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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 51

Santa Monica Daily Press

VIKINGS PREP FOR LEAGUE OPENER
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE RIDING AROUND TOWN ISSUE

City Council considers role as agent of redevelopment

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council will decide Tuesday whether or not to take on the work of winding down the Redevelopment Agency, an entity that has hundreds of millions of dollars in housing and capital improvement projects throughout the city.

Staff recommends that City Hall become the successor agency to the RDA, which will be dissolved Feb. 1, and be

SEE RDA PAGE 7

Renewable energy projects stalled amid squabbling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A long-running disagreement between federal agencies and Southern California Edison has stalled millions of dollars in renewable energy projects expected to provide power to facilities in California's national parks and forests.

According to the Los Angeles Times an $800,000 solar project at Death Valley National Park, photovoltaic panels at the visitors center at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and a solar power system at the U.S. Forest Service's facility at Mono Lake are among many taxpayer-funded projects that are stalled while federal agencies try to come to an agreement with Edison to tie the projects to the state's electrical grid.

The impasse involves contract restrictions imposed by federal law. Generally federal agencies are not supposed to sign contracts that would leave them liable for unknown future damages because they

SEE SOLAR PAGE 7



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

READY TO ROLL: **A group of squad cars line the parking area of the Santa Monica Police Department on Monday.**

Santa Monica police scoring new rides

Public safety vehicles, computer upgrades to cost City Hall $1.8M

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL New police vehicles and computers will set City Hall back over $1.8 million if elected officials agree to the purchases tonight.

City staff proposes to buy 50 new vehicles for the police department, 45 of which will be black-and-white Ford Crown Victoria Interceptors and five of which will be police administrative vehicles.

Only Wondries Fleet, a California-based company with a dealership in Alhambra, responded to the bid, in part because the Ford Motor Co. discontinued the cars in 2011.

According to the staff report, it was cheaper by approximately $20,000 per car to buy up Wondries' stock of Crown Victoria's and reuse existing equipment in retired cars than it would be to buy a different vehicle type.

The Dodge Charger is also available for police work.

The new cars will cost $1,240,457 for purchase and delivery.

The police department also proposes to spend $565,292 on 75 new mobile computers for the existing fleet to replace computers which are failing.

Computers installed in police vehicles connect officers to calls, look up information in law enforcement databases and support the mobile video systems.

If approved by the City Council, the police department will get $1,805,749 in new vehicles and equipment, the majority of the $2,507,020 consent calendar.

NEW TRUCKS

Two City Hall divisions are requesting replacement vehicles for their fleets so that they can continue maintaining the water system and cleaning up streets and alleyways.

The Street Maintenance Division requested a new dump truck to replace two older models which will both improve serv-

SEE CONSENT PAGE 6


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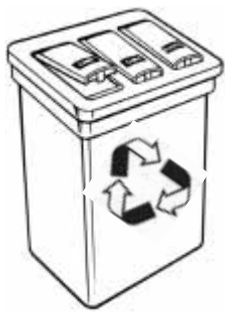
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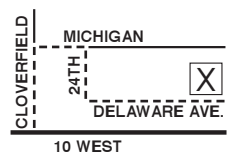
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012

Kitchen craft
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave.,
10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
ENHANCE is a monthly cooking class led by registered dietitian and chef Joya Parenteau that teaches recipes for Santa Monica's hip and healthy senior citizens. Cost: free for Senior Center members. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Kiss, kiss, bang, bang
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
Building up to Raymond Chandler for the 2012 Citywide Reads, the Main Library Branch features "Kiss Me Deadly," a film noir classic based on the Mickey Spillane hard-boiled novel of the same name. The movie finds detective Mike Hammer on the road to danger after picking up a frightened blond hitchhiker. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Starry, starry night
Samohi's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m..
The Santa Monica High School concert bands present their winter show "A Starry Night in Santa Monica." Refreshments and baked goods available at 6 p.m. Tickets available at the door. For more information, visit www.samohiband.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012

Home is where your books are
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1:30 p.m. — 3 p.m.
The Homeschoolers Book Share is a monthly meeting for home-school students to band together and discuss the books they've been reading. The topic this month is historical fiction. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Criss cross
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Mystery Book Group will discuss Patricia Highsmith's novel "Strangers on a Train," which inspired the Alfred Hitchcock classic. The book tells the story of a wealthy tennis player, a psychopath, and a plan to "switch" murders. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012

Write on the money
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade,
7 p.m.
Turn the next page of your screenwriting saga and attend this panel led by professional writers that offers advice on the fundamentals of writing scripts, but also suggests some writing options that you might not have considered just yet. Cost: free. For more info, call (310) 260-9110, or visit www.barnesandnoble.com/

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

SM BAY

Heal the Bay offers New Year's resolutions

New Year's resolutions are an opportunity for people to give themselves a fresh, clean start. This week, Santa Monica-based environmental group Heal the Bay suggested 10 resolutions for Southern Californians to give the ocean a clean start to the new year as well:

• Keep your trash out of the gutter. Debris that's dumped onto city streets and sidewalks is eventually carried into the ocean by storm drains.

• Use a reusable bag at the store. Californians use an estimated 1.5 billion plastic bags a year, and less than 5 percent of them are recycled.

• Volunteer for beach cleanups.

• Check www.beachreportcard.org to see the water quality grades for more than 500 beaches on the Pacific Coast before your next seaside trip.

• Use a car wash that recycles their water, or if you clean your car at home, conserve water and use biodegradable soap.

• Cut down your household chemical consumption, and dispose of harsh chemicals at drop-off centers instead of pouring them down the drain.

• Pick up after your pet. Citizens walk their dogs without picking up the droppings more than 82,000 times a month in Los Angeles County.

• Turn off your facets when you're not using them, and fix leaky pipes and install low-flow shower heads and toilets.

• Dispose of cigarette butts properly, rather than dropping them out your car window or plopping them on the sidewalk.

• Finally, reduce your waste. Purchase only what you will use and avoid items that are excessively packaged.

For more information, including how to volunteer, visit www.healthebay.org.

COLIN NEWTON

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Letting nothing go to waste

As a part of Measure BB, both John Adams Middle School and Edison Language Academy are undergoing renovations to modernize their campuses. And in October 2011, they both recycled an average of 98 percent of their construction debris, according to officials.

