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Santa Monica Daily Press
JANUARY 15-16, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 55



KEEPING YOUR 'HOOD SAFE
SEE PAGE 4

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE ENJOY THE WARM WEEKEND ISSUE

Local homeless programs mainly help those deemed 'non-priority'

City Hall shifting focus to the most vulnerable

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN There are fewer homeless people in Santa Monica than there were two years ago, but those who remain on the streets tend to have "complex, chronic disabilities" and have a disproportionate impact on the city's resources and the community's enjoyment of public spaces, according to a report released this week by City Hall.

Despite a new focus on serving Santa Monica's "priority population" of homeless individuals, the report stated, most people who receive service from City Hall-funded agencies don't fit into this category.

Homeless agencies supported by City Hall provided service to 7,036 individuals in 2009-2010.

The vast majority of those people, City Hall said, were not part of the "Santa Monica priority population," which consists of those whose last permanent address was in Santa Monica; those who have been homeless in Santa Monica for five years or more; vulnerable members of the Santa Monica workforce; vulnerable individuals from the Service Registry; and high users of local police and

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 10



IN FOCUS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Guests enjoy photographic works from the Santa Monica-based Peter Fetterman Gallery during the opening night of the 20th annual International Los Angeles Photographic Art Exposition at the Civic Auditorium on Main Street on Thursday night. The Photo LA exhibition will continue through Sunday.



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

ELAINE TSE

Woman recognized for being a life saver

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL When Elaine Tse and her toddler Boedhe were visiting Palisades Park in August of last year, they thought they would see a few sights, maybe grab something to eat at a restaurant Downtown. Tse never thought her trip would result in her saving a life.

But that's what she did on the afternoon of Aug. 26. Tse was walking with her son in the park, on their way to check out Pacific Park's famous Ferris wheel, when she saw several frantic people huddled around a child.

"I thought the child might have fallen down and they were comforting him, but when I got closer I saw one of the adults holding the child upside down by his ankles," Tse said.

The child, 3-year-old Emilio Gonzales, was not breathing. His skin had turned blue and his mother was distraught, praying for a miracle.

SEE HERO PAGE 10

Give me back my sign! Horoscope readers atwitter

BY CHRIS WILLIAMS & JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

Sofia Whitcombe began her day with the startling realization that she might not be exactly who she thought she was.

SEE SIGNS PAGE 12

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011

MLK Kidz Party
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 10 a.m.
This free event is intended as an introduction to the life and teachings of King with music, art, face painting, storytelling and children's entertainer Michael Cladis.

Peace In for MLK
The Talking Stick
1411 Lincoln Blvd., 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
"Peace In," geared to teenagers, with music, poetry, spoken word, art and diversity workshop. The event is sponsored by the NAACP Santa Monica-Venice branch, the Santa Monica Human Relations Council and the Pico Youth & Family Center.

Improv at the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Laugh your way into the New Year as cast members from the Morgan-Wixson Theatre's Internet-themed farce "Caught in the Net" go off script and share their improvisational and physical comedy talents.
This theatrical event is presented free to the public.
For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Ultimate Frisbee
North of Santa Monica Pier
Check out some of the best Frisbee players in the world compete in the 12th annual LEI-OUT Tournament, taking place both Saturday and Sunday. There will be teams from all over the world, all ready to give their blood, sweat and tears in the "glorious pursuit of awesome." For more information, go to www.leiout.com.

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011

Celebrating the king
SGI Auditorium
525 Wilshire Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Symphony will be conducting a free concert in celebration of the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Allen Robert Gross conducts Revueltas' "Redes," Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 5 featuring violinist Danielle Belen, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 ("Reformation").
School-age children are especially welcome. Parking is free at 1212 Seventh St.
For more information call 310 395-6330 or visit www.SMSymphony.org.

Cyrano's charm
Ruskin Group Theatre
3000 Airport Ave., 2 p.m.
Ruskin Group Theatre proudly presents an adventure based on the legend of 17th century French dramatist and duelist Savinien de Bergerac, now known the world over as Cyrano. Afflicted with an enormous and bulbous nose, he is convinced that no woman can ever love him, and thus makes himself notorious in Paris for his courage, gallantry, and charm of verse. Putting aside his own love for the beautiful Roxanne (Olivia D'Abo) he offers his powers of expression to his rival, as this hysterical and stirring adventure unfolds. General Admission $25 students/seniors $20.
For more information and other show times go to www.ruskingrouptheatre.com or call (310) 397-3244.

