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Volume 11 Issue 46



KIM TARGET OF MILLIONAIRE'S TAX
SEE PAGE 6

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM ISSUE

It has never been safer to fly; deaths at record low

BY JOSHUA FREED & SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK Boarding an airplane has never been safer in the U.S., but there are still some corners of the world where flying is risky, including Russia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

The past 10 years have been the best in the country's aviation history with 153 fatalities. That's two deaths for every 100 million passengers on commercial flights, according

SEE FLY PAGE 8

Online gambling fight now about when, who – not if

BY OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS The fight to fully legalize online gambling in the U.S. is now less about whether Americans will be able to play and more about who will bring the action to them — and when.

A recent U.S. Justice Department opinion opened the door for cash-strapped states and their lotteries to bring online gambling to their residents, as long as it does not involve sports betting.

The DOJ memo also enflamed a battle within the industry over how to legalize online gambling that once generated an estimated $6 billion yearly just from poker: Should each state have its own system, or should there be a nationwide law?

While the opinion sent gambling stocks rising, many players who've been shut out from top online poker sites since April just want games to restart and don't care who profits.

"I don't like this legal limbo. Is it legal, or is it illegal?" said writer Brian Boyko, who

SEE GAMBLE PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BEHIND THE WHEEL: **Shan Rose of Sunrise Senior Living was surprised to learn that the van he uses to drive elderly clients to appointments is so long that it violates a city ordinance prohibiting large vehicles from parking on city streets.**

Elderly transport vehicle chased out of city by tall car ordinance

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

15th STREET An ordinance meant to keep recreational vehicles off of Santa Monica's streets at night snared an unlikely victim in recent weeks — a van used by an assisted-living center to transport its elderly charges.

The van, operated by Sunrise Senior Living, has been parking immediately outside of the center on the 1300 block of 15th Street for the last eight years without molestation.

It's prime parking space made it convenient when a resident needed to go somewhere immediately, and also prevented elderly and disabled from walking several yards out of their way to load the bus.

That changed in late November, when driver Shan Rose discovered the first of what would become eight $64 tickets, which cited the vehicle for being over 20 feet long on the roadway.

The tickets puzzled Josie Cruz Medina, the activities and volunteer coordinator at Sunrise.

The bus in question has "disabled" plates because of its clientele, whose average age is approximately 85 years old. Those plates guarantee parking without time limits in almost any spot in the city, except for street cleaning and areas denoted by "no parking anytime" signs.

That includes the preferential parking district zone across the street from the home, although the van also has a parking placard for that.

That said, neither Medina nor Rose could figure out why parking enforcement had targeted the van.

"We're not in the wrong, we aren't violating anything," Medina said.

But they were.

A long-standing, but until now seldom enforced, rule on Santa Monica's books declared cars over 5 feet tall, 8 feet wide and 20 feet long were not allowed on public streets between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

SEE RESTRICTION PAGE 7


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012

Seniors in shape from head to toe
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 9:10 a.m. — 10:10 a.m.
The Senior Exercise Class features controlled breathing and stretching, low-impact aerobics and weightlifting mixed with line dancing and music to help seniors keep healthy from hearts to hips. Cost: free for Senior Center members. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Story time for 2s
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 9:30 a.m.
Bring the little ones down for a morning of stories. For more information, contact Martha Castillo at (310) 458-8681.

The sport of kings
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Children and adults are welcome at Youth and Family Chess, a weekly instructional class meant to help you not just learn, but appreciate the ancient game of chess. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012

Community history on the sand
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Explore the rich history of the Marion Davies Guest House, guilefully guided by a docent from the Santa Monica Conservancy. Tours last approximately 30 minutes. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Do it yourself
Color Me Mine
1335 Fourth St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Need to find a gift for a loved one? Looking for something to make your living room pop? If so, head over to Color Me Mine for a painting session and unleash your artistic talents on the ceramic statue of your choice. For pricing information, go to colormemine.com/ or call (310) 393-0069.

Are you a fan of food?
Main Library Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
Learn about the food you get at the Santa Monica Farmer's Market, and sample some yourself, at Food Fan Club, a workshop for teens held in the Children's Activity Room. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Journey back in time
Santa Monica History Museum
1350 Seventh St., 12 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Come experience the remarkable chapters of Santa Monica's history in the permanent exhibit gallery. Place yourself in the front-page news of a past era, explore Santa Monica landmarks, or step into a re-created section of a Douglas C-47. Four themed exhibit rooms delve into the rich and colorful history of Santa Monica. Cost: $5, $3 for seniors and students, free for children under 12. For more information, call (310) 395-2290.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



LA arson suspect cursed US days before fires

BY BRADLEY KLAPPER & MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Harry Burkhart watched as his mother was arrested last week on fraud charges from their native Germany, and a day later he exploded in an expletive-laced rant against the U.S. at her court hearing.

The next day, police say, the 24-year-old began a nighttime rampage of arson attacks that terrorized Los Angeles.

Authorities have yet to disclose why they believe that the pony-tailed, 24-year-old Hollywood resident set the fires, but his mother's legal trouble provides one glimpse into the turmoil in his life.

Court documents unsealed Tuesday said Dorothee Burkhart, who is in her 50s, was charged with 19 counts of fraud in Frankfurt, including failing to pay for a 2004 breast-augmentation surgery and pilfering security deposits from renters.

In a brief court appearance, she appeared perplexed, wondering aloud if her son was dead.

At one point, she said, he is mentally ill.

"Where is my son? What did you do to my son?" she asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Margaret Nagle.

Harry Burkhart was being held without bail after being arrested in the arson case Monday.

Outside his Hollywood apartment, some neighbors described him as a loner who loitered around the busy commercial strip at night and could be heard arguing with his mother.

But Shlomo Elady, a hair stylist who regularly trimmed Burkhart's long hair, recalled someone who spoke three languages, dreamed of visiting Jerusalem and cared for a sickly mother who had trouble walking.

Elady said he was stunned that the man who lived with his mother above his Sunset Boulevard shop is suspected of torching vehicles, some just steps from his home. The fires caused an estimated $3 million in damage.

"He loved his mom, the way every son loves his mom,"

SEE **ARSON** PAGE 7

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COLORADO AVE

Big Blue Bus gets new COO

A former director of transportation in New York was appointed to head up and help streamline operations at the Big Blue Bus, according to a City Hall news release.

Patrick Campbell joined the BBB's ranks on Nov. 28 as Chief Operations Officer. He will be responsible for day-to-day operations at the Big Blue Bus, including budgeting, strategic planning, capital improvement projects and staff training.

New BBB director Ed King praised the decision to bring Campbell on to operate the BBB's over 200 vehicles and 70,000 daily passengers.

"I am very pleased that Patrick is joining us," King said. "He brings a depth and breadth of both operations and maintenance experience to BBB and will fit in well with our team."

Campbell has been working for public transit systems since 1987. His most recent position was general manager for MV Transportation in Brooklyn, New York, where he was responsible for a 280-vehicle paratransit fleet with a $40 million operations budget and 700 employees.

Santa Monica has a contract with MV Transportation for its Dial-a-Ride service, which provides low-cost transport to seniors and the disabled.

That system provided 3,000 one-way trips daily within all five boroughs of New York City.

Prior to his work at MV Transportation, Campbell served for three years as the transportation director at the Capital District Transit Authority in Albany, N.Y. where he managed a 275-vehicle fleet that spanned three separate facilities and four counties.

He holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in business management.

The BBB system is a nationally-recognized public transit system. It's won awards in the last year for its high tech bus stops and eco-friendly attributes.

Former BBB director Stephanie Negriff was recognized in 2011 as the American Public Transportation Association's "Outstanding Public Transportation Manager."

ASHLEY ARCHIBALD



PAVE THE WAY

Photo by Philip Warbasse

A new bike lane is painted on Second Street, just north of Wilshire Boulevard, on Tuesday as part of City Hall's Bike Action Plan, which provides a 20 year vision for further integrating bicycles into the fabric of everyday life in Santa Monica.

Record highs as So. Calif. has sunny winter

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The skates were still out in downtown's Pershing Square on Tuesday but the only ice was manmade, as Southern California sweltered through another day of sunny, toasty weather that has set daily temperature records.

A high-pressure ridge of air over the region will keep daily highs in the 80s for many areas through Wednesday, National Weather Service meteorologist David Sweet said.

"It's been nice and toasty for the holiday season," he said.

Sunny weather isn't unusual for the season, but it's been slightly drier and hotter than usual because the region hasn't benefited from cooler air that flows in from the Nevada desert.

"With a light offshore flow, that cold air is not getting in. It's just a very light push of air," Sweet said.

On Monday, the temperature at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank topped out at 83, breaking a record of 81 for the date that was set in 1980. The University of California, Los Angeles, had 82, breaking the 2001 record of 80. Idyllwild's 73 outpaced the 2003 record of 67.

