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Santa Monica Daily Press

JANUARY 7-8, 2012

Volume 11 Issue 49



DAVIES WAS MORE THAN A MISTRESS
 SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE GOOD LUCK STEPHEN ISSUE

District may have to scrap Samohi projects

Ruling on redevelopment agencies could leave \$50M tab for new gym, theatre upgrades

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
 Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Renovations at the Greek Theatre and a brand new gym planned for Santa Monica High School may be put on

hold until City Hall officials determine whether or not hundreds of millions of dollars in redevelopment money is safe from a state grab, school officials say.

City Hall, as part of a joint-use agreement with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified

School District, promised \$57 million for the first part of a three-phase project to revolutionize the sports facilities on campus, money which may be in question after a state Supreme Court decision upheld the Legislature's ability to dissolve the entities

while simultaneously denying them the right to keep them open in return for cash.

The ruling left municipalities scrambling to determine what projects funded using

SEE RDA PAGE 8

Amid budget cuts, Gov. Brown still dreaming big

BY JASON DEAREN & JULIET WILLIAMS
 Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. While most other states are limiting expectations as they try to recover from the recession, Gov. Jerry Brown is dreaming of a bright future for his native California.

Even as he prepares for another year of budget cuts, Brown is bucking national conventional wisdom by proposing spending on the types of long-term projects most other governors and state legislatures are shunning.

The 73-year-old Democrat, in his second stint in the governor's office, has said he intends to plan for California's future even as the state tries to right its economy and limit spending on basic programs such as health care for the needy, social services and higher education.

The budget proposal for the 2012-13 fiscal year that he released on Thursday commits seed money to a number of expensive projects that he hopes will guide California in the decades to come. The amounts are relatively small but provide down payments for initiatives he said are essential to keeping California desirable.

The allocations underscore Brown's support for a \$98 billion high-speed rail line that has been heavily criticized for its ballooning price tag and an array of alternative energy projects he hopes will lead to a cleaner environment and so-called "green" jobs.

Despite the worst economy in modern times, the Democrat once mocked as "Governor Moonbeam" for proposing com-

SEE FUTURE PAGE 10



SCORE!

Samohi's Barak Cassilly sends the soccer ball into the net past goalkeeper Tony Maldonado from Paramount High School for the second goal of the match at Samohi on Friday during a non-league soccer game. Samohi won 3-0.

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Euthanasia as a tool to control shelter population unpopular

BY SUE MANNING
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Seven in 10 pet owners say they believe animal shelters should be allowed to euthanize animals only when they are too sick to be treated or too aggres-

sive to be adopted.

Only a quarter of the people who took part in a recent AP-Petside.com poll said animal shelters should sometimes be allowed to put animals down as a population control measure.

Gisela Aguila, 51, of Miramar, Fla.,

believes shelter animals should only be euthanized when there is no chance they'll be adopted — for example, if they are extremely ill or aggressive. "I don't think shelters should be euthanizing animals to

SEE POLL PAGE 11

Andrew Thurm

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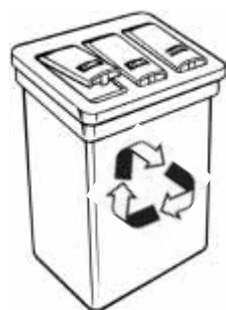
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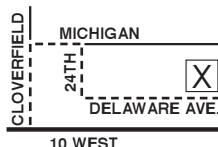
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Calendar

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012

Become a publisher

Main Library

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m.

— 5 p.m.

Learn the ins and outs of self-publishing and e-publishing during a free half-day seminar, "Self-Publishing and E-Publishing Made Simple." Author and instructor Mike Rounds will tell you how to self-publish your book, convert it to an e-book, sell it, make it available for download, and protect your intellectual property. Admission is free, and seating is first come, first served. All ages are welcome. For more information about this and other library programs, visit www.smpl.org or call the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

Certifiable

Virginia Avenue Park

8 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Fresh, seasonal produce sold direct by California's farmers. Come on down to the weekly Farmer's Market and pick up ingredients for Sunday night dinner. Parking for the market is available in a lot along Pico Boulevard and at meters. For more information call Jodi Low (310) 458-8712.

Home is where the heart is

Robert Berman Gallery

2525 Michigan Ave., C2, 5 p.m.

Robert Berman Gallery is pleased to present "Home.Sweet.Home," a collaborative exhibition of images by artist/photographer Gerald Slota with captioning by celebrated playwright/filmmaker Neil LaBute. On view until Feb. 4, 2012.

A natural

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium

1600 Ocean Front Walk, 3:30 p.m.

Join the staff at the aquarium every Saturday for a naturalist presentation. Learn awesome facts about the animals and watch as they feed the octopus. For more information, call (800) HEAL-BAY.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012

Romance of the dance

Thelma Terry Building

2200 Virginia Ave., 4 p.m.

The Santa Monica Symphony presents this free flamenco guitar and dance workshop at Virginia Avenue Park, featuring demonstrations by Los Angeles-based guitarist and composer Adam del Monte and dancer Vanessa Acosta. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 395-6330 or visit www.smsymphony.org.

A slice of Americana

McCabe's Guitar Shop

3101 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.

Acclaimed Los Angeles singer-songwriter Rick Shea and traditional folk singer Mary McCaslin gather for a night of songs about caustic love and the California coast. Cost: \$15. For more information, call (310) 828-4497 or visit www.mccabes.com.

Monday, Jan. 9, 2012

Take a picture

Roberts Art Gallery

601 Pico Blvd.,

8:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.

It's the last chance to take a shot at Santa Monica High School's first annual photography exhibit, displaying work by students from Samohi.

Featured work for sale.

For more information, call (310) 395-3204, ext. 71446.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Chamber to recognize SMC

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has selected Santa Monica College as the recipient of its 2012 Economic Excellence Award, which will be presented during the annual State of the City event on Jan. 26.

"Santa Monica College has been a stabilizing economic force as one of the city's largest employers and most active community partners," said Laurel Rosen, chamber president.

The college was cited for its large workforce as well as its job training and educational programs.

Other honorees will include virtual office space provider CoLoft, which will receive the Innovation Award for assisting entrepreneurs and startups, and Brad Cox, senior managing director of Trammell Crow Co., who will receive the Leadership Award for creating collaboration between Santa Monica businesses and government. Cox is also the chair of the Santa Monica Alliance and vice chair of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

The State of The City event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the SGI-USA World Culture Center at 525 Wilshire Blvd. For more information, visit www.smchamber.com/SOTC.

