



# Santa Monica Daily Press

FACING UP TO THE MUSIC  
ENTERTAINMENT ON 14

Since 2001: A news odyssey

## DAILY LOTTERY

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
7 14 24 41 56  
Meganumber: 7  
Jackpot: \$40M

**Super LOTTO PLUS**  
11 12 21 30 40  
Meganumber: 10  
Jackpot: \$13M

**Fantasy 5** 1 7 9 23 33

**DAILY 3** MIDDAY: 0 1 9  
EVENING: 7 9 8

1st: 12 Lucky Charms  
2nd: 07 Eureka!  
3rd: 03 Hot Shot  
RACE TIME: 1:43.55

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

■ **Celebrity Trademark News:** The gruff, former Chicago Bears player and coach Mike Ditka recently teamed with a California winery to sell a signature line of wines, including a premium taste retailing for \$50 a bottle. And actor Andy Griffith filed a lawsuit in November demanding that the former William Fenrick change his legal name back from "Andy Griffith," which he admitted he acquired only to help himself get elected sheriff of Grant County, Wis. (he lost). And a man in China's Fujian province applied to the government in November to sell female sanitary pads under the trademark "Yao Ming" (China's superstar pro basketball player), catching Yao's agents dumbfounded at the man's audacity.

■ **New York City Episcopal priest Timothy Holder ("Poppa T"),** whose HipHopEMass and "Hip Hop Prayer Book" have turned south Bronx youth into parishioners over the last two years, issued a music CD in November featuring Bible stories in street language. For example, the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is all that / I need for nuthin' / he 'lows me to chill."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 335th day of 2006.  
There are 30 days left in the year.

**1955** Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus. Mrs. Parks was arrested, sparking a yearlong boycott of the buses by blacks.

## WORD UP!

**galvanic** (gal-VAN-ik), *adjective:*  
1. Of, pertaining to, or producing a direct current of electricity, especially when produced chemically. 2. Affecting or affected as if by an electric shock; startling; shocking. 3. Stimulating; energizing.

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**BALLERS:** Members of the girl's varsity basketball team at Santa Monica High School run through a scrimmage on Tuesday. Following a disappointing first-round exit from the playoffs last season, the Vikings are eyeing a state title run in 2006-07.

## Vikings ready to make noise

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

**SAMOHI** — When the girl's varsity basketball team picked the Queen song "Under Pressure" as its theme for the 2006-07 season, it spoke volumes about their collective mindset.

Eager to erase the bad taste left in their mouths following a first-round bounce in last year's state playoffs, courtesy of eventual champions Long Beach Poly — a team that had to forfeit 20 games for use of an ineligible player — the Vikings are poised for another run at the title.

With former assistant coach Marty Verdugo now at the helm, the girl's basketball team, which is returning four of five starters from last year's squad that went 20-3, has adopted their new leader's philosophy that a whole lot of defense, with the right



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**THEIR BEST SHOT:** Head coach Marty Verdugo works with his players at Samohi earlier this week. With four of five starters returning from last year's varsity team, the Vikings are shooting to make a deep run into the state playoffs.

amount of offense, wins games.

"Defense is where it starts," said Senior Forward Kelly Snyder on Thursday. "We get our energy from our defense."

The team had a good start on Wednesday, opening the season in the first round of the Moorpark

See VIKINGS, page 16

## STATE

## With wages, times aren't really changing

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Women remain poorer than their male counterparts, despite living longer and making up nearly half of the county's workforce, according to a study released

Thursday by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

"The State of Women in Los Angeles Report" shows women are beset by a myriad of challenges, including low wages, poor educational training and a lack of afford-

able housing.

While nearly 45 percent of the county's workforce is comprised of women, about 40 percent of the estimated 88,000 homeless people in

See WOMEN'S WAGES, page 17

## Montana kicks it into gear

BY JESSICA ROBERTS

Special to the Daily Press

**MONTANA AVENUE** — There's another shopping district in Santa Monica trying to steal a bit of the holiday thunder away from the likes of Main Street and the promenade.

The Montana Avenue Holiday Walk, which encompasses the businesses and galleries between Seventh and 17th streets, lights up today — the first Friday in December — with decorations, live music, food and carolers.

For more than 20 years, the walk has opened the holiday season in Santa Monica, according to Jane Walker of Three Bags Full. Walker is the former chairperson of the Montana Avenue Merchants Association.

"It's a kick-off to the holidays, a thank you to all our customers, and a chance to open your doors and have fun and sing and eat and rejoice ... and point out what you want to your husband, so he can come back and buy it," Walker said.

The event begins at 5 p.m., with

See HOLIDAY WALK, page 13



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**FRESH ICE:** Robert Didio, owner of DiDio's Authentic Italian Ices, re-installs some letters for the Holiday Walk.

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# Samohi team hopes to prove worthy of state title

VIKINGS, from page 1

Tournament with a 57-29 victory over Channel Island High School.

With a series of fast breaks and full court pressure, the Vikings managed to limit the Raiders to just 16 points in the first half, despite some poor outside shooting on their own part.

The Vikings say they were a little too hyped up from the adrenaline of finally starting the season, leading to bad shooting. That quickly changed as the Vikings settled into their game.