Several other records were matched or fell.

In Los Angeles, sunshine or clouds made no difference to

SEE **WARM** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Power play

Editor:

Recent articles have described how the Landmarks Commission was considering having Wendy's conduct their business at a location that had a massive sign advertising Arby's. Not only would Wendy's have had to bear this city-mandated commercial assault, but they would have been required to maintain the "iconic" signage in perpetuity!

Unlike a private residence being landmarked as part of a historic block or neighborhood, where the designation can help to maintain or enhance the value of the property, this action would have caused considerable economic damage both to Wendy's image and its profits.

Instead, after some behind the scenes maneuvering, all parties jointly announced that the better solution was for Wendy's to pay to ship the sign to a museum in the Midwest. Commissioner Ruthann Lehrer called this action "...the ideal scenario." Instead of being preserved locally for the enjoyment of residents of Santa Monica, it will never be seen again. It doesn't get more "ideal" than that.

Perhaps the Landmarks Commission could arrange to "preserve" these types of "iconic" signs locally by moving them to an area in front of City Hall. The city could designate an area where "iconic" items that no one really wants but are "too important to allow to be destroyed" could be displayed for the disinterested public. We could have moved that iconic shotgun house there a couple of years ago. We could call it "Who Really Cares Park."

Since the Landmarks Commission may also declare the Village Trailer Park a historic landmark and forever destroy its economic value for Mark Luzzatto and his partners, we could also move all of the trailers to the new park. This would make the remaining residents wards of the city and allow them to remain in their decrepit trailers until they pass away. The residents could wear 1950s garb and participate in a reenactment of life in a post-WWII trailer park – kind of like Old Sturbridge Village on the East Coast. I'm sure the visiting tourists would find it "charming."

That way, Luzzatto, who has negotiated in good faith with the city for over six years (apparently he was the only one negotiating in good faith), could go forward with his plans for a mixed-use project and the remaining trailer park residents would be able to live out their days with their rents paid by the city and without actually having to make any lifestyle changes. Of course, the current trailer park residents are attempting to negotiate for landmark status to stop development, not out of any desire to see history preserved.

In other breaking news, Landmarks Commissioner Nina Fresco has suggested that the current site of an auto shop was once the birthplace of a failed attempt to make a commercially viable flying car. Ignoring the fact that the building in question has not had any connection to the flying car inventor for almost 75 years, Fresco wants to preserve the building to "... protect the thinning fabric of historic Santa Monica." Landmarking the building would prevent the developer from building a mid-priced hotel on the property. This is just another thinly veiled attempt to use landmarking to stop development.

City Council needs to immediately limit the powers of various commissions. They should be empowered to make advisory reports only to the council with nothing released to the public until voted upon by the council in public session. This would avoid some, if not most, of the continual embarrassment flowing from the actions of the city's various commissions.

J. Noot
Venice, Calif.

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

In which the messiah by default is born

"GIRLS WEAR PANTIES AND BOYS WEAR underwear," my 3-year-old daughter, who has affectionately been known as Petunia since she was in utero, explained to me matter-of-factly the other day. "But sometimes girls wear underwear and boys wear panties."

I never thought a toddler who lately insists on being referred to as Dora the Explorer, and is stubbornly accompanied at all times by an imaginary monkey, would be capable of such insight and, frankly, eloquence. Over the past few months, however, she has proved to be exceptionally adept at expressing herself verbally and otherwise. For better or worse.

When my younger daughter, lovingly nicknamed Peony shortly after she was conceived, was born at the end of August, it was Petunia who helped me realize how much easier the second baby is than the first. Specifically because Petunia has made it so incredibly difficult for anyone to possibly be more difficult than she is.

"Peony is crying," Petunia has pointed out helpfully on a few occasions. "That means she needs something. Feed her."

If I weren't so terrified that Petunia is actually a hitman with explicit orders to take down Peony, I would think her concern for her baby sister is charming. But the reality is that she loves her a little too hard, and as such, the deathwatch has been nonstop. I finally understand why so many families have more than two children — so the oldest can be commissioned to keep watch over the middle child to ensure they don't kill the youngest. Any extra eyes are incredibly useful in maintaining life in the youngest kid.

If I had known how much easier the second baby would be, I might have had her sooner. Peony eats well (as evidenced by her thighs, which rival the size of the Kardashian's bank account), sleeps well (praise the lord and hallelujah) and is generally the most precious baby girl since the one in that Visa commercial where she plays with the box instead of the stuff that came inside of it. Just don't mention that in the presence of Petunia.

"She's so adorable," an acquaintance exclaimed about Peony when we saw her in passing as we were out walking a few weeks ago.

"She is NOT adorable," Petunia said crossly. "I adorable."

By default is not how I had hoped my second baby would emerge as the messiah.

The lullabies Petunia sings to Peony are just a little too loud, a little too close. The cuddling is a little too smothering. The petting is a little too, well, how you'd treat a dog for which you have a great deal of disdain for any number of reasons, such as bad breath or a habit of breaking your skin with its teeth.

My older daughter, charming as she actually is, is blossoming into how I imagine my parents hoped my offspring would be when I was younger and the undeniable cause of their near-constant headaches: A big pill that causes instead of cures near-constant headaches.

And yet. At the same time, Petunia is abundantly clever and affectionate, giving and seeking hugs, kisses and declarations of adoration at nearly ever turn. She's also exceedingly bright, eager to pick up as much Spanish as Dora is willing to ask her to scream at the TV in a 25-minute episode. It's hard to blame one still so little, and with such an enormous capacity for love, for not being thrilled that her world has been turned upside down because of one even littler.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY FAMILIES HAVE MORE THAN TWO CHILDREN – SO THE OLDEST CAN BE COMMISSIONED TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE MIDDLE CHILD TO ENSURE THEY DON'T KILL THE YOUNGEST.

It doesn't take a psychiatrist to know that Petunia is simply jealous of her little sister. It's that jealousy that has made life in our house since the arrival of Peony kind of how I imagine it is when you go for a Krispy Kreme doughnut prior to your initial weigh-in at Weight Watchers: frantic and kind of pathetic. It should be sweet, but the enjoyment of the sugary aftertaste only lasts for moments before reality hits you along with the number on the scale, at which time you're desperate to purge and brush your teeth.

The worst time of day in our house is between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Petunia either gets home from preschool or wakes up from her nap at around 4. And that's when she starts melting down. That's also the time when Peony starts cluster feeding and/or needing to be held constantly. Which is also when I'm trying to finish up work for the day and start cooking dinner. Did I mention that's when Petunia starts melting down? It's like the perfect storm of parenting.

Peony isn't ever a problem, but Peony is the root of nearly all the problems. She's like the messiah, except to Petunia, whom if she were just a wee bit more advanced verbally, would probably argue that she's actually a sign of the apocalypse.

No one said motherhood would be easy. It's just that in the three years I've been doing it, I really had no idea. Until four months ago.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

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Your column here

Pam Solo and Grant Smith

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Solyndra and the real risk to American taxpayers

THE BANKRUPTCY OF SOLYNDRA, A SOLAR company that received a federal loan guarantee, has made the front page because of charges of cronyism. But among the biggest risks to taxpayers, who underwrite federal loan guarantees, isn't renewable energy. It is nuclear power.

The Department of Energy declared its intent to conditionally issue a loan guarantee of $8.33 billion to Georgia Power and its utility partners in February 2010. Why should taxpayers be concerned? Congress and the DOE are ignoring the sordid history of nuclear power plant construction and bailouts, recent developments in nuclear plant construction, and the low-balled cost of Georgia Power's proposed additions.

The initial wave of nuclear plant construction cost ratepayers $200 billion in cost overruns. Abandoned plants cost the public $50 billion. Because the finished plants were not the least cost resource, it is estimated that by the mid-2000s, ratepayers had paid $225 billion in excess charges. The deregulation scam in the late 1990s saw the public picking up $40 billion in stranded costs for the nuclear industry. The bailout came in the wake of industry whining about not being able to compete in deregulated markets. Since 2003, various cost estimates for nuclear power rose from about $2,000 per kilowatt to $6,000 or $7,000 per kilowatt.

Forbes magazine in 1985 called nuclear power the "worst managerial disaster in history." The Economist in 2001 declared nuclear power "too expensive to matter." Moody's in 2009 viewed "nuclear generation plants as a 'bet the farm' endeavor for most companies … ." After multiple cancellations and delays of nuclear plants, an analyst for the Institute for Energy and Environment said, "2009 was the seventh year of the so-called 'Nuclear Renaissance,' but it looks a lot like the U.S. nuclear industry of the 1980s, a decade of no new orders, multiple delays and cancellations, hefty defaults and emerging cheaper alternatives."