At JAMS, approximately 1,201 tons of debris and waste were created during construction, and about 1,176 tons have been recycled, leaving only around 24 tons for landfills. At Edison, 25.7 tons of debris were created; 25.24 tons have been recycled.

The junk material is sometimes recycled in new construction projects. For example, stucco can become base material for new roads and broken glass can be remade into windows.

Construction at JAMS will create new classrooms, including a new art classroom and a new stage and seating area at the Commons Space. A new automatic fire alarm system will be installed. Edison is replacing all existing facilities with an entirely new campus, with updated classrooms, library, cafeteria and outdoor improvements.

CN

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi boys' basketball preps for league opener

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI When Samohi takes the floor Wednesday against Inglewood to open the Ocean League boys' basketball season, the Vikings come into the contest battle-tested.

Santa Monica High School's 9-5 record on its face isn't stellar, but some of the teams included on the early-season schedule have been anything but lightweight.

There have been games against the likes of Long Beach Poly, Fairfax and Etiwanda, all with the hopes of preparing the Vikings for a tough league season and, hopefully, a run deep into the CIF-Southern Section Division 1AA playoffs.

"I'm very proud of what we have done so far," Head Coach James Hecht said. "It has really prepared us for what we have to come."

CIF-SS voters have taken notice, too. The Vikings are currently No. 5 in the latest poll released on Monday with Long Beach Poly and Etiwanda sitting at No. 2 and No. 3, respectively. Also in the poll is ninth ranked Valencia, a team Samohi defeated in December. Mater Dei holds the top spot.

Hecht has for years been a believer in playing a difficult schedule. Samohi is the lone Division 1AA team — the most elite of all divisions — in the Ocean League. Creating such a challenging lineup of preseason games gives the Vikings an edge once the playoffs come along, Hecht said.

Despite having faced some of the top teams in Southern California this season, Hecht is careful not to look past an Inglewood squad that is No. 16 in the Division 2AA rankings.

"With our league, top to bottom, there is a long list of good perimeter players," Hecht said. "Emotions in league play can run high, anybody can beat anybody."

ST. MONICA GIRLS SNAG NO. 9 RANKING

St. Monica's girls' basketball team is ranked No. 9 in the latest CIF-SS Division 4A poll, it was announced on Monday.

The Mariners have opened the season 9-7 overall and begin Camino Real League play tonight at Pasadena La Salle. The game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

daniela@smdp.com



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

IN ACTION: **Samohi's Kyle Banks (right) and Erron Vaughn take on Windward earlier this season. The Vikings open Ocean League play against Inglewood on Wednesday.**

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom
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What goes down, must come up

MANY OF THE HOLIDAYS WE CELEBRATE don't actually make a whole lot of sense. Valentine's Day is the day of the year we have designated to show that special person how much we care about them by taking out a second mortgage to pay for a dozen roses that are going to die in a week anyway.

April Fool's Day is when everybody does their best Ashton Kutcher impression for a day and "Punk" our closest friends and family members. Columbus Day commemorates the discovery by Christopher Columbus of the New World, which looked suspiciously similar to the old world to the people already living there.

But one holiday that does make a lot of sense is New Year's Eve. Sure, the hype leading up to that magical moment as the clock strikes midnight can be overwhelming, as restaurants and bars hike up their prices and people's inherent aversion to noise-making devices is temporarily suspended. And yes, the image of Mayor Bloomberg and Lady Gaga's lip-lock as the ball dropped in Times Square left most of us scratching our heads.

But at its core, New Year's Eve, more than any other holiday, celebrates the passage of time. In the weeks leading up to it, the media takes the opportunity to run retrospectives on the major events that defined the previous year so that we can not only reflect on all that has happened, but to look forward to the promise of a new tomorrow. So now that the haze of New Year's Eve has dissipated, we can look back on 2011 with a clear field of vision and see just what happened in Santa Monica, the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood last year in the world of real estate.

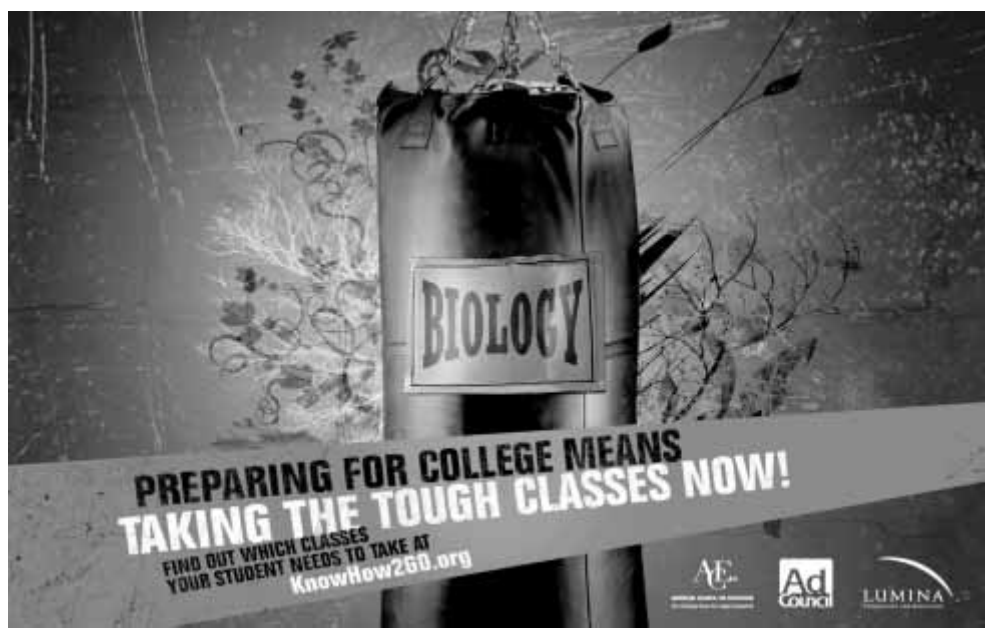
Out of the three areas, Santa Monica took the hardest hit. The median sales price for condominiums in 2011 was $650,000, which represents a 4.3 percent decline from the previous year. However, it's important to note that there were also 6.5 percent fewer condo sales for the year than there were in 2010, so that median sales price decline should be viewed appropriately. Santa Monica condos are also staying on the market slightly longer at 73 days, up 11 days from the previous year (see my previous article "Simon says time is money" for everything you need to know about how the number of days on market can affect you). The median sales price for single-family homes fell 6.8 percent from $1,550,000 in 2010 to $1,450,000 in 2011 and are staying on the market three days longer at 66 days than they were before.

