the few locations where vinyl aficionados can get their wax fix on the Westside. Some store owners blame rising rents for the lack of quality outlets to purchase classic LPs in the area. Several popular stores have closed recently.

also CDs and DVDs.

But vinyl record stores aren't the only ones taking a hit, according to Mike Colestock, the owner of Record Surplus, who believes that all music stores are suffering, naming Tower Records, which closed all of its United States stores last year, as an example.

"It's sad," said Colestock, whose store has a collection of more than 350,000 vinyl records, 300,000 of which are stored in a warehouse. "There's nobody here."

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE ...

Things seem to be looking up for vinyl records as a renaissance is blooming,

thanks in part to the hard-core music fans, the so-called audiophiles that swear by the pure sound of a vinyl record.

"I think most of the true vinyl fanatics are interested in that tone," Lindblad said. "That tone that a CD just can't get, that metallic and tin kind of sound."

Jeremy Allison, a West L.A. resident who works at Second Spin in Santa Monica, believes vinyl records are true to the artist's intended sound, more authentic than what can be heard on a CD.

"It's a much fuller sound," said Allison, who owns several hundred vinyl records.

The LPs are also appreciated among their fan base because of the art work on the sleeve and the liner notes on the back.

Vinyl records are also experiencing a resurgence thanks to the younger generation, finding romanticism in listening to an old vinyl record. The movie industry seems to have taken note of the vinyl record trend — a scene from the hit film "Knocked Up" was shot in Record Surplus.

"Young people are fascinated with vinyl because it represents something in their own history or cultural history they're looking for, maybe something to do with their parent's generation," Weinstein said. "For me, there are few things more wonderful than to watch high school-aged kids come into the store and watch them hold a Doors or (Led) Zepplin record and say 'holy shit.'"

melodyh@smdp.com



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NEW RELEASES

BY CYNTHIA CITRON

Spaisman takes on New York

All those who know who Zypora Spaisman was, raise your hands. Hmmm, not many hands, I see.

Well, Spaisman was an actress/entrepreneur who devoted the last half of the 20th century to trying to keep Yiddish Theater alive in New York City. And now a beautiful documentary by Israeli director Dan Kotzir records that struggle; it's called "Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story."

As it happened, the waves of Jewish immigrants who arrived in America from Eastern Europe during the last years of the 19th century and the first couple of decades of the 20th brought with them a well-developed culture and a language that had been viable for more than a thousand years: Yiddish. Many didn't venture too far from Ellis Island, settling into a new shtetl that evolved on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Speaking Yiddish, the language that united them, these newcomers established neighborhood theaters to perform plays based on folk tales they had brought with them from "the old country," as well as translations and adaptations of the classic plays of major European playwrights. At its height, Yiddish theater in New York was presented in 12 ven-



Photo courtesy New Love Films/Dan Katzir

THE REAL DEAL: Yiddish legends Zypora Spaisman (left) and Felix Fibich are featured in 'Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story.'

ues strung out along 2nd Avenue. (And with more than 200 theaters and traveling groups around the country).

But as the Holocaust destroyed the Jews who had remained behind in Europe, their language also began to fade. It was perceived, as someone in the film points out, as "the language of the dead." So as an

extraordinary new generation of artists, the sons and daughters of the early immigrants, grew up in America to become actors, writers, musicians, comedians, and ultimately, filmmakers, they worked in English.

Yiddish speakers became even more scarce as

SEE DOC PAGE 24

Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents



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NEW RELEASES
REVIEW BY KEN TARR

‘Youth Without Youth’

If there were annual awards for the best credit sequence in film each year (there very well may be), then Francis Ford Coppola’s first film in 10 years would win. Employing a throw-back graphic design and large name-filled title cards, the film purports itself to be a romantic drama that will be filled with panache. After the rose-filled intro, the film really falls apart. Building intrigue now and then, the plot murkily explores an old man who studies language who is struck by lightning and starts to age in reverse.

Yeah, really. The romance that emerges is “The Fountain”-like and at times laughable, as Tim Roth’s Dominic character can speak her secret languages that she has learned after she was ... of course ... struck by lightning. The film takes place in the 1940s, making it hard to impugn with today’s standards in science and really I don’t think the film was supposed to be taken seriously in that way. As a whole, the film should not be taken serious in any way, shape or form.

Roth turns in a nice performance fighting through Mandarin and an odd, eternal, convoluted romance with the elusive Veronica. Alexandra Maria Lara also is serviceable, starring in her first major English-language film.

It is Coppola and the badly-constructed script that cause this film undue ham. The presumably interesting novella on which it is based about the mysteries of the universe, reverse-aging and the origins of language should have made this a stand-out of its genre.

