

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

6 10 26 30 34
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$40 Million

FANTASY 5

7 20 23 28 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 8 9
Evening: 9 6 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:48.46

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Australia's High Court ruled in October that convicted drug dealer Francesco Dominico La Rosa could indeed write off a casualty loss of A\$224,793 (about US\$168,000) against his taxable income, even though the "loss" occurred when someone allegedly stole that amount that La Rosa had buried in his back yard and wanted to use for a heroin deal. (The Australian Tax Office went nuts at the ruling, and efforts are under way to change the law.) (2) Also in October, the federal appeals court in San Francisco dismissed a lawsuit against the Navy, filed in the name of marine mammals, claiming that naval sonar disrupted their underwater communication; the court said federal environmental laws can be challenged only by people (or legal entities), not whales.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Ten years ago: CIA Director R. James Woolsey resigned, ending a tenure that was shadowed by the Aldrich Ames spy scandal. President Clinton nominated Dan Glickman to be agriculture secretary, succeeding Mike Espy.

One year ago: Libya for the first time allowed U.N. nuclear officials to inspect four sites related to its nuclear weapons program.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clear to the bone."

ANONYMOUS.

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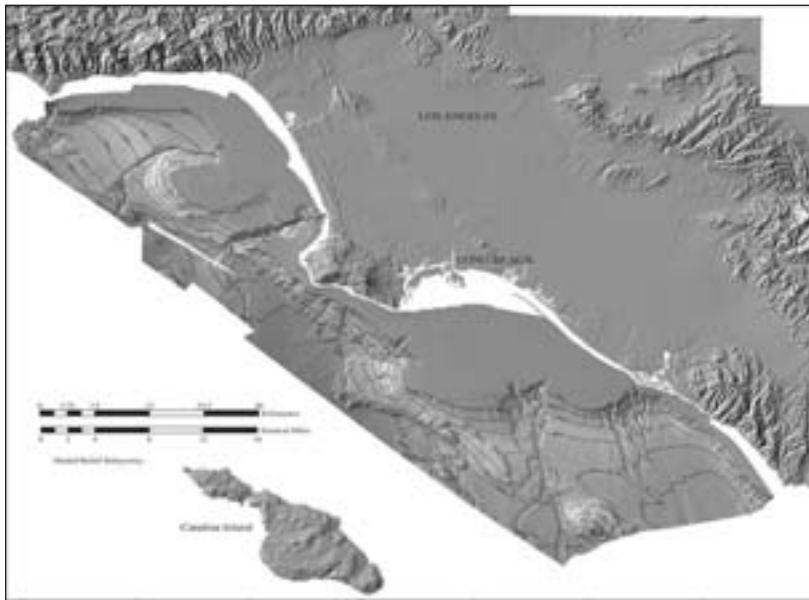


Image courtesy

The sea floor of Santa Monica Bay is marked by two deep intrusions, the Redondo Submarine Canyon to the south and the Santa Monica Canyon to the north. Officials said an earthquake from faults off of Catalina Island (not pictured) or a landslide on the Palos Verdes oceanic shelf could trigger a tsunami in the Santa Monica Bay with waves of up to 13 feet.

Splish splash



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The recent storm caused a large puddle to form on Interstate 10, forcing CalTrans to shut down one lane of traffic just east of the Pacific Coast Highway tunnel Tuesday morning.

Tsunami threat a reality in SM Bay

Indian Ocean tragedy has officials looking at their plans should one strike here

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — Within 10 minutes of an earthquake in Santa Monica Bay, waves of up to 13 feet could pound on local beaches, emergency officials said Tuesday.

Low-lying areas of Santa Monica like the beaches and pier, parts of Ocean Park and the mouth of Santa Monica Canyon likely would flood under such a scenario, according to city and county rescue workers, who urged coastal dwellers to move inland quickly after feeling the earth shake.

"The best advice is run, don't

take that car," said Los Angeles County Lifeguard Capt. Angus Alexander, who serves on a special tsunami task force comprised of area officials. "We've found out that motor homes are just floating battering rams with propane tanks attached to them."

SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 9

If the earthquake's center is distant and emergency workers have ample warning that a large wave is headed towards shore, a plan is in place to facilitate evacuation of the most dangerous areas. Officials would use road blocks, megaphones, helicopters, emergency vehicles and any other tool available to direct people to safety, said Paul Weinberg, the emergency services coordinator at Santa Monica's City Hall.

See TSUNAMI, page 6

Children's Motrin caused blindness, lawsuit alleges

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A 7-year-old Topanga girl filed a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson Tuesday, alleging that the drug manufacturer should have warned her that ingesting Children's Motrin could cause her to go blind.

Sabrina Brierton Johnson, who is being represented by the Santa Monica law firm Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP., claims that an allergic reaction to Children's Motrin caused her to contract Stevens-Johnson Syndrome in 2003.

The product liability lawsuit, which was filed in the Compton division of Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that the drug maker's failure to warn the public about possible health risks makes Children's Motrin unsafe and dangerous to consumers. Johnson's complaint for damages alleges strict product liability, negligence, breach of express and implied warranties, and deceit by concealment.

On Sept. 8, 2003, Johnson, then 6, came home from school com-



SABRINA BRIERTON JOHNSON

plaining of a fever, according to court documents. Her parents twice that day gave her Children's Motrin, according to the instructions. The next morning, Johnson still didn't feel well and was taken to see her doctor, according to the lawsuit.

After being examined by her pediatrician, she was hospitalized and isolated in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles

See SUIT, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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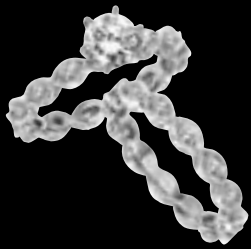


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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Don't allow a mix-up to ruin your day. Free-associate with others. Brainstorm. Plug your ingenuity and insight into whatever you do. Detach and take an overview. A trip could be refreshing. Fit it into your schedule. Tonight: Get into the holiday mood. Discuss New Year's resolutions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Even if you need to slow down and stop because of pressure, make it OK. You could feel like a rubber band stretched to the max. Everyone needs something from you. Take your time with a key person in your life. Tonight: Relax at home with a special person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Listen to others and put your two cents in. Verify appointments, facts and messages, as a mix-up could happen. Schedule social time for the evening rather than chat on the phone during the day. A romance heats up. Tonight: Flirt, love and relish the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Your finances could be a major concern. You'll find a way to make more or cut your budget. A boss lets you know how pleased he or she is. Relax with associates. Consider taking extra work home, if you can. Tonight: Play it low key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Avoid a mix-up by making sure everyone is on the same page. Communications star later in the day. Touch base with a special friend or loved one. Tonight: Make hay while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Willingly take a back seat and watch what goes on. A misunderstanding around work could upset you. Don't make something a bigger problem than it is. Your instincts are right-on with money and family. Trust your gut instincts. Tonight: Do only what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Keep your eye on the big picture. Don't get caught up in details, for your sake. Your creativity emerges when you encounter a flub-up. Express yourself, but don't feel like you have to accept extra responsibility. Discussions energize you. Tonight: Drinks and munchies out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ You might feel as if you are in a pressure cooker, where others have expectations that you don't even know about, especially regarding family and friends. Your sixth sense works overtime about your career or a parent. Tonight: Withdraw into your cocoon early. Get some extra sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Others want to hear your perspective. Some might be stunned by your intuition. If a meeting becomes a problem, let it be. Let your mind do all the work, but make an important long-distance call. Tonight: Let your imagination loose.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Work with a key person in your life. Your professional image soars. Follow through on a decision that you make with a key associate. A financial or emotional partnership starts in your plans and security. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might be vague, and another might not act as you think he or she should. A conversation becomes inevitable. Another expresses his or her feelings in a clear, direct manner. Walk in another's shoes. Understand and empathize. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Work could become dreary and tedious. You retreat into your imagination, causing a flub-up. Willingly take responsibility. Others appreciate your openness. A partner shares a money idea. Careful — it could be more costly than either of you realize. Tonight: Clear your desk.