In the Pacific Palisades, the condo market, small as it is, did suffer a bit with a 2.5 percent drop in median sales price to $663,500 from the previous year. But the real story in the Palisades condo market this year was the dramatic increase in the length of time condos are sitting unsold: 99 days. That is nearly a month longer than in 2010. However, the Palisades is really all about single-family home sales, and while median sales prices fell 4.2 percent, homes are selling 12.5 percent faster, spending an average of 64 days on the market. Further good news for sellers comes in the form of median sales prices, which are within 2.8 percent of asking prices in 2011, as opposed to a 4.1 percent difference in 2010.

In Brentwood, median condo sales prices fell most sharply at 16 percent, from $682,000 last year to $587,500 this year, although the number of condos sold actually increased 20 percent from 131 to 158. Just like in Santa Monica, condos stayed on the market 11 days longer in 2011 than they did in 2010. But while the condo market in Brentwood may have suffered in 2011, the median sales price for single-family homes actually increased 3 percent from $1,720,000 to $1,775,000. This could be because inventory in Brentwood was down 15 percent from the previous year, making each home that comes on the market inherently more valuable. That may also serve to explain why at 70 days, single-family homes in Brentwood are selling faster than the year before (granted it is only a two day difference, but as someone so wisely once said, "time is money.").

So while our year in review does present a mixed bag of sorts, areas like Santa Monica, the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood will always remain among the most desirable areas to live in Los Angeles, and thus provide long-term investment security. While home values may fluctuate by a few percentage points here and there as our economy continues to recover, there is every reason to believe that 2012 will be the year when the market will stabilize and more marked growth will occur. After all, Simon Says that when it comes to Westside real estate, what goes down will eventually come up. Happy new year to all!

SIMON SALLOOM is a realtor at Partners Trust Brokerage and a Santa Monica resident.



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ethic of reciprocity

WHEN IT COMES TO MY DAILY ROUTINE, I am the type of man who is early to bed and early to rise. Usually I am half comatose by 9 p.m. and out like a corpse at 10. What this means is that I am also usually up before God.

As a result, I am quite familiar with the coffee and donut shops that are open at 3 a.m. (DONUTS at Lincoln and Pico boulevards for their apple fritters when they are still warm is a reason to stay up or get up that early!) The bacon maple bar at DK Donuts on Santa Monica Boulevard is a treat to be had with a whole slice of bacon on top. DK also has a wide variety of coffee creamers to suit my mood. Which is why I go there for my morning coffee on those days when I just can't seem to get going.

Donut shops and coffee shops have a certain appeal to me. They naturally create a sense of community because they often have a regular crowd. I remember as a boy my father was a regular at Primo's Westdale Donuts along with about six other old codgers. These men would sit around and talk politics and business, while their boys went out to conquer the world. I see the same thing in the coffee and donut shops today.

People naturally get into a rhythm or a routine and will patronize the same place because they feel comfortable there. As we become comfortable we are less likely to change, and it becomes a self-reinforcing system.

For years, I was a regular at the old Michael D's coffee shop at the bowling alley. I knew the waiters and waitresses and they knew me. I saw them outgrow working there, and one of them had a dream of being a Santa Monica police officer, and today she is. I occasionally see her around town.

That's the nice part of being in a small town; you get to know people and they get to know you. I was at DK Donuts yesterday when another police officer I know recognized me. It turned into a 10 minute chat about how people treat each other. He knows my family law practice means I do divorces and that's what started us off. A fellow officer needs a lawyer to protect him in a child custody battle and he knew about my website, www.mensfamilylaw.com, so he wanted to connect us.

Our conversation went quickly from the mechanics of a nasty divorce to the larger question of how people treat each other. Here is a police officer who deals with the unruly public, the drunks and drug addicts, the mentally ill and the criminally sociopathic, and he's telling me how people should just get along by using the "Golden Rule."

HERE IS A POLICE OFFICER WHO DEALS WITH THE UNRULY PUBLIC, THE DRUNKS AND DRUG ADDICTS, THE MENTALLY ILL AND THE CRIMINALLY SOCIOPATHIC, AND HE'S TELLING ME HOW PEOPLE SHOULD JUST GET ALONG BY USING THE "GOLDEN RULE."

I on the other hand, seeing the malicious and malignant behavior of individuals in regards to their former loves and their children, take the view that the Golden Rule only applies to people who are essentially mentally stable and treat others with respect and kindness — otherwise you have to set and enforce strict boundaries that prescribe acceptable behavior.

Perhaps it is because when I see people who are in the midst of the chaos of divorce it is my job to protect them that I take a sterner view of how to deal with people who have mental health problems. Perhaps it is because he deals with the people who didn't choose to have mental health challenges that he has more charity than I do with people who exhibit personality disorders.

It's interesting because we're two sides of the same donut. I deal mostly with the effects on others of mental health, and he deals with the victims of mental health challenges. We had to cut our conversation short when he received a call for a "male 20s acting crazy" and he was off to go protect and serve.

I'm sure I'll run into him again somewhere, maybe next time I'm getting my dry cleaning done, or at one of the other donut shops I like.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Redevelopment in jeopardy

City officials are trying to determine the fate of $267 million in high-priority redevelopment projects in the wake of the California Supreme Court's decision to allow the Legislature to dissolve redevelopment agencies across the state.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you feel redevelopment agencies should remain intact to fund projects like the Pico Neighborhood Library and renovation of the Civic Auditorium, or do you believe they should be abandoned and the money spent on education and public safety?