Government warned us, too. In 2003, the Congressional Budget Office considered "the risk of default on [nuclear loan guarantees] to be very high — well above 50 percent." And this was before surging costs and a devastating economic crisis.

These facts and a near, if not actual, depression have not deterred the DOE or Congress' enthusiasm for nuclear power in its bid to bail out the industry once again with public dollars. But nuclear power remains the most expensive and dangerous way to boil water to create electricity. The excessive time horizon needed to plan, design and build a unit makes it overly expensive and unable to compete with other energy resources, such as energy efficiency, wind or solar.

Yes, solar panels are now cheaper than nuclear power. All of these alternatives are cheaper and can be deployed more quickly than nuclear power, which means they can reduce carbon emissions much more quickly as well. Moreover, restraints on supply chain and expertise make an extensive build out in the U.S. impossible to achieve. And we can't operate them without periodic disasters — e.g., Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Now is no different than 30 years ago. The French, considered the nuclear experts in the West, are having the same difficulties of cost overruns and delays at its nuclear plant construction site in Finland. Progress Energy's proposed nuclear plant in Florida, of the same design as the French and Georgia Power proposal, went from an estimated $2.5 to $3.5 billion in 2006 to more than $22 billion in 2010. And they've barely turned a spade of dirt.

Georgia Power estimated $14 billion for its Vogtle plant in 2006 and has not revised the estimate. Indeed, they are withholding new cost estimates as confidential information. It hopes to have its construction and operating permit by the end of 2011. A recent analysis of the plant estimated the mid-range cost of the units at $10,775 per kilowatt. This would put the cost of the plant at $24 billion. The DOE is recklessly forging ahead with support for the new nuclear units in Georgia without knowing the ultimate cost and exposure to taxpayers, yet being familiar with nuclear power's disastrous financial history.

Defining smart use of public funds to advance a safe, secure and clean energy future for the country is the right debate. The executive and legislative branch's continuing investment of taxpayer money in nuclear power should be the subject of investigations and public scrutiny.

SOLO is president and founder of the nonprofit and nonpartisan Civil Society Institute (www.CivilSocietyInstitute.org) and facilitator of the Citizens Lead for Energy Action Now (www.TheCLEAN.org). **SMITH** is a senior energy policy analyst to the Civil Society Institute and former executive director of the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, where he worked for 29 years.

The Q Line

Starting off right

With the arrival of 2012 comes another chance to make resolutions for the new year.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What will be your primary resolution for 2012? Be honest and realistic, it helps keep the faith.

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 107**.





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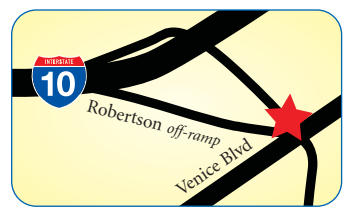

Backers of Calif millionaire tax target Kim Kardashian

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Kim Kardashian, the model who has parlayed reality TV fame into a personal fortune for her family and herself, is the target of a new online advertising campaign asking Californians to support a proposed ballot initiative to raise taxes on its wealthiest residents.

An online video from the Courage Campaign flashes images of Kardashian living the good life and proclaiming that "being on TV has changed my life, because you get lots of free stuff."

The video says Kardashian made $12 million in 2010 but paid just 1 percentage point more in California income taxes than someone making $47,000 — 10.3 percent vs. 9.3 percent.

The video ad, which is posted at www.Taxkimk.com, urges Kardashian to support the proposal for a tax increase.

"Not everyone was born a Kardashian, but we all need to pay our fair share," it says.

A spokeswoman for Kardashian, Pearl Servat, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday from The Associated Press.

The Courage Campaign and the California Federation of Teachers are among the groups backing a so-called millionaire's tax that would raise income tax rates by 3 percent to 5 percent for individuals who make more than $1 million a year.

Proponents say the tax would raise about $6 billion to help fund public schools and local services that have been hit hard during the recession, such as social services, programs for the elderly and public safety.

Forbes magazine estimated Kardashian made $12 million in 2010.

Through their reality TV show, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and other promotions, Kardashian, her two sisters and their mother have created a celebrity brand name for themselves, appearing in endorsements for everything from weight-loss products to fast food.

Their father, Robert Kardashian, was an attorney and close friend of O.J. Simpson who played a prominent role in his murder trial.

After a lavish, made-for-TV wedding event last summer that reportedly netted the couple millions of dollars in royalties, Kim Kardashian filed for divorce in October, citing irreconcilable differences just 10 weeks after she wed NBA player Kris Humphries.

The couple's star-studded, black-tie ceremony was held at an exclusive canyon estate near Santa Barbara in the seaside enclave of Montecito. Kardashian wore three different designer wedding gowns, complemented by her 20.5 carat engagement ring. The couple's wedding registry at a Beverly Hills jeweler totaled $172,000 and included such items as a $1,650 coffee pot and two $1,250 sterling silver vegetable spoons.

The one-minute Courage Campaign ad flashes pictures of Kim Kardashian in fur and jewels, then compares her 10.3 percent income tax rate with that of a "middle-class Californian" who makes $47,000 a year and pays 9.3 percent.

"Don't you think she could pay a little more?" the ad asks as pictures of schoolchildren, firefighters and an elderly woman appear. "Especially to fund education and critical services?"

If the groups are successful in getting their tax initiative on the November ballot, they would likely pursue a television ad on the same theme, Courage Campaign spokeswoman Ana Beatriz Cholo said.

BART extension construction underway despite criticism

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. Construction has begun on the Bay Area Rapid Transit's extension to Oakland International Airport despite criticism of the project's $500 million price tag and potential to create jobs.

The concrete columns that will support the 3.2-mile connector's elevated track have started going up, the Oakland Tribune reported Tuesday. The cable-drawn train system is expected to be completed by 2014.

But critics, including a BART board member, say the extension is unnecessary and is going forward at the expense of more important BART projects. The cost has risen from an initial projection of $130 million. The job projections, meanwhile, have dropped from 13,000 to about 2,500.

The project also ran into opposition from the Federal Transit Administration, which denied BART $70 million in funding last year on the grounds that the agency could not meet deadlines for a required study of the project's impact on minority residents.

"With the earlier BART administration, there were a lot of promises made that are not being met, and there is no way they will be," Robert Raburn, a BART board member, told the Tribune.

Raburn tried to kill the connector project after he was elected in 2010. "I came along just a little bit too late in the process to have that kind of impact, so my goal now is to live with it and make sure we get the deliverables promised," he said.

The extension project was proposed more than a decade ago and then dropped and picked up over the years.

BART officials say the initial cost estimate was not accurate. They blamed delays and a souring economy for the current $500 million estimate and say the train will be faster and more reliable than the current bus system connecting BART to the airport.

"Generations from now, people will wonder why there was any debate about (this project)," said BART spokesman Jim Allison.

BART has said it would have to charge $12 roundtrip to cover the cost of the connector project. The bus currently costs $6 round trip. But Allison said the BART board could decide to lower the fare and subsidize the airport connector project through other revenues.



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RESTRICTION
FROM PAGE 1

Even cars with disabled placards aren't safe under the ordinance.

While the placards protect vehicles of a certain height, the length isn't mentioned in the California vehicle code, said Santa Monica traffic engineer Sam Morrissey.

"The way I read the vehicle code, it's silent on length," Morrissey said. "There's no way around the length aspect."

Additionally, some types of vehicles do not get special treatment even with disabled placards, although it was unclear if the Sunrise bus fell into that category.

"This is definitely the first of this situation," Morrissey said.

The rule has been on the books since the late 1970s or early '80s in the form of two separate ordinances that relatively few people knew about, a flaw that was fixed by the City Council in April.

In the same action, council members approved signs to be posted at 50 strategic points on the outskirts of the city to inform people about the restrictions.

When the new, streamlined version of the ordinance came into effect, Morrissey's office got a number of calls from business owners who had improperly parked their transport vehicles for clarification, and Mar Vista residents complained that the rules were meant to chase large vehicles into their neighborhoods.

The Sunrise crew, however, was unaware of the change until the tickets began arriving. With signs posted only at the entrance of the city, it was easy to remain ignorant.

"Why not here, so we can know about it?" Medina asked.

The growing number of tickets chased the van out of Santa Monica. Instead, it parks four miles away at a Sunrise location in Playa Vista, which is a problem for the business which needs to be able to provide rides to its residents at all times.

"If a resident needs to go somewhere at 7 a.m., we need to have access," Medina said.

Now that the space in front of Sunrise is constantly taken up by other cars, residents have to walk to the adjacent driveway to load the van, which entails blocking the entrance to a shared underground parking lot.

The bus is too tall to fit in the parking structure.

The situation is unacceptable for a business with clients that spend $6,000 per month base to live there, Medina said.

"They pay a lot of money to have this service provided to them," she said.

