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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

Volume 9 Issue 42



Santa Monica Daily Press

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SEE PAGE 2

THE SO LONG, 2009 ISSUE











2009

A Year in Review

The last year of the decade gave Santa Monicans plenty to read about. The pier turned 100, a City Councilman passed, City Hall opened a new beach house and gang violence unfortunately reminded everybody that life is precious.

SEE PAGE 3







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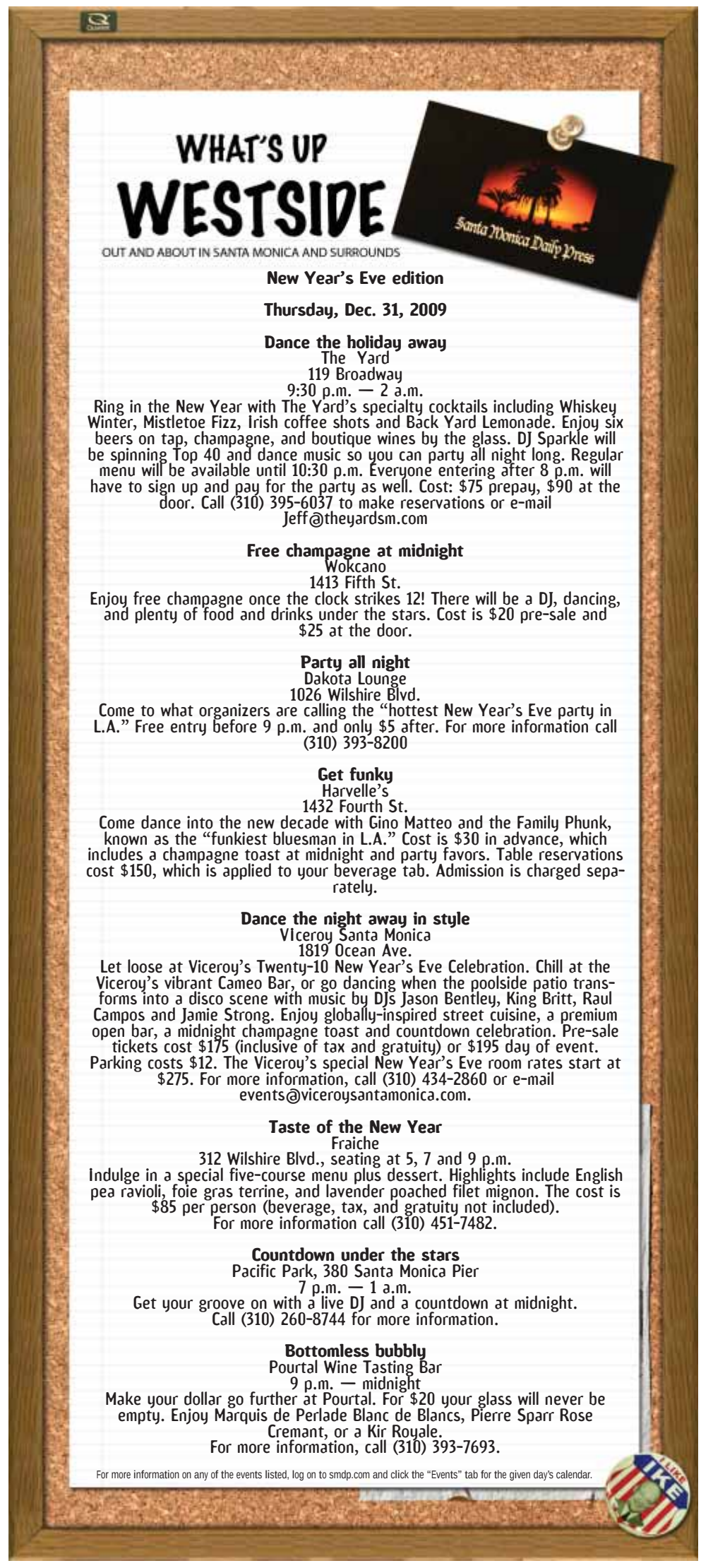
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WHAT'S UP
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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Santa Monica Daily Press

New Year's Eve edition

Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009

Dance the holiday away
The Yard
119 Broadway
9:30 p.m. — 2 a.m.
Ring in the New Year with The Yard's specialty cocktails including Whiskey Winter, Mistletoe Fizz, Irish coffee shots and Back Yard Lemonade. Enjoy six beers on tap, champagne, and boutique wines by the glass. DJ Sparkle will be spinning Top 40 and dance music so you can party all night long. Regular menu will be available until 10:30 p.m. Everyone entering after 8 p.m. will have to sign up and pay for the party as well. Cost: $75 prepay, $90 at the door. Call (310) 395-6037 to make reservations or e-mail Jeff@theyardsm.com

Free champagne at midnight
Wokcano
1413 Fifth St.
Enjoy free champagne once the clock strikes 12! There will be a DJ, dancing, and plenty of food and drinks under the stars. Cost is $20 pre-sale and $25 at the door.

Party all night
Dakota Lounge
1026 Wilshire Blvd.
Come to what organizers are calling the "hottest New Year's Eve party in L.A." Free entry before 9 p.m. and only $5 after. For more information call (310) 393-8200

Get funky
Harvelle's
1432 Fourth St.
Come dance into the new decade with Gino Matteo and the Family Phunk, known as the "funkiest bluesman in L.A." Cost is $30 in advance, which includes a champagne toast at midnight and party favors. Table reservations cost $150, which is applied to your beverage tab. Admission is charged separately.

Dance the night away in style
VIceroy Santa Monica
1819 Ocean Ave.
Let loose at Viceroy's Twenty-10 New Year's Eve Celebration. Chill at the Viceroy's vibrant Cameo Bar, or go dancing when the poolside patio transforms into a disco scene with music by DJs Jason Bentley, King Britt, Raul Campos and Jamie Strong. Enjoy globally-inspired street cuisine, a premium open bar, a midnight champagne toast and countdown celebration. Pre-sale tickets cost $175 (inclusive of tax and gratuity) or $195 day of event. Parking costs $12. The Viceroy's special New Year's Eve room rates start at $275. For more information, call (310) 434-2860 or e-mail events@viceroysantamonica.com.

Taste of the New Year
Fraiche
312 Wilshire Blvd., seating at 5, 7 and 9 p.m.
Indulge in a special five-course menu plus dessert. Highlights include English pea ravioli, foie gras terrine, and lavender poached filet mignon. The cost is $85 per person (beverage, tax, and gratuity not included).
For more information call (310) 451-7482.

Countdown under the stars
Pacific Park, 380 Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m. — 1 a.m.
Get your groove on with a live DJ and a countdown at midnight.
Call (310) 260-8744 for more information.

Bottomless bubbly
Pourtal Wine Tasting Bar
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Make your dollar go further at Pourtal. For $20 your glass will never be empty. Enjoy Marquis de Perlade Blanc de Blancs, Pierre Sparr Rose Cremant, or a Kir Royale.
For more information, call (310) 393-7693.

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.

Front page photos were shot by **BRANDON WISE, FABIAN LEWKOWICZ** and **RAY SOLANO.**



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A TIME TO REMEMBER: **Friends and family morn the loss of Richard Juarez in front of the Thelma Terry Center at Virginia Avenue Park in November. Juarez was shot and killed after leaving the park's Teen Center with friends. Police apprehended four suspects.**

A busy end to a decade

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN There's no denying that 2009 has been a trying year for many. A struggling economy that resulted in numerous job losses, housing foreclosures and cuts to social services have created an unsettling sense of uncertainty heading into a new decade.

Locally, it has been a year filled with highs and lows, from the passing of longtime City Councilman Herb Katz and the brazen attack that left a former Olympic High School student dead, to the opening of the long-awaited Annenberg Community Beach House, the celebration of the Santa Monica Pier's 100th birthday and a renewed commitment by City Hall to fund local schools.

There was even a beheading; the Virgin Mary statue at St. Monica Catholic Church the victim.

In many ways, the year represents the roller coaster ride that is life, and while many can't wait to bid farewell to what some have called "the year of the meltdown," the Daily Press would like our readers to hold on just a bit longer so that we can recap the local events that made 2009. The past 12 months have produced some interesting headlines, but these issues in particular stood out.

LOSING LEADERSHIP

The year did not start off well. Nationally, banks were failing along with the auto industry. Locally, Santa Monica lost one of its most dedicated public servants, former Mayor and City Councilmember Herb Katz, a champion of special education rights who lost a long battle with cancer on Jan. 7.

An architect by trade, Katz served on more than a dozen different community organizations and City Hall committees, including the Board of Directors for the Santa Monica YMCA, the Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board.

"Community service was one of his hallmarks," Councilmember Pam O'Connor said earlier this year. "He gave it his all and he did a great job."

