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JANUARY 8-9, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 49



# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

FAMILIAR FACE TO HEAD LAUSD
SEE PAGE 3

THE GOING DOWN SOUTH ISSUE

## City Hall defends credit given to nativity scene, solstice groups

**BY KEVIN HERRERA**
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL City officials are defending a decision to put several parking meters on Ocean Avenue out of commission for nearly a week over the holidays — a move one man says cost City Hall revenue while inappropriately aiding a religious group that had put up nativity scene displays near the spaces.

The parties involved are the Nativity Scenes Committee, which each year erects 14 life-size displays depicting events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, and a committee of one, Damon Vix, who set up a solstice display featuring quotes from the founding fathers about the separation of church and state.

The displays were placed in Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard for roughly two weeks in December.

The nativity scene displays have been a tradition in Santa Monica since 1953 and are paid for by the committee, which is composed of representatives from local churches and the Santa Monica Police Officers

SEE METERS PAGE 10



FORER

NCAA FOOTBALL

## What a way to finish

### Samohi alum Forer ends college career in BCS title game

**BY DANIEL ARCHULETA**
Managing Editor

GLENDALE, Ariz. For a guy who never played center before, Oregon's Max Forer seems to have picked up the position like he was born to play it.

The former Santa Monica High School defensive end's journey to the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game against Auburn on Tuesday has been anything but easy. Little recruited out of high school, Forer wanted desperately to play Pac-10 football, like his dad Jeffrey, who played at UCLA in the 1970s.

He drew some interest from lower-tier college programs, but he had his mind set on something bigger. Yet, he knew his prospects were dim if he didn't get busy.

"I was the only guy from my class who tried to go [play] somewhere," said Forer, who graduated from Samohi in 2006. "I

SEE FORER PAGE 8



## GIVING CHASE

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

**Megan Yapelli of West High School in Torrance chases after the soccer ball as (left) Samohi's Lidia Cristina Battaglia and Mikka Alemania follow suit at John Adams Middle School on Friday. Samohi hosted West in a non-league match and won 3-2. With the win Samohi improves its record to 5 wins 6 losses and 1 tie while West falls to 5 wins 5 losses and 3 ties.**

## Feds recommend reducing fluoride levels in drinking water

**MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA Fluoride in drinking water — credited with dramatically cutting cavities and tooth decay — may now be too much of a good thing. Getting too much of it causes spots on some kids' teeth.

A reported increase in the spotting problem is one reason the federal government said Friday it plans to lower the recommended levels for fluoride in water supplies — the first such change in nearly 50 years.

A group called Santa Monicans for Safe Drinking water has been fighting for years to rid the fluoride from Santa Monica's drinking water, citing concerns about harmful effects of ingesting too much. Santa Monica receives the vast majority of its water from the Metropolitan Water District, which added fluoride to the city's taps in 2007.

SEE FLUORIDE PAGE 6

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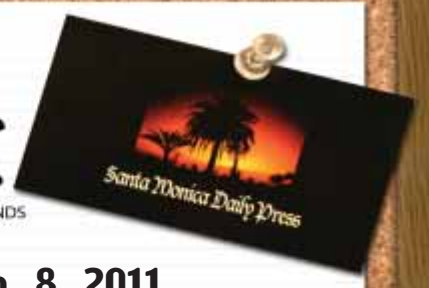
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# WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS




## Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011

### Add it up

Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2:30 p.m.
Santa Monica Rep presents "The Adding Machine," the third reading of their inaugural series. Audience members are encouraged to talk back with the cast during this interactive afternoon of theater. For more information on this free event, call (213) 268-1454.

### Acting for grown-ups

YWCA
2019 14th St., 10:30 a.m.
This class will train you in the techniques necessary to start a commercial acting career, ages 18-98. The instructor has had students appear in nationwide commercials for Pepsi, Target and Mercedes Benz. For more information, call (310) 452-3881.

## Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011

### Run for fun

Nike Store
Santa Monica Place, 10:30 a.m.
The Nike Run Club offers product trials, refreshments, and there are 3,5, and 7 mile groups with pace leaders for each group. Just show up — it is free! For more information go to www.santamonicaplace.com.

### 'The Power of Ten'

Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 4 p.m. — 7 p.m.
"The Power of Ten" is a year-long celebration, punctuated by a series of public and private events, that pays tribute to Elsa Longhauser for creating a vibrant center for artistic, intellectual, and cultural exchange at SMMoA. The evening includes the opportunity to win original works by 25 contemporary artists. For more information, call (310) 586-6488.

## Monday, Jan. 10, 2011

### All that jazz

Santa Monica High School
Barnum Hall, 7 p.m.
Hear some live jazz performed by the Samohi jazz ensembles and jazz combo — under the direction of Tom Whaley and Mike Corrigan and featuring Hollywood Walk of Fame all-star musician Wayne Bergeron on trumpet. Tickets are $10 for adults/$5 for students and seniors.

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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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

## Deasy expected to become LAUSD Super

Former Santa Monica-Malibu public school chief John Deasy is expected to become the next superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Times reported on Friday.

Deasy, who became a deputy superintendent at LAUSD, the nation's second largest public school system, in August, is expected to be appointed by the district's board on Tuesday, the paper said, citing anonymous sources.

Deasy, who headed the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District from 2001-2006, was an executive with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation before joining LAUSD.

A proponent of using students' standardized test scores in teacher evaluations — which the United Teachers Los Angeles vigorously opposes — Deasy, 50, is set to replace Ramon Cortines, 78, who has announced his retirement. Cortines has been superintendent since 2008.

A press conference to announce the appointment has been scheduled for Tuesday, the L.A. Times said.

DAILY PRESS

CITY HALL

## CityTV launches for-credit college class series

CityTV is turning living rooms into classrooms. Beginning Jan. 8, CityTV of Santa Monica and DHTV, the television program service of CSU Dominguez Hills, are teaming up to provide viewers with live, interactive broadcasts of classes and lectures on Forté cable channel 99. Each series of broadcasts provides viewers an opportunity to earn university credit.

All Forté viewers can interact with class instructors by calling in during each live broadcast via toll-free 800 numbers. Class offerings include: "Mass media in society," "Jazz in the modern era." "Gardens of California," "Introduction to American government," and several others. CityTV's website is www.cityTV.org. Phone: (310) 458-8590.

DP

MAIN STREET

## Power outage hits 4,000 in Thursday night

Utility crews were working to restore electricity to about 1,200 customers in Santa Monica, a Southern California Edison official said. The outage began about 6:30 p.m. Thursday when power lines fell near Main Street in Santa Monica, Scott Andresen of Edison said.

There were 4,071 customers without electricity from the resulting outage, and power was restored to about 2,800 customers by 9:45 p.m., he added. A spokeswoman for the company on Friday afternoon said 207 customers in the vicinity of Ashland Avenue and Third Street remained without power. She said electricity was expected to be restored to all Santa Monica customers by 6 p.m. Friday.