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LOCAL



Photo courtesy
Young students of the Crossroads Chamber Orchestra play violins and violas in the salute to the community concert in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium earlier this month.

Santa Monica Symphony strikes a community chord

BY D'LYNN WALDRON
Special to the Daily Press

Nearly 2,000 people came out earlier this month to celebrate the Santa Monica Symphony's 60th anniversary and the group's salute to the community.

On Dec. 12, the Santa Monica Symphony's held its "Salute to the Community" concert in the Civic Auditorium. The symphony, under the baton of music director and conductor Allen Robert Gross, was joined by acclaimed Santa Monica baritone Jubilant Sykes, and by students of the Santa Monica Crossroads Chamber Orchestra.

The program opened with Gross introducing the audience to a new symphonic composition "Momentum" by Chen Yi. Gross gave a description of how the piece depicts the thunderous power of lava, the sweeping strokes of Chinese calligraphy, and incorporates traditional Chinese melodies. The orchestra provided a sample of each to the applause of the audience.

The orchestra then played "Momentum," which gives all the percussion, especially timpanist Alan Peck, a unique opportunity to unleash all the power of their instruments.

Next on the program, the Crossroads Chamber Orchestra was conducted by its director, Alexander Treger in Tchaikovsky's richly melodic "Souvenir of Florence," a composition for strings.

The 18 students in the Crossroads Chamber Orchestra, who range from 12 to 17 years old, received a standing ovation.

At the intermission, children in the

audience were overheard telling their parents and grandparents that they also wanted to play an instrument, and each had already decided, from seeing the orchestra, just which instrument that was.

After the intermission, international concert and recording artist Sykes, a native of Santa Monica who lives here with his wife and three young sons, performed American folk songs and spirituals in his baritone voice that is famed for its richness, range and emotional expression.

Sykes' first song was the deeply felt "City Called Heaven" in an arrangement for harp and orchestra. Sykes brought to the song an emotional quality few singers are capable of.

In a complete change of mood, Sykes next delighted the audience with Aaron Copland's arrangement of the folk song "I Bought Me a Cat," in which the singer emulates, with the orchestra, the sounds of all the animals he acquires, and finally the wife to go with them.

The audience didn't stop applauding until Sykes gave them an encore, which was "Witness," the narrative of a spiritual journey set to a beautiful melody.

For the last piece on the program, members of the Crossroads Chamber Orchestra sat beside their counterparts in the Santa Monica Symphony to play Dvorak's Eighth Symphony, under the baton of Gross.

The 60-year tradition of free concerts is made possible by the city of Santa Monica and the generosity of the symphony's donors and sponsors.

There will be two more free concerts in

See SM SYMPHONY, page 7



SURF REPORT

A new round of SW storm swell and some secondary WNW swell will peak Wednesday with lots of head high plus surf and easily overhead stuff at well exposed spots.

Expect four to six foot waves, shoulder high to one foot overhead, occasionally nine feet, and poor conditions.

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:26	2.4	3:10	-0.7	7:44	6.1	9:49	3.6
SUNDAY	1:57	2.5	3:43	-0.7	7:44	6.1	9:49	3.6
MONDAY	2:29	2.6	4:16	-0.6	8:46	6.0	11:00	3.5
TUESDAY	3:01	2.6	4:50	-0.5	9:18	5.9	11:38	3.5
WEDNESDAY	3:36	2.7	5:24	-0.3	9:51	5.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:17	2.8	5:58	0.0	12:18	3.6	(10:25	5.3)
FRIDAY	5:08	2.9	6:34	0.3	1:00	3.6	(11:03	4.9)

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The Q Line

With Christmas behind us, it's time to gear up for a new year. Many of us have New Year's resolutions, but how many of them do we really stick to? That goes double for city politicians who have prioritized what they think are the most important issues facing Santa Monica in 2005.

This week, Q-Line wants to know,

"What should your elected leaders' New Year's resolutions be for 2005?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday before 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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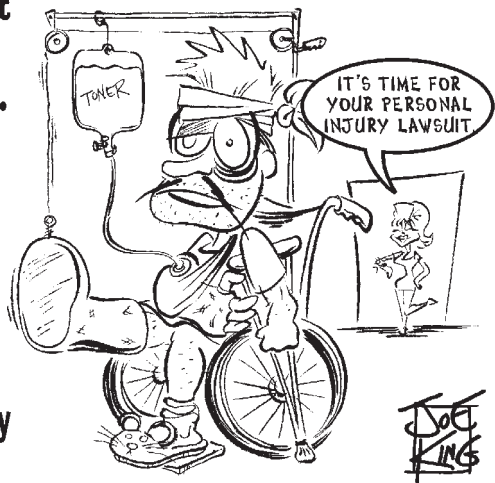
OPINION

"BAD VIBES"

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Q This man has just sustained his injuries from:

- a) The UPN Vibe Awards at Barker Hanger.
- b) A Detroit Pistons game.
- c) Just walking home from SMC through the Pico-Sunset Park neighborhoods.



A Does it really make any difference?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Furniture stripper stripped of freedom

Editor:

My name is Mike Miller. I am the owner of Stripper Herk Furniture and Cabinet Stripping in Santa Monica. I would like to thank John Wood and the SMDP for a fair article (SMDP, Nov. 24, page 1) and shedding some light on a mind boggling situation. I would like to give a little more insight and clarification, most importantly being that the headline is wrong. I was not sentenced to prison for the discharge (leak). The Federal government concluded after its investigation that the discharge was unintentional. They charged me with a misdemeanor for a negligent act. This was not a deal or agreement. That was their finding. Since this was a Federal matter and they had a provable case, they were not going to drop the charge and I was not going to fight it. The drain was my responsibility and I made a mistake. Prior to 1992 the rinse water from the shop was allowed into the sewer with the full knowledge and consent of the city of Santa Monica. That year, Gary Welling from the city's environmental division notified me, not the owner, that a discharge would no longer be allowed. I worked with the city's engineering department along with my supplier and within three weeks, installed a complete water recycling system, sealed the drain, was signed off by Gary Welling, and was issued a waste water permit. I have been in complete compliance ever since and all inspection reports prove that.