Hundreds of people from all walks of life packed into St. Monica Catholic Church Jan. 12 for Katz' memorial. The 78-year-old Sunset Park resident was remembered for his humor and love of Santa Monica, as well as his strong leadership skills and his knack for being blunt during meetings. He asked the tough questions and was a stickler for detail.

He was also a person who experienced great loss — his first wife, Ilona, and two sons, Gregg and Glenn, all died of cancer.

"I cannot remember Herb ever complaining about losing both his sons and then his wife," Councilmember Bob Holbrook said.

The council in February appointed Planning Commissioner Gleam Davis to

SEE 2009 PAGE 5

Police search for missing woman

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica police are asking for the public's help in finding a tourist visiting from England who has been missing since Dec. 18.



Photo courtesy SMPD
PERRYMAN

Leona Dawn Perryman, 19, was last seen with her boyfriend Paul Alfred Atkinson in Santa Monica. Police are currently looking for Atkinson, whom they consider a person of interest.

Atkinson originally filed the missing persons report and was cooperating with investigators until he came up missing himself. Detectives haven't been able to locate Atkinson since Monday, Dec. 28. Investigators have attempted to reach him at various telephone numbers with no success, SMPD Det. Larry Nicols said.

"We're unable to locate him," Nichols said.



Photo courtesy SMPD
ATKINSON

Police said Perryman arrived in the United States on Oct. 13 with Atkinson, visiting various cities in Los Angeles County, including West Hollywood, Venice and Santa Monica.

"There are a number of questions we'd like to ask him," Sgt. Jay Trisler said.

Perryman was last seen in Santa Monica just before midnight two weeks ago. Atkinson told police that Perryman said she was going to an Internet cafe to check her e-mail. When she did not return to the couple's hotel, the boyfriend contacted her family and a missing persons report was filed.

Perryman is described as a white female, 5-feet, 7-inches tall, weighing around 130 pounds with blond hair and blue eyes. Atkinson, 45, stands 6-feet, 1 inch tall and weighs 170 pounds.

Anyone with information is asked to call SMPD's Nicols at (310) 458-8939 or Det. Maury Sumlin at (310) 458-8437.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Setting the record straight

Editor:

RE: "Brownley bill is bad for students," Dec. 15.

My Assembly Bill ABX5 8 would allow the Legislature to move away from blind testing in every grade level and minimize "teaching to the test." It will not promote more frequent state-directed testing as Professor Emeritus Stephen Krashen has unfortunately misinterpreted from the bill.

ABX5 8 requires the state testing program to remain the same over the next two years, but also requires the state Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to make recommendations on how to improve the quality, not the quantity, of our tests.

ABX5 8 requires the SPI to recommend how to minimize testing time so more time can be devoted to learning. It does not, as stated, require tests to be produced by publishers of textbooks, nor does it even envision that. Instead, the bill requires the SPI to recommend how the state can help teachers to easily assess their students while they are learning so teachers can provide immediate feedback to students and their parents, while tailoring instruction to each pupil.

The bill does require the SPI to make recommendations about testing in one new area: the technology skills that will allow our students to function in the society and economy in which they live. Both using feedback on student performance in a more efficient manner and focusing on future skills, like science and technology, meet the goals of the Obama Administration's educational reforms to improve instruction.

Professor Krashen is right in stating that excessive testing wastes money and precious teaching time. That is why ABX5 8 requires the SPI to make recommendations on improving our testing system to the state Legislature before it re-authorizes or redesigns our testing system, which becomes inoperable in 2011.

Students and parents deserve an accurate picture of their achievement levels. ABX5 8 was carefully crafted with input from teachers, principals, school boards and educational experts to do that and to improve the outcomes of all California students in our diverse population.

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley,
D-Santa Monica
Chairwoman of the Assembly Committee on Education





Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lions, tigers and pigskins, oh my

NO GIRL EVER WANTS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN her husband and her father. (And really, no girl ever has to, unless she's spending the summer secretly doing the merengue with Patrick Swayze while her family vacations at a Jewish resort in the Catskills).

But the time has come for me to pick a side, although thankfully for just 24 hours. Tomorrow my husband's favorite college football team will play my dad's in the Capital One Bowl.

Rick and Dad hold many of the same things near and dear to their heart, including me, of course, but especially college football. Both my husband and dad bleed purple and gold (LSU) and blue and white (Penn State) respectively, passionately and unapologetically.

One of dad's greatest disappointments in life is that neither my sister nor I went to a college with a football team and therefore didn't experience the same euphoria on Saturdays that he did when he was a student at Penn State. (He was also disappointed that neither one of us was a boy, but had far less control over that.) Rick would also like me to experience joy — televised LSU games — on Saturdays (although I'll never understand why he's not happier that I most enjoy not watching games with him and instead enjoy watching movies without him during that time).

Penn State's head coach of 43 years, Joe Paterno, is not just the greatest college football coach of all time, but ranks with Edward R. Murrow, Ted Williams and Winston Churchill as one of the greatest Americans of all time (never mind the tiny discrepancy with Churchill's citizenship), according to dad.

LSU's football coach always earns Rick's undying loyalty and esteem, until which time the team (a) fails to win a national championship (or a shot at the title), (b) fails to clinch an SEC championship (or a shot at the title), (c) loses at any point in any game during any part of the season, or (d) the coach doesn't wear his hat convincingly at any point in any game during any part of the season.

For both dad and Rick, the love for their teams is deeply rooted in their early days. Pennsylvania is part of dad's DNA. No one will ever convince him that the gas is cheaper, the Tastykakes are fresher and the inclines on the walk to and from elementary school are steeper and icier than they are in Pennsylvania — particularly in the neighborhood where he was born in Scranton. Penn State can do no wrong by osmosis.

Even though he wasn't born there and hasn't lived there in 15 years, Louisiana is the home in Rick's heart (and stomach). With an NFL team that didn't start winning until just a few minutes ago (except, uh, for the past two Sundays), he started worshipping LSU football as a little kid along with the rest of the state. To him, the sound of 92,400 fans chanting "Geaux Tigers" in Death Valley along with the taste of seafood gumbo, jambalaya, crawfish etouffee or anything smothered with Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning all sound, taste and feel like hot, sticky Indian summers and his childhood.

At home I alternate between wearing a Penn State sweatshirt dad got me ages ago and a Tabasco sweatshirt Rick got me when we visited Avery Island, La., last spring. Whichever I've worn over the last few weeks has been a sign of my allegiance, according to Rick, with a raised eyebrow (not an indication of whichever happens to be clean, which I've argued instead). When I didn't immediately put the LSU barrette in our daughter's hair that my mother-in-law brought when she visited last week, Rick raised the other eyebrow.

Rick says he doesn't really expect me to pick a side, though. In fact, I think part of him secretly wants me to cheer for Penn State because he's imagining he'd want our daughter to side with LSU some day if her future husband's team is a competitor.

My dad wants me to root for Penn State, too, I think. Soon after Rick and I were married in 2006, I was on the phone with dad when Rick's number popped up on the caller ID.

"Who's on the other line?" he asked.

"Oh, it's just Rick. I'll call him back," I said.

I could hear the smile in his voice as our conversation continued.

Besides the issue of loyalty, it's inconceivable to dad why anyone would root against Penn State, the team of record. Impossible as it may be, I want them both (dad and Rick) to win, although Rick also has the New Orleans Saints going for him this season, and it sure would be nice to see Joe Pa go big before the boosters make him go to a home.

Regardless, look for me at the movie theater tomorrow at game time. I'll be the one wearing neither navy, white, purple nor gold and holding an extra large bag of popcorn and a ticket to a double feature.

More on and from **MEREDITH** at www.MeredithCarroll.com.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HISTORY: **City leaders helped ring in the Santa Monica Pier's next 100 years in September.**

Pier, promenade celebrate birthdays

FROM 2009 PAGE 3

serve the remainder of Katz' term, a move some in the community disagreed with given that Gleam did not run in the most recent election and finished fifth in 2006. Gleam was also the co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the city's most influential political party that already held a majority on the council. Some felt that Ocean Park resident Ted Winterer, who just missed out on winning a council seat in '08, should have been selected.

In August, Santa Monicans received some more unsettling news. Trusted City Manager Lamont Ewell and Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone announced their intents to retire in January, 2010.

Ewell, 56, was hired by the council in January 2006. During his tenure, the former firefighter helped heal old wounds, build bridges and produce balanced budgets that protected essential services.

Several community leaders said Ewell was a "straight shooter" who followed through on his promises. When something failed, he didn't run, but instead studied why it failed and how to improve.

Poway, Calif. City Manager Rod Gould was hired by the council in December to succeed Ewell.

Hone, who joined the SMFD in 1980 after spending six years in the United States Air Force, was promoted to fire chief in 2003, having served as a firefighter/paramedic, fire captain, support services division chief and fire marshal.

He was credited with enhancing the SMFD's emergency preparedness following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

REACHING A MILESTONE

With life comes change, but there are those anchors which remind us who we are and keep us grounded. In 2009, those anchors celebrated important milestones.