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



Former Golden Globes publicist sues, claims payola

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES A former publicist for the organization that runs the Golden Globes sued the group on the eve of its glitzy awards show, claiming it engages in payola schemes for nominations and awards.

Michael Russell sued the Hollywood Foreign Press Association late Thursday, just three days before NBC airs the annual gathering of Hollywood royalty that has been bumped twice from the airwaves over the years due to scandal.

The lawsuit claims many association members "abuse their positions and engage in unethical and potentially unlawful deals and arrangements which amount to a 'payola' scheme" that could be illegal and jeopardize the group's tax-exempt status.

The court filing, however, does not list any specific examples in which a studio or producer has paid for a Golden Globes nomination or award.

A statement from Ken Sunshine, whose company currently handles the show's public relations, said the allegations were without merit.

"This is no more than the case of a disgruntled former consulting firm, whose contract was not renewed, attempting to take advantage once again of the Globe's international stage for their own gain," the statement reads.

The lawsuit seeks $2 million and alleges breach of contract, defamation and fraud over the association's firing of Russell and his partner after the awards show last year. The complaint states the pair were dismissed after a dispute with association President Philip Berk over a charity and advertising campaign with Chrysler.

The pair frequently tried to raise the issue of ethical and potentially unlawful activity to Berk, the complaint states, but the claims were ignored.

The suit also alleges the association sells prime spots on the show's red carpet to lesser-known media outlets.

Timothy McGonigle, an attorney representing Russell and partner Stephen Locascio, rejected claims they were acting out of spite.

"Michael Russell and Stephen Locascio have brought this lawsuit in the hope that the Hollywood Foreign Press will take the problems seriously and change their prac-

SEE **GLOBES** PAGE 10



IN YOUR FACE

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Ian Spetner from Santa Monica High School heads the soccer ball towards the Culver City goal during an Ocean League game Friday at John Adams Middle School, the home turf for Samohi soccer. Samohi won 4-0.

Downtown spa offers vaginal steam baths

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Right now, in an upscale underground spa in Santa Monica, an ancient Korean ritual is taking place and women of all ethnicities are benefiting from this newly rekindled tradition — the vaginal steam bath.

Yes, that's right, ladies. The V-Steam (also called "chai-yok") has been at the forefront of Korean herbal healing for over 600 years. The remedy is touted to help regulate menstrual cycles and aid with infertility issues and is one of the newest treatments offered at Tikkun Spa, one of only a handful offering the treatment in Southern California.

Owner Niki Han Schwarz and her husband, Charles Schwarz, an orthopedic surgeon, wanted to develop more than a "spa." They wanted to create a relaxing, therapeutic center where people could focus on healing themselves, be it through massage, steams, acupuncture or herbal treatments. The name Tikkun comes from a Hebrew phrase "Tikkun Olam" which Schwarz said means "to heal the world."

"We believe people need to heal themselves in order to heal the world," Schwarz said. The emphasis is on both physical and spiritual healing — a series of lectures on the Kabbalah are up coming — and the spa offers its clients access to a physician, a naturopath, a chiropractor, a physical therapist, an acupuncturist, a nutritionist, aestheticians and massage therapists.

Tikkun offers Korean inspired spa treatments and temperature based therapeutic rooms such as the such as the Himalayan Salt Room, which is said to be conducive for relaxation while micro particles of salt help purify the lungs, and the Hwangto Clay designed to increase blood circulation and stimulate detoxification thorough the skin. In the women's section adjacent to the area where the Korean scrubs are performed, there's also a large Jacuzzi, steam room and showers.

But today, we're here for the V-Steam.

After we doff our clothes and put our belongings in our lockers my friends — Kejo Thomas, manager of a local gym, and Saetha Evans, a personal trainer — and I are escorted to the Couple's Room. In the Couple's Room are always two massage tables set up side-by-side, a Jaccuzi tub, a private bathroom and a heated onyx chamber. As you lay on the tiles in the chamber, the heat starts to penetrate your muscles, thus making it a very effective place for couples to rest while waiting for their massages to begin. This room can be rented out for private parties and we're told is extremely popular on Valentine's Day.

Also in the room, in a semi-circle are three wooden stools covered with soft plastic cushions. Underneath, a round hole in the top rests a pot of steaming mugwort. I

SEE **STEAM** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Still striving for that goal

Editor:

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal"

Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15,1929 – April 4, 1968

Wishing you a happy and meaningful Martin Luther King birthday and holiday.