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





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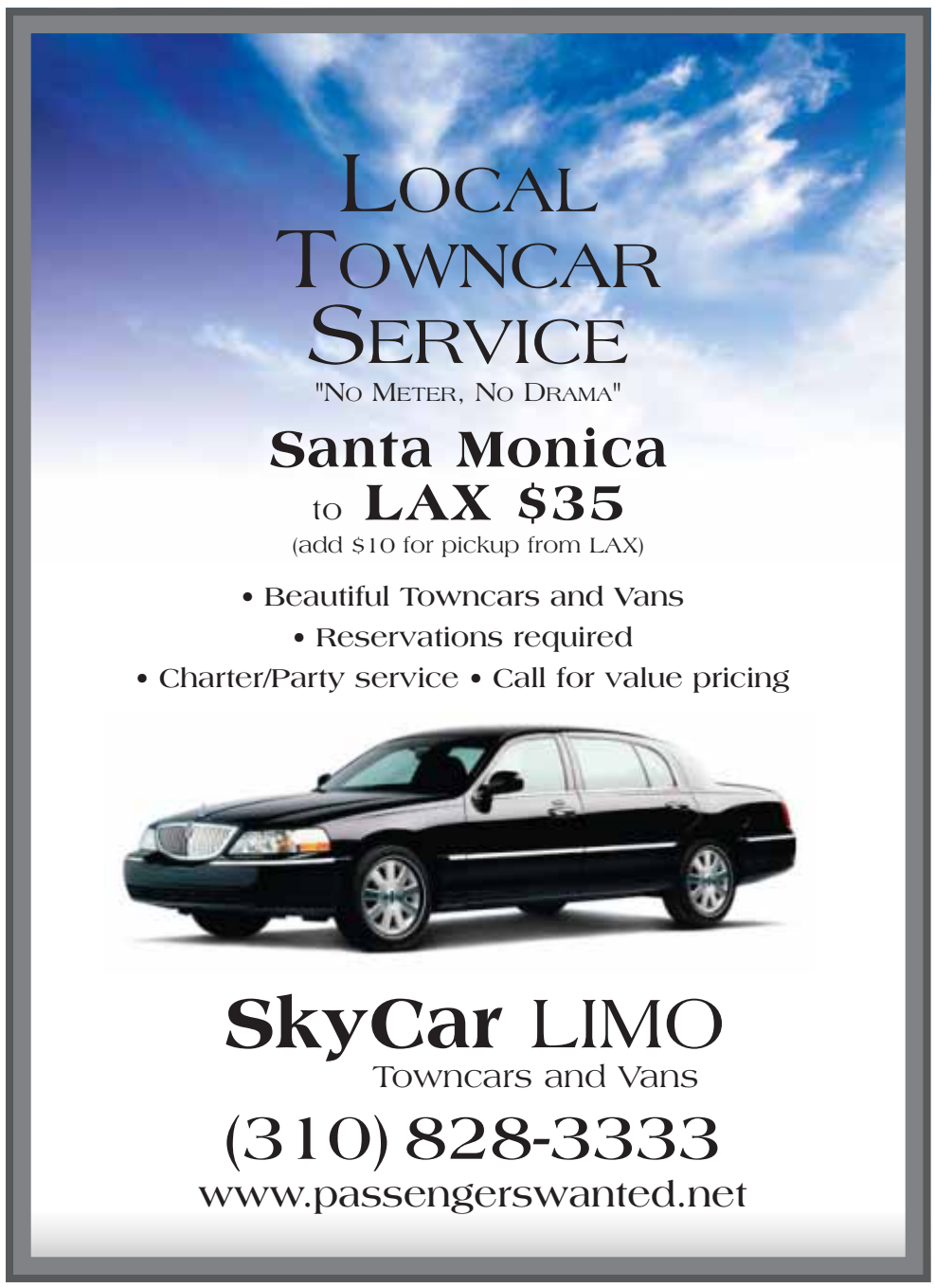
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CONSENT

FROM PAGE 1

ice and help achieve City Hall's goal to reduce emissions.

The truck will have a 24-cubic yard body, and will cost $252,358. It will be used to haul materials for repair and maintenance of the city's streets and alleys.

Staff also recommends that Frits Ford be awarded a contract for a new valve maintenance truck for the Water Division. The new truck, valued at $197,413, will replace the last vehicle in the Water Division's fleet that can't operate on alternative fuels.

Together, the two vehicles cost $449,771.

LIGHTING THE WAY

The City Council will consider changes to two contracts Tuesday to update street lighting systems between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard so that new lights can be installed as a part of the Palisades Garden Walk project.

Lights on Main Street between the two major thoroughfares are on a high-voltage series except for a portion in front of the RAND Corp., which was upgraded to a lower-voltage version when the new building was constructed.

That made it more advanced than the other lights on Main Street, and so parallel conduits were installed so the lights in front of the RAND building didn't disrupt the rest of the system.

New lighting with arch-shaped poles approved by the council for the Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square, however, requires the lower-voltage system, meaning $165,000 in upgrades on the stretch of Main Street.

The council will consider expanding its existing contract with Dynalectric to upgrade the electric work and another $16,500 for the TCM Group to inspect the work.

Both companies have existing contracts with City Hall for the Annual Street & Park Lighting project.

PARKING CITATION ADMINISTRATOR

Parking citation got you down?

If the City Council approves a staff recommendation Tuesday, Santa Monica residents will still be able to complain to Sheri E. Ross, an independent administrative hearing officer who decides contested tickets.

The proposal extends Ross's contract for three years, and she would receive approximately $80,000 per year for her work. She's already served in the role for two years.

The State of California requires any municipality which gives tickets to provide an impartial review process for contested citations.

Those reviewers, who cannot be city employees, receive a flat fee per hearing and compensation cannot be linked to decisions.

On average, Ross hears 4,300 cases per year. The rate for the first year of the three-year extension is $17.50 per case, with an estimated annual cost of $75,250. The rate increases by one dollar for each of the other two years.

She has also worked with Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

LAND SWAP

City Hall is seeking a landowner willing to swap holdings in Downtown for city-owned land sufficient to build a new fire station to replace the 57-year-old facility on Seventh Street.

The station, which will replace Fire Station No. 1, needs 22,500 square feet in the desired area with approximately 150 feet of street frontage to enable the fire department to keep a minimum of five apparatus bays on site.

The station will have to cover Downtown Santa Monica from Olympic Boulevard to the south, Ocean Avenue to the west, Adelaide Drive to the north and 11th Street to the east.

Staff hopes to build it in an area bounded by Santa Monica Boulevard, Washington Avenue, Fifth Court and Seventh Court.

Staff hopes to entice landowners in that area to part with three contiguous parcels totaling a minimum of 22,500 square feet for properties between addresses 1338 and 1344 Fifth St. and 1323 Fifth St.

