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Volume 10 Issue 46

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

BBB NOTICED FOR STOPS
SEE PAGE 3

THE ON OUR GRIND ISSUE

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

St. Monica holds on for a 43-35 win over Malibu

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

ST. MONICA It may have been so-called "ugly," but St. Monica's boys' basketball team was able to hold on to a late lead and topple nearby Malibu, 43-35, Monday on campus.

St. Monica Head Coach Khi-Minh Jung was happy to collect the victory, but admitted that his Mariners did it in sloppy fashion.

"It was an ugly game," Jung said. "But we did a decent job on defense."

The Mariners came out strong, building a 7-2 lead after the first quarter, limiting Malibu to few clean looks. But, Malibu was able to stick with St. Monica, whittling down what grew to a 13-point third quarter lead to five with a minute left in regulation.

With the game close late in the fourth quarter, St. Monica was able to benefit from poor Malibu ball handling and timely free throw shooting by Brandon Hualde to salt away the victory.

Hualde led all scorers with 13 points. Troy Whiteto added nine for the Mariners. Junior guard Jack Platner paced Malibu with nine points. Freshman center Justin Holmes played solid defense and chipped in eight of his own.

Despite Jung's critique of his team, Malibu head coach Bobby Tenorio thought St. Monica played well in rebuffing his team's late charge, calling the Mariners "a well-coached team."

"They're not bad considering they lost their coach from last season," Tenorio said of former coach Tony Depa. "Coach Jung has done a great job in such a short time."

St. Monica improved to 9-4 in Jung's first season coaching the team after serving as an assistant coach for Santa Monica High School last season. Malibu fell to 4-12 as both teams prepare to open league play in the next week.

SEE ST. MONICA PAGE 8



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HOPS: **St. Monica's Troy Whiteto attempts a jump shot as Malibu's Anthony Kodomichalos tries to defend on Monday at St. Monica. St. Monica went on to win the non-league game, 43-35.**

Councilman to propose new disclosure rule

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Members of the City Council could soon have to comply with an additional financial disclosure requirement, if the panel accepts a proposal being put forward by Councilman Kevin McKeown.

The plan, set to be discussed at the council's Jan. 11 meeting, would require council members who have received a campaign contribution from a person or company with business before the council to verbally disclose the gift prior to any discussion that would impact the donor.

McKeown said his plan is mainly aimed at making sure the public is informed about which council members were backed by developers as the council makes land use decisions,

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 9

School board hires superintendent search company

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board on Monday voted to hire Leadership Associates to conduct the search for the district's next superintendent.

Tim Cuneo, who has led SMMUSD since 2008, is retiring in June.

At a brief meeting, the board agreed to hire the firm at a cost of $28,500.

The board also said there will be a special public meeting this month that will provide a forum for board members and others to discuss priorities for the search. Dr. Peggy Lynch, who will head Leadership Associates' search, will attend the meeting, which has not yet been scheduled.

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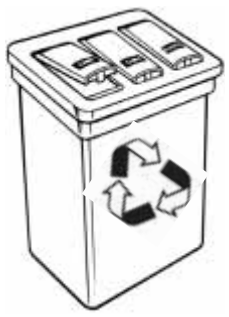
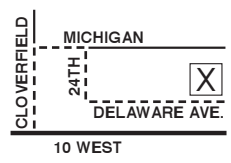
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

Hatha yoga time
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 7 p.m.
Bring a mat and some water to this hatha yoga class. Organizers promise to be supportive of newcomers. There is a suggested $20 per month donation for this weekly class. For more information, call (310) 451-1303.

Bereavement group
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 2 p.m.
Randy Brower facilitates this six-week bereavement group. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. For more information, call Lidia Magarian, Senior Physical Director at the YMCA, at (310) 393-2721 ext. 129.

Everything's zen
Hill Street Center
237 Hill St., 7:30 p.m.
Sensei Daishin Buksbazen leads this weekly meditation group. The first meeting of each month includes a dharma talk. Newcomers are encouraged to come at 7 p.m. for a little extra instruction before the class begins. A donation is suggested. For more information, call (310) 315-3506.

Get your fresh on
Downtown
Arizona Avenue and Second Street, 8:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
This regular Farmers' Market features the freshest of the fresh in produce. There's also a selection of ready-made food available. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

BINGO!!
Senior Recreation Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 2 p.m.
Play bingo for prizes at this free event. For information, call (310) 458-8644.

Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011

A movie (or two) with Ben
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
Ben Affleck will host the screenings of "Gone Baby Gone" and "The Town," a pair of flicks he's directed. Word has it that this event is nearly sold out. For more information, call (310) 260-1528.

Green drinks for all
LiVity Outernational
2401 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
Environmental group Sustainable Works is hosting a "Happy Green Year" cocktail party to spread the word about being green. As a special treat, non-profit Surfrider will be transforming old shirts into reusable bags to teach people to rise above plastics. The Green Truck will also be on hand to serve up enviro-friendly grub. For more info, visit sustainableworks.eventbrite.com.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GOING GREEN: **Fifteen alleys in all parts of Santa Monica are scheduled to receive a pervious concrete upgrade this year, with the first project — the alley behind the 1500 block of 17th Street — set to begin on Monday. The new concrete allows storm water to seep into the ground.**

Alleys set to get green treatment

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL For the first time, City Hall is set to begin installing "pervious concrete" that allows rain water to percolate into the ground rather than flow into the ocean as it prepares to launch its 2011 alley improvement program.

Fifteen alleys in all parts of Santa Monica are scheduled to receive the upgrade this year, with the first project — the alley behind the 1500 block of 17th Street — set to begin on Monday.

The projects are partially funded with money from Measure V, the property tax increase voters approved in 2006 to pay for programs to reduce urban runoff and improve water quality.

"Our goal is to minimize the amount of storm water runoff that makes its way into our storm drains and eventually into the Santa Monica Bay," Rick Valte, Santa Monica's watershed program manager, stated in a press release. "Installing pervious concrete gutters minimizes the amount of runoff discharged from our alleys and will help us reach our clean-water goals."

There's no estimate of how much water the projects will prevent from flowing to the ocean, but Mark Gold, president of the non-profit Heal the Bay, said pervious concrete makes a big difference.

"What it means is less polluted runoff is going into the bay and polluting our beaches," he said.

Gold serves as the chair of the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee.

As a side benefit, the new alleys will provide better flood control, he said, since water will seep into the ground rather than forming ponds.

The alley improvement program is a significant benefit that residents are receiving under Measure V, Gold added.

"It's a low impact watershed protection approach that goes far beyond just saying, 'Hey, we're going to require all new [projects] and redevelopment to do this.' [It shows City Hall is] going to lead by example.'"

> **"WHAT IT MEANS IS LESS POLLUTED RUNOFF IS GOING INTO THE BAY AND POLLUTING OUR BEACHES."**
>
> **Mark Gold,**
> President, Heal the Bay

Pervious concrete has been successfully utilized most often in the wet climates of the Southeast and has only recently been implemented in western states, according to City Hall.

nickt@smdp.com



Rendering courtesy of Big Blue Bus

NIFTY: **An artist's rendering of new Big Blue Bus stops that will be installed this year.**

BBB receives award for high tech bus stops

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN The Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Architects has awarded its "Next LA Citation Award for Architecture" to the new Big Blue Bus shelter and bus stop redevelopment program.

The award honors excellence in design by Los Angeles architects for projects not yet built.

"This is a very meaningful award, especially because one of the goals for this project was to create something totally unique," said Dan Dawson, customer relations manager for the Big Blue Bus. "These new stops will make riding public transit a better experience by offering passengers a whole new level of enhanced information and comfort."

Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects (LOHA) was chosen to work with Big Blue Bus and city staff to come up with a Santa Monica-inspired design that would also incorporate real-time information, solar lighting, updated maps, and other desired amenities for riders.