Peace always.

Jerry Rubin
Santa Monica

Kids say the darndest things

Editor:

A short allegory in reference to current events. My granddaughter Chelsea asked me after watching the latest news about the shooting in Arizona, "Why don't they take the guns away?" Because, I tried to explain, "one of the rules in our Constitution says that Americans have the right to own weapons."

"Hmm," she mused, "then what about bullets? Is their anything that says Americans have the right to own bullets?"

"No there isn't," I remarked.

"Then they should take away the bullets. Bullets are what kill things, not guns." Smart kid.

Her logic is sound, but how can I tell her that here in America the National Rifle Association has/exerts an undue influence and are in essence lobbyists for the weapons industry? How can I tell her that Second Amendment rights advocates cherish their guns with a fervor bordering on religious fanaticism?

Gun violence will continue in America because nobody will stand up to the NRA, because of the easy accessibility of weapons and because a few egocentric NRA talking heads are dictating the debate on guns.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

Don't forget about Darfur

Editor:

The news media must continue covering the situation in Darfur and all of Sudan after the referendum. As a concerned activist, I am especially concerned about the countless families whose lives have been disrupted by decades of violence. What happens in Sudan matters here in Santa Monica, because we know that the effects of mass violence have far-reaching repercussions that are felt for generations. Congress and the Senate should urge the Obama Administration to keep focusing on Sudan.

Even if the vote is credible, there are still several post referendum issues such as wealth sharing, citizenship, the demarcation of the border, and the disputed Abyei region, which have potential to re-ignite the conflict if the international community walks away. The last civil war between the north and south lasted for 22 years and resulted in the deaths of over 2 million civilians, mostly from South Sudan.

While both parties should be commended, the situation and potential for a renewal of the conflict is far from resolved and South Sudan will not become an independent country until July 9.

Candice Barnett
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Richard Carranza — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tips for protecting your home

Q: MY NEIGHBOR'S HOME WAS BROKEN into while at work last week. Now I'm worried that one day I will come home and find that my residence was broken into. What can I do to help safeguard my home?

A: It's true that anyone can become a victim of crime, but there are some very basic things that you can do to deter criminals from choosing you. People generally think of their homes as safe havens where the outside world cannot get to them, but statistics constantly show the opposite. Do what you can to make your home as safe as possible. It all starts by becoming more active with your neighborhood.

One of the best ways to ensure that a burglar does not target your house for a break-in is to make your entire block a highly secure area. This involves working with your neighbors so that everyone watches out for each other. Think of your block as a mini community, and you can rely on your neighbors to keep you safe just as much as they can rely on you. Let a trusted neighbor know when you will be on vacation so they can keep an eye on your home.

Meet the people who live nearby, and get to know their names, what cars they have and exchange phone numbers. Keep a list of this contact information near a phone so you can call anyone on your block, should the need arise. Join the Neighborhood Watch in your area, or if one doesn't exist, consider starting one. Work with the Santa Monica Police Department to help watch over everyone in your neighborhood.

Once you get to know the people around you, you will be better prepared to notice strangers who seem to be hanging around a lot. Seeing someone you don't know walk down your street once is not at all unusual, but if that same person were to be lingering and going back and forth on your block frequently, they may be casing the neighborhood and looking for a home to break into.

Similarly, if you note an unfamiliar car that is spending a lot of time driving on your street, it could be an indication that criminals are looking for potential targets. Warn a neighbor if you see someone looking at their home, and don't be afraid to call the police to report suspicious behavior.

Even a well watched neighborhood can be struck by crime. A burglar looks for the easiest target possible, so it is up to you to make your house difficult to burglarize. Also, remember to keep exterior and interior lights on during the night. Criminals prefer to operate under the cover of darkness and will gravitate towards a home that has no lights on at all.

When you go out for the night, keep a television on or play a radio inside the house. This will give the appearance that someone is still home, which is a great deterrent to criminals.

Q: Now that I'm familiar with my neighbors, what can I do to make my home less of a target?

Criminals have developed methods of breaking into almost any home or building, but even a highly experienced law breaker will only devote a very short time to getting inside. The longer it takes for them to make their way in, the better the chances are that someone might see them and call the police. You can take steps to make it not worthwhile for a criminal to choose your house by beefing up your security measures.