KEN TARR is a student at Santa Monica College, an actor and writer and is also taller than 99 percent of the population. He can be reached telepathically or at troutlouse@yahoo.com.

‘The Kite Runner’

Picture millions of moviegoers eventually seeing a movie due to good word of mouth. Or picture film critics, awards ceremonies and the Academy setting aside that there are no stars whatsoever in this film. To someone who has not read the book, the title and film may be hard to understand. And given the film is mostly spoken in Dari and features all foreign actors, many of them rookies, many have speculated that the film will fall short, that it too will become one of a long list of award-winning, “multi-platinum” novels that fails at the big-screen level. In “The Kite Runner” director Mark Forster (“Finding Neverland” and “Monster’s Ball”) brings the book to screen with no additions and few omissions, a formula that is a complete success for this film. It is not destined to become a failure if more people see this great, thoroughly involving film. It is simply the best film of the year.

Taking place in Afghanistan, Pakistan and San Francisco, the film is a relatively epic film. I say relatively only in that the story spans close to 30 years and is a portrait of the history of modern Afghanistan. It doesn’t really have a beautiful female lead and all the conventional facets of an epic, but the emotion of the story is very real, and it becomes more and more potent as time progresses in the story. Amir and Hassan are friends although Hassan is also his servant. Newcomers and complete non-actors, Hhalid Abdalla and Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada play these characters as boys growing up in Kabul, Afghanistan in the 1970s. Class issues already plague their friendship, but on the day of a famous annual kite race, their lives are divided. The incoming war with the then Soviet

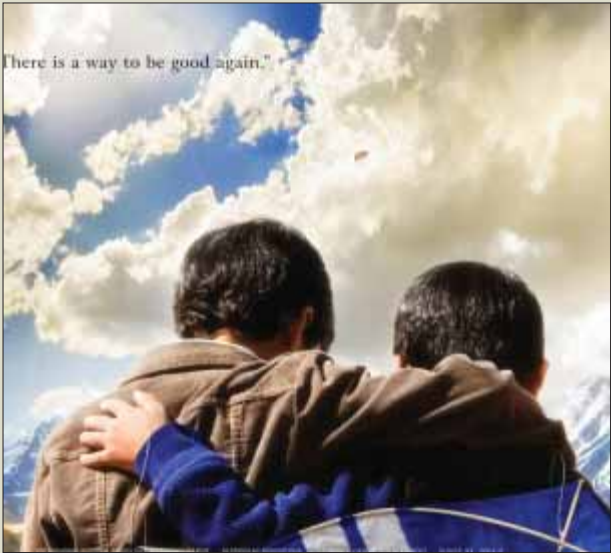


Photo courtesy DreamWorks Pictures
TOUCHING STORY: ‘The Kite Runner’ tells a poignant tale.

Union would doom their hopes even further. Amir and his father eventually move to America and when next we see Amir, he is grown and presented with a major chance to redeem himself and his friend. The story is incredibly detailed and rich. The novel’s author Khalid Hosseini was born in Kabul and has used so many details from his life to support this film’s reality. Bravo to Forster for enriching what was there and letting it linger on the screen. Across the board the film is excellent, from acting, to set design to cinematography. It was an impressive and ballsy idea to make a \$40 million dollar film with sub-titles. It works very well and should not be ignored. After “Beloved”, “Bridges of Madison County”, “The Horse Whisperer” and “Before and After”, this film actually works in symbiosis with the book and redeems the entire idea of the genre.



Thank you to our community, congregation, MPNS families, community merchants and service providers who made the success of our fundraiser possible. We wish you, and the entire community a very happy holiday season and a new year filled with every blessing, happiness and joy.

We raised over \$6,700!

Thanks to you, the Malibu Presbyterian Church and Preschool December 1st fundraiser to rebuild was a success! Conceived, planned and hosted by: Kathryn Palmer and Nanette McNulty

The Acorn Group of Newspapers	Fox Television’s Bones	Malibu Surfside News	Ray’s Lawn & Garden Service
Lance Anderson, LA Studio	Dr. Hee Shik Lee-Ganocy, DDS	Peter McNulty	Cindy Ludwig
Salina Andrews	Jeremiah Gerbracht & Sir Davidson	Star Toys Brentwood	Karen Redondo
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center:	The Grill Restaurant	Ben Tomlin	Carolyn Sheets
special thanks to Jenna Herbick	Dr. David Halpert	Malibu Times	Santa Monica Daily Press
Monica Bjork	Jenna Herbick	Marmalade Café	Rico Marco’s Shoetique
David Brooks Landscape Design	Hollywood Divers	Kris Martin	Michael & Nikki Vaughan
Remy Carol	Hollywood Presbyterian	Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)	Dr. Ronald Wormser, DMD
Susan and Jamie Carr	HP Photography	Vanae Nicolaysen	Tom Zimmerman Photography
Costco	Senior Pastor, Greg Hughes	Once Upon a Family	Top Gem Fine Jewelry
Letha Davis	Las Virgines Enterprise	Glynn Palmer	Trader Joes
DC Nails	Cindy Ludwig, Director MPNS	Pilates by the Sea	U-Haul
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Fo Fo Figgly’s	Malibu Divers	Positive Existence Printing	Tim Pierce
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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