COLIN NEWTON

CITYWIDE

Auto burglaries on the rise

The Santa Monica Police Department has issued a warning to all those in Santa Monica: auto burglaries are on the rise so take steps to protect.

Tips one can take to reduce chances of becoming a victim are:

- Keep items out of sight: Take all valuables with you, or place them in your trunk before arriving at your destination since people may be watching.
- Always close car windows and lock doors: Even if you plan to be gone briefly, make sure you take the proper precautions. A partially-opened window makes a thief's job easier, even if the car is parked in a garage. Police said thieves are finding ways to get into residential parking garages.
- Always set the alarm: If your vehicle has an alarm system, remember to activate it.
- Location is a contributing factor: Police said thieves look for vehicles that they can enter with the least possibility of being seen or caught. Try to park in well-lit areas where your vehicle is visible to others. Be aware of your surroundings prior to leaving your vehicle.
- Be on the lookout: Report suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood. Report suspicious, wandering people looking into vehicles as they walk.

Thieves are targeting electronics like laptops, iPods, cameras, cell phones and chargers, as well as GPS devices and stereos. Some even steal airbags, police said in the bulletin. Purses, wallets, gym bags and backpacks are also targets since they may contain cash, credit cards and IDs.

"Auto burglaries are mostly crimes of opportunity," police said. "Don't give anyone an opportunity to make you a victim."

If a crime is in progress, call 911. For reporting a burglary that already occurred and the suspect is gone, call the non-emergency number (310) 458-8491.

KEVIN HERRERA



Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica

BIRTHDAY GIRL: Silent film actress Marion Davies enjoying a ride on a carousel. The Annenberg Community Beach House, the site of her former mansion, will host a birthday party for her Sunday. She would have turned 115 on Jan. 3.

At 115, Davies still the life of the party

Beach house staff, docents work to change perception of Hearst's famous mistress

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

Daily Press Staff Writer

BEACH HOUSE The staff and docents at the Annenberg Community Beach House will open the facility's doors on Sunday for a birthday celebration for its most famous resident — Marion Davies.

Davies, who would have been 115 on Jan. 3, was best known as a silent film actress and as the mistress of media magnate William Randolph Hearst, whose holdings included The San Francisco Examiner and The New York Journal.

People often neglect to mention Davies' other characteristics, like her savvy business acumen or her generosity to both friends and medical causes, said Nan Friedman, manager of the beach house.

"I don't think she's widely known as who she was in her entirety," Friedman said. "They show various facets of her life, and not the fuller picture."

It's a set of stereotypes that Friedman and the beach house docents will try to combat Sunday at a three-hour open house focusing on Davies' life, following the thread of her time in New York to when she moved to California and took up residence at the beach house until her death in 1961.

"If they know something about Marion, they'll learn

some additional information about her and the facets of her personality," Friedman said. "If they don't know anything about Marion, it'll be a great opportunity to get a 360 degree view on her as opposed to the simple version of how she might be known as an actress or mistress."

Prior to becoming a docent at the Annenberg Community Beach House, that "simple version" was all that Kay Pattison knew about Davies.

Pattison conducted walking tours of historic Santa Monica. When City Hall decided to staff the beach house with docents, she signed up, feeling it was almost a natural extension of her passion for history.

She'd never seen one of Davies' films, and knew of the woman only through the distorted lens of "Citizen Kane," a 1941 drama loosely based on the life of her wealthy lover.

"I never expected to get hooked," Pattison said.

Davies grew up the daughter of a middle-class family. Her father was an attorney and her mother pushed all three daughters into show business, the better to snare a wealthy husband.

The scheme worked, to a point.

Davies was 19 years old and performing as a dancer in the show "Stop Look & Listen," when Hearst first saw her. A

SEE DAVIES PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ruling bad for Californians

Editor:

The recent ruling by a federal judge to block California's landmark Low Carbon Fuel Standard is a huge blow to our state's efforts to dramatically reduce global warming pollution that threatens people, wildlife, and natural resources across the state.

Fuels that run our vehicles are the second biggest source of carbon emissions in the U.S., and our clean energy future depends on phasing out dirty fuels like tar sands and phasing in clean fuels. Vehicles that go further on less energy take money out of the pockets of oil companies and put it back into the hands of California families and businesses.

The oil industry's attempts to keep us hooked on dirty fuels, no matter what the cost to our planet's future, must be stopped. In a nation that is failing to find the political will to enact solutions to the growing climate crisis, California cannot afford to wait any longer to transition to clean, safe fuels that will help protect our natural resources and make us more energy independent.

Jen Smith
Malibu, Calif.

Selective enforcement

Editor:

Wow, City Hall is enforcing the latest vehicle height/length law against the senior center but not on the other side of town where the problem has been ongoing for over a year ("Elderly transport vehicle chased out of city by tall car ordinance," Jan. 4)?

I have at least five large motor home/camper-type vehicles parked within a block of my house along Fourth Street every night that are clearly in violation of the new law, yet the police department refuses to ticket/remove them. The only reason for the law is to collect revenue. Maybe someone from City Hall should drive north of Montana Avenue once in a while with a ticket book since City Hall loves to cry poor.

John Petoria
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Joseph Cortez

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

City Hall prepares for tsunamis

Q: I HAVE HEARD CITY HALL IS LOOKING into tsunami preparation and will be adding tsunami evacuation route signs in the city. What is an actual tsunami? Is there an increased threat of a tsunami, or are we just getting better prepared?

A: The city of Santa Monica is not under any additional threat of a tsunami, but we are always preparing for any natural or man-made disaster.

A tsunami is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. Tsunami waves can reach heights of up to 50 feet along the coast, and the first surge of waves may not be the highest. A wave caused by a tsunami cannot be surfed because it has no face and is usually filled with debris.

The city of Santa Monica's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was established in April 2011 by our City Manager Rod Gould and is managed by SMPD's Lt. Kenneth Semko, to protect the community from loss of life and property in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Lt. Semko and his team's objectives are to prepare residents, businesses, visitors, city employees, local organizations and others to respond to and recover from incidents and emergencies. The OEM will provide educational materials, training, speakers, planning guidance and other resources to make Santa Monica the most disaster resilient community in Southern California.