Burglars look for any easy entrance to a home. A pet door, busted window or unlocked point of access will let them get in quickly. Walk around your house and examine it to make sure there are no vulnerable points that law breakers can use to force their way inside. Immediately fix broken windows, busted locks and any other part of your house that is not secure.

Other areas to reinforce with extra locks and deadbolts are the front and back doors. A criminal may take the time to break or disable one lock on a door, but they will think twice about messing with one that has multiple security devices. Glass sliding doors can also be better secured with a security bar. A solid bar will prevent a door from being opened, and it cannot be moved from the outside. You can also find steel pins that lock into place at the bottom of a sliding door to make it impossible to open. Also, install a second lock on the window. You can find them at any retail location that sells hardware products, and they do not cost much.

Hiring the services of a professional security company that will install an alarm in your house will be reassuring, but can also be costly. Not only will your home be monitored at all times, but criminals will also be discouraged from attempting to break in when they see the signs and window decals that inform them of the alarm.

The SMPD will come out and conduct a security survey at your residence free of charge to help you better secure your residence. Call Community Relations at (310) 458-8474 if you have any questions about scheduling a security survey or setting up a Neighborhood Watch group in your area. You can also call your Neighborhood Resource Officer for assistance. The police department's website www.santamonicapd.org has all of the NRO contacts and is full of ideas to help you make your home and neighborhood safe.

This column was written by **NRO RICHARD CARRANZA** (Beat 1: Coastal, Beach and Pier areas). He can be reached at (424) 200-0681 or richard.carranza@smgov.net.



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Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't let the dialogue of democracy be a victim, too

OUR FIRST CONCERN IN THE WAKE OF THE horrendous shootings in Arizona ought to be for the victims and their families; our thoughts and prayers are with them. The violence that sent Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to the hospital, killed six and injured 12 others will scar the survivors and all the victims' families, friends, and communities for years to come.

In a society as robustly talkative as ours, it is natural for people to step back and try to impose meaning on so traumatic an event — even if it was simply the deranged act of a deeply troubled young man. Without knowing the motivations of the alleged shooter this is all speculative, and it is far too early to try to draw political conclusions from this tragedy.

Yet as a former member of Congress I do have something to say about the shootings' aftermath. The personal tragedies have been awful enough; as a nation we also have to worry about a political tragedy, quiet and slow-moving but no less damaging for that. I'm talking about weakening further the bond between us and our elected representatives.

Our democracy depends on members of Congress being able to mingle freely with the people they serve. Yes, they have a lot of responsibilities in Washington that go with the job, but for these to have any meaning in a representative democracy they have to be rooted back home. It's in their discussions with ordinary Americans that members do their most important work — at formal town halls, in stops by cafes, in speeches at VFW halls or visits to community groups, in impromptu conversations and at organized "listening sessions" like the "Congress on your Corner" event that Congresswoman Giffords was hosting.

These are where they get a glimpse of what's on people's minds and how strongly they feel about it; get alerted to issues they may not have known about; get questioned and challenged on their political stances; and have a chance to explain both their own and the Congress' thinking. Without this kind of two-way education, representative democracy simply wouldn't work.

Members of Congress know this. That is why they take care to hold such events as frequently as possible, despite the pressures of fundraising, legislating, trying to keep some semblance of a personal life — and the awareness of possible trouble. They long ago learned to live with threats — the FBI has investigated hundreds of them over the past decade — even though it is never easy to go out in public after you've received one. Yet they've continued to be as accessible as possible, because that is the only way they can do their jobs properly.

Now, despite some members' protestations that they won't let it happen, some sort of chill may well settle over the give-and-take between members of Congress and their constituents. It won't be obvious; no elected representative is going to announce, "I'm cutting down on my public appearances." But there will almost certainly be fewer of them, and those that do take place will probably be harder or more intimidating to get into.

There have been calls for local and state law enforcement officials to provide more security to members of Congress, to ban anyone from carrying a handgun in the vicinity of a member, and to enclose the House gallery in bullet-proof glass, and a few members already have announced that they'll be carrying their own weapons when they return to their home districts.

IN THE WAKE OF THE ARIZONA SHOOTINGS, A LOT OF POLITICIANS AND COMMENTATORS OF ALL STRIPES HAVE BEEN SEARCHING THEIR SOULS ABOUT THE CHARACTER AND INTENSITY OF THEIR RHETORIC.