DP

DOWNTOWN LA

## Expo orders review of finalists to build SM-Culver City rail link

Transportation officials have decided to take a closer look at two bidders seeking to build the second phase of the $1.5-billion Expo light-rail line from Culver City to Santa Monica after an initial review raised questions about ongoing investigations of the companies and about fraud allegations, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority has ordered a comprehensive performance review of two finalists vying for the contract: joint ventures Skanska/Rados and URS/Shimmick.

City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor sits on Expo's board but could not be reached on Friday.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, also an Expo board member, requested the initial review of the companies.

"This is important and indicative of a new level of awareness by the board that we should be proactive," he told the L.A. Times.

The inspector general's office of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will handle the comprehensive review of the companies.

An Expo spokeswoman on Friday could not be reached for comment about a possible delay to the project, which is scheduled to connect Santa Monica to downtown L.A. by 2015.

DP



## ON A WIRE

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

**A bunch of balloons are tangled in overhead power lines on Main and Hill streets on Friday. Thousands of residents and businesses lost power in the area Thursday night. No word if the balloons were the culprit.**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

### Power outage

**Editor:**

The City Council will never willingly give voters the power to elect a mayor. It would set a precedent that could lead to electing council members by district, and other reforms.

It would emasculate the power of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, and other special interests, to control policy; the same interests that have consistently been able to control the agenda and prevent other ballot measures from being approved.

Even Bobby Shriver can't negate their power and implement transparency in city government, and he is the only council member who doesn't need endorsements, other than his good name, to be elected.

The residents of this city all share the blame for the lack of diversity and accountability of municipal government. They have ceded all power to political puppets.

The only hope I see is for dissident members of SMRR to oust their board and start representing residents.

**Jon Mann**
Santa Monica

### To each his own

**Editor:**

I found it strange that my friend Darryl Bristol criticized Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) members (myself included) for being renters' rights supporters when they themselves were not renters ("Exposing SMRR," Jan. 3, Letters to the Editor).

My wife and I were renters and SMRR supporters for many years. Is Mr. Bristol suggesting that when and because we became condo owners, we should have then discontinued our ongoing SMRR support and membership?

There are many renters as well as homeowners of varied economic levels and backgrounds who support SMRR and the good work they do to protect and enhance renters rights.

**Jerry Rubin**
Santa Monica




## On the Beat

**NRO Jeff Glaser** — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

# Shut your mouth, open a book

Q: ARE THERE ANY RULES ABOUT respecting others while at the public library?

A: Yes, there are rules addressing this very issue. The Santa Monica Public Library is open to the general public and everyone has the right to use library services and resources, provided his or her behavior does not unreasonably interfere with the rights of others to do the same.

On Dec. 6, 2007 the Library Board adopted the Rules of Conduct. The purpose of the Rules of Conduct are intended to maintain the library's peaceful atmosphere, facilitate library usage, preserve easy access to library materials, and protect library property. Those who do not follow the rules will be asked to leave the library.

The general policy is to be considerate of others by refraining from activities that may disturb the peace of library users and staff, disrupt library activities or damage library materials or equipment. Visitors are also asked to keep all conversations hushed and put cell phones on silent mode.

Some of the prohibited activities from the library website's Rules of Conduct page include, but are not limited to:

• Smoking on any part of the library grounds, both inside and outside. This includes planters, walkways and any area up to the adjacent sidewalks.

• Bringing in containers, packages, parcels or bundles that collectively exceed 22 inches by 14 inches by 12 inches. Posted at each entrance are containers to measure your belongings and ensure they do not exceed the aforementioned size. In addition, all items are subject to inspection by library staff.

• Obstructing aisles or access to library facilities, furnishings or equipment or leaving belongings unattended. Any items left unattended will be removed.

• Bringing inside any sleeping bags, bed rolls, mats or blankets is prohibited, as is sleeping on library grounds, either inside or outside.

• Using the library while barefoot or without a shirt is prohibited. Outer clothing and shoes are always required when inside the library.

• Using more than one seat or table space per person or placing your feet on tables or chairs.

• Using restrooms for bathing, shaving or washing hair or clothes.

• Using the library if your bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to others.

• Eating in the library or on library grounds except in the courtyards or at special events when approved by library administration.

• Adults loitering in the Youth Services area; using the area except to accompany or assist a child; or, using the area without the permission of library staff.

All of the aforementioned prohibited activities and others not listed are in place to ensure that those visiting and using the services provided by the library are as enjoyable as possible without distraction or inconvenience.

If you see any violation of this policy while visiting any of the libraries throughout Santa Monica, please notify library personnel so they may rectify the situation.

For further information and to see the complete list of the Rules of Conduct, please talk to a library representative or visit www.smpl.org.

**INTRODUCING THE NEW NRO FOR BEAT 5**

There is a new addition to the Neighborhood Resource Officer program as Beat 5 NRO Adam Gwartz has moved onto new responsibilities within the department. We would like to thank NRO Gwartz for three years of very hard work in the North of Montana area. Officer Scott McGee has been selected to continue on with the efforts as the Beat 5 NRO.

Officer Scott McGee is highly motivated about his new position and has an outstanding sense of ownership and personal commitment to the city. He was born and raised in Santa Monica, where his family still lives. He attended Roosevelt Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, and Santa Monica High School.

Prior to joining the police department, Scott earned his bachelor's degree at UC Davis where he studied psychology and played NCAA football. He was awarded the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete Award. This national award honors athletes who have demonstrated outstanding academic success, exemplary community leadership and superior athletic performance.

Scott began his career at the SMPD in 2005 when he attended the Orange County Sheriff's Academy, where he graduated number one is his class. Upon receiving his commission as an officer, he was assigned to patrol. In those five years working the streets he has received training in officer safety and field tactics, undercover operations, bicycle operations, and community policing. Scott has been a member of the department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for the past four years.

Aside from being a police officer, Scott is a Level 1 certified Crossfit trainer and fitness competitor. He also likes to learn by reading non-fiction books and studying online.

Scott believes the position of Neighborhood Resource Officer is an essential ingredient of community-based policing. He wants to be a friendly face, familiar voice, and a resource people can turn to for help with problem solving. He works very well as a member of a team, and feels working hand-in-hand with the people and community is a vital aspect to giving the people of Santa Monica the customer service they deserve. He believes his outstanding working and personal knowledge of the area will help him gain the trust of the community and help remove some of the barriers and stigma associated with police work.

This column was prepared by **NRO JEFF GLASER** (Beat 3: Downtown, including the Third Street Promenade). He can be reached at (424) 200-0683 or jeffrey.glaser@smgov.net.

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**OPINIONS EXPRESSED** are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



## Your column here

Lee Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Those who want to fix politics should start with the voters

WE'VE JUST HAD THREE "CHANGE" elections in a row, but you don't get the sense that Americans are any happier with politics and government. In late December, a Gallup poll found just 17 percent satisfied with the way things are going in the United States — well below the average of 40 percent since Gallup started asking the question in 1979.