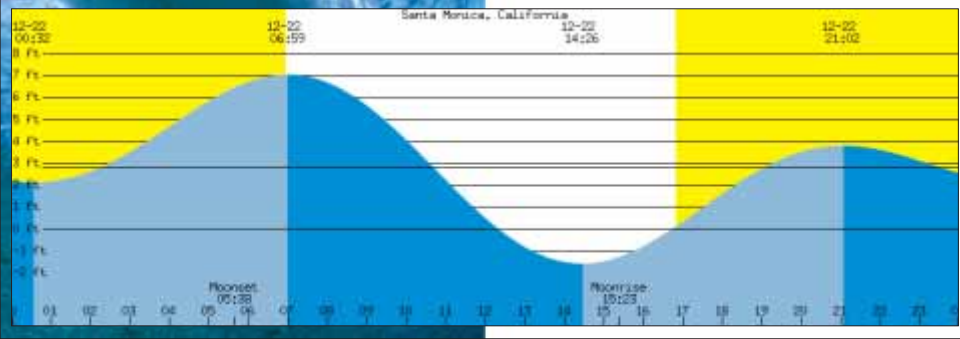
SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Saturday should see cleaner conditions as weather clears and the southern hemi SW sticks around for chest high waves at south facing breaks. NW wind swell should diminish but still bring some waist to at times chest high peaks to west facing spots. Sunday should back off as NW wind swell drops to nil. Most all spots are looking at weak, knee to waist high surf.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW SWELL BEING TRACKED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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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+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantreux)	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 Baso Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunbiter Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunbiter Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsall St.	A+	C
Mulliken 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			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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Photo courtesy Strata

FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY: Strata hails from the far-off land of NoCal.

Strata rockets to Hollywood

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

It's rare that I venture out from the serenity that is Santa Monica, but when I do – and then, only with good reason – the last place I'm likely to visit is the seedy, filth-ridden den of hives otherwise known as, Hollywood. Tonight's good reason is Strata an alternative, power-folk band from Northern California (on tour with "Team Sleep") fronted by Eric Victorino promoting their second CD, "Strata Presents the End of the World" on Wind-Up Records.

Over pre-show drinks at the Blue Palm, Victorino tells me his last name is Cosby and his band's name is The Huxtables. He's attempting to make a joke; and if I hadn't sat in my car on Sunset Boulevard for almost two hours fighting heinous traffic, I might find him funny. Right now he's simply sarcastic. With his black and white striped long sleeved shirt, fleur-de-lis neck tattoo and shock of bleached blonde hair he looks more pirate than singer, and his angular features and deep-set eyes suggest he could be the offspring of Viggo Mortensen and Giovanni Ribisi, so I let the sarcasm slide. For a lead singer, he's surprisingly unassuming. We discuss the melancholy subject matter of the band's lyrics (think Radiohead) but Victorino's quick to point out they're not all doom and gloom. They also write about love, of which Victorino says, in his blog, "There's nothing wrong with an honest love song – why is it only blonde, pop-tart sluts are singing about love?"

Strata opted for a feminine sounding name because, says Victorino, "We have a heavy edge but we're not an aggressive band that wants to kick your ass."

Influenced by Death Cab for Cutie, Bob Dylan and U2, when writing songs, the band adheres to a policy, says Victorino, "I write the screenplay. They write the soundtrack." Aside from the occasional derisive remark, Victorino's actually shyly hesitant to discuss his artistic success particularly his published book of poetry, "Coma Therapy".

Band members ("Strata" also includes: Ryan Hernandez – Guitar, Hrag Chanchanian – Bass, and Adrian Robison – Drums) have been friends since high school and have toured the country several times. Of all the states, Victorino favors New York, the city in particular, saying, "I feel like a cell in an organism." I'm all for anyone championing my hometown, even though I don't subscribe to the same "Borg-like" sensation.