Stripper Herk is a licensed, permitted generator of waste. The waste from every item we strip is put into 55-gallon drums. The waste is allowed to settle so we can reuse the juice off the top, and only a left over sludge remains. The drum is then sealed, manifested, and hauled off site for proper disposal under the watchful eye of the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). On March 26, 2003, inspectors in my shop asked me about the drums behind my shop. My permit allows me a 90-day accumulation before removal and I knew that. I could have said the drums were only a 10-week accumulation (a lie) and that we were getting the drums ready for removal (the truth), and I would not have been in violation. I told the truth. In 2002 I got behind financially because of the poor economy due to the 9-11 disaster, the stock market crash, the stock market scandals, the recession, the war, a declared war on terror, an election year in California, etc. This was combined with an increase in my insurance, permits, licenses, supplies and so on. It was the worst year I have ever had and arguably the worst year in this country's history. Small businesses like me took the biggest hit. People need to eat, not strip the table their eating on. I had many difficult decisions to make and decided to keep all my workers employed, taxes paid, rent paid, along with paying the licenses, permits, insurance, etc. I was not worried about drums of non-flammable, near solid, sealed, safe, certified drums of sludge. They posed no threat or danger to anyone or anything. Since I admitted knowledge of the 90-day limit, the Feds said that was an intentional act, so they would not reduce the charge from a felony. The Feds spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars so they somehow had to justify the expense to Washington. When John Ashcroft was in power he sent a memo to all Federal prosecutors ordering that anyone charged with violating Federal law regardless of who, what or circumstance, the maximums as stated by the Federal sentencing guidelines are to be imposed. I was sentenced to a year in prison for a "permit violation." According to the guidelines, a person like me with no criminal history of any kind charged with a misdemeanor for an unintentional act of negligence and a technical violation for a permit violation can be sentenced to 12-18 months of Federal incarceration.

The judge could have modified the sentence to probation or home detention if he thought I haven't been punished enough. But being a new, Bush appointee, going outside the guideline would have been going against his new boss's recommendation. He gave me a "break" by giving me 12 months, but was basically saying, "Who am I to judge? I'm new so I'm going to stick to the book." In John Wood's article, I used the expression "mind boggling." I said that because I have found that common sense and rational thinking have nothing to do with our judicial system. I pay

See LETTERS, page 5

GUEST COMMENTARY BY BENNET G. KELLEY

Amending the Constitution 'Arnold style'

One of the distinguishing features of Arnold Schwarzenegger the politician has been his penchant for seeking sweeping reforms. While his supporters have good reason to push for a Constitutional amendment to remove the "natural born citizen" requirement that would bar a Schwarzenegger Presidential campaign, we would be far better served with an "Arnold style" amendment that redefines how we elect the President of the United States.

The starting point is to address an important Constitutional oversight — our right to vote. In Bush versus Gore, the Supreme Court held that "the individual citizen has no federal Constitutional right to vote for electors for the President of the United States." Any amendment must guarantee that all qualified citizens have the right to vote in any public election held in their jurisdiction and that right shall not be denied or abridged in any manner.

The next issue is allowing voters to select the best candidate for the job. The "natural born citizen" restriction may have made sense for a newly established republic fearful of European domination, but it does not make sense today for a global superpower that is a nation of immigrants. The fact is that immigrants have long served this nation with honor and distinction at the highest levels of government. Democrats may be reluctant to grant this opportunity for such a popular Republican, but they should do so both because it is the right thing to do and it will create opportunities for Democrats, as well with candidates such as Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm who was born in Canada.

If we truly want to protect our ability to select the best candidate for the job, however, we should repeal the 22nd Amendment which limits presidents to two terms. I am sure there are many Republicans who would love to permit George W. Bush to serve a third term, just as there are Democrats who long to lure Bill Clinton from retirement. It is a sad fact that in 2008, the two most able politicians of their generations will be prohibited from running. There is little doubt that a Bush-Clinton race would generate such enormous voter interest that Congress might even be tempted to have the debates on pay-per-view to reduce the deficit.

We also need to reform how we select a president. Had John Kerry won 1,346 more votes in each Ohio county he would have become the second president in a row to lose the popular vote. President Bush would then have had the befuddling distinction of being the only president to win when he lost and then lose when he won. This is no way to select the leader of the free world. It is time to abolish the Electoral College and allow the people to elect the president.

In 1969, the House of Representatives voted 338-70 for the direct popular election of the president with a runoff between the top two candidates should no candidate obtain 40 percent. This is a good starting point for debate, although the proposal could be updated to permit an instant runoff by having voters also select their second choice, and would enable future presidential elections to be contested nationwide and not just in a handful of states.

The final issue is how we hold elections. The National Commission on Federal Election Reform was right to recommend that Election Day be a holiday, possibly in combination with Veterans' Day. We also need to ensure voter confidence and fairness in the administration of elections and any amendment should require that Congress set threshold standards for states on voter registration, polling hours, absentee and provisional ballots, recounts, challenge procedures and voting machines.

Another important step would be to depoliticize the election process. We should make Katherine Harris an icon of the past by requiring that elections be administered by state civil servants answerable to a non-partisan commission.

The last two elections have demonstrated that our presidential election system requires reform. A Constitutional amendment merely removing the "natural born citizen" requirement is not the solution, since only an "Arnold-style" approach will allow us to say "hasta la vista" to the current discontent with the election system.

(Bennet Kelley is a Santa Monica resident, an attorney and was the co-founder and former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's Saxophone Club).

Bitch!
Whine!
Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The Q Line™

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

the city of Santa Monica for my wastewater permit. Part of that fee is for monitoring. No inspector from the city had been in my shop for over 14 months prior to "the incident." On March 26, 2003 a "serious" injury was sustained by a worker in the sewer near my shop. According to OSHA rules and regulations, if there is a serious job site injury the first call goes to emergency aid, the second call goes to OSHA. On that day no one from the city of Santa Monica, Los Angeles Hazmat, or the company doing the work called it in. Had OSHA been called they would have found that the company in question knowingly sent people into a hazardous environment (a live section of sewer) with no protective clothing, no breathing apparatus, no air flow system, no emergency plan, no safety plan, no emergency evacuation plan and the worker that was injured was new and put in the lead, most dangerous position. These are all direct violations of OSHA law. City Hall was the contractor on the job so it was also responsible for insuring a safe working condition. Possibly by inspection of all permit holders. Had OSHA been called, the fines would have been huge. My part was unintentional, while their involvement was intentional.

In John's article he says that Mr. Antich from the city said that the next time they hire someone they will check them out first. A little late, don't you think? I was never arrested, or charged with causing any injury. The Federal prosecutor dropped all the injury allegations but still tried to bring it up during sentencing anyway. The judge said he would not hear it and that it did not affect his decision. I wonder. I say again, my discharge was rinse water and the sample readings taken from the worker's clothing and in the sewer itself were too low to cause those injuries. (I've worked with the remover for over 22 years). Other chemicals were found in the sewer capable of causing those injuries that did not come from my shop. The inspectors spent the entire day searching me. Where did the "acetone" come from? Bill Carter, the Federal prosecutor, admitted knowledge of the OSHA violations, but said that had nothing to do with my prosecution. This is a Federal agent admitting knowledge of "intentional" criminal activity and he did nothing about it. I was the "target" so I am the only one in trouble. The finger was pointed at me and everybody ran. I was given the opportunity to address the court. I tried to explain the importance of Stripper Herk as a protector of the environment. Every item we strip is being recycled. If I strip a dozen interior doors from your house, how many trees did I save and how much manufacturing pollution is avoided? I do the stripping for many of the refinishers, cabinet makers, painters, and companies in this area who are not permitted or set up to do stripping. We helped to restore the carousel on the pier. We strip the ladders for the Santa Monica Fire Department, not to mention the thousands of private orders through the year. I have the manifests to prove that the waste from my shop has always been properly disposed of. I am a large quantity facility and cannot be replaced due to South Coast Air Quality Management District permitting guidelines. If Stripper Herk is forced to close, the stripping shops will now be in alleys, driveways, backyards and totally unregulated. Those people doing their own stripping will probably throw the waste in the trash, or in the sewer while I have been disposing of the waste in a responsible manner for years. If I had any criminal intention I would have simply put the waste in the trash, or used my Bronco — which I now have to sell — to drive the drums to the further most reaches of the desert and dumped them. I told the truth and did not pollute. I did violate the law, as honestly as I could given the circumstances, but what is my prison-worthy crime? Someone from the city of Santa Monica mocked me for what I said to the judge. They said my comments were outrageous based on what I was charged with. The Feds just took a year of my life. Whoever you are, you couldn't see a forest through the trees? Bite me!