Coming in 2012, OEM will implement a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, which will provide people who live and work in Santa Monica with the skills and tools to assist others in their neighborhood or workplace when professional responders are not available to assist.

There are two ways to find out if a tsunami may be coming — a natural warning and an official warning. A natural warning is when you feel the ground shaking strongly for at least 20 seconds and may be accompanied by a loud roar of the ocean, or the water receding unusually far. In this case you should evacuate to higher ground immediately. In most cases you will receive several hours of warning prior to a tsunami event. Notifications will come from local media, television and radio, city public address systems and my favorite, SM Alerts.

By registering with the city of Santa Monica's SM Alerts mass notification system you can receive emergency alerts from several platforms, including: landline telephone, cell phone, text message and e-mail. You can sign up for this free service by going to www.smalerts.net.

If you are in a tsunami inundation zone and need to evacuate, you should follow the tsunami evacuation route signs and evacuate east to at least Fourth Street.

During an emergency situation you want to be prepared, so begin to prepare now. Take the time to learn what the recommended tsunami evacuation routes are in your area and identify safety zones near you to decide on your primary and secondary evacuation routes. You should also assemble a small evacuation kit with essential documents, medications, a flashlight and other personal items that you would need to address any functional needs or disabilities you might have.

For more information on what you can do to prepare for tsunamis or other disasters visit the OEM website at www.smgov.net/oem.

Q: I read a press release about the SMPD's increased focus on bad driving behavior and the press release provided information about cell phone use. If I am using my cell phone as my music player can I still get a cell phone ticket?

A: It is illegal for a person, regardless of age, to hold a cell phone in his/her hand and use it while on speaker phone or held to your ear (23123(a) of the California Vehicle Code). A person under the age 18 is not allowed to use a cell phone at all while driving, even if they are utilizing a hands free device. And no person shall read, write, or send any text based communication, such as a text message, instant message, or electronic mail (e-mail). Scrolling for a name or phone number in a cell phone or entering a phone number does not constitute texting, but as you will see below this could warrant a citation.

If you are using your cell phone as a music player you shall not utilize both earplugs. Pursuant to 27400(a) of the California Vehicle Code, a person operating a vehicle or a bicycle may not wear a headset covering or earplugs in both ears. So if you are utilizing your cellphone as a music player and it is not synched to your vehicle speakers you must only wear one earplug.

Even if you are only wearing one earplug, or your cell phone is synched to the vehicle speakers, you should only handle the cell phone when it is safe to do so. In the California Vehicle Code section for speeding, it states that no person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of the persons or property. The safe way for a person to look down at any music device, scroll through songs, or do anything that takes your eyes off the road is to pull over, stop, and do those things on the side of the road. Doing anything that causes you to take your eyes off the road could be a violation of the basic speed law of California and you could receive a citation.

In this age of multi-tasking, it is common for a person to attempt to do more than one thing at a time while driving. You must understand that you are already multi-tasking when you are driving; your mind and body are working simultaneously to drive your vehicle. You should not add another task on top of what you already need to do to drive safely. Besides utilizing your cell phone, some common tasks I have witnessed are:

- Reading a newspaper, a book, or a map.
- Personal grooming, such as hair grooming, shaving, or applying makeup.
- Attempting to light a cigarette, putting out a cigarette, or catching falling ashes from a cigarette.
- Working in your vehicle by taking notes from a phone call, utilizing your laptop to type or retrieve data.

Please do not distract yourself while driving. You are endangering the lives inside and outside of your vehicle. If you are observed driving while attempting to take on additional tasks besides driving you can receive a citation and be subject to fines and court fees. Remember, the SMPD is committed to making the streets and highways safe for all pedestrians, bicyclist and drivers, so do your part and pay attention to the road while driving.

This column was prepared by **NRO JOSEPH CORTEZ** (Beat 4: Montana Avenue to Interstate 10, 20th Street to Ocean Avenue, excluding Downtown). He can be reached at (424) 200-0684.

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OpinionCommentary

The QLine

STARTING OFF RIGHT

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

This past week, Q-line asked: **What will be your primary resolution for 2012? Be honest and realistic, it helps keep the faith.**

Here are your responses:

"SINCE I AM PERFECT, I DON'T NEED TO make any resolutions for myself. I just make them for other people."

"MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION WILL BE convince as many people as I can to finally get rid of [City Council members Bob] Holbrook, [Terry] O'Day, Gleam [Davis] and [Richard] Bloom and to never again elect anyone who is the trained monkey of big development. These people pacify bike riders, pedestrians and dog owners with bike lanes, flashing crosswalks and dog parks, while at the same time make Santa Monica more dangerous and lower our quality of life with each passing day. Can't those of you who keep re-electing these people see that with each new large development, traffic choking change to the streets and light rail, there are more cars everywhere, including most residential streets, driven by increasingly more angry drivers that can and will kill you and your pet."

"MY RESOLUTION FOR 2012 IS ONE telephone notepad at a time. Last year, 2011, was absolutely ridiculous. I finally counted and realized why I couldn't find the notes that I had written. I had nine notepads going all at once. So 2012, one only, one at a time."

"I DON'T USUALLY HAVE A RESOLUTION, BUT this year, I am going to have a resolution and here is my resolution for the year 2012. I will pray, pray and pray to forgive the atheists, our enemies, just like I'm going to obey God, he wants us to pray for people that don't believe in him. In the name of Jesus, I will pray and pray so that we can have our displays back on Ocean Avenue of the Christmas scenes. I want to have the Christmas scenes on Ocean Avenue next

year, because I was very sad this year not to have it there."

"MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO SAVE up enough money to buy a condo in Santa Monica, but at my current rate, there's not a snowball's chance in hell I'll be able to."

"I WOULD LOVE TO SAVE MORE MONEY, lose some weight and I think I'll do that by biking more around town. That way I can save on gas and shed some pounds being more active. If City Hall is going to spend all this money on bike lanes and the like, I should probably take advantage."

"TO START BRINGING MY REUSABLE BAGS to the grocery store instead of leaving them in the trunk of my car. That bag fee is starting to add up."

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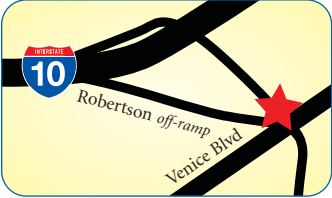
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Food

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hits, misses at Stop'n Cafe

FELLOW FOOD REVIEWER MICHAEL RYAN and I were strolling along the Santa Monica Promenade when we saw the sign "Greek Food." A lovely young woman smiled at us and invited us in. When we learned that the restaurant — Stop'n Cafe — had been there for 25 years, we were encouraged. Is the promenade that old?