The Santa Monica Pier celebrated its 100 birthday Sept. 9 with a huge bash that included a memorable fireworks display.

Starting out humbly as a modern cement structure to serve the city's sanitation needs, the pier has become a cultural haven bringing both surfers and historians alike to walk the boardwalk. Over the last century, the pier has withstood near destruction, harrowing storms and chaotic upheaval. From a temporary jail site to a docking point for 1940s gangsters and gamblers, the pier's rich history continues to give the community a place to get away from it all and reconnect with better times.

Then came the return of Cirque du Soleil. The world-renown acrobatic troupe erected its blue-and-yellow big top at the 1550 Parking Lot for its production of "KOOZA" in September. The troupe made its American debut in Santa Monica in 1987.

The 1550 lot has been host to several shows over the years, including Cavalia, an equestrian/dance program from Canada, and Ashes and Snow, a nomadic, multi-media art exhibit.

"KOOZA" provided entertainment and much-needed revenue for City Hall and local businesses.

Another Santa Monica attraction that celebrated a birthday was the Third Street Promenade, one of the first shopping districts of its kind, which turned 20 years old in 2009. The transformation of a lethargic Third Street helped breathe life back into

SEE 2009 PAGE 8

The Q Line

Making a change

The new year is upon us and people are making pledges to lose weight, save money or be nicer to people.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What should Santa Monica's New Year's resolution be?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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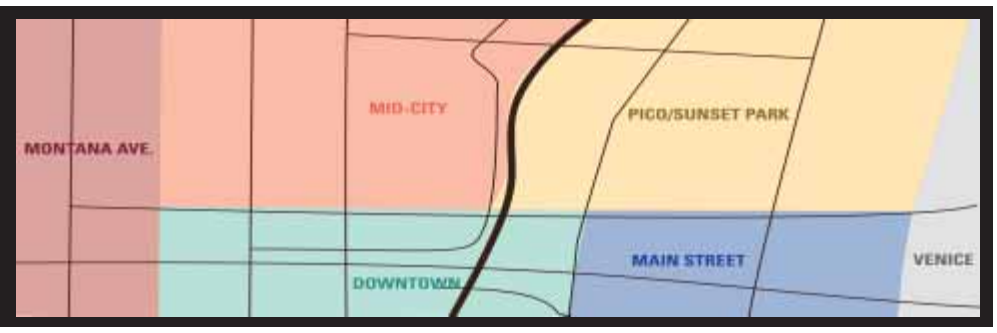
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Le Marmiton 1327 Montana Ave	(310) 393-7716
Locanda Portofino 1110 Montana Ave.	(310) 394-2070
Louise's Trattoria 1008 Montana Ave.	(310) 394-8888
Marmalade 710 Montana Ave.	(310) 829-0093
Montana Restaurant & Lounge 1323 Montana Blvd.	(323) 330-8010
Patty's Gourmet Take & Bake Pizza 625 Montana Ave.	(310) 576-6616
Pradeeps 1405 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-1467
Ristorante Vincenzo 714 Montana Ave.	(310) 395-6619
Rosti 931 Montana Ave.	(310) 838-4900
Spumoni 713 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-2944
Sushi Sho 1303 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-0035
Via Dolce 1627 Montana Ave.	(310) 458-1562
Vincenzo Ristorante 714 Montana Ave.	(310) 395-6619

MID-CITY

Akbar Cuisine Of India 2627 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 586-7469
Back On Broadway 2024 Broadway	(310) 453-8919
Bergamot Cafe 2525 Michigan Ave. # A3	(310) 828-4001
Big Jos 1955 Broadway	(310) 828-3191
Bistro Of Santa Monica Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 453-5442

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Bizou Garden 2450 Colorado Ave. #1050	(310) 472-6020
Bread And Porridge 2315 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4941
Buon Giorno Caffe 1431 Santa Monica Bl	(310) 260-0073
Cafe L'etoile D'or 2311 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 315-4375
Chandni Vegetarian 1909 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-7060
Coogie's Cafe 2906 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-7871
The Corner Cafe 28th St. #121	(310) 452-2905
The Cutting Board 1260 15th St. #105	(310) 434-9924
Dagwoods 820 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 899-3030
Daily Grill 2501 Colorado Ave. #b-190	(310) 309-2170
Drago Restaurant 2628 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-1585
Dragon Palace 2832 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-1462
El Cholo 1025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 899-1106
Fromins 1832 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 829-5443
House Of Billiards 1901 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-9203
I H O P 1920 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-9100
Casa Escobar 2500 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-1315

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J P's Bar & Grill 1101 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-7660
Kaido Japense Cuisine 2834 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 828-7582
Kay 'N Dave's 262 26th St.	(818) 782-6196
L A Farm Ltd 3000 Olympic Blvd	(310) 449-4007
Lee's Chinese Food 1610 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 828-5304
The Lincoln 2460 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-2217
Lucys Lunchbox 710 Wilshire Bl #100	(818) 762-6267
Maya Japanese Food 2840 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 453-2612
Manhattan Bagel 2216 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-3228
Nawab Of India 1621 Wilshire Bl	(310) 829-1106
Networks Cafe 2700 Colorado Ave. #190	(310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant 2031 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica 1601 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 395-6310
O' Briens 2226 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 829-5303
Our Cafe 2104 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-5313
Overunder 1333 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 899-0076
Pacific Dining Car 2700 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4000
Pot & Pan Thai Food 2315 Santa Monica Blvd	(818) 439-7083
Santa Monica Pizza 1318 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-4554
The Shack Restaurant 2518 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 449-1171
The Slice 915 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-2367
Sizzler 2025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-3250
Snug Harbor 2323 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-2991
Sunshine Cafe & Grill 2021 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 449-7777
Sushi King 1330 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 395-0120
Tacos Por Favor 1406 Olympic Blvd	(310) 392-5768
Taqueria Chihuahua 1909 Lincoln Bl	(310) 874-2057
Tazzina 1620 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 413-4270
Thai Dishes 111 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 394-6189
Toi On Wilshire 1120 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-7804

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Wilshire Restaurant 2454 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 586-1707

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Bangkok West 606 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 395-9658
Benihana 1447 4th St.	(310) 260-1423
Bookmark Cafe 601 Santa Monica Bl	(310) 587-2665
Bravo Cucina 1319 Third Street Promenade	(310) 394-0374
Britannia pub 318 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 458-5350
Broadway Deli 1457 Third Street Promenade	(310) 451-0616
Brunos Italian Rest Deli 1652 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co 301 SM Pier	(310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo 1442 2nd St.	(310) 587-0771
The Cafe 445 Pacific Coast Hwy	(310) 393-8282
Cafe Crepe 1460 Third Street Promenade	(310) 576-0499
Cafe Paradiso 2408 Wilshire Blvd	(818) 427-1796
Cafe Presto 2425 Colorado Ave. #107 B	(310) 829-7757
Cafe Sol 2425 Colorado Ave.	(310) 829-0031
California Chicken Cafe 2401 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-0477
California Crisp 13 Santa Monica Place	(310) 394-3800
California Pizza Kitchen 214 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-9335
Callahans Restaurant 1213 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-6210
Capo 1810 Ocean Ave.	(310) 394-5550
Carousel Cafe 1601 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 451-4277
Chez Jay 1657 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-1241
Comfort Cafe 420 Broadway	(310) 395-6252
Cora's Coffee Shoppe L P 1802 Ocean Ave.	(310) 434-2468
Crepes Company Inc 213 Arizona Ave.	(310) 801-0670
Dennys Restaurant 1645 1560 Lincoln Blvd	(714) 251-5409
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101 Wilshire Blvd (310) 319-3111

Fritto Misto 601 Colorado Ave.	(310) 458-2828

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Gate Of India 115 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 656-1665
Gaucho Grill 1251 Third Street Promenade	(323) 468-0220
Georges Bistro 1321 Third Street	(310) 451-8823
Hedwigs Cafe 1509 4th St.	(310) 394-3956

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Hot Dog On A Stick 1633 Ocean Front Walk	(760) 930-0456
Houston's 202 Wilshire Blvd	(602) 553-2111
I Cugini Restaurant 1501 Ocean Ave.	(310) 451-4595
Il Fornaio 1551 Ocean Ave.	(415) 945-0500
Infuzion Cafe 1149 3rd St. #100	(310) 393-9985
Interactive Cafe 215 Broadway	(310) 395-5009
Ipanema Cafe 150 Santa Monica Place	(310) 838-8586
Ivy At The Shore 1535 Ocean Ave.	(310) 278-2908
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La Salsa #44 1401 Third Street Promenade	(310) 587-0755
La Serenata 1416 4th St.	(310) 204-5360
Le Merigot Hotel 1740 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-9700
Leonidas 331 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 417-8851
Light House Buffet 201 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-2076
The Lobster 1602 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-9294
Locanda Del Lago 231 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-3525
Loews Santa Monica 1700 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-6700
Manchu Wok 11 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 458-3558
Mariasol 401 Santa Monica Pier	(213) 626-5554
Michaels 1147 3rd St.	(310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant 424 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 576-6330
Newsroom Santa Monica Inc 530 Wilshire	(310) 451-9444
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Perrys Pizz 930 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 2600 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 1200 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 458-3975
Perrys Pizza 2400 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Promenade Cafe 321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
R A W 609 Broadway	(310) 451-4148
Real Food Daily 514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard 522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Riva Restaurant 312 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-7482
Rustic Canyon 1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787

