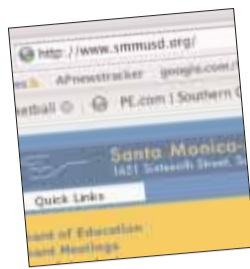


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Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE CONGRATS TO THE CHAMPS ISSUE



photo courtesy of samohisoccer.com

GAME OVER: Members of the SAMOHI boys' soccer team on Saturday celebrate after scoring one of their two goals against Jurupa Valley of Mira Loma to take home the Division IV CIF-SS championship. The Vikings will face Newbury Park (12-5-4) at Santa Monica College tonight in a quarterfinals matchup for their first crack at a state championship title.

On top of the world

Samohi boys' soccer, Crossroads girls' basketball ball crowned CIF champs

BY JON HABER

Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHI Security had to hold Santa Monica fans back from storming the field at Warren High School in Downey Saturday when the Samohi boys' soccer team (26-0-1) made history by topping off its undefeated season with a Division IV CIF-SS championship.

"It was impressive. We had a great turnout

from our stands behind us," Samohi head coach Frank Gatell said. "Not only did [the fans] watch the boys make history, but having them be part of it made it even better."

The 2-0 victory over Jurupa Valley of Mira Loma (20-3-4) marked the end to an incredible season by the Vikings. Samohi dominated teams all year, suffering their only tie in a 1-1 match against Crespi of

SEE CHAMPIONS PAGE 7

Construction at historic house causes a ruckus

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

NOMA All is quiet in a sleepy upscale neighborhood just north of San Vicente Boulevard on Monday, the tranquility only slightly disturbed by the crackle of the leaves on the giant fig trees that line the block.

All was anything but in the weeks prior when several residents along a stretch of La Mesa Drive began raising concerns about construction work taking place at an historic house designed by the famous late Santa Monica architect John Byers.

The issue centers around a single-family home at 2101 La Mesa Drive — among four on the street designed by Byers from 1917 to 1925 — and whether the property owner, who received a permit to partially demolish the roof of the garage, exceeded the amount of construction he was allowed to do by City Hall.

One neighborhood said over 50 percent of the home's "exterior surface" has been demolished.

Now the matter will go before the Landmarks Commission in the next few months as the semi-judiciary board could determine whether the 84-year-old home, which is listed on the Santa Monica Historic Resources Inventory, will be designated as a historic landmark.

Linda Brown, who lives next door to the Byers-designed home, filed the landmark nomination application last week. The matter will be heard within 65 days of the filing of the application, according to Associate Planner Roxanne Tanemori.

Under the Landmarks ordinance, any pending demolition for a building over 40 years old is referred to the commission, Tanemori said.

Brown, who was unavailable for comment on Monday, contacted her neighbors, along with City Hall and the Santa Monica Conservancy when she noticed the amount of work that was being done on the house.

"The neighbor has called everybody and brought everyone to alert," Tanemori said on Monday. "City staff is taking a careful look at the situation."

Along with demolishing the partial garage roof, the permit holder, listed as Cameron Strang, received a permit on Nov. 21 of last year to stabilize the hillside and rear yard of the house, according to the planning office at City Hall.

Strang declined to comment on Monday. Doris Sosin, who founded the North of Montana Avenue Association and the Santa Monica Conservancy, was notified by Brown about the amount of construction that was

SEE HOUSE PAGE 9

Forcing Malibu, county to clean up their act

Lawsuit challenges stormwater pollution plan

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM BEACH The county of Los Angeles and the city of Malibu must stop bacteria and toxins from flowing into coastal waters where they sicken beachgoers and damage marine life, according to two lawsuits filed Monday in federal court by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the

Santa Monica Baykeeper.

In the past, local governments have been required by courts to take steps to reduce urban runoff, which is the top source of coastal water pollution, but Monday's lawsuits are the first attempt to hold governments accountable for measurable results, according to the NRDC.

"Year after year, the county's own data

show that pollutants ranging from cyanide to fecal bacteria are flowing into local waters at levels the law forbids," David Beckman, director of the Coastal Water Quality Project at NRDC, said. "It's time to stop going through the motions of fighting water pollution, and actually clean up the water."

In addition, the lawsuits seek to enforce a "no discharge" rule meant to protect a coastal preserve in the waters off northern Los Angeles County. The requirements are contained in a Clean Water Act permit issued to

the county, Malibu, and other cities in 2001 by the state of California's Regional Water Quality Control Board. The lawsuits were brought under the federal Clean Water Act.