When the show starts, I'm summarily blown away. This soft-spoken artiste morphs into a powerhouse performer emitting a wide range of vocal dexterity, and has no problem keeping the audience rapt. Drummer Robison artfully maintains the show's momentum without ever overpowering the group. Writting and contorting, it's Victorino who owns this small stage while belting out the band's lyrically poetic "Hot/Cold (Darling, Don't)", a catchy ballad that begs for another listen; and "Stay Young" which has a pop flavor and is also the track for their video release (available on iTunes). Victorino humbly thanks the crowd for coming out before kicking off the next song in their set all too short set. You can check out Strata at www.stratadirect.com.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com.

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

‘Going Together’

By Arnold Grossman • Fulcrum Publishing

A desire to commit suicide brought them together. A love for each other keeps them together. They may talk about it but will they ever get around to doing it?

“Going Together” is a romantic novel of a different sort. Two dysfunctional people relating to the world makes for a cute premise. Author Arnold Grossman has well developed characters that really resonate.

This is the common love plot with a twist. Boy meets girl. Boy loses girl. Boy regains girl. This story could be looked on as black humor.

The main characters are Paul Malouf, an advice columnist for The Los Angeles Times. He can’t get his life together after a divorce. His wife, Sam, left him for a tennis pro at the club.

“But he’s sixteen years old.”

“Oh, please. You’re just jealous. He’s twenty.”

“And you’re thirty seven. When you were graduating high school, he was sucking on his mother’s breasts – not yours”

Let’s just say Paul’s life is a mess.

The other main character is Helen Fair. She is the owner of Helen of Troy Hair Salon in Beverly Hills. She has lost her husband at an early age from cancer. “My husband was too young to die. At thirty four” She is leery of commitment as a result.

There are the secondary characters of Milton, Paul’s boss, and Harvey Stone, the

co-worker with Helen, who is putting on the act of being gay in order to attract the clientele to Helen of Troy. When Helen asks why he pretends, the reply is, “Get serious. I’d lose most of my customers. What self-respecting client of ours would entrust her precious hair to the hands of a straight man?” He also acts as the gatekeeper to Helens’ love life.

As the novel opens both Paul and Helen are standing close to the edge of the platform well beyond the yellow caution line in the Metro Center subway station. They are on opposite sides of the platform. After the train goes by, Paul says to Helen, “If you’re a jumper, you need to work on your commitment.”

Later that evening Helen attempts to jump off Santa Monica Pier but doesn’t because “Do you have any idea how filthy that water is?” she says to Paul. At one point Helen reveals to Paul when she is asked about her family, “I’ve become a frequent buyer at Forest Lawn. I might be close to a free trip.”

They start dating, or at least something that resembles a date. It takes a while but Paul is able to get a date with Helen to tour the city in a helicopter piloted by a near blind guy.

And that is just the beginning. Complications are put in their way, both

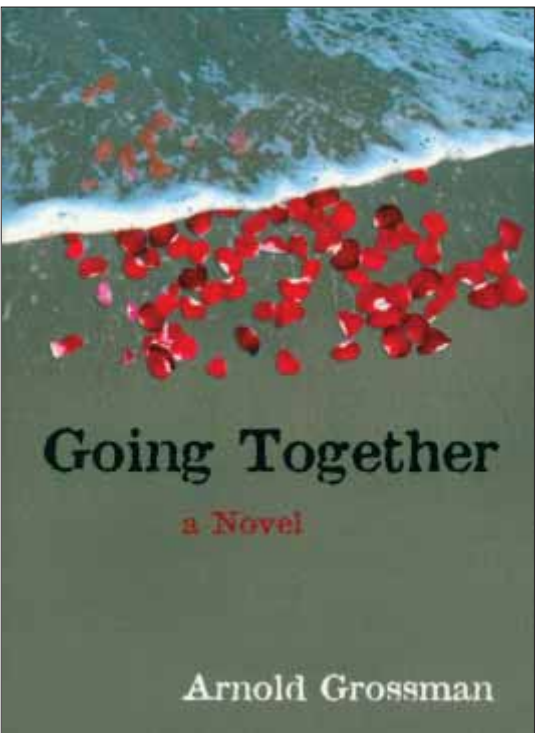


Photo courtesy Fulcrum Publishing

major and minor. The major one is Paul’s returning ex -wife.

This story is told from the third person, multiple view point. It may not have worked as well if it were told from the first person.

The author, Grossman, has spent some time in Los Angeles and has worked for network television. He presently lives in Colorado. He has also written humor pieces for the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News as well as articles for Redbook and Good Housekeeping. This is his first attempt at fiction.

I recommend this for anyone who likes a fun read.