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256 Santa Monica Pier (310)393-PIERS

Scarboni 312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
SONNY MCLEAN'S 2615 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 449-1811
Stefano's 1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
Sunset Bar & Grill 1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express 1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189
Swingers 802 Broadway	(323) 656-6136
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Victoria Pizzeria 1607 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 394-6863
Villa Italian Specialties 8 Santa Monica Pl	(310) 451-3031
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Yangtze 1333 Third Street Promenade	(310)260-1994
Yankee Doodles 1410 Third Street	(310)394-4632
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Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
Ameci Pizza Pasta 2218 Lincoln Bl	(310) 314-0090
B B Q Garden 1707 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-6494
The Bread Factory Inc 1900 Pico Bl	(310) 434-4653
Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
Bud's Famous Deli & Desserts 2727 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-6860
Cafe Bolivar 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 581-2344
Campos Mexican Food Inc 2008 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-4477
Classic Pizza 2624 Pico Blvd	(310) 399-0452
The Counter 2901 Ocean Park Bl #102	(310) 399-8383
The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
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El Torito 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
El Texate 316 Pico Blvd.	(310) 399-1115
Fresh & Natural Cafe 1900 Pico Blvd	(310) 392-0516
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The Hungry Pocket 1715 Pico Blvd	(310) 458-5335
Il Forno Caffe & Pizzeria 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-1241
Josie Restaurant 2424 Pico Blvd	(310) 581-4201
La Playita 3306 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0090
Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-9011
Le Pain Du Jour 828 Pico Blvd #2	(310) 399-4870
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Santinos 3021 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 779-1210
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The Galley 2442 Main St.	(310) 452-1934
Holy Guacamole 2906 Main St.	(310) 314-4850
It's All Good Bakery 2629 Main St.	(310) 260-0233
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Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St.	(310) 392-5711
Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St.	(310) 396-4122
Manchego 2510 Main Street	(310) 450-3900
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Shoop's Delicatessen 2400 Main St	(310) 452-1019
Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12	(310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
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Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
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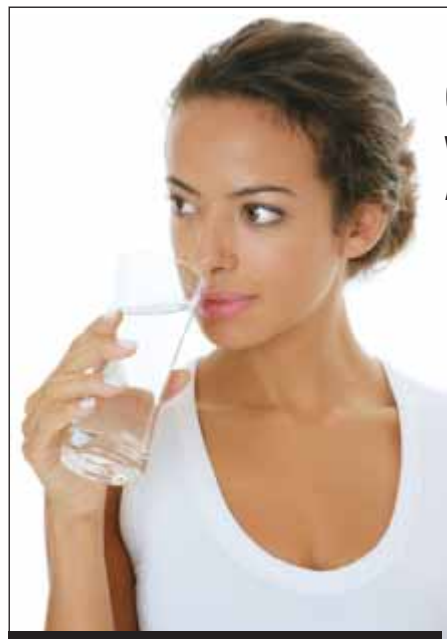
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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BIG DAY: **Performers prepare to entertain during the opening of the Annenberg Community Beach House in April. The public beach house is considered the first of its kind in the country.**

Gang violence alarms community

FROM 2009 PAGE 5

Downtown and helped create a new identity for Santa Monica, with the promenade becoming a popular tourist destination.

"Those of us who have been around can remember when you could actually drive down the Third Street Promenade before the bollards were up," Kathleen Rawson, the CEO of the Bayside District Corp., said earlier this year. "Nobody was actually sure this whole idea was going to work … and now it's amazing 20 years later the vibrancy is really the envy of many communities throughout the world."

GANG VIOLENCE STILL TERRORIZES

Another young life was snuffed out by senseless gang violence. Richard Juarez, a graduate of Olympic High School whose family has lived in Santa Monica for four generations, was attacked by two men in November as he and three friends left the Virginia Avenue Park Teen Center after participating in an art class.

Police called it a "brazen" attack that was most likely gang-related. Those who knew Juarez said he was not a gang member but may have been targeted because of his clothing and the company he kept.

The shooting death of the 20 -year-old at the park, which was remodeled and expanded to give local youth a safe haven and push out gang members who called it home, sent shock waves through the community as residents were left wondering what they must do to protect their children.

"He was a loving son … who was at the wrong place at the wrong time, which is kind of hard for us to understand how Virginia Park at nine o'clock can be the wrong place at the wrong time," Frank Juarez, the victim's uncle, said the day after the shooting. "He loved life. … he liked people and people liked him as soon as they met him."

The suspects were apprehended shortly after the shooting. A sergeant stationed near the park captured the attack on his dashboard camera, leading SMPD Chief Tim Jackman to call it "the most brazen attack I have ever seen."

Unfortunately, it wasn't the only attack of the year.