City Hall is looking into options to solve Sunrise's parking problem and bring the bus back home, including designating the spot in front of Sunrise specifically for the van.

ashley@smdp.com

WARM
FROM PAGE 3

skaters whizzing around an outdoor rink in the shadow of downtown skyscrapers.

The rink has been drawing a couple thousand people a day since it opened in November, park program coordinator Gus Sedano said.

"I just hope the weather continues," he said.

The heat will continue through Wednesday but cooler air may move in from the east on Thursday, dropping the temperature 5 degrees to 10 degrees, Sweet said.

A combination of the warmer weather and holiday vacation-going pumped up the number of beachgoers by about 20 percent, Los Angeles County lifeguard Jay Hopkins said in Santa Monica.

"The wintertime is usually pretty slow," he said. "It just kind of goes with the weather."

A dip in the 57-degree water would certainly cool things down but beachgoers might want to think twice about trying it this week.

Central and Southern California coasts are being warned to expect high surf through the rest of the week, with possible 20-foot swells on the Central Coast.

ARSON
FROM PAGE 3

Elady said. "He's not a creepy guy."

Burkhart was taken into custody after authorities received a tip from federal officials who recognized him in a security video that showed a pony-tailed man emerging from a garage where a car was set ablaze.

"When they saw the security footage, they recognized him and they contacted the arson task force," a State Department official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigations are ongoing.

The official didn't know her status or what type of visas the pair used to enter the country. As German citizens, they would be eligible to come to the U.S. without a visa for 90 days under the Visa Waiver Program.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the case, said Harry Burkhart was present when his mother was arrested Dec. 28 on a provisional arrest warrant.

Provisional arrest warrants are normally issued when there are criminal charges pending overseas against someone. Ordinarily, U.S. authorities then obtain an arrest warrant through the State Department and the Justice Department.

Burkhart had been in court Thursday afternoon. Harry Burkhart launched into an obscenity-laden tirade, saying "(Expletive) the United States!" said Thom Mrozek, spokesman at the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles.

Mrozek said Burkhart was detained and later escorted out of the courthouse. He said Burkhart did not make any specific threats against anyone or property at his mother's court hearing.

Galina Illarionova, who lives in the same apartment complex as the suspect, said through a Russian translator that an agitated Burkhart visited her Sunday and said his mother was having some kind of legal problems.

He told her his mother was in trouble with authorities and wanted Illarionova to attend a legal hearing with him, but he later said he didn't need her help.

A domain name for a website offering appointment-only sensual massage is registered to Dorothee Burkhart. Her name is not mentioned on the website, which states the service is not prostitution.

The series of fires appeared to have stopped with Burkhart's arrest. The onslaught of intentionally set fires kept residents anxious over the holiday weekend in some of the most densely populated areas of the city.

One of Saturday's fires occurred at the Hollywood and Highland entertainment complex, a popular tourist destination bordered by the Walk of Fame in a neighborhood that includes Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

Damaged buildings included a former home of Doors singer Jim Morrison.

Hundreds of investigators, police officers and firefighters raced to deal with the blazes. Police conducted extra patrols all weekend, and the noise of helicopters and sirens persisted virtually nonstop in Hollywood.

The fires forced many apartment dwellers from their homes. There were no serious injuries.



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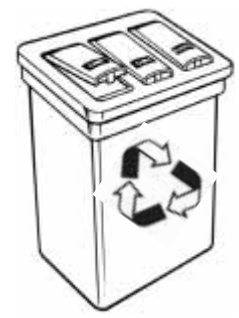
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FLY
FROM PAGE 1

to an Associated Press analysis of government accident data.

The improvement is remarkable. Just a decade earlier, passengers were 10 times as likely to die when flying on an American plane. The risk of death was even greater during the start of the jet age, with 1,696 people dying — 133 out of every 100 million passengers — from 1962 to 1971. The figures exclude acts of terrorism.

Sitting in a pressurized, aluminum tube seven miles (11 kilometers) above the ground may never seem like the most-natural thing. But consider this: You are more likely to die driving to the airport than flying across the U.S. There are more than 30,000 motor-vehicle deaths each year, a mortality rate eight times greater than that in planes.

"I wouldn't say air crashes of passenger airliners are a thing of the past. They're simply a whole lot more rare than they used to be," says Todd Curtis, a former safety engineer with Boeing and director of the Airsafe.com Foundation.

The improvements came even as the U.S. airline industry went through a miserable financial period, losing $54.5 billion in the past decade. Just to stay afloat, airlines eliminated meals and added fees for checked luggage.

But safety remained a priority. No advertisement of tropical beaches can supplant the image of charred metal scattered across a field.

Russia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia have particularly high rates of deadly crashes. Russia had several fatal crashes in the past year, including one that killed several prominent hockey players. Africa only accounts for 3 percent of world air traffic but had 14 percent of fatal crashes.

Still, 2011 was a good year to fly. It had the second-fewest number of fatalities worldwide, according to the Flight Safety Foundation, with 507 people dying in crashes. Seven out of 28 planes in fatal crashes were on airlines already prohibited from flying into European Union countries because of known safety problems. (There were fewer fatalities in 2004 — 323 — but there were also fewer people flying then.)

There are a number of reasons for the improvements.

— The industry has learned from the past. New planes and engines are designed with prior mistakes in mind. Investigations of accidents have led to changes in procedures to ensure the same missteps don't occur again.

— Better sharing of information. New databases allow pilots, airlines, plane manufactures and regulators to track incidents and near misses. Computers pick up subtle trends. For instance, a particular runway might have a higher rate of aborted landings when there is fog. Regulators noticing this could improve lighting and add more time between landings.

— Safety audits by outside firms. The International Air Transport Association, an industry trade group, started an audit program in 2003. Airlines prove to the industry and each other that they have proper maintenance and safety procedures. It's also a way for airlines to seek lower insurance premiums, which have also dropped over the past 10 years.

— An experienced workforce. Air traffic controllers, pilots and maintenance crews — particularly in North America and Europe — have been on the job for decades. Their experience is crucial when split-second decisions are made and for instilling a culture of safety in younger employees. Former US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger — who spent three decades as an airline pilot — was praised for his skill after safely ditching a plane in the Hudson River in 2009. Both engines died because of a bird strike but all 155 passengers and crew survived.

— Luck. Safety experts discount the effect of chance. However, it takes just one big accident — especially now with mega-jets such as the Airbus A380, which is able to carry up to 853 passengers — to ruin an otherwise good period for safety.

"Was Chesley Sullenberger lucky or skillful?" says Perry Flint, a spokesman with the International Air Transport Association. "It was luck that it was daylight, but how many geese do you know that are flying south in the pitch black of two in the morning? So it was also luck that he hit them. Bad luck."

The most recent fatal U.S. crash was Colgan Air Flight 3407, a regional flight operating under the name Continental Connection. The 2009 crash near Buffalo, New York, killed all 49 people on board and a man in the house the plane hit.

In fact, all fatal crashes in the U.S. in the past decade occurred on regional airlines, which are separate companies flying smaller planes under brands such as United Express, American Eagle and Delta Connection. The most recent deadly crash involving a larger airline was American Airlines Flight 587 in 2001. It crashed moments after taking off from New York, killing 265 people.

There have been some near misses.

In April, a Southwest Airlines aircraft had a rapid loss of cabin pressure after part of the fuselage ruptured, leaving a five-foot-(1.5-meter-)long hole in the ceiling. There were no serious injuries.

The prior year, a Southwest jet came within 200 feet (60 meters) of colliding with a small Cessna at a California airport. In December 2009, an American Airlines jet landing in the rain in Jamaica was unable to stop on the runway, crashing through an airport fence, crossing a street, and finally stopping on a beach. And in December 2005, a Southwest jet skidded off a Chicago runway. No passengers died, but a 9-year-old boy riding in a passing car was killed.

A poor economy might also have improved safety.

Bill Voss, president of the Flight Safety Foundation, says that during a boom period, airlines tend to quickly grow. That, he says, can mean weaker standards for safety and for pilots.

"We tend to see people being pushed forward perhaps a little too early, before they're ready," Voss says. "There's not as much time for captains to create new captains by tapping a guy on the shoulder and telling him when he's out of line."