The final design, called "The Blue Spots," is clean and unobtrusive, and was designed to enhance the city's coastal look and feel, city officials said. The new bus stop structures will utilize a modular system flexible enough to adapt to various sized locations and rider volumes.

As part of LOHA's research, each stop's unique orientation was carefully analyzed so seating could be positioned for maximum sun protection for waiting passengers. Since the shelters will utilize slender poles instead of the typical multiple sided structures found at most stops, passengers requiring special access, such as wheelchairs, will find the stops very easy to use. Businesses located near the bus stops will also benefit from the minimal structures, as store windows and signage will not be blocked, according to the BBB.

All 360 bus stops throughout Santa Monica, and various other stops located around Los Angeles serviced by the Big Blue

SEE **BBB** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sharing the bike path

Editor:

The so-called bike path, which should rightfully be called the recreation path, is used by skaters, runners, walkers, some pushing baby carriages or wheel chairs, as well as bikers ("Commissioner pushing for safer beach bike path," Dec. 31, page 1). Everyone enjoys the beach and ocean views, as well as the freedom from traffic, and it is only a minority of bike riders who think the path is a training ground for the Tour de France, and resent others getting in their way, even kids on tricycles. Most users are considerate, and realize that the path is to be shared and enjoyed by all.

We all have an interest in maintaining the beach and the path with our tax dollars, and have a right to use and enjoy it. If the commissioner is interested in safety, he should post signs advising the bikers to reduce their speed and be respectful of other users.

Fredric Reichel
Santa Monica

Bumbling, blundering bureaucrats

Editor:

I agree completely with letter writer Helen McRoskey that one of the city's bumbling bureaucrats wasted $500,000 and should be fired (" Waste creates wasteful spending," Dec. 30, Letters to the Editor). And I agree that the city needs to cut government waste and get rid of those in government, such as the city trash manager, who caused this waste. How much more of our money is being wasted that we don't know anything about because it is not reported in the media?

And I have a suggestion of my own for the city. The next time the city wants to build anything, for instance, a new trash and recycling center, don't leave it up to its inept, inexperienced bureaucrats. The city needs to consult with actual builders who have experience and know what they are doing, people who actually know how to be financially responsible because it's their money at stake – not some blundering bureaucrat who sees a public trough full of other people's money to be spent irresponsibly.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

Hounding the feds

Editor:

I am a Sunset Park resident on Navy Street and this morning, at around 10 o'clock, I started smelling gas fumes and wondered if my heater was malfunctioning. I realized, by the loud sound of engines on the west side of Santa Monica Airport, that the planes were landing the other way and that I was smelling jet fuel from the planes taking off. The smell of gas was overwhelming and there was nothing we could do but breathe it.

My husband and I left the house at 12 p.m. and returned around 1:45 p.m. When we pulled into the garage we could smell the jet fumes again. I felt angry that there was no escape from these fumes and recognized that the people who live in the houses on the Los Angeles side of the airport must live with this all of the time. It is really shocking that nothing is being done to prevent this. We have experienced the fumes on other occasions, but today and one day last week were the absolute worst. Our City Council needs to echo our concerns and hound our federal representatives to take swift action. If this problem can't be fixed, then Santa Monica must fight hard to close the airport!

Katherine & Robert Newmark
Santa Monica





Your column here

Jon Coupal — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Well, that didn't take long

DURING THE WEEK PREVIOUS TO HIS inauguration as the new old governor, Jerry Brown let it be known that, in his view, taxes are going to have to be raised. What a shock. During the campaign, his promise to raise taxes only with voter approval was clear evidence of his true intentions to balance the budget by further burdening California's already beleaguered taxpayers.

But even the hard-core collectivists in the formidable spending lobby know that this is going to be a hard sell. According to Capitol Buzz, the taxes he seeks to raise are the very ones rejected by the voters in May of 2009 with the defeat of Prop 1A. Moreover, voters just rejected the two statewide tax increases less than two months ago — the modest parks tax and the elimination of corporate tax breaks. What makes the tax and spend lobby think that May or June of this year will bear a different result?

Perhaps Jerry & Co. are counting on a residual honeymoon period coupled with his powers of persuasion. After all, Arnold was already a spent political force by May of 2009. Is it possible that, in 2011, a straight talking political icon can convince voters that higher taxes are needed?

Not likely. First, while Jerry and the Democrat controlled Legislature can pass a budget while ignoring the Republicans, the same cannot be said of raising taxes or, for most matters, placing something on the statewide ballot.

Second, and more importantly, there is nothing to suggest that voters are any less distrustful and cynical than they've been for many years — including through the Gray Davis era and, later, when an action hero promised to "blow up the boxes" and ended up being totally co-opted by the very political elites he railed against.

Voter disgust is quantifiable. A just released poll conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California confirms what I hear daily from Californians concerned about high taxes and state spending: A majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, according to the survey, believe that people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes.

They're right, of course. Examples of waste, fraud and abuse are neither minor nor marginal. They are substantial and involve billions of dollars. Only those who are part of Sacramento's tax-and-spend culture argue that mismanagement and waste by state officials isn't that big a deal.

One of the reasons taxpayers believe their money is being misused is that state operations lack the kind of robust auditing and transparency sorely needed to keep bureaucrats accountable. Something Schwarzenegger got right was the creation of the Office of the Inspector General to oversee the state's spending of more than $50 billion in federal stimulus funds. This wasn't just window dressing. He gave the new operation instant credibility by appointing to the post a proven taxpayers' watchdog, former Los Angeles City Controller Laura Chick, whose take no prisoners approach had Los Angeles officials working overtime to avoid being exposed for mismanagement.

Although the Inspector General's new office was provided only a small budget and staff, during her brief tenure, Chick released over 30 reports finding more than 100 problems with stimulus spending in state departments, cities, counties, non-profits and workforce investment boards. By comparison, during this same period, the behemoth Bureau of State Audits (BSA), with an annual budget of $18 million, released only 22 reports.

Given this history, one would think that the Inspector General's efforts would be held up as an example of what we need more of in government. But remember, this is Sacramento and change agents are not glorified, they are vilified. The hidebound bureaucracy fears those willing to look under rocks and probe dark places, and so eager were the bureaucrats to get rid of the outspoken Chick that they pushed Governor-elect Brown to make the elimination of her office one of his first budget cuts.

If he were looking for brownie points with taxpayers (pardon the pun) Jerry erred in closing Chick's office. The cost was minimal — the actual savings on paper by closing the office is $700,000, but seven of the 11 employees are borrowed from other departments and are going back to fill their old jobs so there is no savings there. Also, the majority of her office budget is reimbursed by the feds so the actual dollar savings to the state budget is minuscule.

So, before he has even taken the oath of office, Jerry Brown has elevated tax increases to the top of his "to do" list and eliminated an office that was actually shining the light of day on government waste.

And he expects voters to approve his demands for more revenue?

The proverbial snowball has better prospects.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.



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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Brown must go after pensions

SO YOU JUST CAME HOME AFTER A LONG day at the office. At some point you, or a family member, agreed to trade hours of your time in exchange for money, which will allow you to live your beautiful life in Santa Monica, where your vote still counts for something, and your voice can be heard.

The trade is based on your time, and the amount of money you get for your time is based on how much they need your time. Right now, I don't need a brain surgeon, but my car needs the heater and air conditioning repaired. So I go to Chuck at Santa Monica Radiator, and agree to give him money to fix my car. Chuck figures the amount of his employees' time, the cost of parts, and the taxes and fees he pays the government, along with the price of keeping the shop open and then charges me for that service.

Some people in the world are more special than others. Those people may have spent a great deal of time, or had someone like their parents invest money into their abilities, which allows them to do something that you find valuable.