Mike Miller
Santa Monica

GERMAN CAR SERVICE

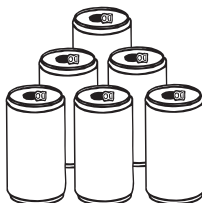
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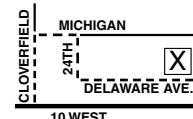
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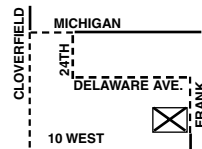
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City Budget Basics is the first of Santa Monica's 2005 Leadership Series courses, offered throughout the year and covering a wide variety of city government-related topics to inform and engage Santa Monicans. Join us!

The Ken Edwards Center is accessible to persons with disabilities and is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10.



LOCAL

One man drowned in 1930 Santa Monica Bay tsunami

TSUNAMI, from page 1

THE TSUNAMI OF 1930

"The cliffs provide a tremendous amount of protection," he said. "If there's no cliff there to provide protection, we would want them to go to higher ground or further in."

Timing would be critical. Though a federal system is in place to alert state and local officials to the more distant tsunamis, an underwater earthquake in the Santa Monica Bay could trigger a tsunami that would hit local beaches in 10 minutes or less, Alexander said.

"They're so quick," he added. "There's no warning. There's no time to evacuate."

Los Angeles County Lifeguard Capt. Garth Canning said lifeguards would work to evacuate the beaches until the very last moment it was safe to do so.

"I guess the biggest concern is if something happened directly off shore, we would have very little time warning," Canning said. "Basically what we would do, if we got a notice of an impending tsunami, we would put the word out as quickly as we possibly could, right there locally, on the beach."

DANGER IN THE BAY

Of particular concern to scientists are fault lines located off of Catalina Island and a steep oceanic shelf off of the Palos Verdes peninsula. If the Catalina fault lines erupted or if an earthquake triggered a landslide on the Palos Verdes shelf, officials expect multiple tsunami waves of six to 13 feet tall, which would cause flooding in low-lying areas and what's called a "withdraw," where the water sucks far out to sea.

"It wouldn't be just a single wave," Alexander said. "It would be a series of waves."

For those who don't have time to scramble inland or to higher ground, officials suggested seeking shelter on the third or fourth floor of a strong cement structure, like a hotel. Two- or three-story residences made out of wood aren't ideal because they aren't as resistant to the powerful water surge, but they too can serve as high ground in an emergency, officials said.

While an earthquake in the Santa Monica Bay may cause a tsunami wave within minutes, tsunamis generated by large earthquakes farther away travel at about the speed of a commercial airplane and could take hours to reach local beaches, officials said. To prepare for those tsunamis, a staging area would be set up in Palisades Park near the entrance to the Santa Monica Pier. Residents and visitors would be directed several miles inland, most likely to the large parks in eastern Santa Monica, Weinberg said.

Evacuating the coast costs an estimated \$1 million a mile, Alexander added.

"It's not something that you want to do unless you're pretty sure," he said. "However, you have to always think, 'safety first' and use precaution."

It is tsunamis from larger earthquakes that often receive the most attention. However, Alexander said 98 percent of the deaths and injuries caused by tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean since 1960 were from the "local" tsunamis, which accounted for some 4,200 casualties.

Talk of tsunami dangers in the Santa Monica Bay followed a Sunday earthquake off the island country of Sumatra in the Indian Ocean that claimed tens of thousands of lives. That tsunami is expected to teach scientists a great deal about earthquakes and the behavior of tsunamis.

Video footage shot as the tsunami hit beaches was unprecedented and will help explain many unknowns about the dangerous and powerful natural phenomenon, said Alexander, adding the tragedy also likely will funnel government dollars into tsunami research and preparedness.

"Tsunamis are really a new science," he added. "Not a lot is known about them, because there's not a lot of recorded history. There's been no money, there's been very little attention towards tsunamis. Now, hopefully, that will change. It's so far and few between that you have to triage, I think, your priorities. We haven't had one here in Santa Monica since the 1930s."

The tsunami that hit the Santa Monica Bay on Aug. 31, 1930 was triggered by a 5.2-magnitude earthquake. It produced waves measuring nearly 10 feet high, and led to one drowning and more than a dozen injuries, according to the "West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center" Web site, managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a branch of the National Weather Service.

Santa Monica Fire Department Chief Jim Hone, whose department is responsible for all of the city's emergency response, said a major tsunami was unlikely to hit Santa Monica.

"We've looked at our potential maximum impact, based on information from scientists around here, and we have put together what we believe to be feasible contingency plans for what we see as the remote possibility of that happening in our area," he said Tuesday.

While disaster relief efforts proceed in affected countries and tsunami research continues around the world, Weinberg said the tragedy should serve as a reminder to always keep a stock of key necessities.

"It re-emphasizes the need to be prepared, to have three days of food and water," he said. "While the tsunami caused a lot of destruction, the affected regions in the Indian Ocean are going through a difficult recovery process right now, and a lot of it is because people are without food, water, shelter."

"We can't prevent the disaster, but we can really help with the recovery," Weinberg added. "Being in charge of emergency preparedness, to me it's just a wake-up call. It makes me say, 'Great. It's another opportunity to stress being prepared.'"

Other officials emphasized that uncertainty was the only certainty.

"The sirens no longer work, the ones that originally were put out there for bomb threats," City Councilman Bob Holbrook said. "There's no question: If a tidal wave or tsunami came across the beach, there would be a huge devastation and tragedy. We're not prepared ... I can't imagine anywhere that really is."

CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

LOCAL



Lawsuit alleges girl went blind from allergic reaction

SUIT, from page 1

with a high fever, a redness of the sclera — commonly known as the white of the eye — a sore throat and a rash covering her back, trunk and other parts of her body, the suit contends. On Sept. 10, 2003, Johnson's eyes could only be forcibly opened by an ophthalmologist, causing her excruciating pain, according to the suit.

Within two months, Johnson was completely blind. It was later discovered that she suffered a severe, adverse skin reaction known as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome as a result of ingesting Children's Motrin. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome is an allergic reaction to ibuprofen that can result in serious gastrointestinal problems, blindness or death. Ibuprofen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug and is sold over the counter under such brand names as Children's Motrin, Motrin, Advil, Midol 200, Nuprin and PediaProfen.