I love Greek food. The dishes I look forward to in a Greek restaurant are moussaka, various dips, and baklava for dessert. Turkish coffee is also a treat although, of course, I don't use the "T" word in a Greek restaurant.

Another young lovely came over to take our order. As is my custom, I asked for something a bit different than on the menu to see if the restaurant follows one of my main dictums, "the customer is always right." So I asked if we could share a split order of hummus and eggplant dip, instead of one order of each.

"Of course," said the lovely Elishah, who I promptly identified as an East Coast transplant.

The appetizer arrived with the customary pita wedges, and we dug in. Michael immediately noticed that the hummus was a bit weak and thin, without much garbanzo bean flavor. But the eggplant dish (baba ganoush) had real texture and serious garlic flavor, and was delicious.

During our appetizer we watched what was being served to our neighbors. We saw an attractive plate with a yellow chicken kabob smelling of rich saffron. At the next table we saw some fried calamari rings, but they looked over-fried with the wrong kind of batter, although the three dipping sauces looked good. We asked Elishah what was the most popular dish, and she said that the gyros sandwiches were very popular, as well as the various kebobs.

But fixated on my favorites we decided to split a moussaka. I make this at home often, and have enjoyed it in Greece, southern France (where about 15 percent of the population is from Arab countries, where it is a popular dish) and throughout the Middle East.

The ideal moussaka consists of layers of ground or shredded lamb and slices of eggplant, baked with a tomato garlic sauce and covered in a béchamel sauce. The lamb and the eggplant must not be overcooked so that they lose their identity, but must be merged into complimentary tastes.

This moussaka did not meet the test, and I was pretty sure the chef was not Greek. First of all it was made from ground beef instead of lamb. The eggplant was cooked so much that it merged into the meat and lost its texture. There was not enough cumin fla-



Photo by Michael Ryan news@smdp.com
SERVICE WITH A SMILE: The Stop'n Cafe is known for its friendly servers like Elishah, while the food is hit and miss.

If you go

Stop'n Cafe

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vor nor the acidity of a good tomato sauce. But the béchamel sauce was perfect.

While it wasn't very good as genuine moussaka, it wasn't bad as a lasagna dish, as Michael pointed out.

For dessert we shared a piece of baklava, which had a touch of cinnamon flavor, but was too dry and craved more honey. I loved the Turkish coffee, but Michael found it too strong for his taste.

A good time was had by all. Elishah was the best part of the meal. And the loud music on the promenade is always a distraction. Next time we go there we will sit inside, which is richly decorated with pictures of movie stars from the 1940s and '50s. Michael says that he hopes Elishah will wait on us.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

Photography by Brandon Wise

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EVENT, PR, PHOTOJOURNALISM, WILDLIFE, ARCHITECTURAL, PORTRAITS, LANDSCAPES, FOOD

Drago Santa Monica says ‘ciao’ Wilshire restaurant to close by end of month

BY COLIN NEWTON

Special to the Daily Press

WILSHIRE BLVD After 21 years of serving Santa Monica, Italian restaurant Drago will be packing up its pans and closing its doors by the end of this month.

“It’s been an absolutely wonderful run in Santa Monica,” said owner Chef Celestino Drago, who opened the restaurant in 1991 and has operated it ever since.

The restaurant, located on Wilshire Boulevard near 26th Street, has been hailed by local and visiting foodies for its contemporary elegance and ever changing menu.

It is also credited by critics as being the first modern Italian restaurant in Southern California.

Santa Monica was the first site of Drago’s restaurateur presence in the Los Angeles area, but it has not been the last.

Drago also operates Drago Centro in downtown Los Angeles and Enoteca Drago

and Il Pastaio in Beverly Hills.

Only the Santa Monica location is closing.

Although the Wilshire bistro is winding down, for the last month of operation the restaurant is featuring a special “throw-back” menu. Starting Jan. 9., seven dishes from the original Drago Santa Monica menu will be incorporated into the current menu. Some of the retro options available to guests will be spaghetti with pressed, dried tuna caviar, or sausage-filled quail.

Despite the closure, Drago will be keeping a local presence, courtesy of catering services from Casa Bianca, Drago’s newest venue in Culver City.

“We’re going to recreate the Drago experience in the best possible place — the home,” he said.

For more information, call the Santa Monica Drago at (310) 828-1585.

news@smdp.com

Don’t be afraid to use spices that are unfamiliar

BY J.M. HIRSCH

AP Food Editor

The typical grocer sells some 50,000 different products. The typical shopper buys the same 264 over and over again.

The point of this column? To persuade you to take a second look at some of the 49,736 foods that don’t usually land in your cart.

Cardamom, for example. This spice aisle resident is a master of blurring the sweet-savory line. Yet most people know it only (if at all) for the rather dull cookies named after it. But cardamom is way more than a cookie, and it belongs on the dinner table as much as in desserts.

First, the basics. Cardamom is a seed that is related to ginger and originated in India (both of which explain why it makes frequent appearances in Indian sauces, chutneys and rubs). The taste is citrusy and floral, as well as warm and peppery.

Cardamom is sold whole (black seeds in a greyish-green pod) and ground (a fine greyish-blue powder). While the flavor is best when you get whole pods and grind them as needed, raise your hand if you can admit that’s too much trouble.

To demo how easy it is to use an overlooked ingredient like cardamom to overhaul your weeknight cooking, I created this simple roasted chicken and potatoes. Don’t want to do thighs? Use breasts, or even the whole bird.

The point? Getting big flavor from everyday cooking can be easy. And the secret ingredient often is right in front of you.

J.M. HIRSCH is the national food editor for The Associated Press. He is author of the recent cookbook, “High Flavor, Low Labor: Reinventing Weeknight Cooking.” His Off the Beaten Aisle column also appears at FoodNetwork.com. Follow him on Twitter http://twitter.com/JM_Hirsch.

Cardamom-honey chicken thighs with new potatoes

Substitute any root vegetables you like for the potatoes in this recipe. Sweet potatoes, carrots and parsnips are fine choices. You also could skip the vegetables entirely and serve the chicken over egg noodles tossed with the pan sauce made at the end of this recipe.