Take Santa Monica High alum Charlie Sheen for example. He charges $1 million per episode to show up and act like himself. What makes him worth $1 million? Scarcity is the reason. You see, the world only has one Charlie Sheen. Charlie Sheen has proven that you'll tune in every week to watch him tell you a story. It's because so many of you watch that show that advertisers are willing to pay a great deal of money to run an advertisement during his show.

That's how they pay Sheen. I can assure you if the producers of that show thought they could replace Mr. Sheen for half that amount of money, they'd do it in a heart beat. The problem is, would you still watch that show? Would the advertisers continue to pay as much as they do to watch someone else get drunk and chase women? If the producers could replace Sheen and still get you to watch the show, they'd replace him in a second.

This is why other people make more money then we do. Someone in the world has to pay them because they cannot replace them with a cheaper person. This is one of the reasons why so many jobs such as doing housekeeping and cleaning toilets in Santa Monica have been lost to foreign workers. If you go to Detroit, however, you'll actually see the indigenous white people working on farms, teenagers mowing lawns, and non-Latinos parking cars and cleaning houses.

The same is true for manufacturing jobs. If you can be replaced by a robot, or by a cheaper person in, say China, you will be. The reason why corporate leaders are getting big paychecks is they're producing the same amount of profit they produced in 2007, but with less workers. The question we have to all face everyday is can and will we be replaced, and if so what are we doing about that?

Now the city, state and federal employees are a totally different story. You see, the taxpayers guarantee to pay our employees a fixed amount of money when they retire. This is how your grandparents borrowed from you without your permission. They hired all these people, and agreed to have you pay them. You can thank "the greatest generation" for paying less taxes, and benefiting the most from the services. Most of our unions pay 100 percent of the average of the last two years of an employee's pay for as long as they live after they work for 20 years.

The pensions paid have little to do with what the workers contributed to the program. We, the taxpayers, cover that shortfall instead of spending more money on a student. This is the primary problem with our state budget, and it will only get worse until we solve this problem. Unfortunately, the unions are against paying new workers' benefits that match the private sector because it takes away their power in the long run.

Jerry Brown knows this is the problem, and already warned the unions he's coming after them. You see, Gov. Moonbeam is most likely serving in the last office he will hold, and deep down he's so far left that he is almost a conservative. He will cut services if we don't pay for them. He said: "No new taxes unless the people vote for them. Return, as much as possible, decisions and authority to the cities and schools closer to the people."

That almost sounds like Ron Paul or Dennis Kucinich. What I think we'll see is the state will close down departments left and right, and leave it to the cities to make the decision to raise taxes for the services the local voters want, as opposed to some far away group of people making those decisions for us. That will win the Republican votes he is looking for. This way we vote for where our money goes the same way we vote to pay Charlie Sheen. I like that.

DAVID ALSABERY believes we just might have a chance to untangle this mess. He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

The Q Line

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Looking forward

Now that we have entered 2011, we're curious to see what makes news in Santa Monica this year.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What topics will dominate the headlines in 2011?

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. 102.**


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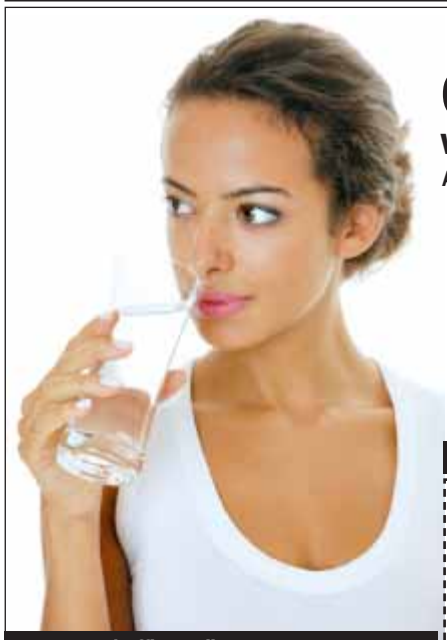
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STATE BRIEFS

CALEXICO

Buoys in border canal to prevent drownings

A government agency on the front lines of the immigration debate has begun installing lifesaving buoys in a fast-moving canal along the U.S.-Mexico border where migrants drown each year as they sneak into the country illegally.

The debate over the lifelines has long presented authorities with a moral dilemma: Is it acceptable to do nothing when so many immigrants are dying in the water? Or do lifesaving devices lull immigrants into a false sense of security that they can conquer the channel while giving them extra motivation to enter the country illegally?

The agency that manages the canal had waffled on those questions as board members worried aloud that the buoys would encourage illegal immigration. But the Imperial Irrigation District reversed course in August and has been bolting 105 lines across the 82-mile desert canal at a cost of $1.1 million. Crews are also planting 1,414 bilingual signs on canal banks that read, "Warning: Dangerous Water."

There was scant discussion about the sudden change of heart, but the catalyst appears to be a CBS "60 Minutes" report that portrayed the agency as indifferent and callous on the buoy issue.

The canal can pose extreme danger to people trying to swim across. Currents moving at 25 mph to 30 mph can be no match for immigrants who can't swim. The decomposing corpses of immigrants rise to the surface bloated with gases after days underwater expanding like balloons.

More than 500 people have drowned in the All-American Canal since the waterway was built in 1942 to bring Colorado River water to farms in California's Imperial Valley. Twelve people died in 2009. The death toll peaked at 31 in 1998 after a Border Patrol crackdown in San Diego pushed migrants to cross in remote areas.

Imperial County coroner Charles Lucas said the bodies are found in "pretty horrendous" condition, so decomposed that they can't be recognized. Migrants who drown and are never claimed by their families are buried in the no-stoplight town of Holtville. There are about 400 graves at the back of the town's cemetery, made of single bricks and often engraved "John Doe."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AZUSA

Driver rescued a day after SoCal forest plunge

The driver of a vehicle that plunged 150 feet down an embankment in the mountainous Angeles National Forest has been found alive a day after the plunge.

Los Angeles County fire Inspector Matt Levesque says skid marks led authorities to the San Gabriel Canyon Road crash site at mile marker 20 near a reservoir about 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

He says the man told firefighters his vehicle went over the side Monday afternoon.

Rescuers carried the man up a steep slope to an ambulance.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Insurers squaring off against Toyota in lawsuits

Insurance companies are suing Toyota Motor Corp. over its sudden acceleration issues and have the time and money to challenge the automaker in court.

The Japanese company faces lawsuits by insurers who are looking to recoup money for their policyholders to cover crashes blamed on sudden acceleration. Legal experts say insurance companies could cull a national database that provides information about auto accidents which could be shared with others who have sued Toyota.

Lawsuits have been filed in Los Angeles by insurers, claiming negligence and fraud by Toyota.

The automaker has said the suits are without merit and deny their vehicles are defective.

Toyota recalled more than 10 million vehicles since late 2009. The car maker blames driver error, faulty floor mats and sticky accelerator pedals for the unintended acceleration.

AP

LOS ANGELES

'True Grit,' '127 Hours' receive writers noms

Huge hits such as "True Grit" and "Inception" will be up against smaller films that include "127 Hours" and "The Kids Are All Right" for screenplay honors from the Writers Guild of America.

The sci-fi smash "Inception" and the lesbian family tale "The Kids Are All Right" were among guild nominees Tuesday for best original screenplay, along with the ballet thriller "Black Swan," the boxing saga "The Fighter" and the comic drama "Please Give."

The Western "True Grit" and the survival story "127 Hours" are in the running for adapted screenplay, along with the con man tale "I Love You Phillip Morris," the Facebook drama "The Social Network" and the heist thriller "The Town."

Some of the year's most acclaimed films, including "The King's Speech," "Winter's Bone" and "Toy Story 3," were ineligible because they were not made under the guild's contract guidelines.