Johnson continues to have ongoing medical problems as a consequence, the suit alleges. She is unable to independently open her eyes and has had nearly 20 eye surgeries in a continued effort to restore her vision, the suit alleges.

"In the name of children everywhere, our family wants Children's Motrin taken off the market until it carries a warning label about the risk of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and describes its symptoms," said Sabrina Johnson's mother, Joan Brierton Johnson, in a prepared statement issued Tuesday. "Had there been appropriate warnings on the Children's Motrin that we gave Sabrina, we would have known what to look for and would have known to stop giving her the drug and call a doctor."

"Johnson & Johnson and the other defendants never gave us that opportunity, and our precious little girl now lives literally and figuratively in the dark."

The suit also names McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, a division of McNeil-PPC, Inc.; McKesson Corporation; SAV-ON Drug Stores, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Albertsons, Inc.; Cardinal Health, Inc.; and Ralphs Grocery Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Kroger Company.

The suit contends that since the 1980s the defendants knew about the connection between Children's Motrin and allergic reactions. Johnson also alleges that the defendants knew from their own clinical trials of Children's Motrin that it caused cases of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/TENS. The lawsuit also alleges that the defendants warned consumers about Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/TENS in their drug package insert for the prescription form of the drug before Children's Motrin was distributed and sold over the counter to the public in

1995. The warning label has been omitted in the packaging since then.

"Johnson & Johnson made a reckless, callous decision when it decided not to tell the public that Stevens-Johnson Syndrome is one of the adverse side-effects of taking Children's Motrin," said Sabrina Johnson's father, Kenneth Johnson. "The pharmaceutical industry owes a duty to consumers to warn them of any and all potential risks in taking their drugs, whether they are prescription or over the counter."

"Not a day goes by that Joan and I don't say to ourselves, 'If we had only known, if we had only known.' We hope that this lawsuit will put an end to their indifference."

Bonnie Jacobs, a spokesperson for McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, the parent company of Johnson & Johnson, said the corporation is aware of Johnson's case and condition.

"As a maker of Children's Motrin products, we are deeply concerned by all matters relating to our product," she said. "We are investigating the situation."

The other companies named in the lawsuit were either unavailable for comment Tuesday or declined to comment.

Kathy Pinckert, a spokeswoman for Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP., said a child's family recently settled with Johnson & Johnson in San Jose Federal Court after she died of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome as a result of ingesting Children's Motrin.

Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP., located at 100 Wilshire Blvd. specializes in product liability cases. In 1999, the firm won the highest product liability verdict in history, a \$4.9 billion award against General Motors. A jury in Los Angeles found that General Motors was negligent in its fuel tank designs for its vehicles. Six burn victims were awarded the money after the GM car they were riding in burst into flames after being hit in a rear end collision. The law firm also is representing more than a dozen victims in civil lawsuits resulting from the July 16, 2003 Farmers' Market crash in Santa Monica.

Monetary damages aren't specified in the firm's latest lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson, but it demands that the drug company suspend sales of Children's Motrin until warning labels are provided.

"This lawsuit is the only warning label that the public is going to get until Johnson & Johnson re-labels Children's Motrin so that it carries a warning about the dangers of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome," said Browne Greene, who is representing the Johnsons, in a prepared statement. "We hope that families around the world will take heed and toss out any Children's Motrin that's in their medicine cabinets and demand that stores pull it off their shelves."

Symphony plays on in 2005

SM SYMPHONY, from page 3

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■ Sunday, March 13: The program will include Mozart's melodic overture to the "Abduction from the Seraglio" and "Sinfonia Concertante," and Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony.

■ Sunday, May 29: The 60th Anniversary season finale will include Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, "The

Choral" for which the orchestra will be joined by four soloists and two full choruses.

Concerts are in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium at Main Street and Pico Boulevard. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., with a pre-concert talk by Raymond Knapp in the auditorium's meeting room at 6:45 p.m.

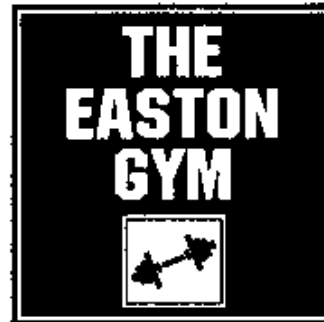
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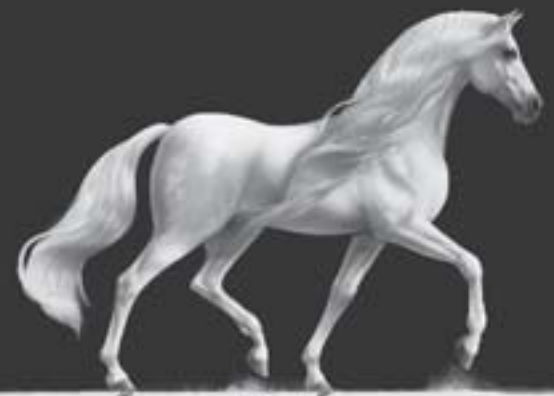
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STATE

Firms that paid no state taxes to get \$82M in refunds

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — In a move that has stirred critics, three California-based companies that reportedly paid no

state business income taxes last year will receive \$5 million in tax refunds, while 22 similar requests for another \$77 million are pending.

The California Board of Equalization, a group of elected officials who oversee state tax policy, may con-

sider more corporate requests as early as Jan. 25. But opposition is already rising amid a continuing state budget deficit.

Critics are fuming over the board's Dec. 15 decision to award \$4.1 million in tax refunds to Conexant Systems, Inc., of Newport Beach, which bills itself as "a worldwide leader in semiconductor solutions for broadband communications, enterprise networks and the digital home." The board also voted to award \$624,450 to Grundfos U.S. Holding Corp., which has a pump manufacturing facility in Fresno, and \$163,155 to Lightwave Electronics Corp., a Mountain View-based laser technology company, said agency spokeswoman Anita Gore.

In each case, the agency's staff recommended against providing the refunds, Gore said.

A taxpayer group has also cried foul.

"To actually be giving a gift to companies that paid no taxes is a slap in the face of every taxpaying citizen in the state," said Doug Heller, an advocate for the Santa Monica-based Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

The three companies were among 25 that applied for the tax refunds last year before the Legislature passed a bill ending the practice. A majority of board members in each vote said it was fair to award the refunds because last-minute amendments in the bill allowed consideration for companies that had already applied.

William Leonard, a board member and former Republican state lawmaker, added Monday that companies were also allowed under the original law to receive dual tax credits — on both their state income and sales taxes. He said companies understood that "I should never lose one because I've taken advantage of the other."

He said the law "was designed to give a tax break for a public purpose."

State Controller Steve Westly, who also voted for the refunds, received 14 letters from Democrats and Republicans in the state Assembly, urging support for the companies' requests.

In one, Assemblyman Guy Houston, R-San Ramon, said "it would be unfair — and damaging to the state's reputation as a hospitable location to do business — if a credit that was on the books was subsequently denied to companies who had followed the rules and relied upon it."

Of the letters, Heller said, "It just baffles me how quick the politicians are to give away taxpayer dollars to campaign contributors."