So it's no surprise that Congress is polling at record lows or that political leaders in general get blamed for the country's problems. After all, we elected them to govern well, and there's a broad — indeed, bipartisan — sense that their decisions have not met the nation's needs.

Yet I'd like to suggest that our attention needs re-directing. You never want to let our political leaders off the hook — not in a democracy — but if you want to make change in the political realm, you can't start with them. Their habits and responses to the pressures they face are too ingrained. Instead, change starts with you and me: the American voter.

Here's what we need to remember: While a lot of media attention goes to those on the extremes, the voters who actually decide most elections are not the strong liberals, strong conservatives, or Democratic or Republican activists. The key voters, the ones in the middle, don't have a passionate attachment to either party, a vigorous identification with any particular ideology — or even a strong interest in politics. They're busy with their families, their community responsibilities, their jobs … or their job hunts. They don't have the time or inclination to argue the finer points of ideology or analyze the nuances of the policy debates that so entrance Washington.

But they do decide the outcome of elections. And they have a few key stances that are worth considering. They want our country to succeed, both in the world and at home, and just as important, they want it to work. They're pragmatists who don't care so much how you arrive at a solution to a given problem as that the solution produces positive results. And they want government itself to work — not to be burdened by favoritism, partisan posturing or ideological preconceptions that undercut its effectiveness.

So it shouldn't be a surprise that they've been unsatisfied with a status quo filled with too many instances of bureaucratic fumbling, partisan gridlock, and political grandstanding. They want the United States to do better.

It can, if we exercise our responsibilities as voters. To begin, everything depends on exercising discriminating judgment. While on any given issue the voice of the average voter may appear weak, in broad measure our system moves in the direction voters want. So it matters where we as voters come down — and it matters whom we choose to represent us in Washington.

Above all, we want to make sure that the tone our representatives set accords with the best interests of the country. Cooperation and the ability to find common ground are absolutely vital skills for politicians, and we need to expect they'll use them. Our nation is too diverse for any one faction or ideology to dictate the way forward, so choosing political leaders who know how to compromise when necessary is key to changing the tone of our politics.

So is refusing to buy into the apocalyptic rhetoric that is all too common around election time these days. Political contests in this country are rarely, if ever, death-matches between good and evil; the future of civilization is not at stake when we enter the voting booth. The country will survive — and who knows, it might even prosper — even if the other side wins the election. No election has permanent results in our system.

Finally, voters should know how to listen — to the candidates, to party leaders, to media commentators — but also know when to stop listening. All those different points of view can inform our thinking, especially those whose perspectives are different from ours. But they can't do our thinking for us. As voters, we need to be true to our own perceptions, our values, and our judgment of what the country needs.

Which is a reminder that we need to have some sympathy for how hard it is to be a politician — because it's their job to balance all the views of people whose discriminating judgments often lead in different directions. It is extremely hard to make this country work, but as voters we can help it along by choosing political leaders who are more determined to make the country succeed than to have their personal views enshrined.

**LEE HAMILTON** is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

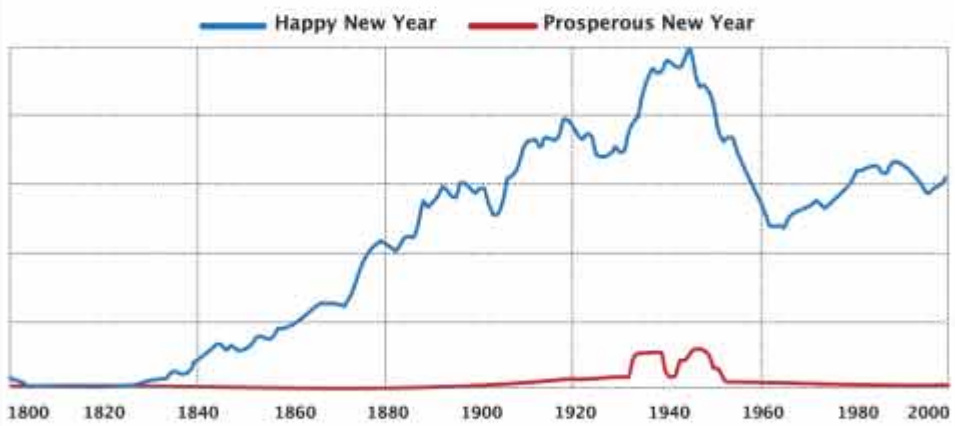



Lotus Platforms

We wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!




After we wrote this, we wondered whether, in the past, happiness and prosperity were linked in New Years Greetings. To research it, we clicked right away to the new tool: Ngram Viewer from Google. Here is what we found about the frequency of usage for the terms Happy New Year and Prosperous New Year from the year 1800 to the year 2000.




It seems that Happy New Year is consistently more frequent in digitized texts by Google. While Prosperous New Year had a bump each, just before and after 1940. We had to rush this copy to print and we did not have time to research explanations. So we would like you to help us by emailing explanations for the usage patterns in this graph.

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# D.U.I. Do's & Don'ts For The Holiday Season

The holiday season is officially upon us, and thank goodness for that! With a slumping economy, ensuing global conflicts, and our own personal dilemmas this holiday season brings with it a wanted escape for many. But before you go adding extra drops of rum to that eggnog make sure you are aware of some new laws and issues that may drastically affect your driving privileges. California has some of the toughest DUI laws in the country, and while no one plans to get arrested for DUI this holiday season, here 5 helpful tips to remember if you find yourself at the wrong end of a checkpoint:

**1) Submit To FSTS:** When arrested for DUI many people look for a quick and easy way out of it such as refusing to submit the officer's tests. Well, truth be told, this doesn't really work. Refusing to submit to field sobriety tests (FSTS) will almost always earn a year suspension from the DMV regardless what happens with your court case. Refusing to submit to FSTS might weaken the State's evidence against you, but is it worth risking an automatic one year suspension? This includes submitting a breathalyzer test at the scene of the arrest (called a PAS test). A PAS test might not even be admissible in the criminal case, but if you are below a .08 it will save you a ton of hassle…and probably earn a get out of jail free card. Submit to testing and let a skilled lawyer take it from there. Even if the test results appear "bad," by hiring the right attorney there are many legal arguments and challenges that can be made to the manner in which the tests weand administered, your statements, and the results of the tests.

**2) Request A Hearing:** if arrested for DUI you will receive a temporary driver's license that is good for 30 days before your license is suspended. However, you have the right to request an administrative hearing with the DMV in order to challenge the suspension. This hearing might also yield valuable testimony from the arresting officers that could help you later on when fighting your case in court. Administrative hearings are conducted either in person or telephonically, are far less formal than a court proceeding, and have a lower evidentiary standard of proof required to sustain a suspension. Administrative hearings must be requested within 10 days of arrest, so make sure to act fast if you are arrested. A trained experienced lawyer is also advantageous in order to help navigate through the complexities of the DMV.