Documentary screenplay nominees are "Enemies of the People," "Freedom Riders," "Gasland," "Inside Job," "The Two Escobars" and "Who Is Harry Nilsson (And Why Is Everybody Talkin' About Him)?"

Guild winners will be announced Feb. 5.

LOS ANGELES

New regulator vows to back federal reform

As one of his first acts in office, California's new insurance commissioner says he'll back the national health care reform law by proposing emergency regulation to ramp up enforcement.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Monday, former state assemblyman Dave Jones said his proposed emergency regulations could take effect in as little as a few weeks, and would allow him to enforce a transition in how insurance companies use premium dollars.

California law already requires insurers to spend 70 percent of premiums from the individual market on medical care, but the new federal reform law ups that number to 80 percent of income as of this year. The percentage is known as the "medical loss ratio."

Jones said his proposed regulations are necessary because the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives has threatened to cripple federal officials' ability to enforce reform through budget cuts.

"This emergency regulation will not only provide additional enforcement tools but will also give me authority to enforce this standard if" federal officials can't, said Jones.

Jones, a Democrat, was sworn into the regulatory role Monday night, and is taking over the office from Republican Steve Poizner.

AP

LOS ANGELES

SWAT arrests man in Hollywood apartment slaying

Los Angeles police say a man has been taken into custody after an hours-long standoff that forced the evacuation of an apartment building along the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Officer Norma Eisenman says officers were called to the Hudson Apartments on Hollywood Boulevard at about 3 a.m. Tuesday and found the body of a woman lying in a third-floor hallway. Eisenman says she appeared to be about 25 years old and had been shot several times.

Police evacuated some people from the building and a SWAT team was called.

Lt. Robert Binder tells KTLA-TV that the man was peacefully taken into custody in the apartment more than four hours later.

Authorities say it may have been a domestic violence killing.

AP

Sheriff wants Lindsay Lohan charged over rehab incident

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Sheriff's investigators want Lindsay Lohan charged with battery for last month's skirmish with a Betty Ford Center rehabilitation technician.

A two-week investigation shows Lohan violated her probation during the altercation and details will be sent to the Los Angeles County Probation Department this week, Riverside sheriff's Sgt. Joe Borja said in a news release.

A Beverly Hills judge has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation.

Investigators expect to take their case to the Riverside County district attorney's office this week for possible prosecution, Borja said.

Lohan returned to the Palm Desert drug dependency center on Dec. 12 after curfew and refused rehab worker Dawn Holland's request to take a Breathalyzer test. Lohan is accused of pushing Holland, who then dialed 911, and Lohan ripped the phone away and injured Holland's wrist.

Lohan has been receiving treatment at Betty Ford, about 120 miles east of Los Angeles, since late September. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox, who has overseen Lohan's probation for her 3 1/2 year-old drunken driving case, required Lohan to remain at the rehab center until Monday.

John Hall, spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney's office, said his office expected to receive investigators' findings this week. If Lohan is prosecuted in Riverside County, the Los Angeles County probation department would be notified, he said.

The actress is due back in court Feb. 25 in Beverly Hills for a hearing at which Fox is expected to address Lohan's probation and the Betty Ford altercation.

Lohan was scheduled to leave rehab Monday, but there were conflicting reports about whether the 24-year-old actress was released, the latest bout of uncertainty for her.

TMZ reported Monday that Lohan was still taking sobriety classes at the center and would come back to Los Angeles on Tuesday, though E! insisted she departed the facility Monday, citing Lohan's mother, Dina, who called it "a great day."

Choreographer thought Jackson looked sick before death

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES A choreographer who worked with Michael Jackson on his ill-fated concert tour told a judge Tuesday he let the superstar skip rehearsal six days before he died because he seemed sick and out of shape.

Choreographer Kenny Ortega said he was summoned the next morning to Jackson's home and told by Dr. Conrad Murray to not try to be Jackson's doctor or psychiatrist. Murray suggested Jackson should not have been sent home because he was physically and emotionally fine, Ortega testified.

The testimony came during a preliminary hearing to determine if Murray, the singer's personal physician, will be tried on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said in his opening statement that Jackson was already dead when Murray summoned help and tried to conceal his administering of the powerful anesthetic propofol to the pop star, ordering a bodyguard to collect items before paramedics were called.

Ortega, who later directed the Jackson concert film "This Is It" based on r ehearsal footage, said Jackson was in good spirits through most of the rehearsals and was excited about the progress being made in preparation for the London comeback shows.

In the days before Jackson's death, he said, the singer told him there was nothing to worry about and gave him a big hug.

Ortega said he became concerned on June 19, 2009, when Jackson arrived at Staples Center for rehearsal.

"He didn't look well at all. Michael was chilled and soft-spoken. ... He wasn't in the kind of condition to be at rehearsal," Ortega said.

Under questioning by the prosecutor, Ortega described Jackson and their conversation.

"He appeared really lost. It was scary. I couldn't put my finger on it. I said, 'Michael, is this the best place for you to be or do you want to go home and be with your family?'" Ortega said.

"He said, 'Would you be OK with that?' I said, 'OK,' and he left," the witness said.

Walgren, however, said during his opening statement that Jackson had a "fabulous" rehearsal two days before his death and was set to go to London in a few days.

Jackson died on June 25. Authorities contend Murray gave him a lethal dose of propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion.

"The evidence will show through the expert testimony, by all accounts, Michael Jackson was dead in the bedroom at 100 North Carrolwood prior to the paramedics arriving," Walgren said.

Murray had been giving Jackson propofol, an anesthetic normally administered in hospital settings, six nights a week for roughly two months before his death, the prosecutor said.

Jackson's personal assistant Michael Amir Williams testified Tuesday about the chaotic scene at the singer's rented mansion and a hospital on the day he died.

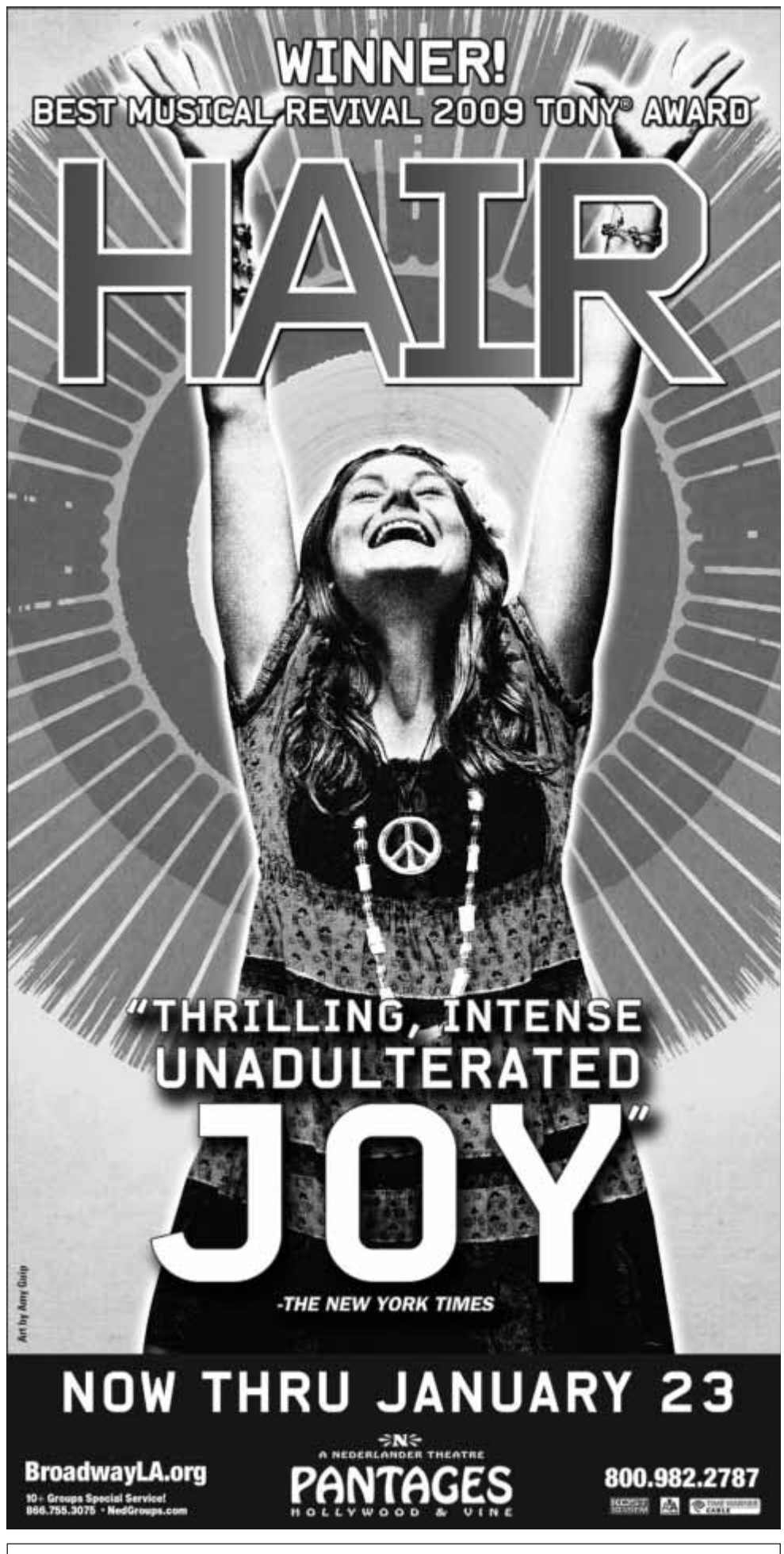
Williams recounted Murray calling him and frantically asking him to get help from bodyguards for the singer, who was in a bedroom. Murray told him the singer had a "bad reaction" and that immediate help was needed, but the doctor didn't ask him to call 911, Williams said.