The team played Calabasas High School on Thursday night and will take on Newbury Park High School, a team that has turned into a rival, tonight.

"We beat them in the same tournament last year to move on to the championship game," Verdugo said of Newbury on Thursday. "They're a proud program ... They want payback."

The ultimate goal this year is to win the state championship, the same dream shared by most every high school team. But the Samohi girls basketball team also wants to prove they're legitimate state title contenders. A 19th place ranking on the Los Angeles Times list of the top high school girls' basketball teams in Southern California is testament to their potential.

"We can compete with the best teams in the state," said senior Co-Captain Allie Southam, the team's starting point guard.

But with respectable rankings also comes stiffer competition, as teams gear up for the prospect of taking down one of the best.

"You fight like a heavyweight," Snyder said. "You play like a heavyweight, whether you're playing a lightweight or a mediumweight."

"You play every game like you play Long Beach Poly."

## THE STATE PLAYOFFS

After finishing a successful regular season, the Vikings were ready to go deep in the state tournament.

Unfortunately, their first round opponent was Long Beach Poly, which despite holding one of the best records in the state, had to forfeit 22 games.

"A 20-2 record should've been good enough for us to play a fairly easy first round game," Verdugo said.

The forfeit put Long Beach Poly dead last and the team would not have been able to play in the tournament if it weren't for a loophole in CIF — an organization governing private and public high school sports — that allows a team into the tournament if voted in by its league.

The Jackrabbits proved stronger, more

**"It was frustrating because of the whole drama of how they got into CIF."**

ALLIE SOUTHAM  
SENIOR CO-CAPTAIN

experienced, hit their shots and applied enough pressure to oust the Vikings, 44-29.

"It was frustrating because of the whole drama of how they got into CIF," Southam said.

The rematch between the two schools is set for Dec. 8.

"It taught us what we needed to work on, what the competition is like, what we needed to do to improve this year," Snyder said.

## FAST FORWARD

With more experience, the Vikings believe they have the athleticism and mind-set to make a run for the state title.

But there are things players admit they need to fix.

"I need to work on rebounding," said Snyder, who stands at 5'8". "Most people are

taller than me so it's important that I work on that."

Verdugo said the team needs to start much faster in the game, but then again, that's what happens in tournaments at the beginning of the season.

"The first thing to get tight is shooting form," Verdugo said. "One focus point all year long will be rebounding. I said from the beginning, in order for us to compete with Poly, we are going to have to rebound."

Already one of the smallest teams in the league, Samohi just got smaller with the addition of freshman Thea Lemberger, a feisty point guard all of 5'2."

Verdugo said he expects Lemberger to be a star someday because of what he sees as her "natural point guard skills and a court vision" he hasn't seen in a long time.

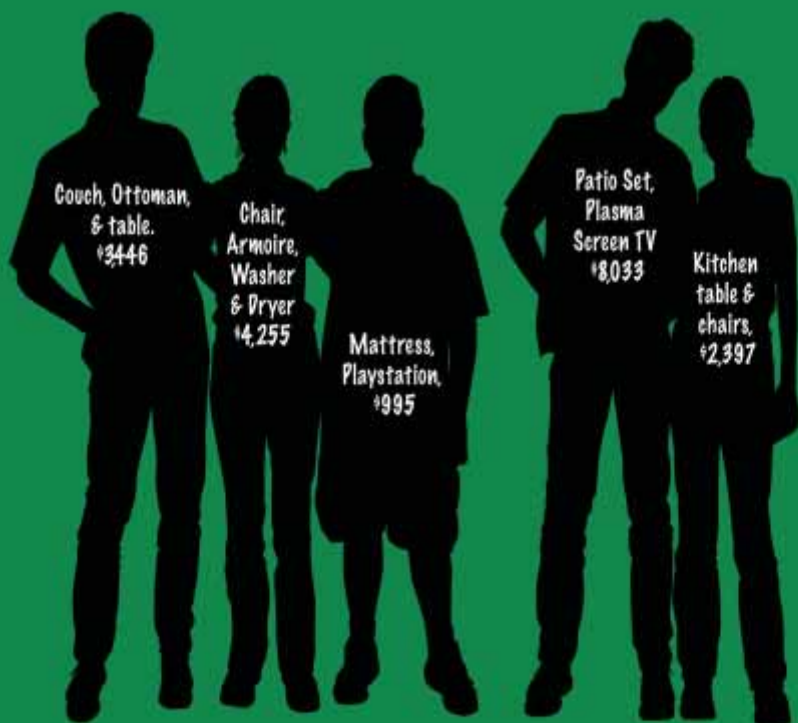
Lemberger isn't worried about her height. She's been dealing with it since she started playing the game at 4 years of age.

The height can work to her advantage, making it easier to fake out opponents. Lemberger sees herself being a valuable addition to the team with her ability to help set her teammates up for good open shots.

"I love the competition, the winning," she said on Thursday. "Losing is always a heart-break, but when you win, it's always great."

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\*CVC June 2005 audit

\*\*assuming an average ticket of \$800

\*\*\*based on a frequency of 3x per week.