**3) Know The Penalties:** In most Los Angeles County courtrooms a "standard" first time DUI conviction carries with it a $390 fine, 3 month alcohol program, 3 year probation, and mandatory installation of an ignition interlock device (a new 2010 law that L.A. County D.A.'s and C.A.'s are widely enforcing). Typically, prosecutors will not seek jail confinement on a 1st time conviction. In addition to the fines, the court will add on various penalty assessments and fees that could raise your final bill to upwards of $1,750. Depending on the circumstances of your case (under 21, high blood alcohol, refusal) the court could also order you to complete community service, caltrans work, attend AA meetings, and complete a MADD or hospital/morgue program. A first time DUI conviction is priorable, meaning it will be used to enhance punishment on any subsequent DUI in a 10 year period. A second time DUI begets similar punishment with heightened fines and a mandatory minimum of 96 hours (4 days) in jail. Of course, all of these penalties and punishments are subject to change based on varying circumstances, and it should be noted that there are additional restrictions that the DMV can enforce on top of all the court required punishments.

**4) Be Polite & Courteous:** No matter what crime you are arrested for, be it for DUI or some other offense, dealing with police officers in a calm, respectful, and appropriate manner is always the best approach and will reward you in the end. Officers will note your behavior in their reports, and any belligerent outburst or tirade will likely be used against you as a sign of intoxication and could also earn you additional charges. Of course the opposite is also true meaning if you are calm and collected it could be used as a sign of non-impairment. Even if you didn't do anything wrong always remember that you attract more bees with honey!

**5) Don't Drive!:** The easiest tip of all...drink to your heart's content and enjoy the holidays, and when you're done take a cab, ride a bus, or call a friend...just don't drive!

JACOB GLUCKSMAN IS A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY AND FORMER PROSECUTOR IN LOS ANGELES SPECIALIZING IN DUI DEFENSE AND ALL OTHER MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES. MR. GLUCKSMAN CAN BE REACHED THROUGH LEGAL GRIND AT (310) 452-8160.

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| 5:00-6:00pm | (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer |
| **TUESDAY** | |
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## The Q Line

### LOOKING FORWARD

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

This past week, Q-line asked:
**What topics will dominate the headlines in 2011?**
Here are your responses:

"WHAT WILL DOMINATE? WHO REALLY can say until it occurs. So I would say what should dominate is considering having one block in Santa Monica to be used as what might be a Greyhound Bus Land, kind of like a Disneyland, with say 200 Greyhound busses, 10 to a city lot of 50 by 150 feet, that would give emergency housing to 10,00 people comfortably... ."

"I WOULD HOPE THAT ONE OF THE concerns would be, at last in a local paper, why the Salvation Army Corps in the city if Santa Monica has not used its huge, million dollar building, which was supposed to solve all the homeless problems in the city, hasn't, to my knowledge, been used to house even one or to people. All they have is parties, dances and nobody sleeps in there, so that might dominate the news, it ought to."

"I WOULD SAY IN THE UNITED STATES and in the world, people will be talking about 2012 – the end of the world and that whole Y2K deal. Whether we like it or not ... there are all kind of modalities of religion that claim that in 2012 something big happens astrology-wise. Here in Santa Monica, I think the big issue is bikes, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety. Apparently, we're the top city for pedestrians being hit by cars, and that's scary."

"THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE OF 2011 will be the crass over-development of our town. Difficulties in driving, parking, noise, jam-packed publicly financed housing, smoking, plastic bags and free, politically correct and nutritionally correct school lunches are the direct result of the more is better swell heads on the City Council. Greedy developers and non-profit bunk-o artists will add to the public trough swill we are forced to ingest."

"1. A JET TAKING OFF FROM S.M. Airport smashes into City Hall, and the one councilman left still won't shut the airport down! 2. It rains for 40 days and nights and we're under 100 feet of water, yet our city won't reduce our 11 percent water rate hike! 3. Our city is exposed to be the most corrupt in history and all the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights crooks run to Bell and North Korea."

"ONE DOESN'T NEED A CRYSTAL BALL for this question. Since April 1979, the top stories nearly go like this – renters rights, development and traffic almost in that order, promoted by the same group that still, after 30 years, runs City Hall."

"I THINK OUR TREES WILL MAKE NEWS again in 2011 as the Santa Monica Urban Forest Task Force finalizes their 50-year master plan recommendations to the City Council, and we establish an ongoing Santa Monica Tree Commission."

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## FLUORIDE

FROM PAGE 1

About 2 out of 5 adolescents have tooth streaking or spottiness because of too much fluoride, a surprising government study found recently. In some extreme cases, teeth can even be pitted by the mineral — though many cases are so mild only dentists notice it. The problem is generally considered cosmetic.

Health officials note that most communities have fluoride in their water supplies, and toothpaste has it too. Some kids are even given fluoride supplements.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proposing changing the recommended fluoride level to 0.7 milligrams per liter of water. And the Environmental Protection Agency will review whether the maximum cutoff of 4 milligrams per liter is too high.

The standard since 1962 has been a range of 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the splotchy tooth condition, fluorosis, is unexpectedly common in kids ages 12 through 15. And it appears to have grown much more common since the 1980s.

"One of the things that we're most concerned about is exactly that," said an administration official who was not authorized to speak publicly before the release of the report. The official described the government's plans in an interview with The Associated Press.

But there are other concerns, too. A scientific report five years ago said that people who consume a lifetime of too much fluoride — an amount over EPA's limit of 4 milligrams — can lead to crippling bone abnormalities and brittleness.

That and other research issued Friday by the EPA about health effects of fluoride are sure to re-energize groups that still oppose adding it to water supplies.

The American Dental Association released a statement applauding the government announcement to change fluoride guidance.

Fluoride is a mineral that exists naturally in water and soil. About 70 years ago, scientists discovered that people whose supplies naturally had more fluoride also had fewer cavities. Some locales have naturally occurring fluoridation levels above 1.2. Today, most public drinking water is fluoridated, especially in larger cities. An estimated 64 percent of

SEE WATER PAGE 8

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*1 AT THIS OFFER*

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## FORER
FROM PAGE 1

understood that you had to find colleges, especially in my position."

He found himself too small to play major college football and not even in the proper condition.

Forer shopped himself around to colleges, with Oregon taking interest, but only if he considered playing center. Realizing he wasn't going to be offered a scholarship, he accepted the challenge and an invitation to try to walk on with the Ducks, knowing it was a long shot to make the team.

During a recruiting trip in Eugene, he reconnected with Geoff Schwartz, an old acquaintance who played for nearby Palisades High School. Schwartz, who now plays in the NFL with the Carolina Panthers, told Forer about a guy who just so happened to coach and teach at Samohi that helped him in the past. He said that Kermit Cannon, who is the strength and conditioning coach at Samohi, was somebody Forer should talk to about preparing to walk on.