It's hard to imagine the easy informality that ought to exist between constituents and public officials continuing. It seems equally certain that people who might have considered dropping by a shopping center or community hall to see their elected representative will think twice, lest they get caught up in the next headline-making atrocity.

In the wake of the Arizona shootings, a lot of politicians and commentators of all stripes have been searching their souls about the character and intensity of their rhetoric. If there is anything positive to come of this, it may be in the awareness that the manner in which political discourse is conducted is important and has consequences. Robust political debate — even sarcasm and biting humor — is one thing; suggestions that someone ought to be "eliminated" are quite another.

So if our super-heated political discussions cool down a bit, that's good. What would not be good is if the chill extends to the ordinary, day-to-day, vastly important contact between our representatives and the American people. If we diminish that dialogue or make it more difficult or put up barriers to it, then the shootings in Arizona will have claimed more than just human victims; something vital in our democracy will have been wounded, too.

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.

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Drago not twice as nice

THE BEST WAY TO GET A RESPONSE TO AN article is to say something is the "best," or create a list of the "best," like the best Italian restaurant, or the best hamburger. Those two always seem to get a rise out of folks.

So when I wrote that Locanda del Lago is perhaps the best Italian restaurant in Santa Monica, I was pleased that a number of people sent e-mails suggesting their favorites — which were not necessarily my favorites.

I had been to almost all of the recommended spots, and had already ruled them out. But then someone mentioned Drago on Wilshire Boulevard. I realized I hadn't been there for a long time, so I went back there for dinner. It was even better than I had remembered.

The service was first class. Silvio Cicconi, the general manager, was there to check on the waiter, a nice young man from Washington state, every few minutes. At my wife's request, we were seated in a quiet area. The music was just right.

I had one of the special truffled pasta dishes. While this years' crop of white truffles are not as flavorful as most years, the dish was still excellent and brought back memories of the many similar dishes we've shared in the Piedmont region of Italy. The main difference was the price of the truffle.

There were lots of other fine dishes, including a very fresh sea bass, and wide pasta with wild boar sauce. The menu is extensive, and authentic.

The wine list was extensive, and populated with way too many wines beyond my financial abilities, but there were a few that were from good years and reasonably priced. The list could use a few more of the wonderful, inexpensive wines available now from a number of local importers who have lowered prices during the recession.

After this dinner I began to think maybe the e-mail I got was right, and this is the best Italian restaurant in Santa Monica. I felt a bit like my dad, who, after every good meal, would say, "That was the best meal l ever had."

I enjoyed the meal so much that when a colleague called to meet for lunch in Beverly Hills, I suggested lunch at the Drago restaurant there, on Canon drive. That was a mistake.

In a row of busy Italian restaurants, Drago Beverly Hills was virtually empty. That was good for me because it was relatively quiet and we could hear each other talk. Except for the music. I'm not sure what it was, but it was offensive. But I ignored it because I often find restaurant music too loud and offensive. They often turn it up when the restaurants are not crowded so it doesn't seem so empty.

I ordered a glass of wine, which I noticed on the wine list was from 2007, a particularly good recent year followed by the less favorable 2008. I especially asked the waitress, who is studying to become an actress (naturally), to be sure that the bottle was freshly opened. When the glass arrived and I tasted it I knew that couldn't be it, so I asked to see the bottle. The bottle was a 2008, and almost empty. So I called over the manager and asked him if he thought that was appropriate for restaurant service. He said he thought it was OK, since one wine of that price was pretty much like another. He didn't offer to exchange it.

So we ordered. I ordered the black squid ink pasta with seafood, one of my favorite Italian dishes. When it came, the pasta had good flavor, but was luke warm, and the seafood in it was cold. My companion said that her calamari were also not very warm.

I asked for a double espresso with two biscotti for dessert, and they brought out two huge plates with about six biscotti and four chocolate chip cookies.

Somehow, I had the feeling that no one heard me, no one cared, and no one is watching the store. But the waitress was really cute and very nice, and if I'm ever in the movie business I would hire her.