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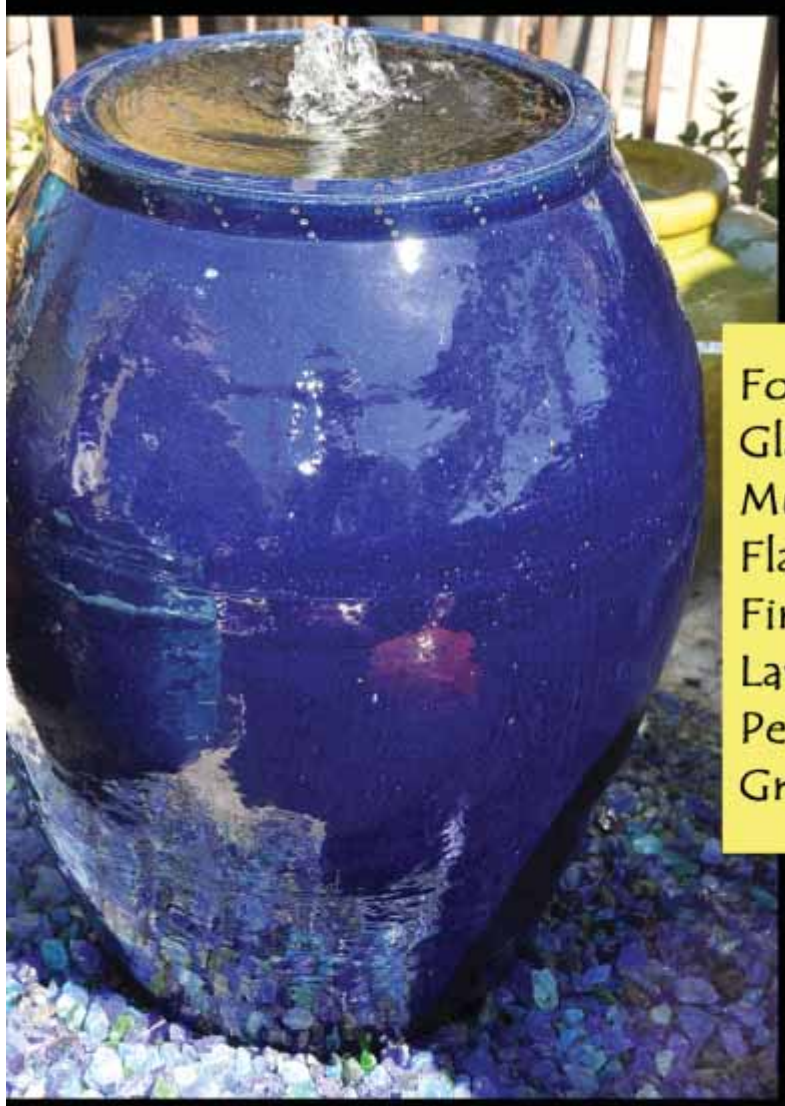
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GAMBLE
FROM PAGE 1

plays poker as a hobby.

Boyko of Austin, Texas, has been using a small offshore site since executives and others at PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker and Absolute Poker were accused of illegally getting banks to process gambling funds.

Most of the U.S. games disappeared after the indictments.

One lawmaker in New Jersey is pushing to make online gambling legal, citing the DOJ memo. State Sen. Raymond Lesniak said he'll try to get a bill to Gov. Chris Christie's desk by next week.

"We can be the Silicon Valley of Internet gaming," he said. "It's the wave of the future."

Online poker boomed in the U.S. over the last decade, but a 2006 law made it illegal to run most online gambling businesses by forbidding financial institutions from processing transactions related to illegal online gambling.

The law, however, didn't clearly specify what kinds of gambling were illegal.

Some forms of gambling, like fantasy sports and horse racing, got explicit carveouts, while many poker games kept going online as some operators got differing legal opinions about whether the Wire Act of 1961 applied to them.

Since then, poker proponents have argued that the game is different from other casino games like blackjack or slots because it involves significantly more skill.

Even casino companies — which make far more money from luck-based games than poker — began pushing for poker-only legislation under the assumption that poker regulations would be easier for lawmakers to stomach than other games.

Meanwhile, New York and Illinois officials asked the DOJ in 2010 whether the Wire Act or the 2006 law prevented them from selling lottery tickets online to adults within their states.

Last week, the DOJ answered: The Wire Act only prevents players from wagering on sports outcomes — other bets are OK.

The commercial casino industry's top lobbying group in Washington, D.C., believes the DOJ's interpretation of the Wire Act was correct, but added more confusion than solutions.

"There's probably some staffers at work on (Capitol Hill) now taking a real hard look at this as they figure to bring some sanity," said Frank Fahrenkopf, chief executive of the American Gaming Association.

Fahrenkopf said his group will keep pushing Congress for online poker legislation that establishes baseline rules for Internet poker operators.

Within the gambling world — which includes lotteries, private and publicly-traded companies, American Indian tribes, software manufacturers, offshore sites and others — there are differing visions for ideal online gambling laws.

Mark Hichar, an outside lawyer for the company that runs the Texas lottery, said the memo removes uncertainty and will prompt lotteries to begin running as many different kinds of games as are allowable under state laws.

"This helps lotteries, which are ... determined to remain relevant and to attract a new generation of players," said Hichar, who represents Rhode Island-based GTECH Corp.

Lotteries have generally opposed federal legislation, pushing for states to retain control of gambling laws.

I. Nelson Rose, a gambling law expert, said the opinion's timing and deference to states could mean trouble for commercial casinos that want an inside track on running licensed online gambling.

"They're going to have problems because when the states legalize, their natural inclination is to give it to the locals," said Rose, who regularly writes about online gambling developments at his blog, Gambling and The Law.

And that, he said, is the big question: Who's going to get the license?

"If you're a Nevada casino operator, you don't want to be competing in more than 50 separate jurisdictions against connected, politically powerful operators," Rose said.

Rose said new federal laws are a longshot in 2012, while states could choose to enter into compacts with other states to pool players, making games more lucrative.

U.S. lotteries could emulate counterparts in Canada that run limited online gambling sites in the provinces, he said.

Recreational player Mark Gorman of Austin, Texas, said he's skeptical, because different DOJ officials under a future president could change their opinion, forcing lawmakers to start over again.

"I wasn't terribly excited that this would change the landscape," Gorman said.

In Nevada, where gambling regulators adopted online poker regulations the day before the DOJ opinion, it's not clear whether casinos will try to let gamblers wager on more than just poker online.

Michael Gaughan, owner of the South Point casino in Las Vegas, said his lawyers are looking at how the opinion has changed legal situation as he tries to become the first Nevada casino operator to run legal online poker in the state.

"I don't know what happens," Gaughan said. "This opens up a whole can of worms, now."

He said he'll wait for their analysis before deciding whether to ask Nevada regulators to expand his plans.

Poker may be a baby step, legalized before other games as states argue that gambling creates jobs, said Alexander Ripps, a legal analyst in Washington for independent gambling market analysis firm Gambling Compliance.

"I think you're going to see it coming down to what to they think can get through," Ripps said. "Once you're in with one thing, then, in theory, down the line you can always get something else in."

Meanwhile, Boyko said, he just wants to be able to trust his money online while the game.

"All I want is a safe place to play poker," he said.





Special-Operations troops learn to be gumshoes

BY KIMBERLY DOZIER
AP Intelligence Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. A scene of stomach-clenching gore confronted the special operations troops: The shredded remains of a suicide bomber, scattered around the checkpoint.

But the blood and body are fake, like the Hollywood-style explosion that began a classroom exercise designed to teach these students to look past the grisly mess for the evidence that could lead to those who built the bomb.

Ft. Bragg's Special Warfare Center shows how the U.S. has turned hunting terror networks into half-science, half-art-form since the al-Qaida attacks of Sept. 11th. Forging lessons painfully learned in the decade since into a formal curriculum, the training is intended to help elite military units track militants across international boundaries and work alongside sometimes competing U.S. agencies.

The coursework is similar to the CIA's legendary spycraft training center called The Farm, and is at the brainchild of Green Beret Maj. Gen. Bennet Sacolick, a veteran of elite special operations units, and a long stint on loan to the CIA.

Among the students at the CIA-approved Ft. Bragg course are U.S. Army Green Berets, Navy SEALs and Marine Corps special operators. As in the Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden, everything from computers to fingerprints can be retrieved from a raid site and quickly analyzed. In some cases the analysis is so fast it can lead to several new targets in a single night.

The school is also an illustration of how special operations and intelligence forces have reached an easier coexistence, after early clashes where CIA officers accused the military operators of ineptly trying to run their own spy rings overseas without State Department or CIA knowledge.

"As my guys go to Afghanistan, and interface with CIA base and station chiefs, they can do it with more credibility than in the past," Sacolick told The Associated Press in a rare interview.

While many in the public may not be aware that the military is allowed to gather information, and even run its own spy networks, special operations forces have been authorized to do just that since the disastrous Desert One raid meant to rescue the U.S. hostages held in Iran in 1979. The raid went awry because of a helicopter crash, not an intelligence foul-up. But before the raid, military planners had been frustrated that CIA employees working inside the country were unable to provide them the tactical intelligence needed to insert a covert force — even basic information like which way the streets ran outside the embassy.

That's why almost a third of every class at the CIA's Farm has been military, said a former senior intelligence official.

The Ft. Bragg school means special operators can now get much of that CIA-style training at their home facility.