Start to finish: 1 hour 5 minutes (15 minutes active)

Servings: 4

1/3 cup honey

Zest of 1 orange

2 tablespoons olive or canola oil, divided

Kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1 1/2 teaspoons ground cardamom

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 1/2 pounds new potatoes

1 1/2 pounds skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs

Heat the oven to 400 degrees.

In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, orange zest, 1 tablespoon of the oil, 1 teaspoon of salt, the garlic powder, cardamom and pep-

per. Set aside.

In a 9-by-9-inch metal roasting or baking pan, toss the potatoes with the remaining tablespoon of oil and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Arrange the potatoes in an even layer.

Use a pastry brush to coat the chicken thighs with the honey mixture under and over the skin. Arrange the chicken pieces over the potatoes. Cover with foil and roast for 35 minutes. Uncover and roast for another 15 minutes. Transfer the meat and potatoes to a plate, cover with foil and set aside.

Set the roasting pan over a stovetop burner on medium-high heat. Bring the liquid in the pan to a simmer and cook until thickened, about 2 minutes.

Serve the chicken and potatoes drizzled with the pan sauce.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 655 calories; 297 calories from fat (45 percent of total calories); 33 g fat (8 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 143 mg cholesterol; 53 g carbohydrate; 33 g protein; 2 g fiber; 199 mg sodium.

Photo by Carol Rosegg

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FUTURE FROM PAGE 1

munication satellites in space is asking state lawmakers to support "bold moves" that live up to California's history of innovation. Critics question whether California can afford the projects in the years ahead.

"This is a strong, confident investment in the future of California," Brown said in releasing his budget plan. "There are a few people, some of them who are hankering after life in Texas, who call California a failed state. But we are the innovative state. We're the state of Apple computer, of Facebook, of Hewlett-Packard, Hollywood, stem cell research, international trade, diversity. This is a state that's dynamic, it's creative, and it's prosperous."

Brown's approach is markedly different than that taken in most other states in the wake of the Great Recession. Other governors and state legislative leaders have taken the opposite view, arguing that governments at all levels must live within their current means.

Forty-eight states have cut programs and services since late 2007. That includes California, which has made deep cuts to social services and education. Brown also has sought to reduce bureaucracy or transfer to local governments the types of programs that he believes should not be overseen by the state, but he also has said he wants to empower government's core functions, including offering help to those who need it most.

Brown's 2012-13 spending plan includes \$4.2 billion in cuts to the state's welfare-to-work program, Medi-Cal and child care services. Yet he also is proposing spending about \$1 billion in expected revenue from California's new "cap-and-trade" program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He wants that money to go toward clean energy research,

natural resource protection and infrastructure projects related to alternative energy.

He also budgeted \$15.9 million for the agency overseeing the high-speed rail project, signaling his continued support for it even in the face of several reports that question the project's planning and costs. The rail line is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects proposed in any state, with plans to link the San Francisco Bay area, the Central Valley and Southern California with trains running up to 220 mph.

The current cost estimate is more than double the original, and funding for most of the project has not been identified.

Brown also wants to devote \$25 million and create 135 new jobs as part of a habitat conservation and water delivery system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. That comes amid the ongoing debate over whether California should build a massive canal or tunnel to move Sacramento River water to farms and cities to the south.

During his campaign for governor, Brown endorsed building a canal or tunnel around the delta, but his administration has not proposed building one so far. A proposal for a so-called peripheral canal that Brown supported was the subject of a bitter ballot fight when he was governor in the 1980s.

The sums are small in scope amid a total proposed general fund budget of \$92.5 billion, but they reflect the governor's attitude that California can't stop planning for the future just because times are tough right now.

Investments in the environment are relatively cheap and one of the few policy goals that are not blocked by current political and economic realities, said Thad Kousser, an assistant professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego.

He said Brown is taking a risk by supporting high-speed rail but noted that fund-

ing for the initial phase of construction comes from sources outside the state budget.

"This is Jerry Brown swimming up the political stream to fulfill his father's vision of California, of investing in infrastructure," Kousser said. "It doesn't look easy in the short term, and many of us will be long gone before it comes to fruition."

Brown's father, Pat Brown, was governor from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s and is credited with developing California's extensive water system and a higher education system that until recent years was a model for its combination of accessibility, affordability and high quality.

If the rail project eventually succeeds, it could provide Brown a lasting legacy of his own. His first tenure as governor, from 1975 to 1983, also was marked by cutbacks to state government and a voter revolt against escalating residential property taxes. Brown was asked this week whether he has had second thoughts about the rail project after the latest critical report.

"You know, I'm of the view that this is the time for big ideas, not shrinking back and looking for a hole to climb into," he told reporters. "California is a big state. America can have a high-speed rail system like every other country — every other major country — and I think we've got to move forward."

Republicans and some Democrats have called for scrapping the project. Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, said Brown's budget reflects his "addiction to overspending."

"It is irresponsible to assume that billions of dollars in new tax revenue will suddenly appear, while they move full-speed ahead on high speed rail, a billion-dollar cap and tax scheme, and numerous unsustainable entitlement programs," he said in a statement.

The environmental projects eligible for

some of the \$1 billion look to the future: solar and wind farms, as well as programs to charging stations for electric vehicles. Such projects will end up boosting the economy as well as protecting the environment, said Stanley Young, a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board, which would oversee the spending.

Jan Mazurek, director of strategy and operations at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, said Brown also has displayed political courage by pushing ahead with the cap-and-trade plan, which was part of a bill signed by his predecessor, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The plan puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions and offers financial incentives for companies to reduce pollution.

"Other states may be shortsighted toward environmental budget cuts, but Governor Brown understands a cap can close the deficit and that it can grow clean energy companies. A growing economy closes budget deficits," Mazurek said.

Brown served as state attorney general before he was elected governor for the second time in 2010. During that tenure, he supported enacting the state's greenhouse gas law and has repeatedly talked about the need to plan for the predicted effects of climate change.

During a conference on extreme climate risks he hosted last month in San Francisco, Brown urged people to "wake up" to the extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. He said there already was evidence that warming weather is causing faster snowmelts from the Sierra Nevada, putting stress on the state's aging levee system and threatening agriculture in the Central Valley.

He said the greatest obstacle California faces is a "deep sense of complacency" that things will work themselves out.