Christmas will soon be here. **DANE ROBERT SWANSON** would like to wish the best to you and yours this season. Contact him at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

MOVIEGUIDE

- AERO THEATRE**
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528
- Die Hard (R)**
7:30
Scrooge (1970) (G)
3:00
- AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4**
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506
- Atonement (R)**
10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
10:55, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
10:45, 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45
Revolver (R)
11:10, 1:50, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
- AMC 7 SANTA MONICA**
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262
- Charlie Wilson's War (R)**
10:00, 12:25, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00
Enchanted (PG)
11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55
The Golden Compass (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Kite Runner (PG-13)
10:25, 1:35, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
10:45, 12:20, 1:45, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
11:20, 2:15, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55
- 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
Starting Out in the Evening (PG-13)
1:00, 6:00
- 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
I Am Legend (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40, 12:10am
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00am
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30

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

Fit in some downtime, Leo

Happy Birthday!

Much happens quickly this year. Often, others are volatile. You don't want to sever a tie because the two of you were in a bad mood. You begin a new luck cycle this year. If you are single, you don't need to continue to be alone, date some of your many options! If you are attached, understand what ails your sweetie. He or she could very well be at the end of his or her rope. **CANCER** is hotheaded (with you!).



Born Today
TV anchor Diane Sawyer (1945)
Bee Gees Maurice and Robin Gibb (1949)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ You cannot get through this holiday without someone making a demand. You might want to say no. If you feel strongly, do so. Otherwise, your anger could build. Tonight: Even if it's not pleasant, you'll get insight.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★ Make sure you feel comfortable financially; otherwise, you are unlikely to enjoy yourself. Establish limits. A friend could surprise you yet let you down. Tonight: Treat yourself to some holiday festivities.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ If you aren't careful, a collision could occur with a special partner. You might want to say enough. It could be important to do just that, for your sanity. Don't feel pressured by another's expectations. Tonight: Avoid a misunderstanding.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★ You feel that it doesn't make a difference what you do. However, if you're expressing irritation or letting someone know you have had enough, you will see that you do count! Tonight: Claim your power.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ You have good intentions and want to deliver mirth everywhere. A friend or a change of plans might find you grumbling. Anger could surge from out of nowhere. Be careful; you could say something damaging Tonight: Fit in some downtime, please.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ Others might dump a lot on you, adding additional pressure, which you don't need. You could snap or do something you might regret. Look at the long term and what works. A friend also could be just as touchy. Tonight: Opt for diplomacy.

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Possibilities open up, but they could cause more of a problem than they are worth. Know when to pull back and say no. Yes, you need to flex, but also establish your boundaries. Tonight: Don't get into it with a touchy person.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Work with others and try not to put somebody off or say no if you don't have to. The end results will be better if you flow rather than become rigid. Let others know where you are coming from. Tonight: Where there is holiday music.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Try to flow, even when you feel someone might be trying to get your ire up. Your backing down might not be taken as weakness. Change plans if you will be happier. Tonight: Can you listen without commenting?
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ Greet your birthday period with a smile, knowing that you are about to have a banner year. You might not feel that way about what is happening, but you cannot change others. Avoid an upset if possible. Tonight: Juggling different concerns.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Your playful nature might not be appreciated by others who are nothing less than tense. You choose how to deal with these different situations. You are far more in control of yourself than those around you. Tonight: Try to help someone feel better.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ How you deal with someone might come from frustration rather than thought. If you decide to go this route, you could encounter trouble. Lie back and be an observer, eyeing and not losing your priorities. Tonight: Be as caring as possible.

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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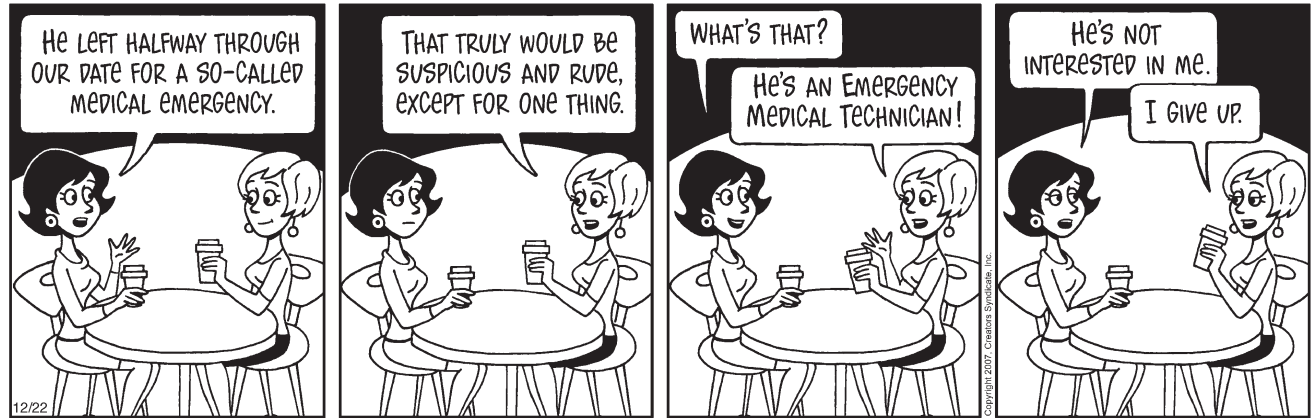
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