As part of its Clean Water Act permit duties, the county is required to test the quality of runoff flowing into local waters, such as the Santa Monica Bay. The county's own data confirm it is ignoring permit standards that impose specific limits on the

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 8

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Crossroads girls named CIF champs

FROM CHAMPIONS PAGE 1

Encino. The Vikings won the Ocean League championship and carried their momentum into the playoffs, where they pummeled their opponents by a combined score of 18-0.

Gatell credits the team's strong play to the defense.

"Defensively, we did a great job," the coach said. "That's one of the reasons the offense can do so well. The defense reassures the offense with their play and says 'hey go score goals, we got it covered back here.'"

The defense protected the two-goal lead in the second half thanks in large part to senior goal keeper Alex Kovacs, who made two big saves when Jurupa Valley tried to put together a late-game attack.

"It's just a reaction," Kovacs said of his saves. "I honestly don't remember anything from the game. Something in me just fires, and I go."

Samohi senior forward Alessandro Canale scored the Vikings' two goals, both assisted by senior midfielder Artur Jozkowicz. The second goal came with 12 minutes remaining in the game and gave Samohi some breathing room with little time remaining.

"I definitely had a sense the game would be over [after the second goal]," Canale said. "It would have been hard for Jurupa Valley to come back. We fought hard all game."

After the game was over, the boys realized their season-long goal had finally become a reality.

"My team definitely sacrificed a lot throughout the year," Canale said. "I was happy with my team's play, and I just wanted to celebrate the victory"

Kovacs said, "It means a lot [to make history]. It's something we, as a team, have been striving for the whole year, taking one game at a time."

Now, the team has a chance to embark on a new journey.

CIF officials have implemented a new CIF-SS division state championship tournament in 2008, which allows high-ranking southern section teams to compete for a state championship. The tournament is divided into three divisions based on school population.

Samohi is in Division I with seven other teams. The Vikings will take on Newbury Park (12-5-4) at Santa Monica College tonight in a quarterfinals matchup for their first crack at a state championship title. The game is set to start at 5 p.m.

"Everyone is very excited. We just want to keep playing," Canale said.

Gatell is happy his team gets one last

chance to play together and have fun because no team has ever had this opportunity before.

"We're just going to the players and saying go out there and enjoy it," Gatell said. "It's something new and it's there for us to take. We wanted to win CIF, but now with this new competition it's like we're going for the cherry on top."

CROSSROADS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Samohi wasn't the only high school in the city making history over the weekend.

The Crossroads girls' basketball team (20-7) defeated Sierra Canyon of Chatsworth (22-5) at Walter Pyramid in Long Beach Friday to capture the school's first ever girls' basketball Division V A CIF-SS championship.

"The most important thing for the girls was the history part of it," Crossroads head coach Kevin Cormier said. "We accomplished one of the biggest goals we had set for us in winning our first ever CIF title."

The Roadrunners held control throughout the entire finals match, defeating the Trailblazers 63-50. The victory marked the third time this season Crossroads defeated their Delphic League rival.

Crossroads made their march to a CIF championship look quite easy, outscoring playoff opponents by a staggering 137 combined points. According to Cormier, everything clicked for the girls at the right time.

"As far as the playoffs were concerned, offensively and defensively, we really started playing well," Cormier said. "Our whole mantra once we got to the playoffs was our defense would be our offense, and the girls really focused on defending."

The key to the Roadrunners' final victory was rebounding. Crossroads used its low-post advantage in grabbing nearly twice as many rebounds as the Trailblazers. Seniors Kristina Murray, 17 rebounds, and Alexa Palacios, 12 rebounds, set the tone in the post.


"We limited them to one shot and got two or three shots on our end," Cormier said. "That allowed us to play into our tempo, and that would be the deciding factor."

Senior Shannon McQueen led the Roadrunners offensively, scoring 22 points. Senior Megan Baer added 15 points and Murray chipped in with 11.

The Roadrunners played Exeter Monday for a chance to make an appearance in the CIF-SS regional finals tournament. The score was not available at presstime.

The winner of that game will play La Hoya Country tonight in San Diego at 7 p.m.

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Series to focus on the Internet

FROM PORTAL PAGE 3

was that a cultural site should be created that was free and easily accessible. The Cultural Affairs Division picked up the challenge and created the Web site, which will be unveiled tonight.

Vernez said that there are three to four "Leadership Series" courses a year on a vast array of topics: One on the budget, one on the current state of projects around the city, and one on the Web and other means to reach the community. The courses are free.

"(Tonight's) course will feature all the

Web offerings that are available to the public," Vernez said. "It is important so that we can help the public get up-to-date news, projects and services on what the city is doing."

"We redesigned it so that the content is much more prominent and easy to navigate," Vernez added.

The Leadership Series has been keeping the community and the city connected for the past seven years.

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