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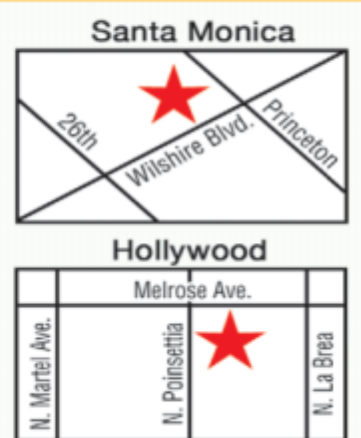


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POLL FROM PAGE 1

control the population," she said.

She'd like to see an end to shelters destroying animals when they run out of room, saying, "We are way too civilized of a society to allow this."

But Leslie Surprenant, 53, of Saugerties, N.Y., believes shelters should be allowed to control populations. She says no-kill shelters that only accept animals with good prospects for adoption or that turn away animals once the shelter reaches capacity do not solve the problem.

"That doesn't truly mean no-kill shelters. It means there are more animals out on the streets being hit by cars and starving and living in Dumpsters," said Surprenant, who has two dogs and a cat. "It does not mean the general population is lower; it just means that they've opted not to kill."

Surprenant believes spaying and neutering is the way to go. In fact, higher rates of spaying and neutering in recent decades have cut the number of abandoned puppies and kittens, which in turn has cut euthanasia rates. Before 1970, about 20 million animals were euthanized each year in this country. In 2011, fewer than 4 million abandoned animals were euthanized.

Younger pet owners are most likely to favor no-kill policies, with 79 percent of those under 30 saying shelters should only euthanize animals that are untreatable or too aggressive, compared with 67 percent of those age 50 or over saying that.

The poll results are encouraging to leaders of the nation's no-kill movement, who'd like to see the U.S. become a "no-kill nation" with homes for every adoptable pet, and euthanasia reserved only for extremely ill or aggressive animals.

Any plan will take teamwork between shelters with government contracts that must accept every animal and the no-kill shelters that often only take animals they can help, said Ed Sayres, president and CEO of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Rich Avanzino, president of Alameda-based Maddie's Fund, pioneered no-kill in San Francisco in the early '90s through a pact between the open-admission city shelter and the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"We are just a breath away from doing what is right for the animals," Avanzino said.

He believes the country can achieve no-kill status by 2015, partly due to corporate giving to animal causes, which totaled about \$30 million in 2010 and is expected to reach \$70 million by 2015. That money can help with spaying, neutering and outreach, he said.

Public attitudes are also changing, with more people saying it's unacceptable for pets to languish or die in an animal shelter, Avanzino said.

Avanzino pioneered the no-kill concept in San Francisco. Sayres succeeded him and nurtured it, then went to New York and

implemented it there in a much bigger way. The model is the same, but instead of two partner agencies like in San Francisco, New York has 155, Sayres said.

About 44,000 animals enter New York City shelters each year. Since Sayres has been there, the euthanasia rate has dropped from 74 percent to 27 percent.

The ASPCA has also teamed up with 11 communities from Tampa, Fla., to Spokane, Wash., in no-kill efforts, Sayres said.

He believes he will see a no-kill nation, at least for dogs, in his lifetime. Cats may take a little longer because of the large feral population, he said.

The euthanasia issue attracted some attention this week when it was reported that a stray cat being held at a West Valley City, Utah, animal shelter survived two trips to the shelter's gas chamber. The shelter has stopped trying to kill the cat, named Andrea, and she has been adopted. Shelter officials are investigating why the gassing failed.

Best Friends Animal Society operates the country's largest no-kill sanctuary for abandoned and abused animals. The Kanab, Utah, preserve is home to 1,700 dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, horses and wildlife undergoing rehabilitation, said Best Friends director Gregory Castle.

More than 800 grass-roots rescue organizations belong to Best Friends' No More Homeless Pets Network and are working to make their communities no-kill, Castle said. Attendance at an annual conference for network members has grown from 250 in 2001 to 1,300 last year.

The sanctuary's newest venture is a groundbreaking effort involving what Castle believes is the largest public-private partnership ever forged in the no-kill movement.

Best Friends is going to operate a shelter for the Department of Animal Services in Los Angeles as an adoption and spay and neuter center, he said. All animals will come from six open-admission Los Angeles city shelters.

The coalition's initial goal is 3,000 adoptions and 6,000 sterilization procedures, Castle said.

Differences in the varying no-kill campaigns are mostly a matter of nuance, Castle said, and how you define sick and aggressive.

Nathan Winograd, director of the Oakland-based No Kill Advocacy Center, believes 95 percent of all animals entering shelters can be adopted or treated. And even though the other 5 percent might be hopelessly injured, ill or vicious, he said they should not all be doomed.

Some, if not most of them, can be cared for in hospice centers or sanctuaries, he said. As for pit bulls and other dogs with aggressive reputations, he said shelters need to do a better job of trying to find them homes.

The AP-Petside.com Poll was conducted Oct. 13-17, 2011, by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,118 pet owners. Results among pet owners have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

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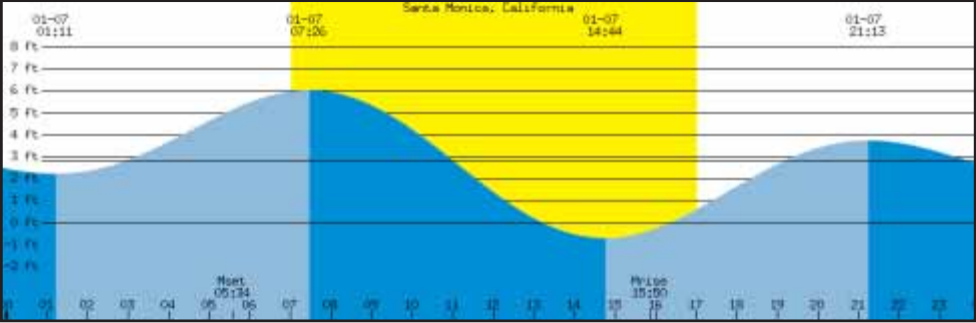


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Number of wet days — 4

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 29 / 16

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, simplehuman, LACAR GUY, 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.