In April, three women were shot at in an

SEE 2009 PAGE 9

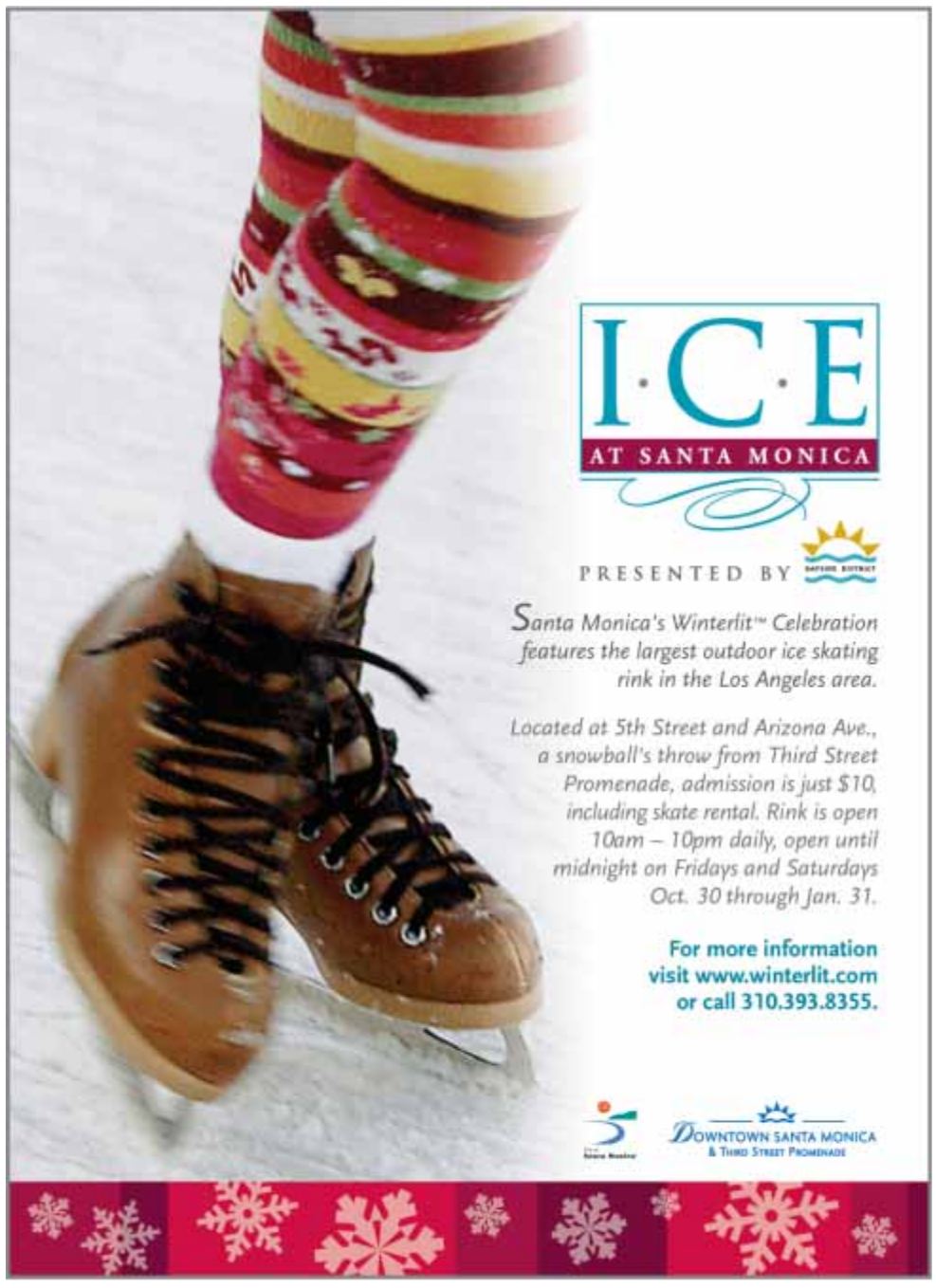




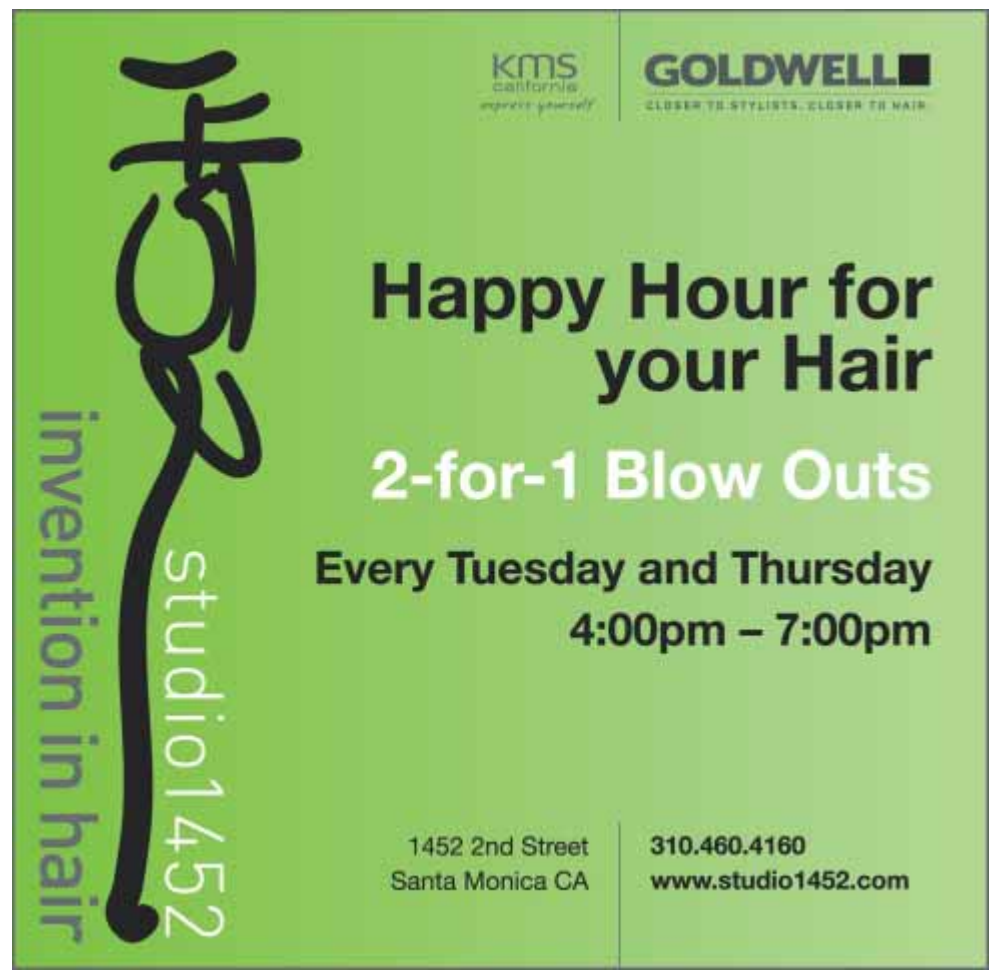
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Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

WONDER BOY: **Former UCLA and Samohi star Cody Decker was drafted by the Padres.**

Police used wire taps to nab killers

FROM **2009** PAGE 8

alley just off Palisades Park. Doctors passing by the shooting administered aid and may have prevented one of the women from dying, police said. No suspects were apprehended at that time, but police believed the women may have been targeted because of some previous encounter with the suspect.

The shooting raised alarm in the area, known for multi-million-dollar condos with views of the Pacific Ocean. It showed that no neighborhood in Santa Monica is immune to violence.

Just two months later, two men ran for cover into the Wine Barrel Liquor store in the 2100 block of Pico Boulevard following a drive-by-shooting. No one was injured in that incident.

In September, two more people were shot at, one apparently an innocent bystander, in a possible gang-related shooting in the Borderline Neighborhood. The suspects led police on a short chase on Interstate-10 before ditching their truck and fleeing on foot. The suspects were later apprehended in Sunset Park.

The victims included an 18-year-old male and a man in his 70s, police said. They were transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

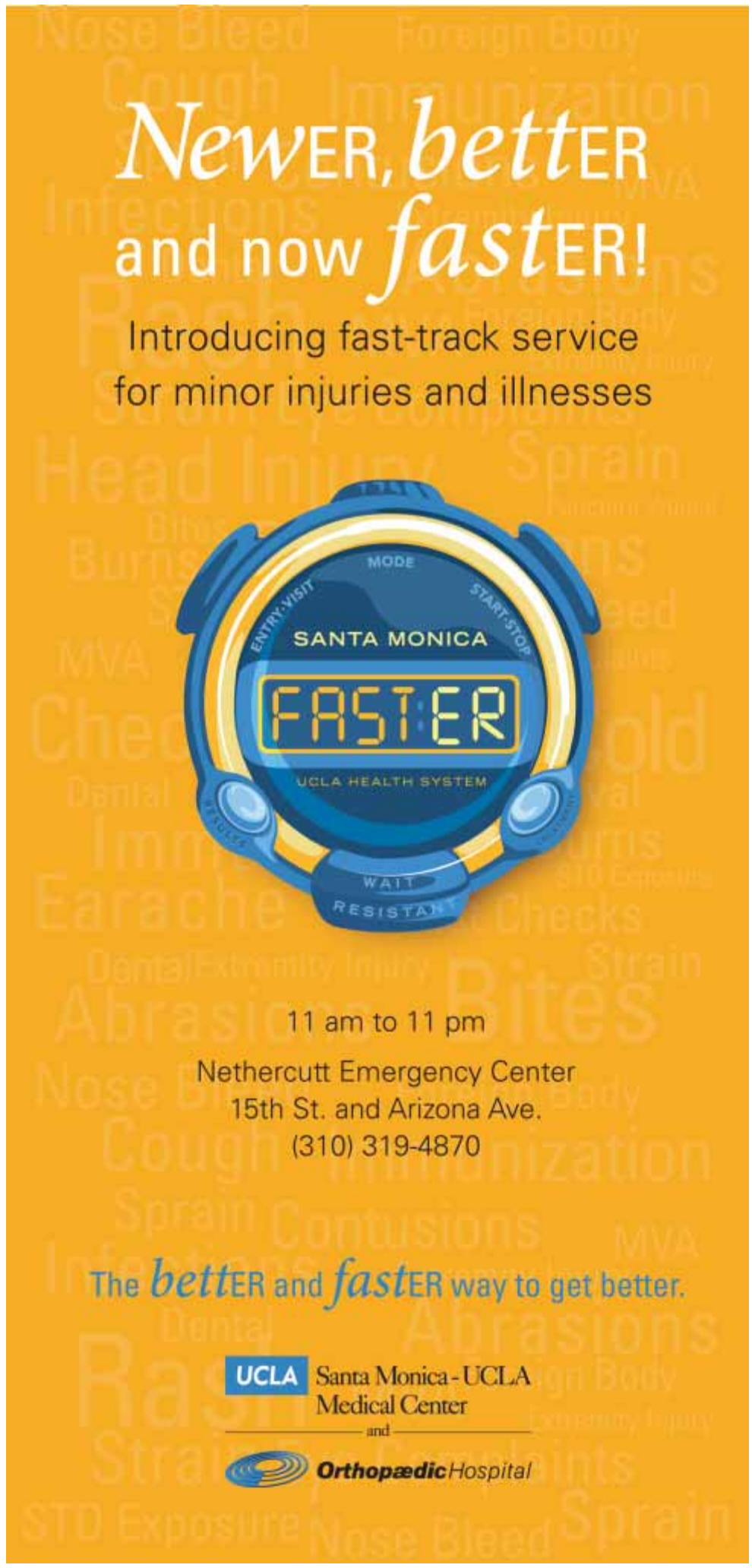
Then in October, detectives announced the arrests of several suspected gang members believed responsible for the death of resident Preston Brumfield, who was beaten and left for dead on a busy street in the Pico Neighborhood in 2008. Detectives said the men were also responsible for selling drugs and intimidating neighbors, creating a climate of fear.

Detectives used court-authorized wire-taps to make the arrests in what they dubbed "Operation Tombstone" because of the proximity to the Woodlawn Cemetery and the name of one of the gangs believed to be

SEE **2009** PAGE 10







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Samohi's Williams continues recovery

FROM 2009 PAGE 9

involved.

In November, a 17-year-old Inglewood resident was stabbed following a Santa Monica High School football game. Police arrested the two suspects, who later pled guilty to a lesser charge and received 180 days in jail and three years probation.