Murray's attorney, Ed Chernoff, declined to give an opening statement at the hearing.

Jackson's mother Katherine and his sister LaToya and brother Jermaine attended the proceedings.

At the end of the multi-day hearing, a judge will determine whether there is enough evidence for Murray to stand trial. The Houston cardiologist has pleaded not guilty and his attorneys have said he did not give Jackson anything that should have killed him. Walgren said he will rely on Murray's statements to police, as well as text messages, phone records and expert testimony to show the doctor should stand trial.

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FROM PAGE 3

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Construction of the new stops is expected to begin during the first quarter of 2011. For more information, visit www.BigBlueBus.com and click on the "Bus Stop Redevelopment" icon.

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ST. MONICA
FROM PAGE 1

Next for the Mariners is a tilt at Westside rival Brentwood on Friday. Brentwood enters the game ranked No. 1 in the latest California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 5AA poll. St. Monica is currently ranked No. 4 in the same poll.

"[The Brentwood game] should be a good measuring stick for us as we prepare for league play," Jung said.

daniela@smdp.com







COUNCIL
FROM PAGE 1

such as whether to approve development agreements or grant zoning variances.

He said it was also driven by concern that existing campaign finance disclosure requirements aren't sufficient.

"While we cannot seem to restrict the court-defined 'rights' of outside interests to spend unlimited money, prevaricate in campaign literature, and obfuscate the funding sources until after the election, we can easily do something ourselves: just disclose," he wrote in an e-mail.

The proposal comes after an election in which financial disclosure became an issue because of the activities of the group Santa Monicans for Quality Government, which argued it wasn't required to follow Santa Monica's disclosure laws, though Santa Monica's election was the focus of its efforts.

McKeown said his proposed rule would be parallel to an existing requirement for Planning Commissioners to verbally disclose meetings with parties that have business before the commission prior to votes. Planning Commissioners are appointed by the council.

Critics of the idea, including Councilman Bob Holbrook, argue the rule would be redundant, considering Santa Monica already has strict financial disclosure laws and posts each elected official's campaign donation statements on the City Clerk's website.

"I think it borders on being absurd," Holbrook said of McKeown's proposal. "I don't think it has any merit because all our donations have been reported already online and they're right there for anyone to look at."

Councilman Bobby Shriver, though, said he was on board with McKeown's idea.

"Full transparency and full disclosure is in everybody's interest," he said. "I definitely think it's worth exploring."

Shriver said posting financial disclosure forms online is no substitute for a simple verbal disclosure immediately before a discussion that involves a campaign donor begins.

> **"I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANY MERIT BECAUSE ALL OUR DONATIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALREADY ONLINE AND THEY'RE RIGHT THERE FOR ANYONE TO LOOK AT."**
>
> **Bob Holbrook,**
> City Councilman

For some people, the forms are "too hard to find" online and are "too out of context," he said.

"The moment that [campaign gifts are] really most relevant is the moment when a question could be raised, and at that exact moment it's important to just put the question to bed," he said.

The other four members of the council were asked to comment on the idea but did not respond to the Daily Press' inquiry.

On Tuesday, a majority vote would be needed to authorize City Hall staff to research McKeown's proposal and return to council with a possible recommendation to adopt a new verbal disclosure requirement. A second vote at a later date would have to be taken on a specific ordinance.

While there's no guarantee the proposal will ultimately pass even if it moves forward on Tuesday, shooting it down next week would be an unusually harsh rebuke, since members generally allow their colleagues' proposals to receive staff attention before taking a firm position.

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Auto sales up for first time since start of recession

SHARON SILKE CARTY
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT Auto sales rose in the United States last year for the first time since the recession. They're still far from what they were just a few years ago — but that's just fine with the downsized auto industry, which can post profits even if they sell millions fewer cars and trucks.

For the year, car and truck sales came in at 11.6 million, up 11 percent from last year, automakers reported Tuesday. For December alone, sales were 1.14 million, also up 11 percent from a year earlier.

While the figures have some in the industry talking about a return to the glory days, it's a fragile idea. Rising gas prices or more economic trouble could still shake the confidence of American car-buyers.

But for now, executives are optimistic about this year. General Motors, Ford and Toyota all predict sale will come in at 12.5 million to 13 million for 2011. It will take years, analysts expect, to get back to the peak sales of the middle of last decade — more like 17 million.

"The economic downturn has lasted quite a while," says Jessica Caldwell, director of pricing and analysis for consumer website Edmunds.com. "It's going to be slow and gradual rather than a fast bounceback."

Toyota was the only company that sold fewer cars and trucks than in 2009. The company was stung by sudden-acceleration recalls in early 2010 and never fully recovered despite luring buyers with generous incentives. Production problems at its San Antonio plant cut its supply of Tundra and Tacoma pickup trucks, and troubles importing the Prius hybrid also hurt sales.

"We're coming off what was arguably the most challenging time in our 53-year history," says Don Esmond, senior vice president of Toyota's U.S. operations. He says he is optimistic that sales will rebound in 2011.

U.S. automakers are relieved to have the past two years behind them. When the financial crisis hit in the fall of 2008, car sales plummeted. GM and Chrysler were on the brink of death, saved by a $60 billion government bailout and speedy bankruptcies that helped both companies close plants and eliminate debt. Ford didn't declare bankruptcy or take a bailout, but it closed plants, laid off employees, and worked to lower its overall cost structure.

As a result, those companies can now make money even if sales hover below pre-recession levels.

Over the past two years, many Americans, even those who had enough money to buy a car during the recession, had been wary to commit to monthly car payments, so they put off making such a large purchase. Many opted to repair or make do with what they had.

Those buyers are easing back into the market, replacing aging vehicles. The average vehicle on U.S. roads is now 10.2 years old — the most since 1997 and a full year older than in 2007, before the recession, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association.