According to municipal records, 1338 Fifth St. is a parking lot.

The current facility was built in 1955, and is in need of seismic retrofitting, facility upgrades and building improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

OFFICER RETIRES

The police department will part with a valued employee Tuesday when service dog Anton retires.

The 11-year-old Anton has served with Sgt. Douglas Kohno for the past seven and a half years. In that time, he has been involved with many felony arrests and has received commendations for his work.

The department will give Anton to Kohno for the customary sum of $1.

The department will not purchase a replacement dog.

PUTTING A STOP TO IT

City Hall will have to go back to the drawing board to find a company able to build 350 bus stops if the City Council takes the staff recommendation to reject three bids for the project.

None of the three bidders managed to give City Hall all of the documentation or information needed under the terms of the project.

Staff recommends rejecting all three bids and getting new ones with updated technical requirements that would include clarifications for what staff expects in a proposal.

The Bus Stop Redevelopment Project would systematically replace over 350 bus shelters in Santa Monica with improved shelters that include seating and bus schedule information on either real-time electronic signs or a phone-in information system.

The project is expected to cost $6.5 million.

ashley@smdp.com

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Civil Litigation
Consumer and Business Disputes

RDA
FROM PAGE 1

responsible for administering the payment for projects that the council approved in August 2011.

If the City Council chooses not to, a "designated local authority" would be formed and Gov. Jerry Brown would have the power to appoint three residents of the county to serve on its governing board.

The Housing Authority would then take over the Redevelopment Agency's role in producing low- and moderate-income housing in the area, which would also be problematic, said Andy Agle, director of housing and economic development at City Hall.

"The RDA has an existing master cooperation agreement with the city to implement redevelopment, including affordable housing," Agle wrote in an e-mail. "There is no such agreement with the Housing Authority."

He confirmed it would be the same city staff who would oversee the obligations, irrespective of whether it is with City Hall or the Housing Authority.

The move comes as the result of a December decision by the California Supreme Court to uphold a bill by the Legislature to dissolve redevelopment agencies across the state and killed a bill that would allow agencies to stay open in return for payments.

"This result, unfortunately, was the worst possible outcome of the litigation for redevelopment and local agencies, as the bifurcated decision means that all redevelopment agencies will be dissolved under (one) and none will have the opportunity to continue existence under (another)," the staff report reads.

That list of city projects is under review by the state Department of Finance, which will determine if the projects are valid or if the state can take back the money obligated under the contracts.

If that list gets approved, City Hall will have to administer the Redevelopment Agency's bonds, loans, payments for state or federal governments, employee pension costs, judgments or settlements, legally binding agreements or contracts and contracts needed for the administration or operation of the "successor agency."

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SOLAR
FROM PAGE 1

would be committing money that Congress hasn't allocated.

Other utilities in California, however, have signed similar agreements with the agencies with few problems.

"We think we are close at times, but then nothing," said Jack Williams, who retired this month as the National Park Service's Oakland-based regional facilities manager. "We were successful with PG&E, but with Southern California Edison.... They have been a bit more difficult. We've raised the flag many times."

An Edison spokesman declined to discuss the projects because of the ongoing negotiations. The squabble has captured the attention of Gov. Jerry Brown, whose office is sending the governor's advisor on renewable energy, Michael Picker, to meet with all the parties in coming weeks to help hammer out differences.

The situation has made it difficult for the parks to meet renewable energy goals at a time when federal agencies are trying to comply with orders to reduce carbon footprints. Moreover, a projected saving of tens of thousands of dollars from utility bills hasn't been realized as the park service and forest service continue to negotiate with the utility.

Parks officials at Death Valley had hoped the newly renovated visitors center would reduce their energy costs by 70 percent. At the Santa Monica Mountains, a solar plant designed has been offline since October 2010.

"It is disappointing to see this big investment sitting idle when we could easily flip the switch and produce benefits," said park superintendent Woody Smeck."We are purchasing electricity from SCE, whereas we could be using renewable energy from the sun and returning power to the grid."

Death Valley National Park superintendent Sarah L. Craighead said their solar projects have been unplugged for more than two years.

"We have been trying to get these agreements in place for quite some time. Everything is just sitting in the queue," she said. "We want to turn these things on."

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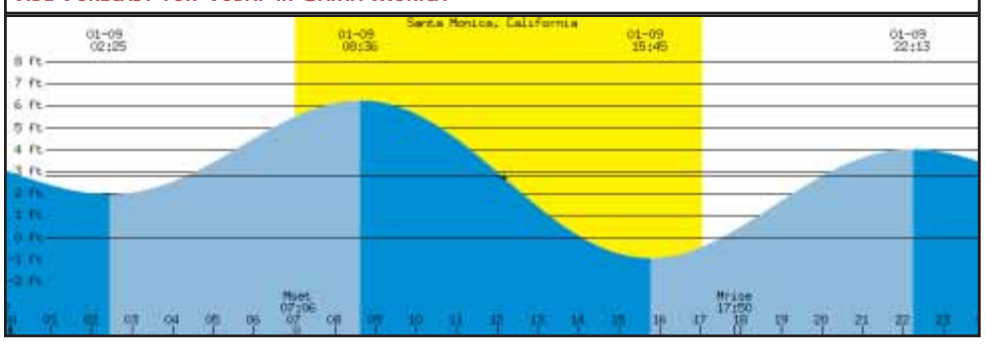

SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

Swell Forecast

The ETA for our next NW swell to build into the region (hitting all areas Wednesday). This is looking to build from north to south on Tuesday, hitting SB/VC by noon and SD by evening. Before the swell arrives, west facing breaks are looking at waist max waves. When the swell shows up though, chest high would be the call.

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 4, 2012**

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 -- 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, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	D	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	D	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
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+

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Heal the Bay

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The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Calm on Wall Street ahead of corporate earnings

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Stocks drifted higher Monday in a fourth consecutive listless session. Traders waited for corporate financial results to start rolling in so they could look for clues about the economy.

In the unofficial kickoff to earnings season, Alcoa, considered an economic bellwether because so many companies use its products, said it lost $34 million from October through December because of lower demand for aluminum.

The loss amounted to 3 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet, a provider of financial data, had expected a loss of 2 cents per share. Alcoa said revenue was $6 billion, compared with an estimate of $5.7 billion.