The violence served as a grim reminder that even though Santa Monica may feel like paradise, the community is still a target and more needs to be done to stem the tide of gang violence.

WILLIAMS RETURNS HOME

The harsh reality that high school football can be a violent sport hit Samohi this year. Junior linebacker Cody Williams, playing in the first game of the season, injured his cervical spine during what appeared to be a routine play.

The injury, which will take up to another year to truly assess, put the well-liked Williams in the hospital for nearly three months before he finally was released to return home in mid December. The injury united the team and the Samohi community.

Williams has regained movement in his arms and has even wiggled his toes on occasion. His family and friends welcomed him home and he is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Northridge on an outpatient basis.

His mother, Stacy Williams, said she plans to take time off from work to help her son readjust to life at home. A collar he had been wearing since the accident was removed recently and his family said his doctors are optimistic that he may regain more movement.

"I'm very emotional," Stacy Williams said. "I feel relieved.

"This journey is going to have a positive ending."

LIFE'S A BEACH

A major development in 2009 was the opening of the Annenberg Community Beach House, a project decades in the making. Thanks to a generous, $27.5 million gift from the Annenberg Foundation, Santa Monica is home to the nation's first public beach club, allowing residents and visitors alike to relax at the former home of silent movie actress Marion Davies, who was known to throw opulent parties with guests like Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo and Clark Gable.

The grand opening featured ornately decorated synchronized swimmers from Cirque du Soleil, who performed a graceful routine in the beach club's historic pool lined with black and white marble and colorful tiles. Ballroom dancers gave demonstrations of their talents in the event house. Sand Sculptures International gave lessons to kids on how to build the ultimate sand castle. Families lined up for free shaved ice. All while surf rock played in the background.

"To the left, we have the community's front porch, the sand and the surf," Mayor Ken Genser told the crowd. "Our front porch has been here since the beginning of time. We finally built our living room."

The nearly $35-million project would not have been possible without Wallis Annenberg, the TV Guide heiress and philanthropist.

"The truth is, this glorious expanse of sea and sand, these stunning ocean vistas, should belong to us all and that is why I wanted to help return it to … [and] help the city of Santa Monica transform it into a shared-use, community treasure, a window not just onto Santa Monica's past, but onto eternity for everyone to enjoy," Annenberg said.

PUTTING A STOP TO IT

Always ahead of the curve, the City Council this year became one of the first elected bodies to pass two bans — one that covered smoking and the other focusing on cat declawing — that were somewhat controversial and generated passionate comments at council meetings.

The council banned smoking in the common areas of multi-unit residences like apartment buildings and condominiums, preventing smokers from lighting up by the pool or in the laundry room. The ban was an extension of previous laws outlawing smoking in public places, including the promenade, bus stops, the beach and local parks. The bans are meant to protect the public from deadly secondhand smoke, which has been labeled a human carcinogen, which means there is no safe level of exposure.

The ban established a way for residents to challenge a neighbor who smokes in a common area, allowing them to seek damages of at least $100 in small claims court. The council made sure that landlords cannot use violations of the law as a means to evict tenants, a concern for some on the dais.

"The seriousness of the problem of tobacco smoke in apartments is finally beginning to be understood in Santa Monica," Marlene Gomez of Smokefree Air for Everyone (SAFE), said earlier this year. SAFE is a support network of individuals who have been disabled by secondhand smoke.

Some say the ban pits neighbors against neighbors and can create animosity within an apartment building. Others felt poor tenants would be disproportionately affected because they would be unable to hire attorneys or purchase kits to help them quit smoking if they choose.

There is already talk of expanding the ban further to include restrictions on smoking within one's own home, but we'll save that for 2010.

As far as the cats and their claws, the council moved to ban declawing in October after animal rights activists came out in force, calling the practice torture. The council had to act before the end of the year because a state law that takes effect Jan. 1, 2010 would have prevented cities from banning declawing. Santa Monica followed West Hollywood's lead.

The ban has been opposed by various veterinary professional groups, including the California Veterinary Medical Association.

TAKEN BY SURPRISE

City officials were stunned and insulted in July when they received word that the American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of six chronically homeless people, filed a lawsuit claiming City Hall was violating the rights of said homeless by arresting them for sleeping in public places. The complaint alleged City Hall violated their constitutional rights by arresting them for breaking the local law against camping when there are not enough shelter beds available.

This came as a surprise to many considering all that City Hall has done to help the down-and-out, earning Santa Monica the nickname, "Home for the Homeless."

The suits were similarly surprising to officials in Santa Barbara and Laguna Beach when filed by the ACLU in December 2008 and March of this year, respectively.

"This lawsuit in particular represents what many people believe to be a misguided use of resources and energy that could be more wisely spent in solving problems regionally," Joe Lawrence, the assistant city attorney, said.

SEE 2009 PAGE 11

Residents fight to block rail maintenance yard

FROM 2009 PAGE 10

The city of Los Angeles was sued in 2003 over similar allegations, later agreeing to a settlement in which it suspended enforcement of an anti-camping law from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. until an additional 1,250 units of permanent supportive housing was constructed, at least 50 percent of which would be located on Skid Row and/or greater Downtown Los Angeles.

The settlement allowed enforcement of the ordinance at all times within 10 feet of any operational entrance, exit, driveway or loading dock.

Local city officials are said to be working on a settlement, but no official statement has been released.

In recent years, City Hall has focused resources on housing the city's most vulnerable homeless first, helping them to get some stability so that they can move ahead with recovery. The latest homeless count showed an 8 percent drop in the total number of people living on the streets.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, to see a decline in street homelessness," Julie Rusk, the Human Services manager, said. "The city has been working hard for a long time to develop a compassionate and effective plan to address the issues of homelessness in our community."

NOT IN MY BACKYARD

While Santa Monica is known for its dedication to public transit thanks to the Big Blue Bus, residents living near Stewart Street Park are not supportive of a plan to build a light rail maintenance yard across the street from their homes. They were especially miffed that they learned about the plan late in the process, questioning why city officials didn't get involved sooner in finding an alternative location.

Residents united in their opposition to the creation of what they call a "toxic triangle," an area of the city that is surrounded by City Hall's waste transfer station, the I-10 Freeway and the proposed maintenance yard. The maintenance yard proposal continued to draw opposition from residents who said the facility should not be located in a neighborhood filled with homes.

City officials and the Exposition Construction Authority looked at other alternatives, including purchasing property along Olympic Boulevard, but so far the Stewart Street location is the number one option and the most affordable.

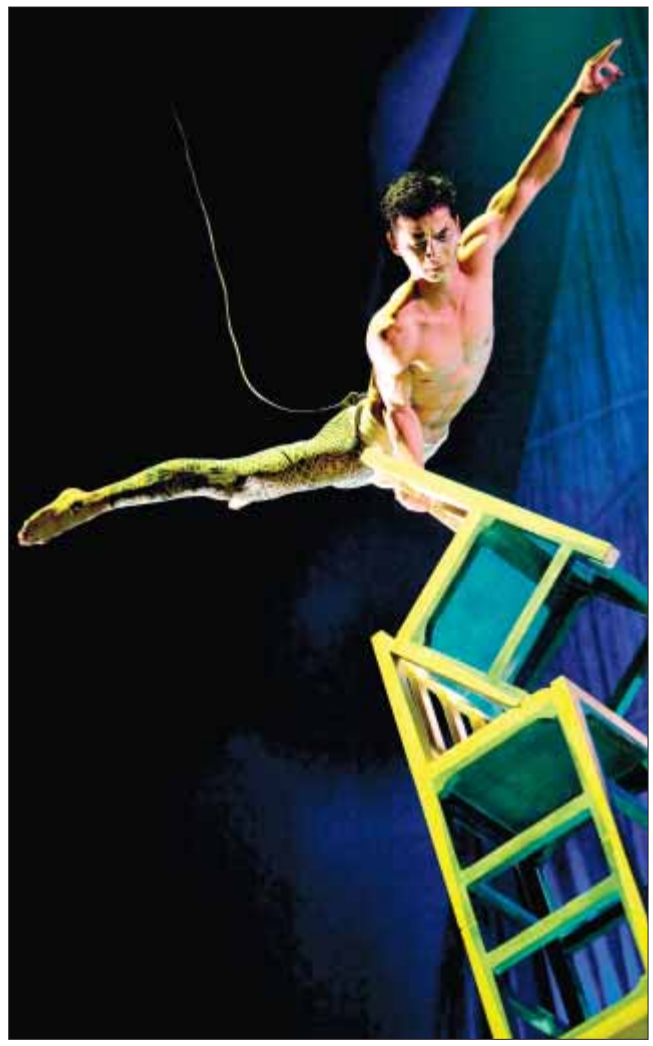
A number of residents are calling the move "environmental racism."

The debate is sure to continue in the new year. The final decision on the location will be made by the Expo board, not the City Council.

MLB DRAFT KIND TO VIKINGS

It isn't often that a baseball player from one of our local high school teams gets drafted to play pro ball.