"With 240 million vehicles out there on the road, a lot of them are going to be ripe for replacement," said Ellen Hughes-Cromwick, Ford's chief economist.

Auto sales peaked in 2005 at 17.4 million and bottomed out at 10.6 million in 2009. The peak was fueled, in part, by big incentives — like the employee-discounts-for-everyone schemes that were popular in the summer of 2005. But those deals may be a thing of the past.

Don Johnson, vice president of U.S. sales for GM, said GM expects sales eventually will creep back up to 15 or 16 million, but not much higher. Car companies have downsized and they're producing fewer vehicles, so they don't have to resort to costly incentives in order to clear out inventory. Also, buyers have been spooked by falling home prices and high unemployment — fears that could have a lasting effect on buying patterns.

Gas prices should go up in 2011, which could change the kinds of cars buyers want. After moving away from large trucks and SUVs when gas prices spiked in the summer of 2008, Americans turned back to bigger wheels in 2010, and SUV and truck sales rose again. Car sales made up 49.8 percent of sales in 2010, while truck sales made up 50.2 percent. And trucks and SUV sales keep growing: In December, they made up 54.3 percent of total sales. That was despite gas prices that topped $3 a gallon.

"Buying behavior doesn't change dramatically unless gas prices change dramatically," says Rebecca Lindland, director of automotive research with IHS Automotive. "If they gradually increase, people adjust."

That's because Americans love their SUVs, says Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends and insight for the automotive website Truecar.com. The trend will continue unless gasoline rises above $3.50 per gallon, Toprak predicts.

The figures include only sales made in the United States, and don't count sales made by U.S. automakers in other parts of the world. Globally, auto sales should hit around 65 million this year.

The U.S. car market is considered the most profitable market in the world, because buyers tend to pay higher prices for vehicles and opt for add-ins that bring up the cost.

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December stock rally hits snag

DAVID K. RANDALL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK A rally that pushed stocks up nearly 7 percent in December took a pause Tuesday as traders shrugged off a pickup in factory orders and a sharp rise in monthly sales from General Motors and Ford.

Stock indexes started out with gains but mostly fell throughout the day, even after a better-than-expected report on factory orders for November. The Dow Jones Industrial average of 30 large company shares wound up slightly higher.

Ryan Detrick, a senior analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research, said investors were holding off after a sharp jump in stocks on Monday, the first trading day of 2011.

"We had a big start to the year yesterday," Detrick said. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 0.1 percent after rising 1.1 percent the day before.

Investors also received minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy meeting in December. Fed officials said signs of economic growth weren't enough to cut back its $600 billion bond-buying program, which is aimed at encouraging spending by keeping interest rates low. Fed officials said more time was needed before they would consider changing their plans.

Automakers reported December and year-end sales figures. General Motors Co. rose 2.3 percent to $37.90 after reporting that its sales of cars and trucks in the U.S. rose 6.3 percent last year. Ford Motor Corp. gained 0.8 percent to $17.38 after reporting that its sales rose 15 percent in 2010.

"These companies finally have the right cost structure and all the players on board to make them profitable businesses," said Frank Ingarra, a portfolio manager at Hennessy Funds. "The companies that survived are benefiting from facing less competition."

The Dow rose 20.43 points, or 0.2 percent, to end the day at 11,691.18. The broader S&P 500 index dipped 1.69 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 1,270.20. The Nasdaq lost 10.27 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,681.25.

Grocery store chains Supervalu Inc., Safeway Inc., and Whole Foods Market Inc. each fell more than 3 percent after a round of analyst downgrades.

Alcoa Inc. jumped 4.6 percent to $16.52 to lead the 30 stocks that make up the Dow. McDonald's Corp. had the largest fall, losing 3 percent to $74.31.

Treasury prices were mixed after the Fed minutes were released. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, edged down to 3.33 percent from 3.34 percent late Monday.

Nearly two stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume was 1.1 billion shares.

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Jan 7	Fr/Soph/JV/Var	West Torrance	West Torrance	3:30/5/3:30pm
BASKETBALL				
Jan 5	Fr/Soph/JV/Var	Redondo Union	Redondo Union	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 7	Fr/Soph/JV/Var	Mira Costa	Mira Costa	4/6/7:30pm
Jan 8	Fr/Soph/JV/Var	North Torrance	North Torrance	2/3:30pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 8	Var	Mater Dei	Mater Dei	7pm
WRESTLING				
Jan 5	Coed All	3 way meet	Samohi	TBA
Jan 6	Coed All	league dual meet	Torrance	TBA
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Jan 5	JV/Var	Redondo Union	Redondo Union	4/3pm
Jan 6	JV/Var	El Dorado	El Dorado	4/3pm
Jan 7	Var	Mira Costa	Mira Costa	3pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
SOCCER				
Jan 5	JV/Var	Campbell Hall	Campbell Hall	2:30/4pm
BASKETBALL				
Jan 5	F/JV/V	Brentwood	Brentwood	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 7	Var	CAMS	SMCHS	6:00pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 8	JV/Var	Marlborough	SMCHS	4/5:30pm
Jan 11	JV/Var	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	5:30/7pm

FEATURED LISTINGS



2032 Delaware Ave.
Santa Monica - 30 Units FOR SALE



1307 15th Street
Santa Monica - 11 units FOR SALE

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(323) 653-9009

Mon - Fri 10am to 6pm, Sat 11am to 5pm
www.DiamondAndGoldExchangeUSA.com

Santa Monica


Hollywood




SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

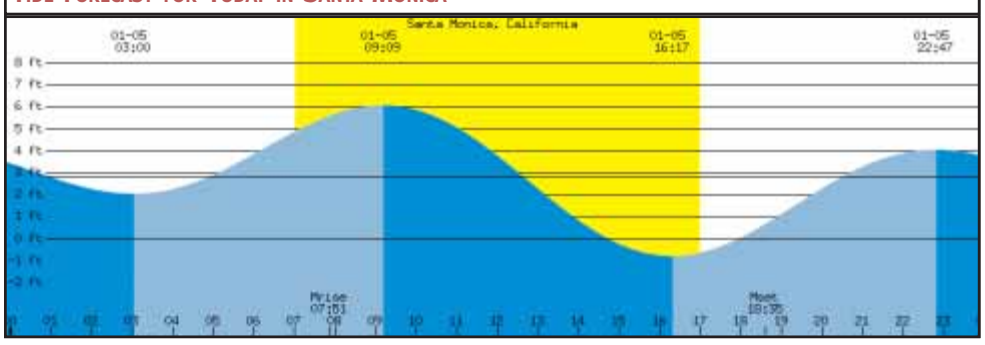
Swell Forecast

Should see the NW increase to head high or slightly overhead at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a slight decrease in NW swell to around chest+ at west facing breaks.

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 22, 2010**

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 -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 22

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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 Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	C
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	D
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.	D	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	C
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	C
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	C	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	B
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.

SAFETY

Senator wants feds to investigate helmet makers

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON A senator is asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate "misleading safety claims and deceptive practices" in the selling of new football helmets and reconditioning of used ones.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., says in a letter to FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz that helmet companies "appear to be using misleading advertising claims" and that "some helmet reconditioning companies may be falsely selling used helmets as meeting an industry safety standard."

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter, which is dated Tuesday. In it, Udall says he is "troubled by misleading marketing claims by Riddell, a leading helmet maker that supplies the official helmet to the National Football League."

He quotes Riddell's website as saying that "research shows a 31 percent reduction in the risk of concussion in players wearing a Riddell Revolution football helmet when compared to traditional helmets."

Udall adds: "Yet there is actually very little scientific evidence to support the claim."

In the letter — first reported by The New York Times — Udall also refers to what he terms "misleading safety claims used in online video advertisements for helmets." He specifically cites Riddell and Schutt Sports.