Forer returned to Santa Monica and immediately sought Cannon out. He told Cannon his plan to walk on with Oregon, something that made the coach think this guy must be crazy. Forer, who stands 6-foot-2 and weighed 240 pounds at the time, isn't your prototypical D-1 center. Cannon knew that he had his work cut out, but agreed to train him anyway.

"I thought he was nuts," Cannon said. "I'm comparing him to Geoff, that guy is a monster. I thought there was no way he could make it."

Forer certainly wasn't the specimen that Schwartz is, but Cannon decided that he was willing to take on the project. He said that it isn't often that a Samohi athlete comes to him that has the desire and motivation to take on something big.

The pair set off on an aggressive program that included weights, drills and even running up and over mountains. Cannon said that Forer was the rare student that put aside his pride and physical shortcomings and just pushed.

"It's hard to find a kid with that kind of heart," Cannon said. "It was fun to train him."

For months, Forer would come to Samohi's campus to meet up with Cannon, the pair forming a bond that endures to this day.

"Without Kermit's help and mentorship," Forer said, "I wouldn't have made it this far. I thank him a lot."

When Forer returned to Oregon he impressed coaches enough to earn a spot on the practice team. He was a redshirt that first season, finally seeing action in 2007 against Fresno State and South Florida. He played in just five total plays, but it fulfilled his wish of playing in the Pac-10.

Again in 2008, the backup was thrust into action, this time against Utah State. He played a then career-high eight snaps.

"It was a road," Forer said. "The road as a walk on is challenging."

Despite his limited playing time, Forer's time finally came during last year's Rose Bowl against Ohio State. With starter Jordan Holmes out with an injury, Forer helped lead the team to a go-ahead touchdown. While the lead was short-lived, with Ohio State eventually winning the game, Forer said the experience was amazing.

"I'm from L.A., I've seen the Rose Bowl so many times," Forer said. "It was a dream come true. It was pretty memorable and special."

Forer may be second on the depth chart as his Ducks prepare to play for the national title, but he said that the road he's traveled has made him uniquely prepared to step in at any time and continue his dream that culminated in the granting of a scholarship before his senior season. All the hard work, all of those grueling workouts with Cannon at Samohi, paid off for Forer, who said that Tuesday's tilt with Auburn will be the ultimate proof that he's made it.

But, before his Ducks take the field, he's just trying to keep it in line.

"It's like every other game, you just don't want to get nervous," he said. "Hopefully it turns out well for us."

daniela@smdp.com

## WATER
FROM PAGE 6

Americans drink fluoridated water.

Portland, Ore., is one of the largest cities that doesn't fluoridate its water.

Bill Zepp of the Oregon Dental Association said the city's anti-fluoridation activists will embrace the recommended fluoride changes "as some type of win."

Maryland is the most fluoridated state, with nearly every resident on a fluoridated system. In contrast, only about 11 percent of Hawaii residents are on fluoridated water, according to government statistics.

Fluoridation has been fought for decades by people who worried about its effects, including conspiracy theorists who feared it was a plot to make people submissive to government power.

Those battles continue.

"It's amazing that people have been so convinced that this is an OK thing to do," said Deborah Catrow said Friday. She successfully fought a ballot proposal in 2005 that would have added fluoride to drinking water in Springfield, Ohio.

Reducing fluoride would be a good start, but she hopes it will be eliminated altogether from municipal water supplies.

Catrow said it was hard standing up to City Hall, the American Dental Association and the state health department. "Anybody who was anti-fluoride was considered crazy at the time," she said.

In New York, the village of Cobleskill in Schoharie County — west of Albany — stopped adding fluoride to its drinking water in 2007 after the longtime water superintendent became convinced the additive was contributing to his knee problems. Two years later, the village reversed the move after dentists and doctors complained.

In March, 2006, the National Academy of Sciences released a report recommending that the EPA lower its maximum standard for fluoride in drinking water to below 4 milligrams. The report warned severe fluorosis could occur at 2 milligrams. Also, a majority of the report's authors said a lifetime of drinking water with fluoride at 4 milligrams or higher could raise the risk of broken bones.

Late last year, lawyers for the Fluoride Action Network, Beyond Pesticides, and Environmental Working Group threatened legal action if the EPA did not lower its ceiling on fluoride.

In Europe, fluoride is rarely added to water supplies. In Britain, only about 10 percent of the population has fluoridated water. It's been a controversial issue there, with critics arguing people shouldn't be forced to have "medical treatment" forced on them. In recent years, the UK has tried to add fluoride to communities with the worst dental health but there's still considerable opposition.

In the early years of fluoridation in the United States, the range of levels was created because people in warmer climates drank more water, therefore getting more fluoride than cooler regions. Over time, that difference leveled out with air conditioning, the senior administration official said.

Fluorosis has generally been seen as the primary down side of fluoride.

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# METERS
FROM PAGE 1

Association. In the past, City Hall provided electricity and other benefits for the annual displays, however, that practice stopped in the late 1970's, committee members said.

Vix, a Hollywood prop maker, has been irritated by the nativity scene display and erected his in protest. He believes City Hall should not allow the nativity scenes to be placed in Palisades Park, saying the scenes discriminate against those who are not Christian.

At issue is whether it's appropriate for City Hall to voluntarily take parking meters in front of religious displays out of commission without asking for reimbursement from the group that put up the displays.

Groups that want to erect displays in Palisades Park must file an application, pay a fee and cover all their own costs, including electricity and parking meter rentals, according to City Hall's policy. (While the displays don't take up parking spaces on Ocean Avenue, some groups ask for the spaces in front of their displays to be put off-limits to drivers on certain days in order to give passers by an unobstructed view).

All went according to plan this year, except for one anomaly, said Assistant City Manager Elaine Polachek. The Nativity Scenes Committee leaves its displays up for about a month and this year paid to have 16 meters on Ocean Avenue taken out of commission for 13 days — Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only — at a cost of $852. (City Hall charges $4 per meter per day plus a $20 application fee, city officials said.)

The record rainfall that blanketed Santa Monica for nearly a full week over the holidays, though, threw a kink into the plan.

Because of the downpour, City Hall officials determined it was impractical to post temporary "no parking" signs on the meters on Fridays and weekends, because the signs kept deteriorating in the wet weather, causing confusion among drivers.

So officials decided to take the meters in front of the religious displays out of commission for the remainder of the displays by "bagging" them. When a meter is bagged, a sack is placed over the meter head and a lock is secured so no one can tamper with them.

The Nativity Scenes Committee wasn't required to pay extra for the additional days of unobstructed viewing the move afforded.

And that has prompted Vix to cry foul.

"Perhaps the city manager should pick up the tab personally instead of the tax paying public," Vix said, noting that the city lost revenue by shutting down city parking meters in front of the religious displays. "In my opinion, keeping the religious groups completely separate from public, taxpayer-financed government is an absolute necessity. I find it deplorable that the city of Santa Monica would allow itself to be bullied by the Nativity Scenes group to give it preferential treatment by bagging meters in front of the displays, let alone doing it for free."