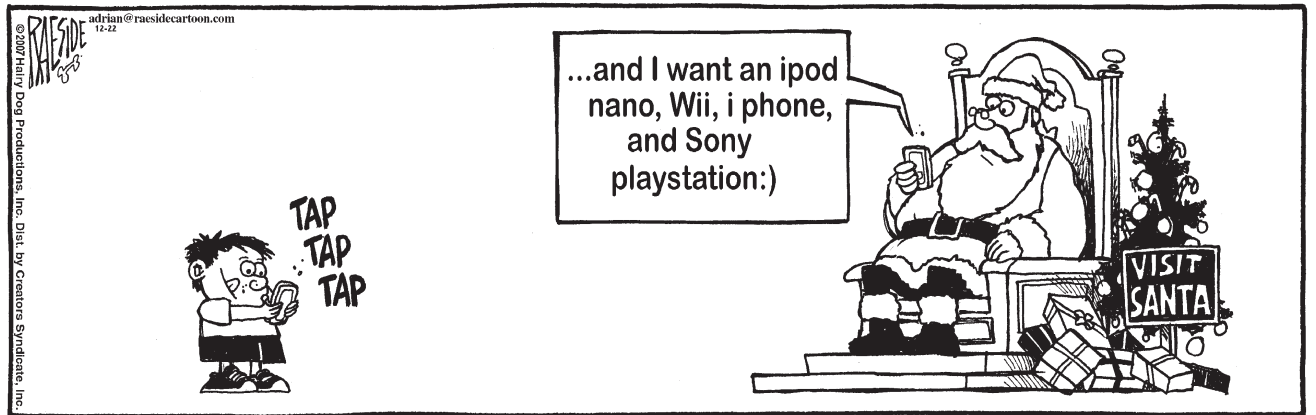
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



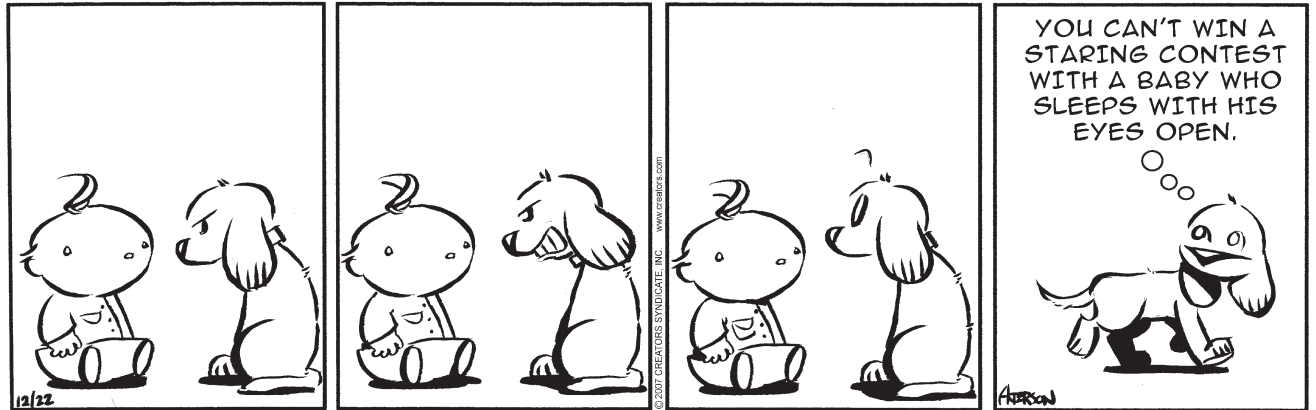
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