Sacolick said he was shocked at how piecemeal intelligence gathering and sharing was up until a couple years ago. Special operations units would know their area, but had no established way to pass it on, he said, nor any means for reaching out to the CIA to fill in information gaps.

"The CIA will satisfy any information requirement we have," the agency veteran said. "All we have to do is ask the right person. So that's what we are creating," among the special operations teams training at Ft. Bragg, Sacolick said, pointing out troops who "have the vocabulary, have the contacts, know the questions to ask, and who to ask."

The CIA also helped Sacolick design the course to teach special operators the spy-related tradecraft they need for the counter-terror fight outside known war zones, such as in Somalia or South East Asia. They learn skills like how to evade surveillance by terrorists, or a target country's intelligence service.

The elite teams' piecemeal training in those areas, often done previously by contractors rather than at the agency's Farm, was part of what caused the near-revolt of CIA station chiefs just after Sept. 11, when the Pentagon sent scores of such troops overseas. With their short haircuts, obvious military bearing, and uneven training in tradecraft, they caused more than a few uncomfortable incidents for U.S. ambassadors and CIA chiefs, who were sometimes not even told they were there.

That led to congressional alarm and a clash among the Pentagon, the spies and the diplomats over who should be able to operate where.

The White House eventually created an information exchange to allow elite military troops to gather intelligence, while keeping State and the CIA in the loop.

To make sure spy did not stumble over spy, the Pentagon's top intelligence official, Stephen Cambone, and the CIA's then-top clandestine representative, Jose Rodriguez, created a mechanism that exists to this day, to let each network know who was working for whom.

The next step was to find some common ground among those competing tribes of intelligence and military operators — a step embraced by now-retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal. Then heading the military's Joint Special Operations Command, McChrystal embraced the "hostage swap" of JSOC troops and CIA officers, deploying them to each other's command centers and forcing collaboration through proximity.

But he upgraded the practice, sending his best people, instead of following the unwritten custom of sending one's least-valuable employee to get them out of the home office.

McChrystal used to lecture his people, Sacolick among them, to forge their own networks of one-on-one relationships in other agencies to counter the enemy network.

That's how Sacolick ended up at the CIA, and why he patterned his school on lessons the agency helped teach him.

The idea is to pass on the skills learned in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan, where special operators have had more intelligence back-up and logistical support from the regular military than they will in the remote places where they usually operate, Sacolick said.

"I need to prepare a 12-man team to go anywhere on this planet," he said. "They need to be every bit as good as they are in Afghanistan, in the middle of Africa somewhere," or wherever the next conflict takes them.

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BY COLLEEN LONG & SAMANTHA GROSS
Associated Press

NEW YORK A man hurled crude firebombs at an Islamic cultural center in part because he wasn't allowed to use its bathrooms and targeted four other New York-area sites on New Year's Day because of personal grievances, a law enforcement official said Tuesday.

The 40-year-old man, of Guyanese descent, was taken into custody Tuesday after he was tracked through a stolen car with Virginia license plates believed to be at the scene of at least two of the attacks Sunday evening on a convenience store, three homes and the cultural center, police said.

The man, whose name hadn't been disclosed, made statements implicating himself in the attacks and had personal problems with each location, New York Police Department chief spokesman Paul Browne said. Two of the targets were homes in Queens, and one was a relative's home in neighboring Nassau County.

The man was facing arson-related charges, and it was unclear Tuesday whether the attacks were considered hate crimes, which could bring extra penalties. He has prior arrests for drugs, passing bad checks and weapons possession.

The law enforcement official, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the case was still being investigated, said the man made broad anti-Muslim statements and could be charged with a hate crime in the Islamic center attack.

Authorities believe the man was kicked out of the convenience store on Dec. 27 for trying to steal a glass Starbucks Frappuccino bottle and milk. Four of the five crude firebombs thrown at the various locations were made from glass Starbucks bottles, police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said earlier Tuesday. The fifth likely was made from a beer bottle.

Witnesses reported the man made threats as he was escorted out, Kelly said.

"When they were pushing him out of the store, he said words to the effect that, 'We're going to get even. We're going to get back at you,'" Kelly said.

No one was injured in any of the attacks, which wrought little or no damage at most of the sites.

The law enforcement official said the man bought five Frappuccinos, which cost about $2 each, and was given three for free the night of the attacks. He later was seen on video at a gas station a few hours before the first bomb was tossed, apparently filling up bottles with gasoline, the official said. Paper was used as a wick for at least one of the bombs.

The first hit was at 8 p.m., when a bottle was thrown at a counter at the corner store. The bomb did not explode, but gasoline leaked out and a small fire started.

Ten minutes later, a beer bottle smashed through the glass at a nearby home, setting the curtains on fire and badly damaging it. Three children and at least two adults were inside. The official said the man targeted that house because he believed it to be the home of a drug dealer. Authorities say he had the right street but the wrong address and didn't know the family inside.

About half an hour later, the Islamic center, the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation, was hit with two Molotov cocktails made from Frappuccino bottles, one at the entrance where about 80 worshippers were dining and one near a sign for the center's grade school. Glass shards were found at the scene.

Around 9:15 p.m., a homeowner in Elmont, just east of the city, reported a possible firebomb. He heard glass shattering, smelled gasoline and found a broken glass bottle on his porch. The official said the home belonged to a relative of the suspect and they didn't get along.

And shortly after 10 p.m., two bottles were thrown at a house that police said was used as a Hindu temple for worship services. The official said the man targeted the home because he believed someone with whom he once had a fight lived there.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 61°

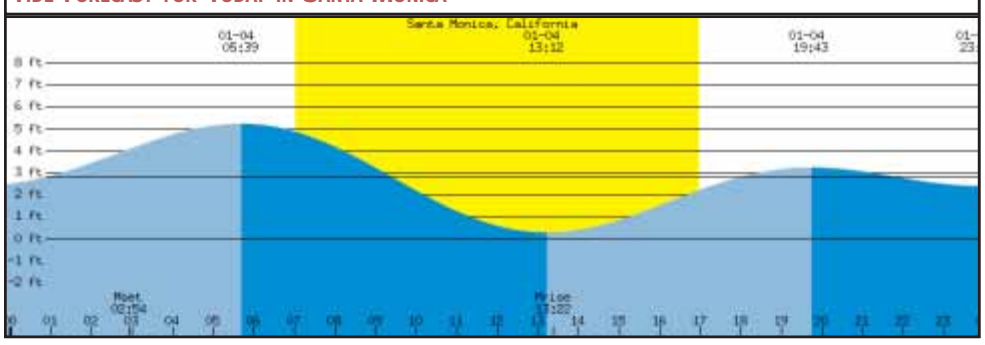
SWELL FORECAST

Incoming WNW swell is expected to peak with surf running 3' overhead at west facing breaks. Heaviest swell is due in the early AM, with somewhat smaller surf in the afternoon.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SHOULD SEE THIS SWELL BACK OFF TO AROUND HEAD HIGH MAX.

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, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 25 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groudeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LacarGUY, SMA

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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	D	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisa creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	D	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	F
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.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A

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

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'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

MLS

Beckham set to stay in LA after rejecting Saint-Germain

BY MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar David Beckham is set to stay with the Los Angeles Galaxy after turning down a chance to join Paris Saint-Germain, the French club said Tuesday.

After weeks of negotiations with PSG, the 36-year-old midfielder and former England captain decided he doesn't want to move his family from the United States.

"David Beckham is not coming," PSG President Nasser al-Khelaifi said at the Qatar Open tennis tournament. "We feel a little disappointed. But both sides agreed it would be better that we not do the deal ... maybe in the future."

Beckham's five-year contract with the Galaxy ended after he won his first MLS Cup in November. He was wooed by several clubs across Europe.

"David Beckham is (with) Los Angeles," al-Khelaifi said. "And he's going to stay there."

Beckham will try to finalize a new, rolling one-year contract this week with the Galaxy, which was paying him an annual base salary of $6.5 million.

French media had reported Beckham would have been paid almost double that at PSG, whose Qatari owners have spent more than $100 million on players during six months in charge.

Beckham and wife Victoria, a former member of the "Spice Girls," moved to California in 2007 after he left Real Madrid.

The celebrity couple now have four children and decided during a Christmas break in England that they did not want to move back to Europe permanently.

"I'm very proud of the time that I've spent with the Galaxy and it might continue," Beckham stressed recently.

The Galaxy's recent success and the signing of Ireland captain Robbie Keane have shown Beckham that the L.A. club can meet his ambitions for the final years of his career, which began at Manchester United.

Beckham also has expressed hope of playing for Britain's soccer team at the London Olympics.

The new MLS season starts in March.