Offices at Lightwave and Grundfos were closed for the holidays. A spokeswoman for Conexant declined comment until studying the issue. The tax agency initially declined to reveal the other 22 applicants.

Leonard said he also has asked for a legal opinion on the issue, which could be ready by Jan. 25 and guide the board on the pending requests.

California began providing the so-called manufacturers investment credit during the state's 1991 economic downturn. The refund reimbursed companies for new equipment purchases in hopes it would stimulate more than 100,000 jobs across 10 years. But it has failed to live up to its promise, and the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found little evidence the tax break spurred economic growth.

Lawmakers ended the program last year after controversy greeted a similar tax board decision to pay \$6.3 million to two San Jose-based companies, chip-maker LSI Logic and Cypress Semiconductor Corp., although neither paid any state income tax.

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INTERNATIONAL



Death toll from tidal waves mounts to more than 44,000

BY ANDI DJATMIKO

Associated Press Writer

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Mourners in Sri Lanka used their bare hands to dig graves Tuesday while hungry islanders in Indonesia turned to looting in the aftermath of Asia's devastating tsunamis. Thousands more bodies were found in Indonesia, dramatically increasing the death toll across 11 nations to around 44,000.

Emergency workers found that 10,000 people had been killed in a single town, Meulaboh, in Aceh province at the northern tip of Sumatra island, the hardest hit region in Indonesia, said Purnomo Sidik, national disaster director at the Social Affairs Ministry.

Another 9,000 were confirmed dead so far in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, and surrounding towns, he said. Along Aceh's hard-hit western coastline, villages were swamped up to the roofs, still unexplored by soldiers combing the area for survivors and dead. Refugees fleeing the area described surviving for days on little more than coconuts before reaching Banda Aceh.

"The sea was full of bodies," said Sukardi Kasdi, who reached the capital from his town of Surang.

With aid not arriving quick enough, desperate residents in Meulaboh and other towns in Aceh — a region that was unique in that it was struck both by Sunday's massive quake and the killer waves that followed — began to loot.

"It is every person for themselves here," district official Tengku Zulkarnain told el-Shinta radio station from the area.

In Sri Lanka, the toll also mounted significantly. Around 1,000 people were dead or missing from a train that was flung off its tracks when the gigantic waves hit. Rescuers pulled 204 bodies from the train's eight carriages — reduced to twisted metal — and cremated or buried them Tuesday next to the railroad track that runs along the coast.

"Is this the fate that we had planned for? My darling, you were the only hope for me," cried one man for his dead girlfriend — his university sweetheart — as Buddhist monks held prayer nearby.

More than 18,700 people died in Sri Lanka, more than 4,400 in India and more than 1,500 in Thailand, with numbers expected to rise. Scores were also killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives. The giant waves raced nearly 3,000 miles to east Africa, causing deaths in Somalia, Tanzania and Seychelles.

And the toll was expected to continue to mount. A police official said 8,000 people were missing and possibly dead in India's remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located just north of Sumatra. So far, only 90 people were confirmed dead in the archipelago of 30 inhabited islands. The Indonesian vice president estimated that up to 25,000 could be dead on Aceh's western coastlines, bringing the country's potential toll up to 50,000.

Europeans desperately sought relatives missing from holidays in Southeast Asia — particularly Thailand, where bodies littered the once crowded beach resorts. Near the devastated Similan Beach and Spa Resort, where mostly German tourists were staying, a naked corpse hung suspended from a tree Tuesday as if crucified.

A blond two-year-old Swedish boy, Hannes Bergstroem, found sitting alone on a road in Thailand was reunited with his uncle, who saw the boy's picture on a Web site.

"This is a miracle, the biggest thing that could happen," said the uncle, who identified himself as Jim, after flying from his home country to Thailand to reach Hannes at the hospital where the boy was being treated. The boy's mother and grandmother were missing, while his father and grandfather were reportedly at another hospital.

The vacationing former German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl was evacuated by Sri Lankan military helicopter from the hotel he was trapped by flooding in the south of the country. In Thailand, Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, who appeared on the cover of 2003 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, was injured and her photographer boyfriend Simon Atlee was missing, Atlee's agent said.

So far, more than 80 Westerners have been confirmed dead across the region — including 11 Americans. But a British consulate official in Thailand warned that hundreds more foreign tourists were likely killed in the country's resorts.

Sunday's massive quake of 9.0 magnitude off the Indonesian island of Sumatra sent 500-mph waves surging across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal in the deadliest known tsunami since the one that devastated the Portuguese capital of Lisbon in 1755 and killed an estimated 60,000 people.

Amid the devastation, however, were some miraculous stories of survival. In Malaysia, a 20-day-old baby was found alive on a floating mattress. She and her family were later reunited. A Hong Kong couple vacationing in Thailand clung to a mattress for six hours.

In Sri Lanka, more than 300 people crammed into the Infant Jesus Church at Orrs Hill, located on high ground from their ravaged fishing villages. Families and children slept on pews and the cement floor.

"We had never seen the sea looking like that. It was like as if a calm sea had suddenly become a raging monster," said one woman, Haalima, recalling the giant wave that swept away her 5-year-old grandson, Adil.

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Real Estate

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The stumbling blocks of foreclosure



**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR
& BRENT PARSONS

(Editor's note: This is the first article of a three-part series detailing foreclosures).

I am sure that you have heard at least one person talking about the successes of purchasing homes out of foreclosure. You know that you can save a fortune and that the resale value will make you a lot of money if you “flip” the home. However, you might not have known that the government could take the properties back from you or that you could actually lose a lot of money if you don’t pay close attention to what you are signing for.

In this three-part series, we would like to provide you with a brief overview of purchasing homes out of foreclosures, including some of the things to be cautious of and what to know before you get started.

When looking at foreclosure properties, there are three phases within the foreclosure proceedings during which you could be considering purchasing the property. In each phase you will deal with different players. It’s important to know what phase the sale is in so that you know who to contact and what needs to happen in the transaction.

The first phase is the “Notice of

Default” phase. This is when the homeowner being foreclosed upon still owns title in the home and is able to will the home in order to maintain some of their equity and pay off past due liens. The sale resembles a typical real estate transaction. One of the downsides to purchasing homes in the “pre-auction” stage is that it could be difficult to contact the owner. You will need to be creative to make contact. In addition, you can be dealing with an emotional person that doesn’t want to sell but is being forced to because of their financial circumstances. What you want to do is convince them that it’s a win-win situation. You help them save the money that they put into the house and by helping them, you get rewarded when you resell the house at a profit. Since the owner is in foreclosure, they will have to sell within 90 days from the date of the Notice of Default. The 90th day is the sale date at the courthouse. If their home goes to auction, the owner will not maintain any of the equity in their home.

The second phase is the courthouse auction. Minimum bidding starts at the amount of the delinquency that is being foreclosed upon. Be aware that if there are any liens on the property preceding the lien that is being foreclosed upon, you are assuming those debts and will be responsible for paying those off as well. Those liens would be property taxes, first mortgages, etc. Liens on the property that fall after the lien that is being foreclosed on

will be erased. For example, if you are buying out a first trust deed on a first mortgage, you will be responsible for property taxes because they always proceed all loans, but if there is a second mortgage, it will be erased and you will not have to pay it.