But Polacheck said City Hall did everything it could to be fair by offering to "bag" meters in front of Vix's display as well. There was just one problem: Vix's display was located by a bus stop where there were no parking meters. He requested the credit anyway, and city staff bagged six meters adjacent to the solstice display, city officials said.

"This is not a subsidy," Polachek said of City Hall's decision to bag the parking meters.

In the future, Polachek said the policy will be to bag all parking meters when rented for an extended period of time, as in the case of the holiday displays, and to use the temporary "no parking" signs only when meters will be out of commission for a day or two. Groups wishing to erect a holiday display will still be required to pay for the use of the meters. Bagged meters will be out of commission for the length of the display and those responsible for the displays will have to pay for the entire cost of renting the meters, Polachek said.

Vix said the credit extended this time around to a religious display is a violation of the separation of church and state and is urging City Hall to collect the $384 that he said was written off because of the extra days the city barred people from parking in front of the displays.

Polacheck said it was all much ado about nothing.

"This was an unusual circumstance and we tried to make the best decision that would allow them to continue during that rainy week. We are now very clear on what the policy is heading forward so that no matter rain, sleet, snow or hail, the meters are going to be bagged ... This is a public forum and we treat people the same."

kevinh@smdp.com

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# House takes symbolic step to repeal health law

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON House Republicans cleared a hurdle Friday in their first attempt to scrap President Barack Obama's landmark health care overhaul, yet it was little more than a symbolic swipe at the law.

The real action is in states, where Republicans are using federal courts and governors' offices to lead the assault against Obama's signature domestic achievement, a law aimed at covering nearly all Americans.

In a post-election bow to tea partiers by the new GOP House majority, Republican lawmakers are undertaking an effort to repeal the health care law in full knowledge that the Democratic Senate will stop them from doing so.

Republicans prevailed Friday in a 236-181 procedural vote, largely along party lines, that sets the stage for the House to vote next week on the repeal.

Shortly before the House vote, Republican governors representing 30 states opened up a new line of attack, potentially more successful.

In a letter to Obama and congressional leaders, the governors complained that provisions of the health care law are restricting their ability to control Medicaid spending, raising the threat of devastating cuts to other critical programs, from education to law enforcement in a weak economy. It's ammunition for critics trying to dismantle the overhaul piece by piece.

Moreover, a federal judge in Florida is expected to rule shortly in a lawsuit brought by 20 states that challenges the law's central requirement that most Americans carry health insurance. A judge in Virginia ruled it unconstitutional last month, while in courts in two other cases have upheld it. It's expected that the Supreme Court will ultimately have to resolve the issue.

Obama made history last year when Congress finally passed the law after months of contentious debate, closing in on a goal that Democrats had pursued for generations. Republicans say they changed history by taking back the House in the midterm elections, partly on the strength of their pledge to tea party supporters and other conservatives to undo the divisive law, whose final costs and consequences remain largely unknown.

Some Republicans hope to get enough momentum going to force Obama and the Democrats into an early capitulation. "If you have to do an amputation, get it over with," Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, a repeal leader, said after the House vote. "We need to get this showdown over so we can go on to other issues."

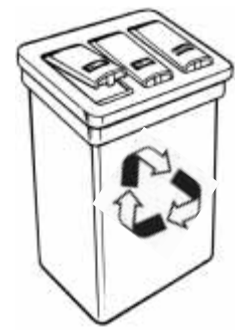
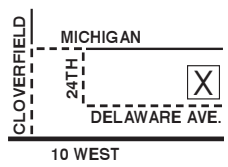
But Senate Democrats say what King and other House Republicans think matters little, since they will block any repeal legislation on the other side of the Capitol.

During last year's election campaign, many Democrats sought cover when the health care law would come up. On the House floor, they unleashed a full-throated defense, accusing Republicans of trying to take away benefits that many people are already receiving, such as lower prescription costs for Medicare recipients, extended coverage for young adults on their parents' plan



Dr. Deborah Wallen

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## SURF REPORT

**Surf Conditions** **Water Temp:** 61°

### Swell Forecast

**Should run chest to head high at west facing breaks, with some pluses at standouts.**

### Long Range Synopsis

**The NW is expected to back off to chest max.**

### Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica




BEACH REPORT CARD

# NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 5, 2011**

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

**QUICK STATS** (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 22
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / 28

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 |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A+ | F |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | D |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks. | A+ | A |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | A |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | A+ | F |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | A+ | D |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | A+ |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | F |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | F |
| Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach. | A+ | A |
| Pearce State Beach at creek mouth. | A+ | C |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.. | A+ | A+ |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence. | A+ | C |
| Surfrider Beach (branch location)- daily. | F | F |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east. | A+ | F |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon. | A+ | F |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero). | A+ | B |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs. | A+ | A |
| Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach. | A+ | A |
| Tuna Canyon. | ns | ns |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth. | B | F |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | F |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | ns | A |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain). | A+ | B |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence. | F | C |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain. | A+ | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain. | A+ | D |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua). | A+ | F |
| Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain. | A+ | F |
| Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain. | A+ | F |
| Santa Monica Municipal Pier. | A+ | B |
| Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain. | A+ | F |
| Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms). | A+ | F |
| Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain. | A+ | D |
| 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+ | B |
| Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south. | A+ | F |
| 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+ | A |
| Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty). | A+ | A |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain. | A+ | 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.

## NCAA FOOTBALL

# Fan apathy could be greatest threat to BCS

**BY RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. The Bowl Championship Series is facing a threat that's greater than any lawmaker or political action committee pushing for a playoff.

Apathy seems to have set in among many college football fans toward the sport's marquee games, and bowl officials indicate they are ready to explore ways to fix it.

The problem really isn't the BCS national title game. Tickets to Monday's matchup between No. 1 Auburn and No. 2 Oregon are a hot item. It's the undercard that could use a boost.

Ticket sales for some those games — the Orange, Sugar, Rose and Fiesta bowls — have been sluggish and ratings generally have been lukewarm for matchups that haven't gotten the casual fan excited.

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan says "we have to find a way to revitalize the marketplace."

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# MOVIE TIMES

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

**Saturday, Jan. 8**
**25th anniversary/new 35mm print**
**SHOAH (NR) 4hr 51min**
5:00pm
The first half of SHOAH will be screened this evening, with the second half screening on Sunday, Jan. 9 at 3pm.
Call theater for more information.