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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
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Screwball Comedies Series
The Good Fairy (NR) 1hr 38min
Theodora Goes Wild (NR) 1hr 34min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:50am, 5:45pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
2:40pm, 8:40pm

Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min
11:55am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
12:05pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
11:00am, 2:15pm, 5:30pm, 8:40pm

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min
11:00am, 1:20pm, 3:45pm

War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
11:25am, 1:35pm, 3:00pm, 4:45pm, 6:30pm, 8:00pm, 9:55pm

We Bought a Zoo (PG) 2hrs 04min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Muppets (PG) 1hr 38min
11:00am

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
11:05am, 2:35pm, 6:10pm, 9:45pm

Metropolitan Opera: Rodelinda Encore (NR) 4hrs 15min
6:30pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

Descendants (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Dangerous Method (R) 1hr 39min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Shame (NC-17) 1hr 39min
1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:20pm, 3:35pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Darkest Hour (PG-13) 1hr 29min
11:30am, 4:40pm, 9:45pm

Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1hr 41min
12:15pm, 3:10pm, 6:00pm, 8:40pm

Darkest Hour 3D (PG-13) 1hr 29min
2:05pm, 7:15pm

Carnage (R) 1hr 19min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

Out late tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could have a disagreement with someone you are dealing with financially. At times, you need to -- and must -- say "no." A discussion about what is practical has the decision tumbling into your space. Tonight: Out to dinner with a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A morning tiff might set you off, but let it ride right on by. What is at the base is a misunderstanding. Be gracious, and you'll discover the situation works itself out. You magnetize others right now. Be specific in your interactions. Tonight: Let love in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. You are able to do more than many people once you pick yourself up from a little stumble this morning. Understand that your effectiveness comes from thought and research. Ask for opinions before solidifying plans. Tonight: At home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Zero in on your priorities in a meeting. Understand what is happening behind the scenes. Play it like you don't know, and keep discussions flowing. If you relax and work with others, your popularity will flourish. Tonight: Only where people are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Others look to you to take the lead. You might not be in the mood, and you let others know it in no uncertain terms. You are tired and drained. Perhaps you need to take better care of yourself. Be careful with your funds -- you could make an error or overspend. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Break past your normal thinking. Try walking in another person's shoes. You might be confused by everything that happens. Your anger comes out in being judgmental rather than addressing the issue. Tonight: Opt for something different.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You could be tired and withdrawn from dealing with a partner. Part of the fatigue is the result of employing unusual self-discipline. You could be reading more into a situation than exists. Others are not as clear as you would like. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Defer and make it a little easier on yourself. A friend who generally is easygoing drives a hard bargain. In fact, this person is nothing less than pushy. Be willing to nix what doesn't seem like a good idea. Tonight: Sort through your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You work well with others and get to the bottom of problems quickly and effectively. The problem lies in the fact that a boss isn't getting your message and confusion surrounding the instrumenting of an idea. Tonight: Off to the gym.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Sometimes you might seem stern to others. Tap into your imagination, and understand what is happening with a co-worker or a friend you see nearly every day. Trust yourself to choose the right direction in which to head. Tonight: Make it fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might not want to stay focused on a personal matter, but until it is resolved in some form, it could prevent you from tossing yourself into anything else. A partner gives you strong feedback, whether you like it or not. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You can and will make the needed difference. Though you might not be sure of yourself or able to get past an important detail because you aren't hearing all the facts, let go of the issue for now. Make calls; clean up a project. Tonight: Hang out with some friends.

Happy birthday

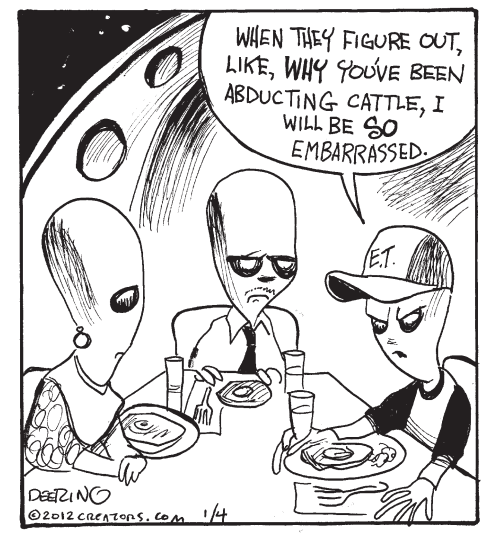
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

You easily could go overboard this year. This behavior might shake you up as you let your normal self-discipline melt away. Look at this period as a phase: You haven't lost the ability to rein yourself in; you simply choose not to, as you are enjoying yourself. You have a lot of vigor and excitement. If you are single, many people are drawn to you. So many choices lie ahead. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other more and more. You enjoy being with TAURUS.

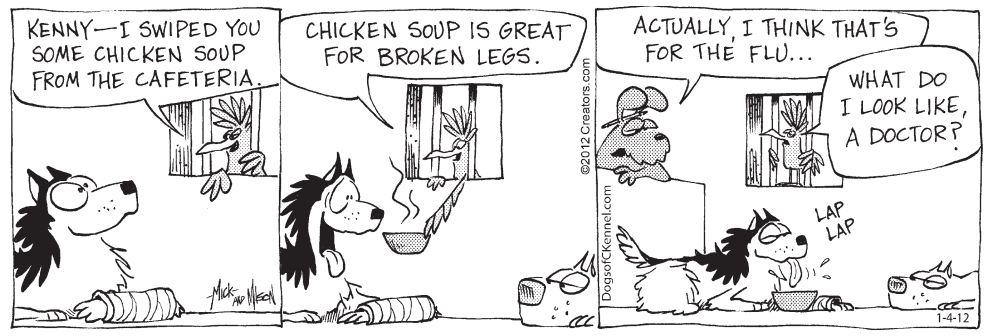
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



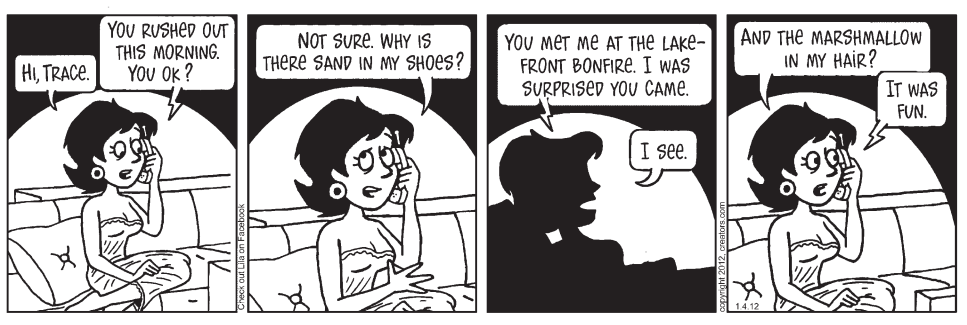
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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 ★★★

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Golfer Arnold
7 Sing like Ella
11 Colorful bird
12 Fare carrier
13 Take testimony from
14 Dueling weapon
15 Wine spot
17 Scottish lake
20 Wrong
23 "So that's it!"
24 Car pioneer Ferdinand
26 Ravine
27 Sort
28 Mine matter
29 Chores
31 Checkers side
32 Singer Bonnie
33 Capp of the comics
34 Musical group
37 Layered mineral
39 Canada's capital
43 Norse god
44 River boats
45 Golfer's choice
46 New stems

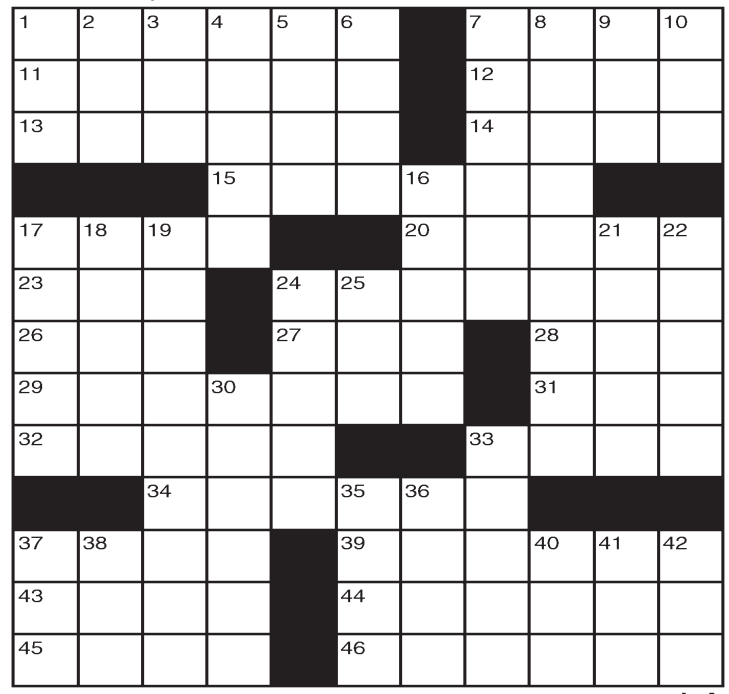
DOWN

1 Okra unit
2 Is for two
3 Gloss target
4 Be a sponge
5 Different
6 Lively folk dance
7 Prepares veggies
8 January sign
9 Log chopper
10 Cinch
16 Playful sprees
17 Brewery product
18 "Pal Joey" writer
19 Lively composition
21 Vestige
22 Squalid
24 Spotted horse
25 Hoary
30 Convenient
33 The Jetsons' dog
35 Burgles
36 Bryce Canyon setting
37 Cut, as hay
38 Courtroom oath
40 Previously
41 Dripping
42 Canyon critter