The third part of a foreclosure that you could purchase the home in is called a “Bank REO” or “Real Estate Owned.” This is the property that did not sell at auction and was seized by the bank. The bank now owns this property and appoints a manager for the property. The manager for the property is the liaison between buyers and the bank. This is the most difficult of the three transactions and the least profitable. Banks rarely negotiate on price for the home and will counter offer several times to minimize the discount on the price. The upside to purchasing from the bank is that they may offer the same loan rates as the original owner. In the next couple of years, if we see interest rate increases, those lower rates could be very profitable for an investor.

In the next article, an in-depth look at the auction purchase, including what you need to do to prepare for the auction and what happens during the auction.

(Should you have any questions pertaining to real estate or foreclosure, or if you would like a list of foreclosures in your area please call Thomas Khammar at (310) 943-7656 or Brent Parsons at (310) 943-7657).

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Sold	816 WILSON PL	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,480	List Price: \$799,000	Bed: 3
12/23/2004	Lot Size: 4,860	Sold Price: \$785,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	1791 SUNSET AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,419	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 3
12/22/2004	Lot Size: 5,698	Sold Price: \$888,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	2250 26TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,049	List Price: \$1,325,000	Bed: 3
12/22/2004	Lot Size: 7,497	Sold Price: \$1,325,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	1021 12TH ST #103	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 804	List Price: \$445,000	Bed: 1
12/20/2004	HOD: \$204	Sold Price: \$445,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	2325 KANSAS AVE #14	SANTA MONICA	90404
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$369,000	Bed: 1
12/21/2004	HOD: \$198	Sold Price: \$369,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	150 OCEAN PARK BL #420	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 2
12/23/2004	HOD: \$658	Sold Price: \$860,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	844 16TH ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,069	List Price: \$569,000	Bed: 2
12/20/2004	HOD: \$214	Sold Price: \$530,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	3115 6TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$499,000	Bed: 2
12/22/2004	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$512,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	1541 PRINCETON ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90404
Santa Monica	SqFt: 747	List Price: \$429,000	Bed: 2
12/22/2004	HOD: \$249	Sold Price: \$429,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	901 10TH ST #302	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,022	List Price: \$539,000	Bed: 1
12/20/2004	HOD: \$290	Sold Price: \$539,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	920 MARINE ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Santa Monica	SqFt: 3,930	List Price: \$995,000	Gl: \$63,120
12/21/2004	Lot Size: 6,059	Sold Price: \$1,110,000	GRM: 0.00

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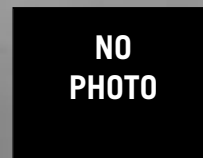
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Lights, camera, location: Movie production rolls through Santa Monica



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

For sure, someone knows of a silent film or seven that were filmed in Santa Monica. But, the earliest known record of Santa Monica & Santa Monica residents being used in a movie was the 1933 Laurel and Hardy classic "Sons of the Desert." The film, which is about Ollie & Stan sneaking away to Chicago and attend the annual "Sons of the Desert" lodge convention, features the Santa Monica Elks Lodge in a "movie" newsreel of the lodge's convention parade.

Since then, Santa Monica streets, homes, beaches and landmarks have been featured in a myriad of movies and television shows:

■ In 1955 Santa Monica High School masqueraded as Dawson High in the James Dean, Natalie Wood classic, "Rebel Without A Cause." In the film, Dean plays a rebellious young man with a troubled past comes to a new town, finding friends and enemies. His school, Dawson High was supposed to be located at "University & 10th," not at Pico Boulevard and Fourth Street.

■ Santa Monica is featured in the 1963 slapstick production of, "It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World." The film has a noteworthy cast that includes Spencer Tracy, Milton Berle, Buddy Hackett, Ethel Merman, Mickey Rooney, Zasu Pitts and Carl Reiner.

■ The Looft Hippodrome carousel on the Santa Monica Pier was prominently featured in several films of the late 1960s and early 1970s. This includes the 1965 film "Inside Daisy Clover," starring Natalie Wood and Robert Redford. Jane Fonda, the future first lady of Santa Monica, filmed at the carousel in the 1969 movie "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" Robert Redford again spent a lot of time hanging out around the pier in 1973. This time it was when Redford and Paul Newman were playing two con men trying to get even by pulling off a big con on the mob boss in the classic film, "The Sting."

■ Several filming locations around Santa Monica are featured in Sean Penn's breakthrough film, the 1982 "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," the teenage wasteland story of a group of California teenagers who enjoy malls, sex and rock n' roll.

■ In 1984, Eddie Murphy, in the guise of Detroit detective Axel Foley, "Beverly Hills Cop" went pursuing a murder investigation with Judge Reinhold all over the Westside, Santa Monica included.

■ And our honorable Governorator again proves to be near and dear to Santa Monica. 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgment

Day," called "the best action film of all time" by some fans, the film features Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Edward Furlong and Robert Patrick. Produced by James Cameron, this story of a shape-shifting cyborg and a protector sent back from the future to kill John Connor before he can grow up to lead the resistance. Parts of the mall scenes — the arcade, back hallways, and crashing through the window — were filmed at Santa Monica Place.

■ When "Forrest Gump" was jogging across the USA in 1994, he jogged out on Santa Monica Pier. Forrest Gump, while not intelligent, has accidentally been present at many historic moments, but his true love, Jenny, eludes him.

■ In 1994 the Main Street area got lots of exposure in the Keanu Reeves/Sandra Bullock/Dennis Hopper (Venice resident) high-action film "Speed." Near the beginning of the film, a Santa Monica bus explodes, killing the driver. That explosion scene took place at the corner of Main Street and Rose Avenue. It immortalized that unique "Ballerina Clown" sculpture that sits on the façade of 255 Main Street.

■ Bullock was back in our neighborhood filming "The Net," in 1995. This flick about computer espionage has scenes along the Santa Monica Pier and lots of locations around Venice, including the Social and Public Resources Center, formerly the Venice division of LAPD, located 685 Venice Blvd.

■ "Bowfinger," the 1999 film with Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Heather Graham (a Samohi grad), had scenes filmed at Rae's Restaurant, 2901 Pico Blvd. The film is about a movie producer going to great lengths to get a major star for his low budget production.

■ The 2001 Jim Carrey movie, "The Majestic," about a blacklisted Hollywood writer who gets into a car accident, features scenes on the Santa Monica Pier.

■ Perhaps Santa Monica is best documented in the 2001 release "Dogtown and Z-Boys." The film, narrated by Sean Penn, follows the evolution of modern skateboarding through its 1970s heyday, its decline during the 1980s, and its eventual (and highly lucrative) return in the 1990s. Starting from the California surf community of Dogtown, this film features vintage footage of lots of swimming pools, homes and streets around town, the beach, and the Boardwalk, signifying that Santa Monica is Dogtown.

■ Ocean Avenue and the Promenade were settings for the 2003 movie "Freaky Friday," featuring local resident Jamie Lee Curtis, as well as Lindsay Lohan in this story of the personality dynamic of a mother and her teenager. When they switch bodies, each is forced to adapt to the other's life for one freaky Friday.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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Home ownership rising on Arizona reservations

BY JUDY NICHOLS
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Inside the front door of Serena Norris' moss-green home is a welcome mat bearing the Pima symbol of the Man in the Maze, a circular depiction of a person's path through life.