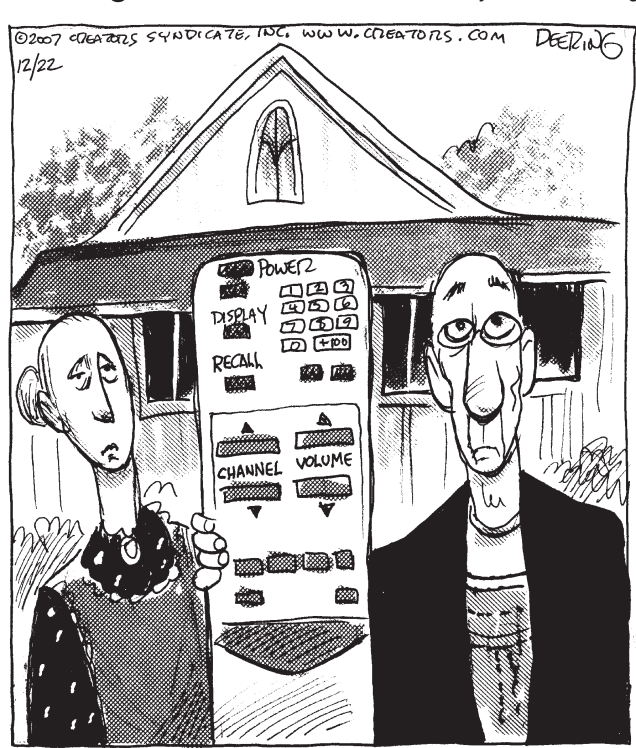
By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com

Bill Dawson is the winner of the most recent Mystery Winner contest, being the first to identify that this shot was captured at the Post Office building at Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Monday's edition.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Views the limit
 - 7 Narrow
 - 11 Candles
 - 12 Cuban coin
 - 13 Grove product
 - 14 Real hoot
 - 15 Slow, in music
 - 16 Sermon volume
 - 17 Caesar's question
 - 18 Wave or wink
 - 19 Land in the sea
 - 21 "— your loss!"
 - 22 Prepare for colder days
 - 25 Victory
 - 26 Take it easy
 - 27 Turkish peak
 - 29 "Up and —!"
 - 33 Disgusted
 - 34 Bow of film
 - 35 List-end-ing abbr.
 - 36 Christie sleuth
 - 37 Tear down
 - 38 Make unread-able

- 39 Ignored
- 40 Like some boxes

- DOWN**
- 1 Fancy wrap
 - 2 Jeweler's unit
 - 3 Separate
 - 4 Bird with flippers
 - 5 Therefore
 - 6 Compass pt.
 - 7 Parsley unit
 - 8 Calculus pioneer
 - 9 Quarantine
 - 10 Tourist stops
 - 16 Coffin stands
 - 18 Driving hazard
 - 20 Bra part
 - 22 Bug
 - 23 Stunned
 - 24 Stressed type
 - 25 Thin cookies
 - 28 Held power
 - 30 Mystic deck
 - 31 Wear down
 - 32 Beat at the board
 - 34 Volcano shape
 - 36 Stationery buy

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

Yesterday's answer

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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					

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Fantasy 5 18 22 23 30 36

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 3 5 5
EVENING: 1 4 1

DAILY DERRY 1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:46:35

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Catholic archbishop over-seeing a convent near Bari, Italy, closed it down in August after the mother superior was attacked and beaten by her two nuns, who were angry at her authoritarian ways. (2) Ex-parishioner Angel Llavano, who had left a phone message for Father Luis Alfredo Rios criticizing one of his homilies, filed a defamation of character lawsuit in September after Father Rios retaliated by denouncing him in front of the Crystal Lake, Ill., congregation. Asked Rios (perhaps rhetorically), "Should we send (Llavano) to hell or to another parish?"

■ Pentagon investigators discovered in August that a small South Carolina company fraudulently collected \$20.5 million in shipping costs, including one invoice of \$999,798 for sending two washers (cost: 19 cents each) to a base in Texas. According to Bloomberg News, the Defense Department was said to have a policy of automatically and unquestioningly paying shipping bills labeled "priority."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1937 The Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic in New York City.

1940 World War II: Himarë is captured by the Greek army.

1942 World War II: Adolf Hitler signs the order to develop the V-2 rocket as a weapon.

1944 World War II: Battle of the Bulge--German troops demand the surrender of United States troops at Bastogne, Belgium; prompting the famous one word reply by General Anthony McAuliffe: "Nuts!"

1944 World War II: Vietnam People's Army is formed to resist Japanese occupation of Indo-China, now Vietnam.

1956 Colo is born, the first gorilla to be bred in captivity.

1963 Cruise ship Lakonia burns 180 miles north of Madeira with the loss of 128 lives.

1964 Comedian Lenny Bruce is convicted of obscenity.

1965 In the United Kingdom, a 70mph speed limit is applied to all rural roads including motorways for the first time. Previously, there had been no speed limit.

1984 Subway vigilante Bernhard Hugo Goetz shoots four African-American men on an express train in The Bronx borough of New York City.