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-4

ARITHMO™

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

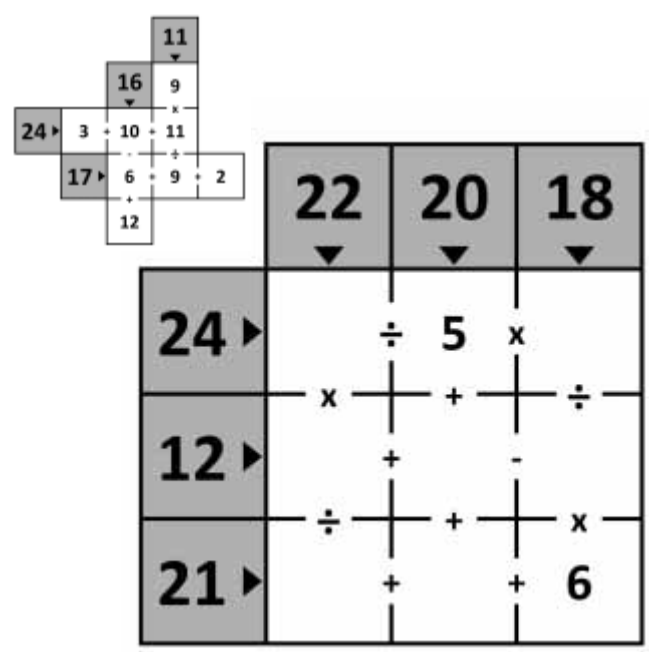
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

4, 5, 5, 10, 10, 11, 12

Solution for Task 577



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 24 45 46 52 Meganumber: 1 Jackpot: $15M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 16 27 33 46 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 8 9 17 27 30

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 0 8 EVENING: 1 0 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 01 Gold Rush 3rd: 11 Money Bags RACE TIME: 1:48.86

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

■ The law of child support changes only slowly in the U.S., but maybe less so in Australia. American courts are reluctant to end payments even if the man later disproves paternity (citing the harm to the child if the payments stop). However, in October, the Federal Magistrates Court in Melbourne, Australia, acting on fertility-test results, ordered a mother to reimburse the man she swore was the father after he proved he had been sterile. The woman also "recalled," after extensive therapy, that she might have had a one-night stand with a stranger around the time of conception.

■ Perversion Du Jour: The 10-year-old law-enforcement crackdown on Internet child pornography has lately hit a technicality-based roadblock. Several times recently, perverts have beaten charges after creating "child pornography" that consisted of nude adult female bodies onto which facial photos of young girls had been pasted. This handiwork was apparently arousing to two Lakeland, Fla., men, Danny Parker, convicted in 2011, and John Stelmack, convicted in 2010, but both ultimately had their convictions overturned because no actual child was involved in sex.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1717 The Netherlands, Great Britain, and France sign the Triple Alliance.

1762 Great Britain declares war on Spain and Naples.

1847 Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the United States government.

1854 The McDonald Islands are discovered by Captain William McDonald aboard the Samarang.

1863 The New Apostolic Church, a Christian and chiliastic church, is established in Hamburg, Germany.

1865 The New York Stock Exchange opens its first permanent headquarters at 10-12 Broad near Wall Street in New York City.

WORD UP!

truss \ truhs \ , verb, noun;
1. To tie, bind, or fasten. 2. To make fast with skewers, thread, or the like, as the wings or legs of a fowl in preparation for cooking.

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Document Record #2011137826
Current File No.2011079184
State of California, County of Los Angeles
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name:
INFAMOUS MONEY
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 8/10/2011 in the county of LOS ANGELES.
Registered owners: INFAMOUS MONEY, 400 NORTH TOLAND AVE., WEST COVINA, CA 91790
This business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
/s/ SUSAN KUSHNATSIAN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 8/2/2010
Published: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/28/2011, 1/4/2012, 1/11/2012, 1/18/2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011122617 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/26/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SHERMAN OAKS AUDIO AND VIDEO. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Edward C. Herzoff 10766 Crebs Ave. Northridge, CA 91326. This Business is being conducted by: . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/20/2000. /s/: Edward C. Herzoff. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/26/2011. 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 11/28/2011, 12/4/2011, 12/11/2011, 12/18/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011137818 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/28/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as INFAMOUS MONEY CLOTHING. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Andre Wong 400 North Toland Ave. West Covina, CA 91790. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Andre Wong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/28/2011. 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 12/28/2011, 01/04/2012, 01/11/2012, 01/18/2012.

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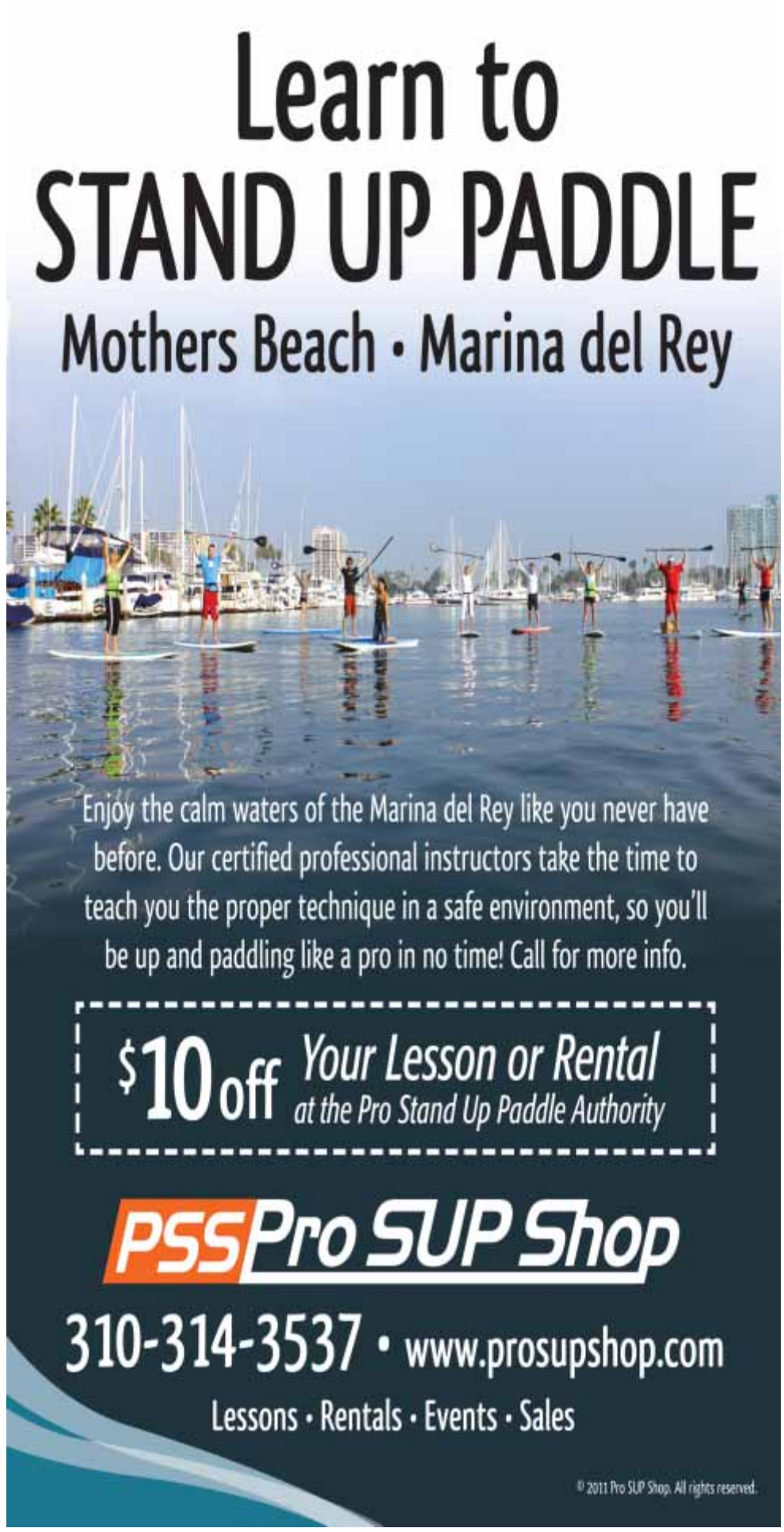

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