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

**Little Fockers (PG-13)**
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

**How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min**
10:40am, 1:30pm, 4:25pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

**True Grit (PG-13)**
10:10am, 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

**Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min**
10:35am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min**
10:20pm

**Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min**
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

**Little Fockers (PG-13)**
11:05am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:25pm

**Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 1hr 22min**
10:50am, 1:10pm, 3:35pm, 5:50pm, 8:10pm

**Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (NR) 2hrs 07min**
10:30am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:35pm

**True Grit (PG-13)**
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

**Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min**
11:35am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

**Country Strong (PG-13) 1hr 52min**
10:35am, 1:25pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

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

**Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (R) 1hr 40min**
4:40pm, 9:30pm

**Frankie and Alice (NR)**
11:10am, 1:40pm, 7:00pm

**Quest for Honor (NR)**
11:00am

**Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny (NR)**
11:00am

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

**Blue Valentine (NC-17) 2hrs 00min**
11:25am, 1:15pm, 2:15pm, 4:05pm, 5:05pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

**Season of the Witch (PG-13) 1hr 38min**
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

**Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG)**
12:10pm, 2:30pm, 4:50pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm

**Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min**
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

**Fighter (R) 1hr 54min**
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

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

# Go along for the ride, Virgo

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ You might need to take some time off from the daily grind. You, like the rest of the world, are human. Listen to what is being shared, and understand what is happening within. You will discover the power of a change of scenery. Tonight: Opt for something different.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Zero in on what needs to happen. Your sense of exhaustion allows you to move in new ways! Understand what is happening within your circle of friends. Detach and don't get triggered. Tonight: Opt for something different.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★★ Others look to you for ideas and suggestions. Yes, you could be overwhelmed by everything you shoulder. Examine what is happening here with greater care. It seems that a partner keeps waffling. Actually, this person is responding to a profound change within. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ Keep reaching for new information and feedback. How you handle someone and the choices you make could be quite stunning to others. A close loved one or friend might be changing in front of your very eyes. An even, steady pace will be the best way to go. Tonight: Follow the music.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★★ Relate individually. Your perspective changes radically, allowing for greater possibilities the longer you brainstorm. Fatigue marks a project. Know when to revamp plans and back off. Tonight: Make quality one-on-one time for that special person!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ The time has come to let go and see what happens. You cannot always be in control or the dominant one. Though there could be some resistance in proceeding, you'll like the intensity of the end results. Risking sometimes needs to happen in this context. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ You might be up for a domestic treaty. A discussion might result in a redesigning of household duties. Structure spending and handle key expenditures. Be open to somewhat unusual concepts. Why not give them a shot? Tonight: Easy works.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ Your creativity adds a spark to whatever you do -- a conversation, the plans discussed or a new dance. Others delight in your easy self-expression. Please note an admirer. Be sensitive to his or her fragility. Tonight: Why not learn a new tango? Or let someone teach you his or her version of the tango.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ Sometimes being a couch potato is necessary, especially if you have a very active life. Recharging your batteries is a must if you want to continue this high velocity pace. Honor your need to snooze, do nothing or just watch a movie. Tonight: Yes, you got it -- order in.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★★ Remain sure of yourself when dealing with a neighbor or sibling. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Know what is important. Guide a conversation accordingly. When you hit a taboo subject or hear a conversation head in a direction you would prefer it wouldn't, you know what to do. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Be careful with a tendency to overdo it. Listen to the words of wisdom that come from your mind. You could be a lot happier if you follow through with a little self-discipline. Take some much-needed time to walk or do yoga. Curb stress. Tonight: Hang out to your heart's content. It is Saturday night.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Understanding evolves to a new level within a friendship. Do be careful with a new person or people that you meet. Someone might not be the type you really would like to hang with. Much could be hidden. Tonight: Where your friends are!

## Happy birthday

"Transformation" is the name of the game. Whether you choose to do it or an event forces this growth remains your call. Act on what no longer works. Communication remains pivotal this year. You will opt for a different style, which will be reflective of internal changes. If you are single, get to know someone new very carefully. A suitor could be difficult. If you are attached, sensitivity and empathy can re-energize your bond. PISCES understands you well.

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



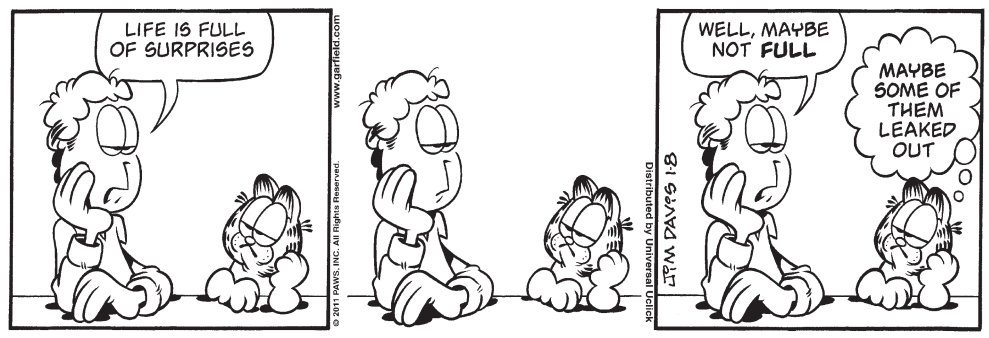
# MYSTERY PHOTO

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 ★★★★

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

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## GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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




# CROSSWORD

## By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

**1** Tiara adorners
**5** Writer Martin
**9** Juan of Argentina
**10** Intended
**12** Ridiculous
**13** Wrath
**14** Bothers
**16** Spanish king
**17** Planning time
**18** Lemon tools
**20** Robe parts
**22** Take a break
**23** Texas player
**25** Practice boxing
**28** Bested in a pie contest
**32** Perfume counter bottles
**34** — long way (last)
**35** Swiss peak
**36** Birds, at times
**38** Homer classic
**40** Bert's buddy
**41** Effrontery
**42** Mandolins' kin
**43** Started a hole
**44** Not so much

**DOWN**

**1** League of Nations base
**2** Clears
**3** Ida. neighbor
**4** Allergy signs
**5** Accumulate
**6** Chess pieces
**7** "My thoughts exactly"
**8** Derisive looks
**9** Voice, in slang
**11** Secret meeting
**15** Do museum work
**19** Easy gait
**21** Hind's mate
**24** Writer Baker
**25** Laundry problem
**26** Bit of shot
**27** Have hopes
**29** Hollywood bunch
**30** Major's group
**31** Lets up
**33** Concluded
**37** Loyal
**39** Blvd.'s kin

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | L | A | ■ | ■ | G | A | G | S | ■ |
| A | D | E | P | T | ■ | U | B | O | A | T |
| T | A | M | E | R | ■ | S | L | A | V | E |
| E | G | O | ■ | O | P | H | E | L | I | A |
| S | E | N | S | O | R | Y | ■ | L | O | S |
| ■ | S | A | P | P | Y | ■ | S | I | R | E |
| ■ | ■ | D | A | S | ■ | D | O | N | ■ | ■ |
| S | H | E | D | ■ | M | O | D | E | M | ■ |
| E | O | S | ■ | P | E | G | A | S | U | S |
| P | A | T | T | E | R | N | ■ | T | S | P |
| A | G | A | I | N | ■ | A | V | A | I | L |
| L | I | N | E | N | ■ | P | E | N | N | A |
| ■ | E | D | D | Y | ■ | ■ | E | D | G | Y |