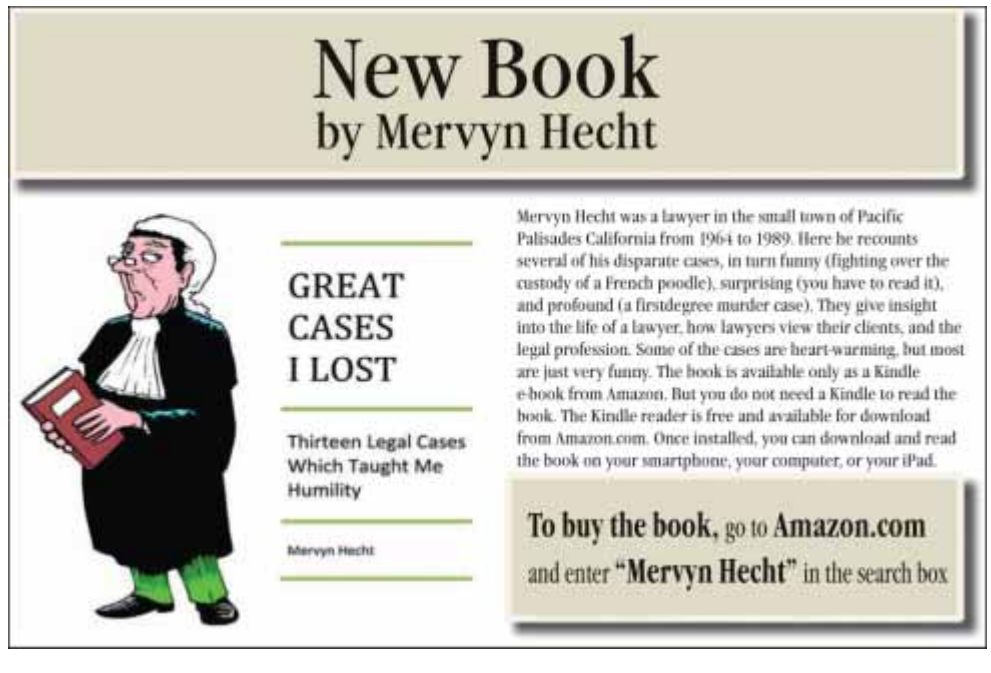
"What's in a name?" they say. I would say that with restaurants, the name doesn't tell you much. It's what's inside that counts.

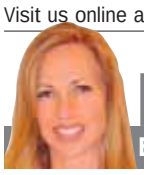
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Drago Beverly Hills
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MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can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





Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Living long, healthy lives without breaking the bank

HOW DO YOU LIVE TO BE A 103, LOOK like you're 75 and still have your wits about you? I want to know. So I've been asking the only person I know who fits this description. She is a feisty 103-year-old woman who happens to reside where I work, in a rehab hospital. She looks to be about 75. She puts on a suit every day. She does her hair and make-up. And she is very boisterous when she wants something.

While this feisty 103 year old was sitting in the hall asking to be put to bed, I was speaking with one of our visiting physician's and I said, "Can you believe she is 103?" I went on to say that we are always trying to find out this 103 year old's secret to longevity but she never really tells us what she's done to live so long. I thought perhaps it was her diet, of course, but she doesn't seem to have any sort of discerning palate. She eats a little bit of whatever is put in front of her. Then I thought that perhaps it was what she did for a living or with whom she spent her life. But I learned that she worked in a dress shop, hence her need to look good every day. She was married twice, although her first husband was abusive, she adored her second husband, but he died 25 years ago.

The doctor listened as the 103-year-old patient loudly exclaimed that she wanted to go to bed even though it was the middle of the day, even though she would have to get up again to eat. She didn't care. Then the doctor said, "Well, she certainly makes her needs known." I thought for a second and then said, "You are so right. I think that's the key; making your needs known."

With the new year here, and a new decade as well, this is the perfect time for reflecting on life. Whether it's your own life or someone else's, most of us think about what we have done in the past and what we want to accomplish in the future. A new year is a new beginning, for all of us.

Of course many people make the typical new year's resolutions to change something: lose weight, get in shape, reduce debt, find a new job or perhaps even find love. Whatever you resolve to do this year, make your needs known. Don't hold back. Put it out there. Be boisterous and someone will answer your prayers.

My resolution is to get, Eat2Liv with Elizabeth, my fun and educational, health-focused cooking show, on national television. One of the show's goals, aside from teaching viewers healthy cooking techniques and educating them about nutrition, is to prove that healthy eating can be very cost effective.