WORD UP!

finical \FIN-ih-kuhl/, *adjective*: Extremely or unduly particular in standards or taste; fastidious; finicky.

Yiddish revitalized on the big screen

FROM DOC PAGE 18

Hebrew became the official language of the Jews of Israel. Further, as the Jews of the Lower East Side became more prosperous and moved out of the area, other ethnicities moved in. What used to be almost entirely Jewish is now a part of Chinatown.

In 1954, however, a 38-year old human dynamo named Spaisman appeared on the scene. She had been a midwife back in Poland, but when she arrived in America she decided to become an actress. She was a natural at it and soon became a fixture of the Folksbiene, the Yiddish Theatre group that was founded in the early years of the last century. (This group is the last one still viable, and it operates as the National Yiddish Theater-Folksbiene.)

Spaisman made it her mission to keep Yiddish Theater alive, and "Yiddish Theater: A Love Story" documents her struggle. The film follows her in real time through the eight days of Hanukkah, as each Hanukkah candle illuminates the way to the end: The closing of her theater, the Mazar. This 199-seat house, which presented plays in Yiddish with English translations on a banner screen above the stage (as is common in opera performances today), had dwindled to performing for as few as eight people. Eight OLD people,



Photo courtesy New Love Films

FRESH FACE: Israeli actress Roni Newman is featured in 'Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story.'

since few young people speak or understand Yiddish these days.

The film records her slogging around Manhattan in 2002, during the most severe snowstorm in decades, visiting philanthropists that she hoped would support her theater. In this she was

joined by a handsome, eternally cheerful friend named David Romero. (It is Romero who, after an unsuccessful phone call to a Jewish potential benefactor, reports with a rueful smile that the man had turned him down because "he says he supports the Chinese theater.")

In addition to Romero, there are visits and interviews with stalwarts of the Yiddish stage, many of whom reveal the quintessential sense of humor unique to the Jewish people.

There is also beautiful footage of what can only be described as "Woody Allen's Manhattan" in sunshine and in snow. It is a surprisingly well made, fascinating film. Even more amazing when you learn that it had a budget of only \$100,000.

In the end, however, after all her hopes and prayers, Spaisman, who was still acting at 85, had to close her theater. She died shortly afterwards, at the age of 86.

"Yiddish Theater: A Love Story" has been making the rounds (and winning prizes) at various film festivals, and was premiered in Israel. It is currently playing in New York and has been brought to Los Angeles by Laemmle Theaters. The producers are hoping for backing that will allow them to open the film around the country, and for word of mouth that will persuade the Laemmles that there is an appreciative audience for this wonderful documentary.

"Yiddish Theater: A Love Story" is currently playing at Laemmle's Monica located at 1332 Second St. in Santa Monica. For information, call (310) 394-9741.

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Obituaries

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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APR 7.275%	
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6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.25%
APR 7.49%	
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APR 8.25%	

* 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 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

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the installation and modification of traffic signals on an as-needed basis under Project ID No. RDC0015060, As-Needed Traffic Signal Construction Project, 2007-08, in various unincorporated areas throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The work is estimated to cost between \$2,100,000 and \$2,400,000 and shall be completed over a period of one year. The work requires a California Class A or C-10 contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr. Harry Cong at (626) 458-3111.

A mandatory prebid meeting for this Contract will be held on Monday, January 14, 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Small Dining Room of the Headquarters Building, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, Thomas Guide page 595, H-6. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for award of the contract.

The bids must be submitted on the proposal forms included in the bidder's package of the contract documents, which may be purchased for \$14, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$17, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to the County of Los Angeles in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the bid to guarantee that the bidder will enter into the contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination prepared by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the bid-

Notices

der is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A responsible bidder is a bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the contract, or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated December 18, 2007.

Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN789048 01557 Dec 21,22,24,26,27,28,29,31,
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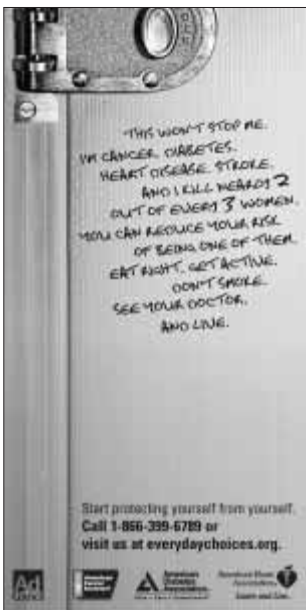
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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late December 2007

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,608,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,196,810	\$ 1,841,609
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,041,952
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,049,800	\$ 676,993
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,371,353	\$ 689,357
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,004,778	\$ 963,513

Statistics updated every Friday

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

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.