The results were released after the market closed for the day. Alcoa stock finished up 2.9 percent, the biggest gain of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average. It was little changed in after-hours trading.

The Dow closed up 32.77 points, or 0.3 percent, at 12,392.69. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.89 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,280.70. The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.34, or 0.1 percent, to 2,676.56.

Stock trading has been subdued in recent days. The Dow's high and low were only 75 points apart Monday. In all of 2011, trading was that narrow on only 26 days. In the final five months, the average daily swing was 249 points.

The broader market has been calm, too. The S&P rose 19 points Jan. 3, the first trading day of the year, but has risen or fallen by less than four points each of the following four days.

Volume was light Monday, as it has been all but one trading day this year, at 3.28 billion shares. Last year, about 4.3 billion shares changed hands on an average day.

Other markets were fairly quiet. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 1.96 percent from 1.97 percent Friday.

Analysts think profit growth slowed for U.S. multinational companies from October through December because of weaker demand overseas. Europe is on the brink of recession, and China's explosive economy is cooling.

Quarterly profits for S&P 500 companies will probably only grow at half the rate of the previous three quarters, said Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist at S&P's Capital IQ. The companies generate about half their revenue overseas, he said.

The U.S. is in a "half-speed recovery, and that probably isn't enough to offset the weakness in Europe and Asia," Stovall said.

Many analysts expect materials companies such as Alcoa to suffer as developing nations expand more slowly. Government-funded construction booms had driven up prices for metals and other basic products.

"China, India, Latin America — that's where those companies have been really driving sales in the last few quarters," said John Butters, senior earnings analyst at FactSet.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Skin I Live In (R) 1hr 57min
7:30pm

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

New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
1:15pm, 7:20pm

Darkest Hour (PG-13) 1hr 29min
4:30pm, 10:10pm

Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min
1:35pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
11:00am, 2:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:40pm, 10:30pm

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm

War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
11:25am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:55pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min
1:50pm, 4:25pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:55pm

Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1hr 41min
11:15am, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

The Devil Inside (R) 1hr 27min
11:10am, 1:30pm, 3:40pm, 5:50pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2hrs 07min
11:50am, 1:40pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Carnage (R) 1hr 19min
11:30am, 3:20pm, 5:35pm, 7:45pm, 9:55pm

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



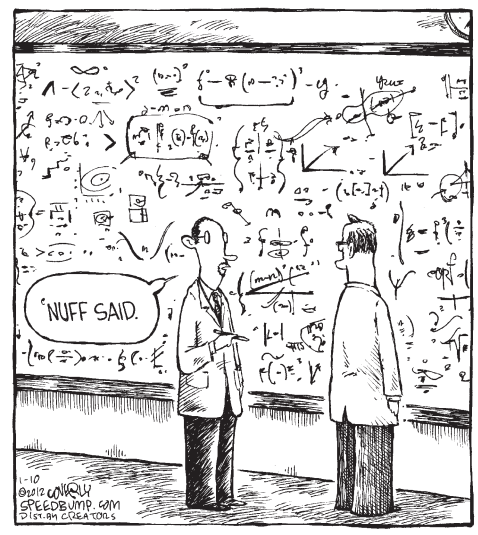
MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

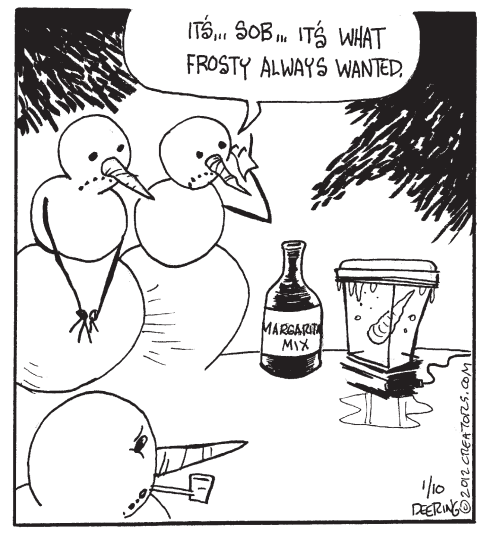
Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



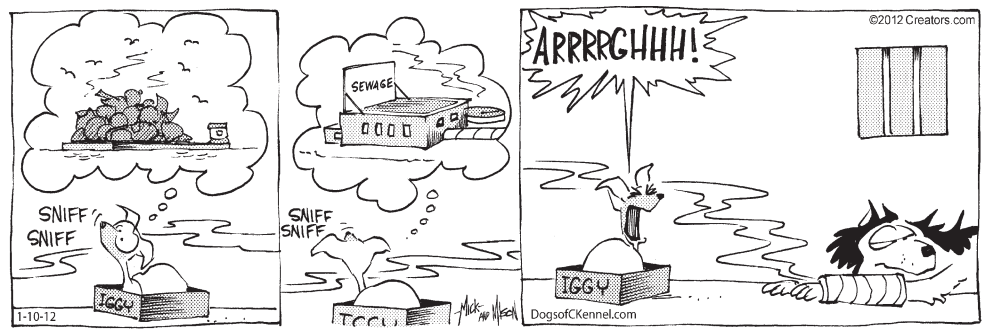
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