Although I love Whole Foods in Venice, I sometimes venture next door to the 99 cent store where they have bagged organic spinach and large boxes of mixed salad greens for only one dollar. You would pay five times as much at other stores. You can also get bags of potatoes, even sweet potatoes for a dollar as well as 2-pound bags of carrots, bunches of celery, bags of pears, onions and packs of cucumbers, all for one dollar each. I also bought some bags of dried garbanzo beans and lentils (always inexpensive nutritious choices) before completing my shopping trip at Whole Foods where I bought natural peanut butter and organic canned tomatoes. For some things, I will pay a little more.

Yet, even with a mix of frugal foods dispersed with some finer foods, I was able to create a hearty meal for under $1.50. My inspiration came from some of my favorite African inspired dishes and the fact that nearly half the people in Africa live on as little as $1.25 per day.

If you're going to live to be 103 you better learn how to stretch a buck, right?

By the way, I told my coworkers my theory about longevity and they all scoffed at me stating, "Sex is the key to longevity!" But there again, they were simply making their needs known; like food, water, sleep and air, sex is a basic physiological need, according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Try these cost-conscious, fat-reducing recipes chock full of nutrients you also need to thrive, and you are sure to get whatever it is you truly want out of your long life.

ELIZABETH is a registered dietitian and certified holistic chef who wants to help people live long and vital lives without going broke. To learn more, please visit her website: www.TheKitchenVixen.com

African bean soup
Makes 12 (1 cup) servings – 54 cents each.

1/2 cup water
1 Tbs. soy sauce
1 onion, chopped
2 small sweet potatoes, peeled & diced (2 cups)
2 large carrots, cut into half moons
2 celery stalk, thinly sliced
1/2 red bell pepper, diced
1 (28oz.) can crushed tomatoes
4 cups water
1 1/2 cups cooked (1 -15oz. can garbanzo beans)
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
3 Tbs. peanut butter
1/3 cup water
2 tsp. curry powder

Heat 1/2 cup water and soy sauce in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion and sweet potatoes. Cook five minutes. Add carrot, celery and pepper. Cover and cook five more minutes stirring occasionally. Stir in tomatoes, four cups water, garbanzo beans and cilantro. Blend peanut butter with 1/3 cup water and curry powder. Add to soup. Cover and simmer 10 minutes.

Peanut butter dressing
Makes eight servings (2 Tbs. each) – 21 cents.

6 Tablespoons peanut butter
Juice of 1 lemon, 2 Tbs.
1/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
Dash sea salt & pepper
1 cup water

In a bowl, combine all ingredients. Add water gradually to reach pouring consistency.

Ethiopian lentils
Makes six (1 cup) servings – 38 cents.

1 pound dry lentils
6 cups water
1/2 red pepper
1/2 cup (4 oz) green chilies
1 yellow onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon turmeric
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Bring lentils and water to a boil. Reduce to medium low. Simmer 10 minutes. Add rest of the ingredients, cover and cook another 30 minutes or until liquid has absorbed. Serve soup & lentils with two cups mixed salad greens topped with Peanut Butter Dressing.

Total Cost: $1.47: 438 calories, 62g carbs, 22g fiber, 25g protein, 10g fat. Rich in vitamin A carotenoids, vitamin C, folate, manganese, iron, potassium, phosphorus, niacin, thiamin, riboflavin, B6, magnesium, copper, zinc, iron, calcium, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, B6, selenium and copper.



The Q Line

Picking a leader

Councilman Bobby Shriver is expected to ask the City Council if it is time to allow voters to select Santa Monica's mayor, a departure from the current model that allows the council to decide who will hold the post.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think the position of mayor should be up to the voters, or should the system remain the same?
Here are your responses:

"THEY COULD GIVE THE JOB TO WHOMEVER gets the most votes. Or they could fight to the death to get the job."

"OF COURSE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO choose our mayor and it would be great if we had council members elected by district also. I live in the Mid-City neighborhood and we have not had anyone from this area on council for over 10 years, since Paul Rosenstein. It seems that there is a lot of proposed new development for our area and several of the present council members will be for it. This area is already very impacted by the present big developments of the Water Garden and the Yahoo Center. It is scary to think more development will happen and without a representative on council there does not seem to be a voice we can turn to. With a Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights majority on council, they get what they think is 'right.' I hope this can change by electing a mayor!"

"LET'S NOT STOP WITH THE MAYOR. LET the democratic process spill over into the neighborhoods so we could be allowed to elect our own representatives in the already recognized seven political districts that now exist. I would be truly impressed if someone could name the last council members from the Pico and Mid-City neighborhoods."