"After reviewing Senator Udall's letter to the Federal Trade Commission, we believe his statements and allegations are unfounded and unfair," Riddell CEO Dan Arment said in a statement e-mailed to the AP.

"Riddell has consistently maintained a policy of transparency with all of our research and products and participated in any helmet test when requested. Riddell has exceeded all of the industry standards and conducts and submits to more rigorous testing than most companies in other industries," Arment's statement added.

Arment continued: "We welcome any scrutiny and review. For the public's benefit, we hope that the FTC will provide greater scrutiny of all helmet manufacturers."

A Schutt Sports spokesman said the company was aware of Udall's letter but declined comment.

FTC spokesman Peter Kaplan confirmed the agency has received the letter, but declined further comment.

In November, Udall asked the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate whether safety standards for football helmets are adequate to protect players from concussions. Udall serves on the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees the CPSC.

CPSC staff will meet with the nonprofit corporation that sets industry standards for helmets at its meeting this month — the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) — to discuss safety concerns about today's helmets.

Udall's letter to the FTC's Leibowitz says the "voluntary industry standard for football helmets does not specifically address concussion prevention or reduction."

Helmets used in NFL, NCAA and high school football are supposed to pass a test developed by NOCSAE. The group's website says it establishes "voluntary test standards"; that "manufacturers test their own helmets"; and that "NOCSAE does not possess a surveillance force to ensure compliance with the standards."

Udall also wants the FTC to "look into potential false and deceptive practices related to the reconditioning of used helmets."

He writes: "NOCSAE and the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioning Association (NAERA) do not conduct market surveillance or follow up testing of helmets to ensure compliance with their certifications. Moreover, there is no standard for how often used helmets must be recertified. Such potentially dangerous used helmets are commonly worn by players at all levels of football."

This was our message in the 1970's...
Some things just don't change

HEADACHE INSURANCE.



Shopping around for the best automobile coverage and the best price can be a real headache. Now, we can help you get rid of that nagging problem by using our computer – display system, right in our office. We have immediate access to exactly what over 25 major companies have to offer in the way of auto insurance for your car. What a relief.

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Procrastination is a problem when it comes to doing my disaster plan. As a business owner I have a lot to do. It's not like a disaster is going to happen tomorrow. Besides, we have that new business pitch. I've been waiting for this to happen for a while now. I'll get the disaster plan finished eventually. Nothing to worry about, it'll happen.

Whether natural or man-made, at least one in four businesses affected by a disaster never reopen. Though emergencies are unpredictable, when you have a plan in place you can adapt, recover and stay in control.

It's never too late to protect your business until it is.

Make a plan.

READY.GOV

Ad Council

Ready Business

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

Double Feature: 50th Anniversary!
The Misfits (NR) 2hr 4min
San Francisco (NR) 1hr 55min
7:30pm

Call theater for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

Little Fockers (PG-13)
1:20pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:10pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:05pm, 9:05pm

True Grit (PG-13)
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
12:35pm, 3:20pm, 6:10pm, 9:00pm

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

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Little Fockers (PG-13)
11:35am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 1hr 22min
12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (NR) 2hrs 07min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:35pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:05pm

True Grit (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:05pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

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

King's Speech (R) 1 hour 58 min
1:10pm, 2:10pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:50pm

Casino Jack (R) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Rabbit Hole (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:45pm, 3:00pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:15pm, 3:30pm

Tron: Legacy (NR) 2hrs 07min
12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG)
12:35pm, 2:50pm, 5:05pm, 7:20pm, 9:35pm

Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
12:20pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Order in tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Listen to news -- the unexpected runs riot. Lean on your sixth sense and trust it. You could discover another perspective if you give up being too rational. Zero in on what is important, and nothing less. Your softer side emerges with a loved one. Tonight: Follow the gang.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might wonder which way to go. Honor what is happening, and stay open to possibilities. A friend keeps blowing in with wild suggestions. Others try many different ways to manipulate the situation. Observe rather than respond. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for more information. Trust your ability to visualize and manifest. After the past few days, you discover the power of sugar over vinegar. Remember, you are responsible for the end results. Tonight: Detach and relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work with individuals rather than groups. Your style appeals to many different people. Seek out different opinions as you open up a brainstorming session. You could be surprised to know that there is more information coming. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Continue to allow others to run the show. You need some clarity as to who does what. Others will be able to see the end results far more easily if you remove yourself from the mix. An element of instability yet good will exists with a loved one. Tonight: Know when you are tired.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Thinking about work all the time and what you must do could be a drag. Events involving your immediate circle of friends push you away from this need to be efficient. Kick back. Make some calls to those you haven't chatted with in a while. Tonight: Exercise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ The unexpected occurs. Focus on incorporating the excitement into your life, allowing for greater give-and-take with those in your office. Be careful about going overboard, whether you're just eating a meal, expressing your feelings or making a purchase. The holidays are over! Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your inevitable creativity plays out in a conversation with a child. If you are doing a crossword puzzle or working on an artistic project, you leave your unique fingerprint. Others respond to your innate charisma and ingenuity. Tonight: Let the fun begin. Dump negativity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen to your instincts and follow through on a personal matter. Some of you might be checking out a real estate investment. If you focus on security too much, you might not be able to see a wonderful opportunity. Tonight: Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Stop and become more aware of what you have to offer to a situation. You will see much more than you think. Living in a materialistic world, we forget and often think in terms of money alone. Say what you feel, but don't be surprised by someone's reaction. Tonight: You don't need to break the bank in order to enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Allow greater give-and-take. How you deal with certain people could change as a result of what could happen. Be aware that not everyone responds to the same normally well-received style. The same word conjures up different images for different people. Tonight: Live it up as only you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Sometimes you might be more mellow than other times. Right now you go through moods very quickly, making it difficult to predict what will happen. Others step back rather than get involved in a difficult situation. They never know what is coming next. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

Happy birthday

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

This year, a lot is happening that causes you to revise your thinking. You are more upbeat than you have been in years because of a willingness to let go and try new situations. You are more optimistic and lucky than you have been in a long time. If you are single, romance bubbles up in the summer. You could meet someone special. If you are attached, the heat of the summer adds to the temperature of the relationship between you. AQUARIUS helps you make money.



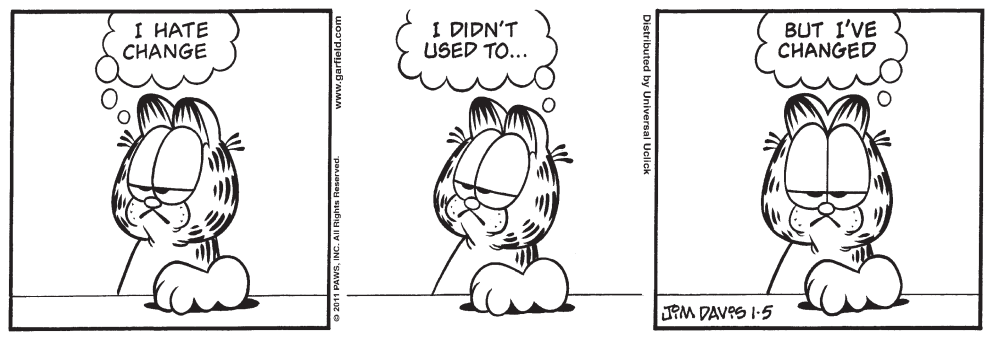
MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@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.