In 2009, there were a pair of former Santa Monica High School stars who were tapped to leave the amateur ranks behind. Samohi's Tyler Skaggs was the first taken. He went to the Los Angeles Angels with the 40th pick in the 2008 MLB Draft.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TOUGH ACT: **Performer Zhang Gongli demonstrates balance atop the Chinese chairs during Cirque Du Soleil's 'KOOZA.'**

The star left-handed hurler was followed by pro scouts all season, with a number of teams considering taking Skaggs in the first half of the first round. A sprained ankle kept him off the mound for a crucial stretch of the season, potentially causing him to fall to the Angels in the supplemental round, which takes place between the first and second rounds to give teams compensation for losing free agents.

For Skaggs, going to the Angels was a dream come true. He has been a life-long fan and was happy to get the oppor-

SEE 2009 PAGE 12



LOL: laughing out loud
BRB: be right back
MUSM: miss you so much
A/S/L: age, sex, location
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council
You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. Protect your kid's online life. To get a full list of acronyms or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

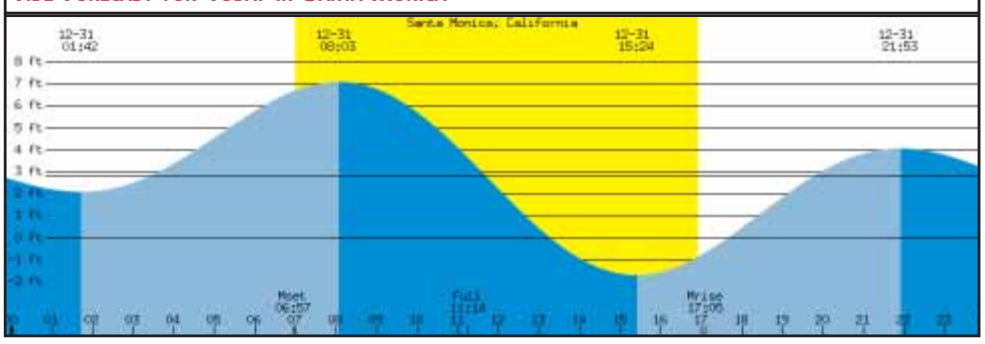
Swell Forecast

Should see WNW swell build into the area, bringing chest high sets to west facing breaks. Winds should be light, but may have a northerly element to them.

Long Range Synopsis

May see an increase in NW wind swell, but basing this on the long range models, it's too early to call today.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **December 21, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 19

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	C	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	B
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	D

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	B	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	B	A
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	B	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	B	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	B

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

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

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City continues to fund schools

FROM 2009 PAGE 11

tunity to play close to family and friends. While signing with the Angels was a priority, Skaggs and his management waited until the final week that drafted players could sign to come to agreement with the Angels.

At the time of signing, Skaggs said, "Now I can just go play baseball."

It didn't take long for Skaggs to win a championship.

He helped the single-A Orem Owlz win the Pioneer league title in September giving the highly-touted prospect a bit of success early in his career.

"I feel really good," Skaggs said of the accomplishment. "Everybody on the team is really cool even though I'm the youngest guy."

Skaggs wasn't the only former Viking to make it to the pros. Cody Decker, who played for UCLA after his Samohi days, was taken in the 22nd round of the draft by the San Diego Padres.

This came following a senior season at UCLA that saw the slugging first baseman lead the Pac-10 with 21 home runs. He was nervous about his prospects going into the draft, but was pleasantly surprised to be taken by a SoCal team.

He wasted little time getting used to pro ball. He slapped 15 home runs with 63 runs batted in to lead the Arizona League. His .354 batting average put him in the league's top three, narrowly missing a triple crown. He was named league MVP for his efforts.

"I'm not nearly done yet," Decker said. "I'm just one step of the way there."

CHA-CHING

While it came as no surprise, the decision by the City Council to continue funding local schools to a tune of roughly $7.5 million a year is a significant story for 2009 given the drastic funding cuts the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has had to deal with thanks to what some have called a dysfunctional state Legislature and an inept governor.

The funding agreement also gave the City Council some leverage in forcing the district to make changes to special education.

The contract, which was originally signed in June of 2005, gives the SMMUSD a share of city revenues every year in exchange for public access to its facilities, including classrooms, athletic fields and playgrounds.

What the agreement essentially did for City Hall was codify and affirm its ability to use school facilities for its pre-existing programs, including CREST, which provides after-school activities in the classroom, and the Playground Partnership, which allows unsupervised recreational use.

The joint-use agreement has been a hot topic since 2007 when the district renegotiated a roughly half-million-dollar increase, which was subsequently withheld by the council after parents began reporting concerns about the special education program. The council finally released the money in January after it was assured by district administrators and educational advocates that changes have been made, though there are still some who disagree.

The extension reached in 2009 is good for three years, allowing for annual increases.

kevinh@smdp.com

DANIEL ARCHULETA contributed to this report.



MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
10:10 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2:05, 3:05, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:20

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
11:05am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
10:40am, 11:30am, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:55

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
10:15am, 10:55am, 1:10, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:05, 11:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Loss of a Teardrop Diamond (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:10

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) 1hr 43min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30, 6:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30, 10:20

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Don't go far, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Pressure builds as many people and obligations seem to pop up out of the blue. You could be juggling different responsibilities, professionally and personally. You could be overwhelmed by what is going on. Tonight: Stay close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. Make New Year's calls early on in the day. You could be overwhelmed by all the people heading in with well wishes and last-minute invitations. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ It becomes apparent that you don't enjoy yourself unless there is a lot of hoopla and champagne popping. Expenses of late could be overwhelming. Try to cut out the frivolous and not indulge as much. Tonight: Stay present in the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others keep knocking on your door. Listen to what a friend or loved one shares. Clearly there is a decisiveness in plans and desires. Be flexible, and don't worry so much about the end results. Tonight: Celebrate the new year in full regalia.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Perhaps being a little more low-key than past New Year's would feel good. Whether you need downtime or would prefer time with a special loved one makes no difference. Play this New Year's quickly. Tonight: Feelings intensify.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Start looking at matters from both sides. Plans could easily dissolve into dust before you know it. Don't get uptight. Know that you are resourceful. Trust that a more interesting option will appear. Tonight: With the crowds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Tensions build, as you might have the same plans year after year, and you would like to do something more different and with perhaps deeper meaning. Remember, there is room to flex, whether you see it or not. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ If you see an opening or if plans change, opt for the unusual choice. You could be overwhelmed by all the possibilities in front of you. Communication could overwhelm you. Make calls early on. Tonight: Talk about your dreams. Can you make one of them a New Year's resolution?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner would like to have your attention exclusively. For such a gregarious sign, this implied demand could be a problem. Listen to what is offered, and decide if what is requested is a possibility. Tonight: Be with that special person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Others demand your time and attention. Give as much as you can, but also give yourself permission to close down if need be. Today's eclipse makes this New Year's unusually special and dynamic. Tonight: Let your imagination take the lead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might choose to spend the next few days in a very casual, easy manner. Today, clear out your to-dos quickly. Realize what is happening behind the scenes with a child or loved one. Tonight: Give your best effort.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You above all signs know how to play and party as if there is no tomorrow. Try to complete anything that seems to be a must, so that you can relax and get into the moment. Help someone feel more upbeat. Tonight: Bring in the new year as only you can.

Happy birthday

This year, you often reflect on what direction you need to take. For many of you, a radical career change might be in order. For others, it might be taking better care of yourself. Some women might re-examine their commitments to their relationships. Some men will go through an identity crisis. Whatever the situation, you create the pathway to change. If you are single, you could meet someone very exciting. Just don't allow this relationship to move too quickly. You are changing, and what works now might not work later. If you are attached, you might juggle the balance between the two of you, rekindling the bond. CANCER has the same issues as you but approaches them differently.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



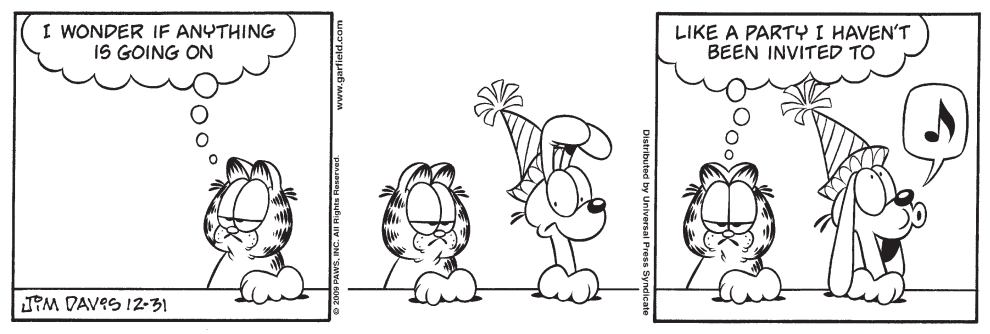
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