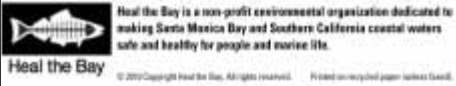
LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cienegas Beach, at Arroyo Seco Creek mouth.	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bal Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks.	ns	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Encinal Canyon at El Morado State Beach.	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chontalupa).	A	D
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	D	D	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Romeros Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants).	A+	B
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	D
Selisia Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	D	D	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Maric Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Winwood Ave. drain.	A	A+
Sheridan Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence.	A	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Sheridan Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topoli St.	A+	A+
Mulliken Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	F	Dickweiler State Beach at Bellina Creek mouth.	D	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point near).	A+	ns	Dickweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dickweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Flores County Beach.	A+	A+	Dickweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty).	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns	Dickweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	F	Dickweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	F
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns	Dickweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+			

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.

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.

NFL Raiders to hire Packers' McKenzie to fill Davis void

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. The Oakland Raiders have landed their new personnel man, who faces the daunting task of helping fill the void left by late owner Al Davis.

The Raiders said Friday they have reached an agreement with Green Bay Packers director of football operations Reggie McKenzie to become their new general manager. They scheduled a news conference for Tuesday to introduce McKenzie, who will fulfill many of the duties handled by iconic owner Davis until his Oct. 8 death at age 82.

One of McKenzie's first orders of business likely will be sitting down with coach Hue Jackson, who handled many personnel decisions in recent months. Jackson, who just completed his first season as head coach after being elevated from offensive coordinator, pulled off the highly debated October trade for quarterback Carson Palmer after starter Jason Campbell broke his collarbone.

The 48-year-old McKenzie will take over his new job with the Raiders immediately, a person with knowledge of the hiring told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because those details weren't formally announced. That means McKenzie will leave the defending Super Bowl champion Packers (15-1) before they open defense of their title. The NFC's No. 1 seed is off this weekend with a first-round playoff bye.

"I would like to thank Reggie McKenzie for all that he has done for the Green Bay Packers over the last 18 years," Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson said in a statement. "Reggie is a tremendous talent, but more importantly, he is a good friend and great family man. His contributions to our organization are numerous and he is ready for the opportunity to be a general manager in the National Football League. It's been a privilege to work with Reggie, he is a good man."

ESPN first reported the deal. Oakland has gone without someone in a true GM role since Davis' longtime senior assistant, Bruce Allen, departed for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after the 2003 season. Allen had been a top personnel executive for Davis from 1996-2003. Davis' son, Mark, is now making many top decisions.

Oakland went 8-8 this season after a promising 7-4 start, ending its playoff chances by losing four of the final five games — including a 38-26 home loss last Sunday to San Diego with a playoff berth still within reach. The Raiders have missed the postseason for the last nine years since losing in the Super Bowl after the 2002 season.

Davis loved to bring back former Raiders to the silver and black, and McKenzie fits the bill. He played linebacker for the Raiders from 1985-88 and joined the Packers as a pro personnel assistant in 1994. He became the director of football operations on May 27, 2008, and also previously worked in the role of director of pro personnel.

A 10th-round draft pick by the Los Angeles Raiders out of Tennessee in 1985, McKenzie played the first four of his six NFL seasons with the Raiders.

"I'm just looking in through the keyhole right now, so all I really know is that he was very sought after from what I've gathered and read," said 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, who has worked for the Raiders.

For the Packers, losing McKenzie is a double whammy.

Earlier Friday, Green Bay announced that Vice President Jason Wied had resigned from the team's front office because of health issues.

Wied, the vice president of administration/general counsel, took an indefinite leave of absence from the organization in November. In a statement issued Friday by the Packers, Wied said he has been dealing with sleep apnea and insomnia and developed a dependency on one of the herbal remedies he was using.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave. (310) 260-1528		
Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012		
Super 8 (PG-13) 1hr 52min 7:30pm J. J. Abrams and cast in person	Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min 10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:35pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 9:55pm, 11:05pm	Descendants (R) 1hr 55min 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm
Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012		
Eight Times Up (8 Fois Debout) (NR) 1hr 43min 7:30pm Julie Gaynet and Xabi Molia in person	Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min 10:25am, 1:55pm, 4:20pm, 6:40pm, 8:55pm, 11:15pm	Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min 1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm
AMC Loews Broadway 4 1441 Third Street Promenade (888) 262-4386	War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min 10:40am, 12:05pm, 12:50pm, 3:25pm, 4:10pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm	Dangerous Method (R) 1hr 39min 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min 11:20am, 2:05pm, 7:20pm	We Bought a Zoo (PG) 2hrs 04min 10:20am, 1:10pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm	Shame (NC-17) 1hr 39min 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm
Darkest Hour (PG-13) 1hr 29min 4:50pm, 10:10pm	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min 11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:10pm	AMC Criterion 6 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min 11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm	Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min 11:50am, 3:40pm, 7:10pm, 10:55pm	Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min 2:30pm, 5:20pm
Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min 11:15am, 2:40pm, 6:10pm, 9:50pm	Laemmle's Monica Fourplex 1332 Second St. (310) 478-3836	Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min 11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:20pm, 8:30pm, 11:30pm
My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min 11:50am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm	Over Your Cities Grass Will Grow (L'Herbe poussera sur vos villes) (NR) 1hr 45min 11:00am	Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min 10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm
AMC 7 Santa Monica 1310 Third St. (310) 451-9440	Sing Your Song (NR) 1hr 43min 11:00am	Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1hr 41min 11:45am, 8:10pm, 11:05pm
	Battle for Brooklyn (NR) 1hr 33min 11:00am	Devil Inside (R) 1hr 27min 11:00am, 1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 8:20pm, 10:40pm
		Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2hrs 07min 10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm
		Carnage (R) 1hr 19min 11:00am, 1:15pm, 3:30pm, 5:40pm, 7:55pm, 10:15pm