Garfield

By Jim Davis



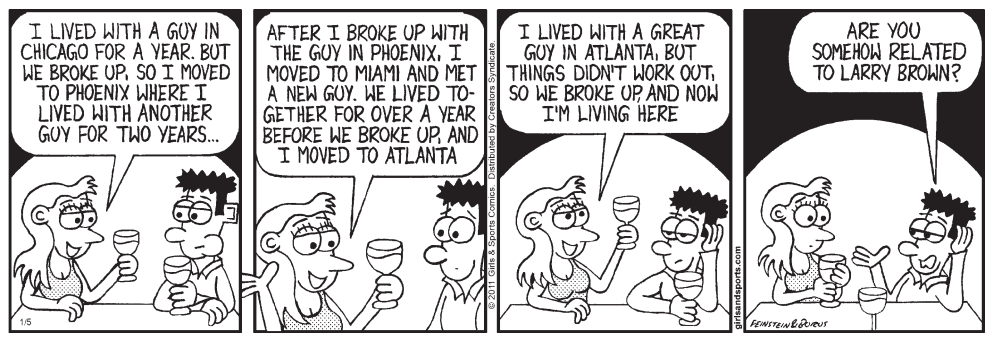
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



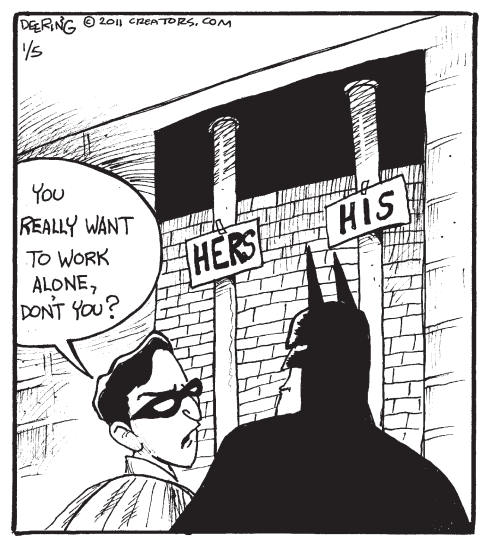
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

"New Year - New Rules for Retirement!"

"Retirees and Soon to be Retired Make These Mistakes Losing Thousands of Dollars"

A nationally known financial expert says many seniors and boomers who have retirement accounts make these mistakes, costing themselves and their families thousands of dollars! They risk their retirement security, increasing the chance they could outlive their money. This is true whether they handle retirement savings themselves, or with help from a professional! Are you needlessly losing thousands of dollars? **Find out NOW, Call toll-free, 800-238-1719 for a free consultation. CALL NOW, before it's too late!**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Colonial gun
7 Flag feature
11 Get away
12 Lot sight
13 Checked
14 Worry
15 Toady
17 Created
20 Incendiary crime
23 Commotion
24 Shorten
26 At this moment
27 Island souvenir
28 Poem of praise
29 Jazz great Coleman
31 Tie the knot
32 Stylishly quaint
33 Taverns
34 Overlooked
37 Maintenance
39 Back teeth
43 Holds title to
44 Illinois city
45 Final, for one
46 Careless

DOWN

1 Sea, to Simone
2 Employ
3 Chem. or biol.
4 West of music
5 Foil's kin
6 Danson and Nugent
7 Game quest
8 Rejects
9 Had supper
10 Hogwash
16 Donny's sister
17 Fancy home
18 Find charming
19 Economic declines
21 Utah city
22 Is lacking
24 Choir group
25 Put on the line
30 "Papa" Hemingway
33 Snow house
35 Strike callers
36 Yule song
37 Rollaway bed
38 Reverence
40 Dadaist Jean
41 Tear
42 Pronounce

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

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	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11						■	12			
13						■	14			
■	■	■	15			16			■	■
17	18	19		■	■	20			21	22
23			■	24	25					
26			■	27			■	28		
29			30				■	31		
32					■	■	33			
■	■	34			35	36		■	■	■
37	38			■	39			40	41	42
43				■	44					
45				■	46					

1-5

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

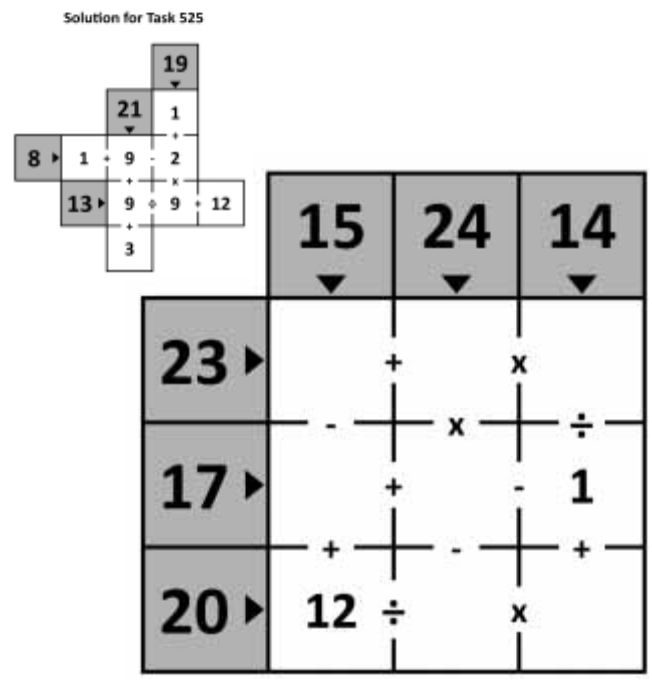
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 10, 11

Solution for Task 525



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 10 12 13 35 56 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $355M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 9 19 32 34 Meganumber: 14 Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5: 1 2 26 27 37

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

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 10 Solid Gold RACE TIME: 1:43.02

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

■ Nicholas Hodge, 31, was arrested in Winona County, Minn., in November after he entered the home of an acquaintance at 2:40 a.m. and refused to leave, complaining that a person who lived there owed him something. According to the deputy's report, Hodge was cuffed while sitting on a toilet "in the kitchen." The deputy added, "I'm not sure why they had a toilet in the kitchen."

■ "Sex strikes" (the withholding of favors) are employed from time to time, especially in underdeveloped countries, to influence political leaders' decisions. However, these almost always appear in patriarchies in which females have little influence beyond the power of sexual denial. In December, Stanley Kalembaye of Uganda's National Resistance Movement, battling to unseat the ruling party, publicly called for the nation's men to withhold sex from their wives unless the wives promise to vote for the Resistance.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1900 Irish leader John Edward Redmond calls for a revolt against British rule.

1909 Colombia recognizes the independence of Panama.

1911 Kappa Alpha Psi, the Worlds second oldest and largest black fraternity is founded at Indiana University.

1912 The Prague Party Conference takes place.

1913 First Balkan War: During the Naval Battle of Lemnos, Greek admiral Pavlos Kountouriotis forces the Turkish fleet to retreat to its base within the Dardanelles, from which it did not venture for the rest of the war.

1914 The Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and a minimum wage of $5 for a day's labor.

1918 The Free Committee for a German Workers Peace, which would become the Nazi party, is founded.

1925 Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming becomes the first female governor in the United States.

WORD UP!

exculpate
\ EK-skuhl-payt; ek-SKUHL-payt \ , transitive verb;
1. To clear from alleged fault or guilt; to prove to be guiltless; to relieve of blame; to acquit.

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Announcements

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Layton

Layton Construction (Construction Manager/General Contractor) and the Owner will be holding an informational meeting for interested subcontractors and vendors regarding this project.

Meeting Location, Date and Time:
Los Robles Medical Center January 11, 2011 Classroom 1 Open House: 4:00 p.m. 215 West Janss Road Presentation: 4:30 p.m. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Prequalification packets will be distributed at the meeting. Subcontractors must be prequalified in order to bid on the project. Prequalification information must be returned to Layton Construction by 5:00 pm PST on January 13, 2011. Questions regarding the project should be directed to:

Eric Carlson
ecarlson@laytoncompanies.com
801-568-9090

Trent Isaacson
tisaacson@laytoncompanies.com
801-568-9090

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