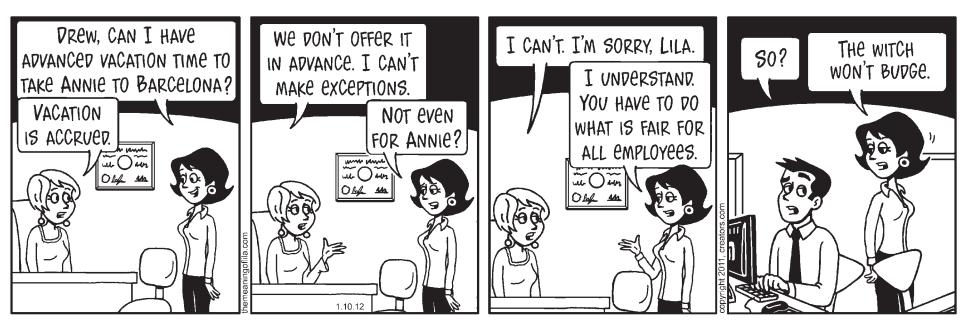
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Get tickets to a play, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have answers when others don't. Your natural ingenuity emerges no matter what you are doing. Allow more play and fun into your life. An idea might strike you as off-the-wall, even if it is your idea when you look at it. Tonight: Go with your heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Honor your priorities, and you will find that you won't be thrown by a sudden insight. Make family and your personal life your highest priority. Check out an investment carefully. Understand what is happening beyond the obvious, then decide. Tonight: At your pad.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have pushed far and beyond the obvious. You might not be sure what to do next. Use self-discipline and timing. It is through setting an example that you can instrument change. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite people.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Understand your liabilities if you follow the suggested course. What might be excellent for the majority might not be workable for you. Be more open to the unusual path. Listen to a respected boss or friend. This person understands you well. Tonight: Just don't go overboard.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You seem destined toward excess. Surprising news comes forward, allowing for unthought-of possibilities. A boss or authority figure could be demanding, but he or she also means well. Take this person's behavior in the spirit in which it is meant. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ You might be inclined to play down a situation, making less of it than need be. Once relaxed, you can move forward and make a big difference. Listen to what is being shared. In your head, you might wonder why certain information was given. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A meeting easily points to a new direction. You might want to reverse a present situation. A sense of well-being and confidence occurs naturally when dealing with people, making you more inclined to take a risk. Think before you leap. Tonight: Zero in on what is important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could feel betrayed in some sense or pushed to the max. You might want to get more of an impression as to where someone else is coming from. An unanticipated development could color your day. Tonight: Follow the crowd.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information. You will get just that, but you might need to detach a little, too. Your perspective could change radically given a few hours. Take as much time as is wise. Tonight: Get tickets to a play or a concert.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A direct interaction confirms many of your thoughts. Both you and the other party will flourish. A situation kindles greater insight. Don't overreact to this newness. Keeping a perspective could be equally as significant. Tonight: Ask for what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Sometimes others are challenging and difficult. Today is no exception. Don't take another person's comments personally, even though you are sure they are directed at you. Unexpected words, conversations and interactions in general are scheduled for today. Tonight: Sort through what you want first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Get as much accomplished as you can. Sooner rather than later, you will find a reason to let your mind wander. Live life to the fullest, and you will only gain. Grow with the moment and be willing to adjust. Tonight: Honor your energy levels.

Happy birthday

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

You could feel touched by the many gestures of good will this year. A key relationship will deepen, encouraging greater trust and caring. You also could be involved with this person financially. If you are single, you will meet someone quite significant. Greet a sudden change with optimism -- in the long run, you will see many benefits. You could opt for changes around your home and family. Some of you will add to your household, remodel your home or change residences. The new factor will reflect where you are in life. LEO understands you nearly too well.

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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Set off
6 Rustic home
11 Monarch
12 Where the action is
13 License preceder
15 Snaky shape
16 "The Raven" writer
17 Crude shack
18 Annual statement amount
20 Rage
21 Poem of praise
22 Finished
23 Tibia settings
26 Consecrate
27 Breathing organ
28 Fall back
29 French friend
30 Max Ernst, for one
34 Word of denial
35 Wonder
36 Friend of Fidel
37 Downpour
40 Some messages
41 Go and bingo
42 Pass along
43 Garbo, for one

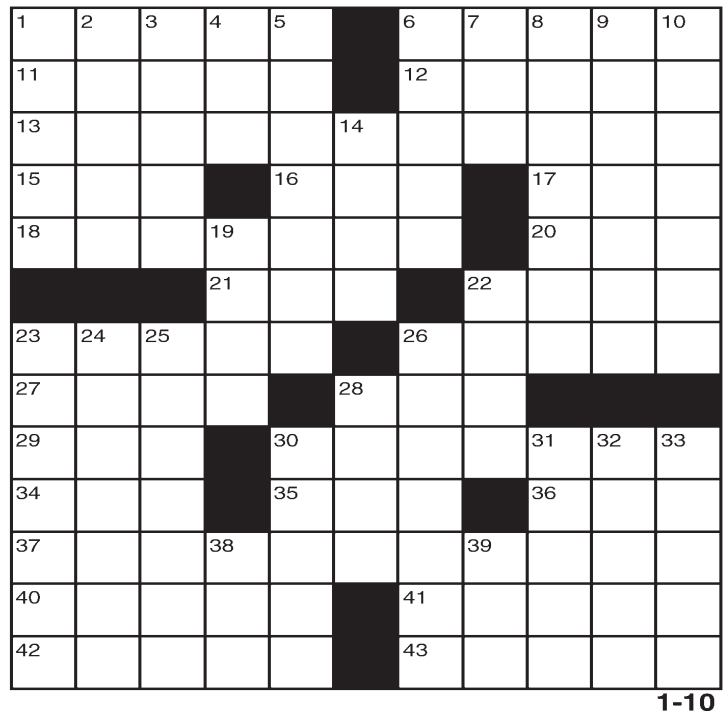
DOWN

1 "As You Like It" forest
2 Handbag
3 Celeb roster
4 Gun
5 Camera supports
6 Pet-store buys
7 Museum stuff
8 Queen's home
9 Covers, in a way
10 Gabs
14 Face feature
19 Drawn out
22 Gymnast Korbut
23 Libel's kin
24 "Just try it"
25 Monogram part
26 Nasty people
28 Croquet setting
30 Like some papers
31 Start of a Caesar quote
32 Recoiled
33 High-strung
38 By way of
39 Uncooked

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

Yesterday's answer

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1-10

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

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

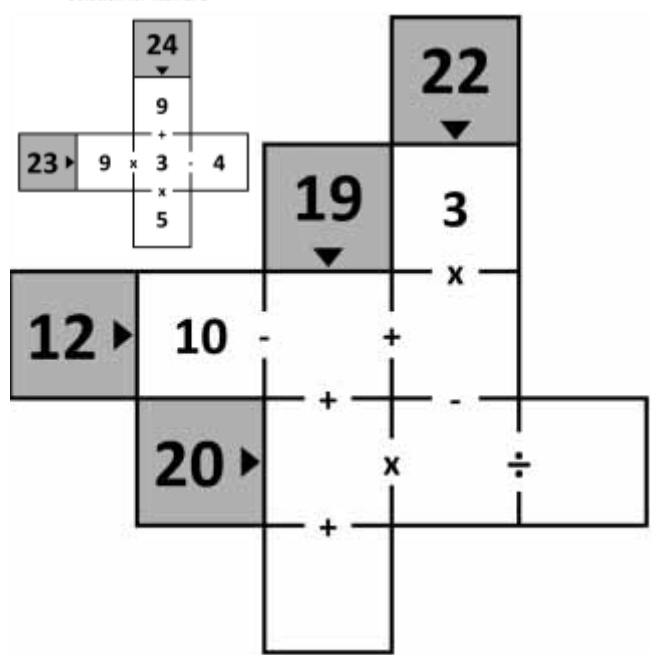
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