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

Hang out tonight, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Get a load off your chest. You are doing this exercise for you. The other party might need to do the same exercise. Seriousness is replaced by imaginative flights of fancy. Count on your creativity. Tonight: At home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You can juggle your finances only so much. The most evolved form of taking from Peter to pay Paul won't work in the long run. Later in the day, you relax and enjoy company. Someone's attitude startles not just you but also others. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use the early part of the day if you have an important mission on your mind. With all your energy, you could be mistaken for a superhero! That, too, passes in the afternoon, when you chill out. Tonight: Have a good time!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Remember, you are the Moon Child, who is like a pendulum. No matter how low you get, you can get equally as high. Smile at that thought. You will be in a new mood by late afternoon, ready to enjoy yourself. Tonight: Recognize that others are affected by you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Get going early, when you are likely to enjoy yourself to the max. Others could be serious, but you are on cruise control and hard to stop. Be sure to listen to someone who might need you. An appropriate response is needed, or else you will be unhappy with yourself. Tonight: Take a break from the hectic pace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A must appearance is necessary to make headway through an issue that needs your special touch and understanding. Though you might be hung up too long for your taste, once you leave, you throw yourself into a fun few days. Tonight: Let the good times in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Toss your present environment, and go for something new. This doesn't necessarily mean painting your house. Hop in the car and meet a distant friend halfway. In a different environment, you'll relax, smile and recharge. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Relate directly to someone you have a message for. If you ask for that message to be passed on, it probably won't get there, even with family. Take the opportunity to visit that same person and catch up on his or her news. If he or she isn't free, make time for your next admirer. Tonight: Only where there is music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to open up a new portal. Be careful with decision-making in the earlier part of the day. You might need to revisit that same place in a while. Postpone finalizing anything. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Clear out whatever is holding you back so that you can kick back and enjoy yourself. Others want your company and seek you out en masse. Don't feel pressured by a situation. Make choices that make you happy. Tonight: Certainly not alone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Stop and help a loved one work through a debilitating issue. Your imagination knows no limits. Understand that what is happening for this person is upsetting, even if it isn't for you. Don't allow anyone to pressure you. Tonight: Slow down if you are tired.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be aware of what is happening on the home front. Your sense of humor plays into a changing situation. Be open to possibilities rather than being comfortable with the status quo. Tonight: Choose something romantic.

Happy birthday

This year you can be intellectual yet emotional. Use your instincts with a financial matter. Sometimes you over-think or worry too much. Clarify issues within a relationship if you are attached, though your partner might be vested in keeping the status quo. If you are single, you easily could find yourself trying to make a decision about your status. You could meet someone significant this year. CANCER can be challenging.

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

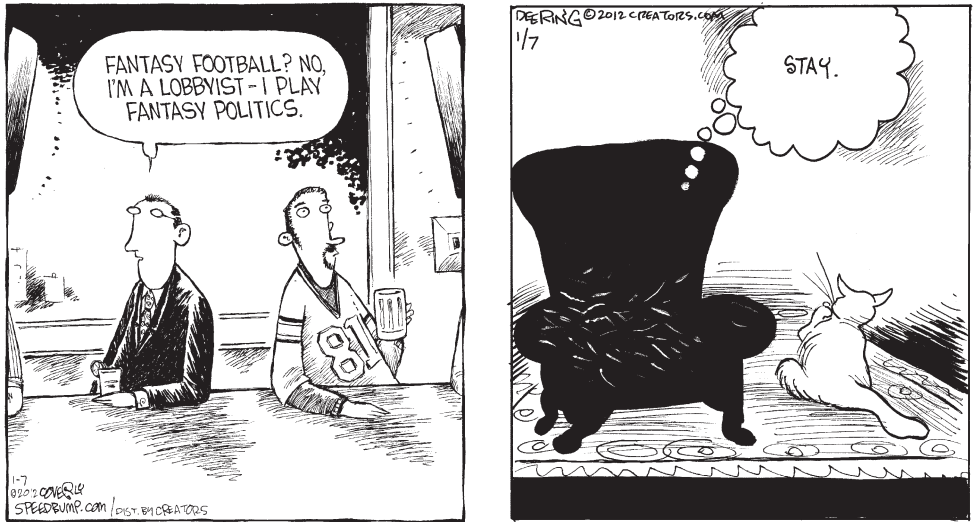


MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly Strange Brew By John Deering



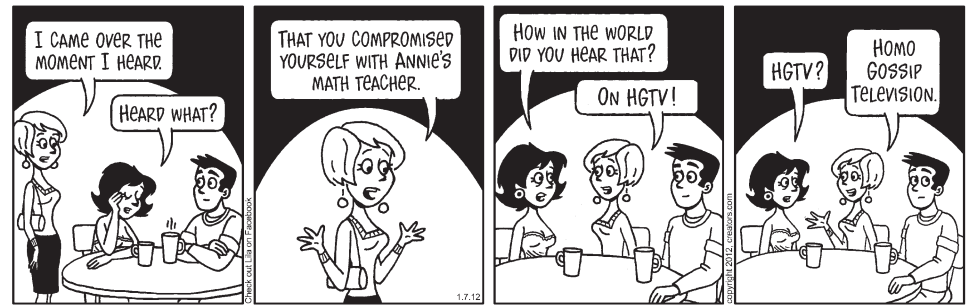
Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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name of registrant(s) is/are: Ann Kim 232 S.
Reeves Dr. #205 Beverly Hills, CA 90212. 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. Is/Ann Kim. This statement
was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES
County on 12/01/2011. 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 it-

DBAS

self authorize the use in this state of a fictitious
business name statement in violation of the
rights of another under federal, state, or common
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Obituaries

Ericka Ann Crites
May 8, 1970 - January 4, 2012
Beloved daughter of Judy and Clarence
Crites
and sister Kelli Crites Gassman
Memorial Service Saturday, January 7 at
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ROBERT GOMEZ,
beloved husband, father, and
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A native of Santa Monica, Robert
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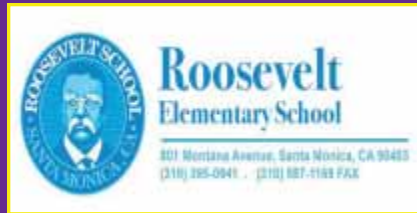
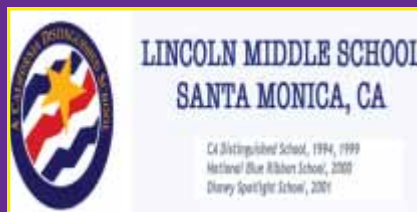


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Santa Monica Canyon	= \$1,900,000	\$2,995,000
North of Montana	= \$3,195,999	\$1,074,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$1,985,000	\$799,500
South of Wilshire	= \$799,000	\$499,000
Sunset Park	= \$1,150,000	\$499,000
Ocean Park	= \$1,399,000	\$1,149,000
Statistics updated every Monday		

11745 Montana #305



Price Reduction!
\$3,900 Per Month

2 Bed + 4 Bath
Gorgeous Mountain Views

Call Kate for Showing

1751 Appian Way



**2 Units Available for
Lease!**

#101 1 + 1.5 \$4,999 / Month
#203 3 + 3 \$8,499 / Month

Call Kate for Showing

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.