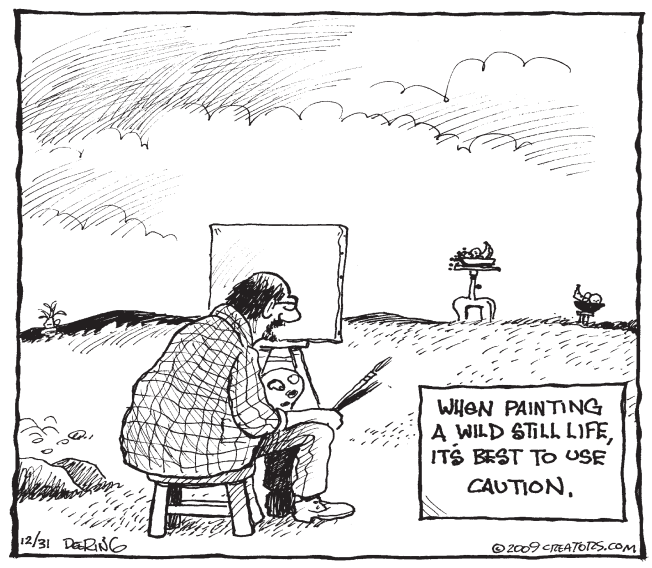
Garfield

By Jim Davis



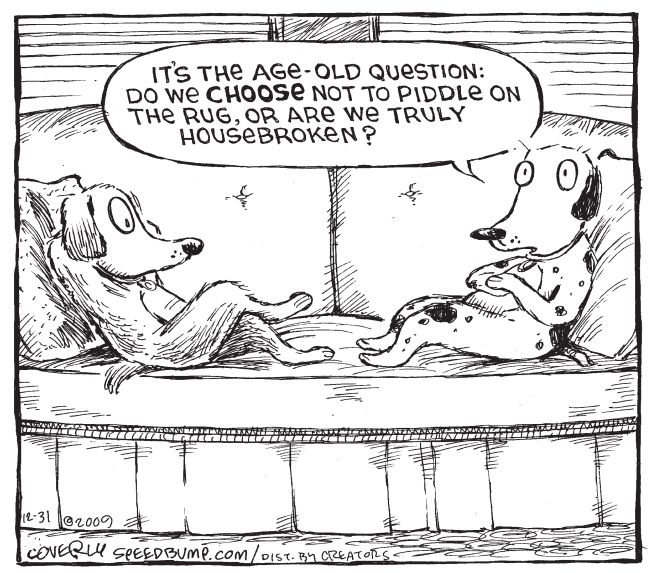
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

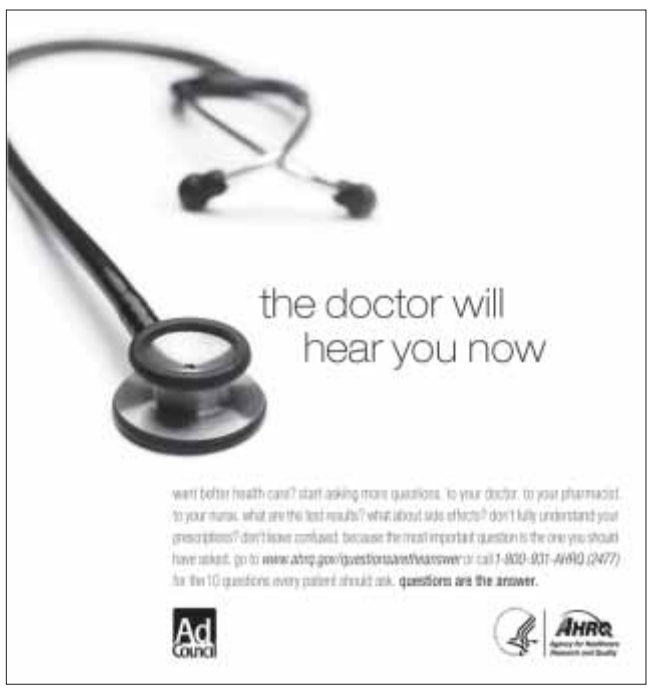
There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Physics amount
5 Winter quaff
10 Hockey's Lindros
11 Maria's husband
12 Rural sight
13 In the book
14 When some marching bands perform
16 One-on-one meeting
20 Polished
23 Beam of light
24 Bakery buys
25 Demi or Dudley
27 Drs.' org.
28 Struck out
29 Kickoff duration
32 Kind of membership
36 Town center
39 Sweater material
40 Divide
41 Holds title to
42 Sailors' concerns
43 Benefit

DOWN

1 Interlace
2 Diva's song
3 Window part
4 Jeer
5 Battery, for one
6 Beginning
7 Rollaway bed
8 Bullring call
9 Throw in
11 Wonderland visitor
15 Earth tones
17 De-crease?
18 Grown-up filly
19 Took in
20 Nevada neighbor
21 Hindu hero
22 Muffin choice
25 Jerry Herman musical
26 Boxing combos
28 Drummer's partner
30 Sylvan spot
31 Car quartet
33 Illinois neighbor
34 Brother, of a sort
35 Different
36 Fast jet
37 On the — vive
38 German conjunction

B	L	A	B	■	■	■	T	E	N	S
L	A	P	A	T	■	D	I	X	I	E
A	G	O	R	A	■	I	N	O	N	E
N	E	G	■	C	R	E	A	T	E	D
C	R	E	A	K	E	D	■	I	T	S
■	S	E	L	L	S	■	I	C	Y	■
■	■	■	M	E	T	O	O	■	■	■
■	G	A	S	■	O	N	T	A	P	■
S	I	T	■	C	R	E	A	S	E	D
C	R	E	A	M	E	D	■	S	E	W
A	L	A	M	O	■	G	R	I	P	E
R	I	S	E	N	■	E	A	S	E	L
S	E	E	N	■	■	■	H	I	R	T

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						■	41			
42					■	■	43			

12-31

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 5 29 35 51 Meganumber: 3 Jackpot: $27M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 19 20 21 41 Meganumber: 3 Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 5 6 22 29 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 9 3 EVENING: 7 2 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 10 Solid Gold RACE TIME: 1.40.05

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Occasionally, people lose their short-term memory following vigorous sex, according to doctors interviewed for a November CNN report on "transient global amnesia." The condition occurs because blood flow to the brain is restricted by the strenuous activity, temporarily disabling the hippocampus from recording new memory. One sufferer, "Alice," recalled her experience, recounting how she initially cracked a joke about being unable to remember how good the sex was that she just had, and then supposedly repeated the joke over and over, each time as if she had just thought of it.

■ (1) Three men were convicted in August in Kansas City, Mo., of having convinced "numerous" customers to buy 3-inch-by-4-inch laminated "diplomat" cards that, promoters said, would legally free them from ever having to pay taxes or being arrested for any crime. According to the FBI, customers ponied up fees ranging from $450 to $2,000 to get the cards. (2) Dr. Yehu Azaz, a wealthy, respected physician, gave up his career in 1991 and gave away all of his possessions, coming under the spell of guru Rena Denton's spiritual healing center in Somerset, England. In a 2009 lawsuit to recover his wealth, Azaz said that despite being an educated professional, he did not realize what he had done until 2003 because he had been brainwashed ("unduly influenced") by the aged guru. (A judge tossed out his lawsuit in July.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1998 The European Exchange Rate Mechanism freezes the values of the legacy currencies in the Eurozone, and establishes the value of the euro currency.

1999 Boris Yeltsin resigns as President of Russia, leaving Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as the acting President.

1999 Five hijackers, who had been holding 155 hostages on an Indian Airlines plane, leave the plane with two Islamic clerics that they had demanded be freed.

WORD UP!

presage
\PRES-ij; pri-SEYJ\ , noun;
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1625.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

12500 CULVER Blvd., near Marina 1+1 $975 Includes parking, laundry , elevator, gated MUST SEE Call Lenny (310)822-7282

2712 ABBOT Kinney, in Venice parking, laundry, gated. All utilities included 1+1 $1150, single $895. Call Doug (310)577-9609

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1395 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091691294 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CHRIS BARRETT DESIGN, 3026 NEBRASKA AVE, SUITE A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CHRIS BARRETT INC., 3026 NEBRASKA AVE, SUITE A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)9/1/2009. /s/: CHRIS BARRETT INC., CHRIS BARRETT, PRESIDENT/OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/1/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/10/2009, 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091745389 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GREEN GENERATIONS, 2853 AVENAL ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CESAR ALAMILLO, 2853 AVENAL ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/18/2009. /s/: CESAR ALAMILLO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/18/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009, 1/7/2010

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091745409 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ROOFING CREW, 3239 GRANADA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90065. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JOSE LUIS LOPEZ, 3239 GRANADA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90065 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/18/2009. /s/: JOSE LUIS LOPEZ This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/18/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009, 1/7/2010

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South of Wilshire	$850,000	$649,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$650,000
Ocean Park	$1,380,000	$714,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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