**Yesterday's answer**

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 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 | | | | ■ |

1-8

## ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

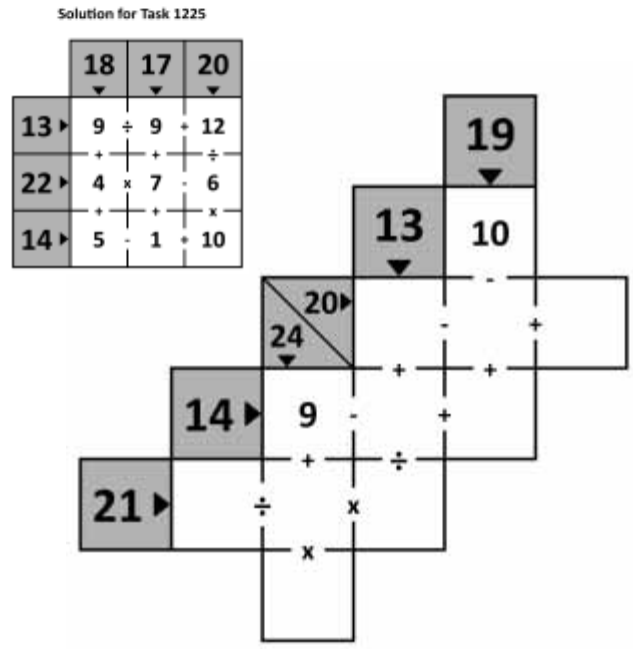
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand 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, 3, 5, 7, 7, 9, 11, 12, 12**

Solution for Task 1225




## DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 8 15 25 47 — Meganumber: 42 — Jackpot: $12M
SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 26 31 38 41 — Meganumber: 23 — Jackpot: $26M
Fantasy 5: 13 19 25 34 39
DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 3 1 — EVENING: 3 7 6
DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Eureka — 2nd: 05 California Classic — 3rd: 10 Solid Gold — RACE TIME: 1:48.34

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

■ Recent Playdates: Mary, on a barbershop wall in Bakersfield, Calif. (Finder's reaction: "like a miracle, actually") (November). Jesus in an MRI image in Greer, S.C. ("I don't care what anybody else thinks") (October). Jesus in a cherry tree limb in Midway, N.C. ("(A)m I nuts or not, I don't know") (October). Jesus in a chicken's feathers in Rowley Regis, England (Mom pointed out the "ring of thorns"). Jesus on a stone in the road in Granbury, Texas ("(E)ven the rocks will cry out," Luke 19:40) (July). Jesus on a lifeguard flag in Candia, N.H. (July). Mary on spilled baby lotion in Riohacha, Colombia (July). The final date on the tour is now set for May 21, 2011, according to evangelist Harold Camping, who in July told his followers to prepare.

■ Alan Patton, 59, of Dublin, Ohio, was arrested again in November -- this time under the state's newly passed "Alan Patton" law (inspired by his earlier arrest) for hanging around men's rooms to collect (and then consume) fresh urine from young boys. Earlier laws afforded insufficient punishment, legislators had said, leading to the new law. Explained one detective, after Patton's 2006 arrest, "Listening to him describe (his fetish), it's like listening to a crack or cocaine addict. He's addicted to children's urine."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1956** Operation Auca: Five U.S. missionaries are killed by the Huaorani of Ecuador shortly after making contact with them.

**1959** Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution is completed with the takeover of Santiago de Cuba.

**1961** In France a referendum supports Charles de Gaulle's policies in Algeria.

**1962** The Harmelen train disaster killed 93 people in the Netherlands.

**1963** Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa is exhibited in the United States for the first time, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

## WORD UP!

**katzenjammer**
**\ KAT-suhn-jam-er \ , noun;**
1. The discomfort and illness experienced as the aftereffects of excessive drinking; hangover.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Obituaries

MARGARET ANN Pickering died unexpectedly, but peacefully, of natural causes December 8, 2010. She was 70. Born Margaret Ann McBride in Los Angeles on April 1, 1940, she remained a life-long resident of Southern California. She graduated from Santa Monica High School and attended UC Santa Barbara and UCLA, where she received her teaching credential. She was active in the Chi Omega sorority. She happily worked in the University Research Library at UCLA for over thirty years and retired from Personnel Services a few years ago.

Maggie had two sons, Brooks and Trevor. She was a life-long fan of UCLA basketball, the Santa Monica beaches, and enjoyed her "Nifty Fifties" group of special friend with whom she'd grown up. She remained active on several volunteer committees at UCLA after her retirement, assisted with the Samohi Alumni News, and also volunteered at the Santa Monica Public Library, providing books to shut-ins. Never busy enough, she also returned to work briefly at Mount St. Mary's.

Maggie was a friend to everyone and loved working with others, especially students. She would often strike up conversations with strangers while waiting in line, or with other customers at her favorite restaurant, Casa Escobar. She had lively conversations with those around her at UCLA basketball games. In recent years, she enjoyed spending time with Chester Hull, the "love of her life," who preceded her in death 18 months ago.

Maggie is survived by her sons, her granddaughters, Quinn, Reed, and Nora, and her brothers, Robert and Thomas McBride.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on January 15 at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica (310-393-8258). A reception will follow at the Casa Escobar restaurant in Santa Monica (310-828-1315). Donations can be made to: The UCLA Foundation, Univ. Library Discretionary Fund, 10920 Wilshire Blve, Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90024, in memory of Margaret Pickering.

## Obituaries

FOSTER, NORMA
1929-2011



Norma Foster, a longtime resident of Santa Monica, CA, succumbed to pulmonary fibrosis on January 3, 2011.

Born in Canada, she received her BA/Administration from Sir George Williams University, Montreal. Her adventurous spirit brought her to New York as a young woman, where she worked as an executive assistant at General Dynamics Corp. After moving to California she received her MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management and held positions as executive assistant to the president of Penn Corp. Financial Inc.; vice president, business manager and accountant for Keystone Mortgage Company; and business manager for private clients. In 1978 she was recognized as Woman of the Year by the American Business Women's Association.

Norma, an avid reader and traveler who visited over 26 countries, delighted in attending classical concerts, films and theatrical productions.

A small sample of the many organizations to which she belonged includes Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center Auxiliary, The Bead Society, British & American Chamber of Commerce, LA Philharmonic Business and Professional Committee, LACMA, and National Women's Political Caucus. Norma also served on boards for corporate and charitable organizations, including the First United Methodist Church Foundation.

Norma will be remembered by all who knew her as a woman of impeccable character, taste and elegance, a classy lady in every way. A celebration of her life will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, 1008 11th St., Santa Monica, CA. For directions call (310) 393-8258.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101823887 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/09/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as N2 EXPORTING; CANDY CATERED EVENTS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: MAKEBA WASHINGTON 1409 139TH STREET ROSEWOOD, CA 90222. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:MAKEBA WASHINGTON; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/09/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/10/2011, 01/17/2011, 01/24/2011, 01/31/2011.

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