1, 4, 8, 8, 10, 10

Solution for Task 278



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Fantasy 5: 3 23 24 34 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 5 7 7 EVENING: 5 3 1

DAILY DERBY 1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 07 Eureka RACE TIME: 1:49.59

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

■ A December New England Journal of Medicine report described a woman's "losing" her breast implant during a Pilates movement called the Valsalva (which involves breath-holding while "bearing down"). The woman said she felt no pain or shortness of breath but suddenly noticed that her implant was gone. Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore discovered that, because of the woman's recent heart surgery, the muscles between the ribs had loosened, and the implant had merely passed through a rib opening. (They returned it to its proper place.)

■ A balaclava-wearing man "kidnapped" Julian Buchwald and his girlfriend in 2008 in Australia's Alpine National Park as they were picnicking. The man separated the couple, tore their clothes off and buried them, but Buchwald escaped and rescued the girlfriend, and they wandered around naked for days before being rescued. The balaclava-clad man, it turns out, was Buchwald, whose plan was to convince the woman by his heroism that she should marry him (and more immediately, to have sex even though they had both pledged to remain virgins until marriage). Buchwald was convicted in Victoria County Court and sentenced in December to more than seven years in prison.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1972 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returns to the newly independent Bangladesh as president after spending over nine months in prison in Pakistan.

1981 Salvadoran Civil War: The FMLN launches its first major offensive, gaining control of most of Morazán and Chalatenango departments

1984 The United States and the Vatican establish full diplomatic relations after 117 years.

1999 Sanjeev Nanda kills three policemen in New Delhi with his car, an act for which he was later acquitted, resulting in a sharp drop in public confidence in the Indian legal system.

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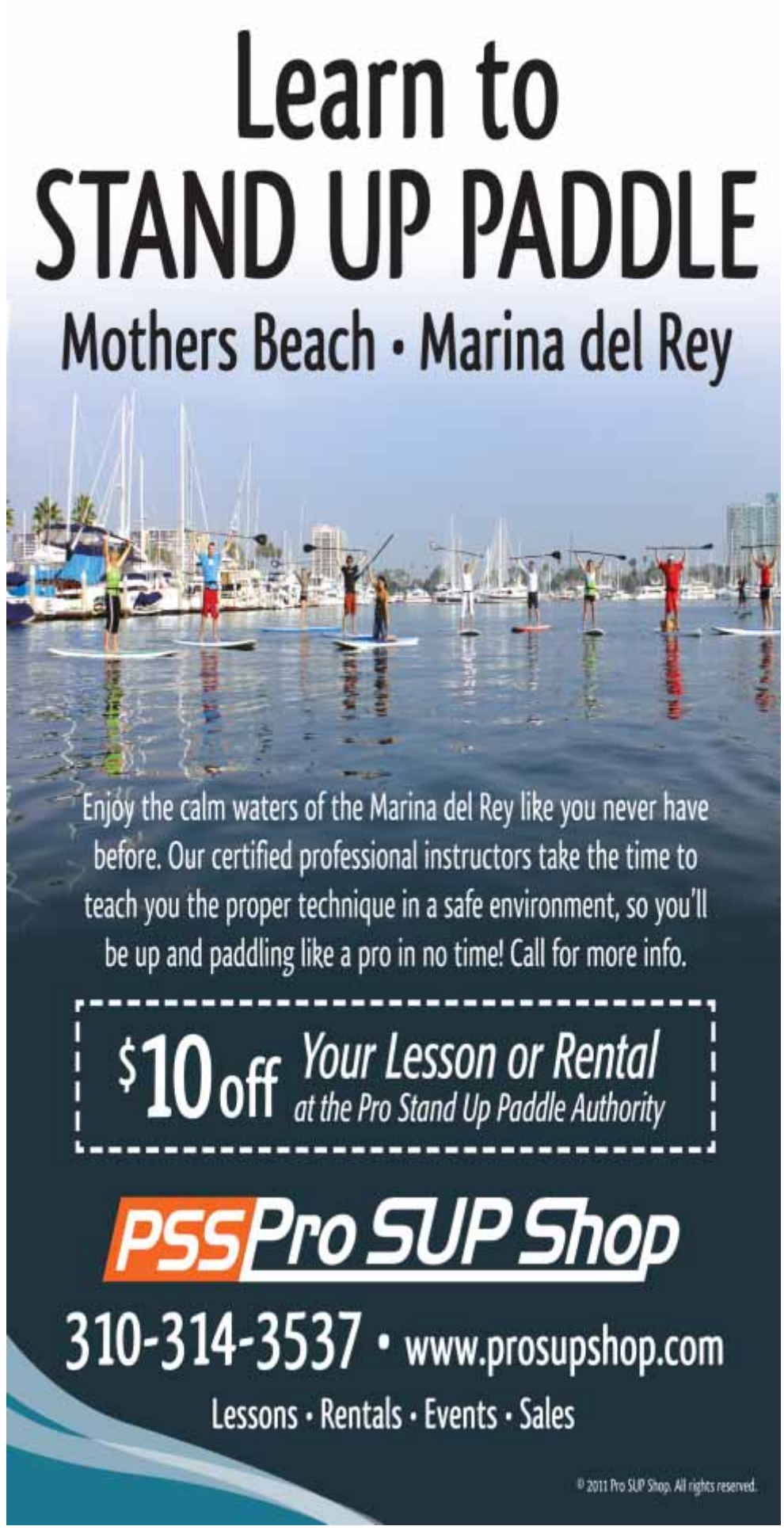
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011127425 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/09/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CONTRAPTION DIGITAL. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Michael McNeff 975 S. Barrington Ave. #3 Los Angeles, CA 90049. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/14/2011. /s/: Michael McNeff. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/09/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/29/2011, 12/06/2011, 12/13/2011, 12/20/2011.

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