Norris' path has brought her to a home of her own, commonplace for most Americans but nearly unattainable for those living on reservations.

But reliable jobs — courtesy of casinos — and innovative legal and financial programs have private lenders looking at reservations as safe investments for the first time.

In the past, the trust status of reservations, which prohibits sale of land outside the tribe, made banks unwilling to fund conventional mortgages. If the borrower defaulted, the bank could not foreclose on the land.

"There have been two big impediments to housing: jobs and a legal structure to allow mortgages," said Stephen Hart, a lawyer with Lewis and Roca, a Phoenix law firm working with a task force to increase housing on reservations.

"The issue of jobs is being answered in part by gaming," Hart said. "Not just gaming jobs, but probation officers, policemen, court clerks. These people make money, and they want to buy a house and invest in the community."

Tribes are educating members about financing, helping them clear credit problems and finding ways to shorten title searches, which in the past have taken up to three years through the Bureau of

Indian Affairs, which administers Indian land.

Tribal members who qualified as low-income could get on long waiting lists for subsidized cookie-cutter housing built by the BIA. Those who didn't qualify were relegated to trailers, unless they had enough cash to pay for construction.

"The estimate is that over 56 percent of households on tribal lands are living in substandard conditions or are paying too much for housing," said Sheila D. Harris, director of the Arizona Department of Housing, which is helping funnel housing money and resources to tribes.

"People finally understood that, the way the BIA did things, this would never change. There isn't enough money," she said. "So we had to figure out how to take the money we have and do more with it."

In 2003, Gov. Janet Napolitano and tribal leaders formed a Tribal Housing Task Force to work on ways to increase housing.

The classifications of reservation land caused problems, Harris said.

"Tribes needed a lending structure that was easier to navigate," Harris said.

Norris, a business manager with the tribe's Saddleback Communications, is the first in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to build a home using a new mortgage-guarantee program. Her three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath house cost \$90,000 to build.

The federal government guarantees the mortgage. If Norris doesn't make the payments, the bank can foreclose and the

Tribal members who qualified as low-income could get on long waiting lists for subsidized cookie-cutter housing built by the BIA. Those who didn't qualify were relegated to trailers, unless they had enough cash to pay for construction.

tribe can buy her house.

The tribe could either work with Norris to become current with the mortgage, or the tribe could lease the home to another family member. The land always remains in trust for her family. If the house were on tribal land, the home could be leased to any tribal member.

So now, instead of sharing a 10-foot by 10-foot room in her mother's house, Norris and her daughter, Jamie, 6, wake up in their own bedrooms, eat breakfast in a spacious tiled kitchen, and watch movies in their living room.

"I enjoy it every single day," she said. "I consider myself very lucky."

On the Navajo Reservation, 4 1/2 years of negotiation have resulted in a program that allows the Navajo Housing Authority to guarantee loans.

"We are taking what typical American people enjoy and bringing it to the reservation," said Chester Carl, chairman and executive officer of the Navajo Housing Authority.

Carl said the tribe put aside a reserve account to offset any delinquencies or foreclosures, with a goal to finance at least 500 mortgages a year.

"The hope is that we'll eventually provide a shelter to every family in need of a house," Carl said. "If we wait on the sideline for the federal government to come in and build us a house, find us a job, it's not going to happen."

The White Mountain Apache Tribe became the first in the nation to issue tax-exempt bonds for housing.

The tribe used block-grant money from the federal government to leverage the bonds, paying \$900,000 in fees, said A.J. Yazzie, a financial consultant for the tribe. It raised \$25 million, which has financed more than 300 homes, leased to tribal members with an option to purchase them.

In October, in another house on the Salt River Reservation, 4-year-old Tyler Manuel twirled across the carpeting of her new bedroom as her mother and father completed the walk-through of their just-finished home.

Tyler's father, Darren Manuel, a Pima who works at Casino Arizona, said his grandfather gave the land to his father, who gave it to him.

"And I will give it and this house to my children," Manuel said.

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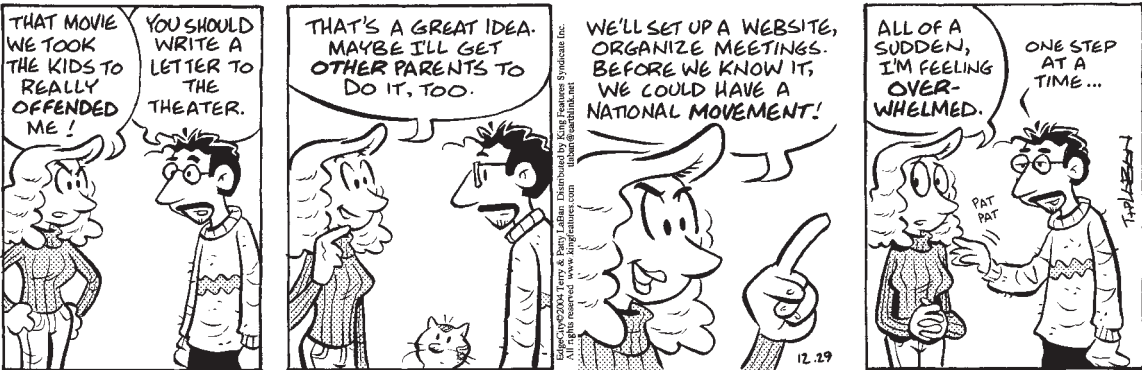


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- 17 "This is only —"
- 19 Scenery chewer
- 22 Traffic light color
- 24 Play part
- 26 Othello, e.g.
- 27 "Doggone!"
- 28 Blow one's top
- 30 Helen's abductor
- 31 Fishing aid
- 32 Antilles resort
- 34 Stew
- 35 Vagrant
- 38 On fire
- 41 Departed
- 42 Thinga-majig
- 43 Lot buy
- 44 Senior members
- 45 Put in the overhead rack

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- 2 Exult
- 3 In this region
- 4 Stable bit
- 5 Merchandise
- 6 Warns
- 7 Like ganders
- 8 Greek letter
- 9 Luau instrument
- 10 Fuming
- 16 European lang.
- 18 Maryland player
- 19 Get wind of
- 20 Nay voter
- 21 Disorder
- 22 Church answer
- 23 Additional
- 25 Beach crawler
- 29 Lord Greystoke
- 30 Place
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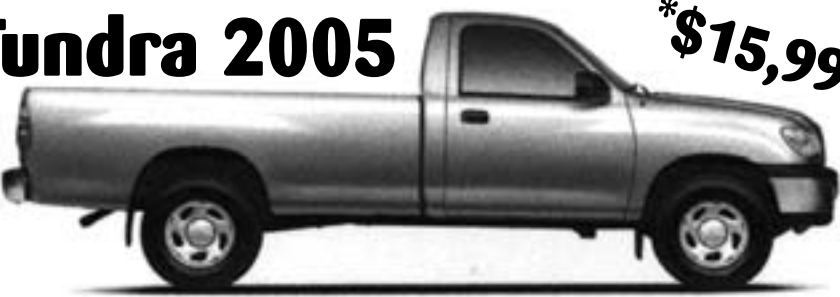
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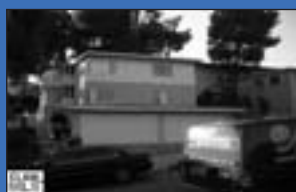
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