"SINCE WE'RE RUN BY THE COMMIES from SMRR we should really call the City Council the proletariat bureau and the mayor the head of the proletariat."

"I SUPPORT THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR. I think the system needs to be changed and I think it is outrageous that many of the council people are so small that they tried to block Kevin McKeown on it."

"NO. IT SHOULD STAY AS IT IS. I THINK we should trust the judgment of those council members who were elected by all. I also do not approve of districting. In other words, leave it as it is. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

"I AM IN TOTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH Bobby Shriver. Let them pick their own mayor. They are the ones who have to work together. What the hell does the public know about things these days."

"I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A ROTATING list for mayor. Each month, the top name would be selected to be the new mayor. If you declined, you'd go to the bottom of the list and pay a fine. If you accept, you pay a very big fine just like the many good citizens in this town do."

"I THINK THAT THE POSITION OF MAYOR should be up to the voters. Otherwise, the council members would just vote for their friend and put the same person in again and again. How come they never let Kevin McKeown be mayor?"

"ACTUALLY WE ALREADY HAVE THIS method. The council member elected with the most votes is usually given this ceremonial post of mayor in a system like Santa Monica's. Perhaps council chairman would be the better term because the actual function of a mayor is taken here by an unelected city manager."

"YES, LET'S ELECT THE MAYOR, AS LONG AS it is someone who has been on the council for over two years."

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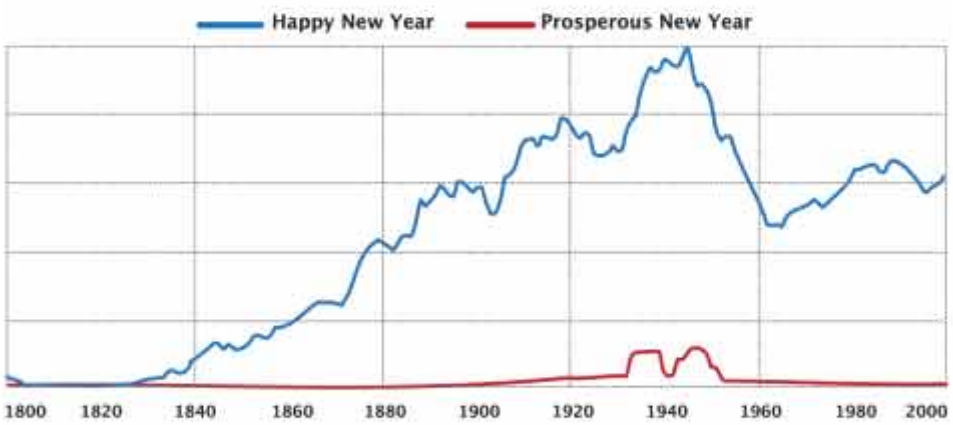
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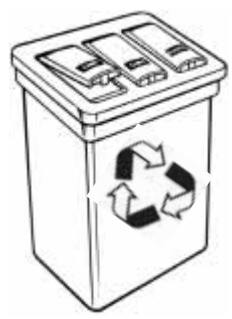
After we wrote this, we wondered whether, in the past, happiness and prosperity were linked in New Years Greetings. To research it, we clicked right away to the new tool: Ngram Viewer from Google. Here is what we found about the frequency of usage for the terms Happy New Year and Prosperous New Year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

Send your explanations to
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We will publish a few of the most interesting explanations in this space.

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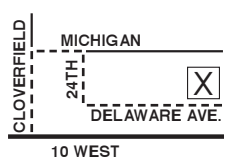


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HOMELESS
FROM PAGE 1

fire services as identified by city staff.

Last year, just 10 percent of those who received service from a City Hall-funded agency, or 720 homeless individuals, qualified as member of Santa Monica's priority population.

Cutting down on the number of non-priority individuals who receive service from City Hall-backed agencies remains a goal, according to the report.

"Agencies have been required to transition those who do not meet [the priority population] threshold to services not supported by city or matching funds, or redirect them to resources in their home community," the report stated.

By most objective measures, though, the total impact of the homeless population has been declining, according to the report.

In 2010, the Human Services department tallied 742 people living on the streets in Santa Monica, a 25 percent decrease from 2007. City Hall will conduct the 2011 on Jan. 26.

The lower number of homeless individuals meant less frequent use of emergency and other services.

In the fiscal year that ended in June, there were 15 percent fewer arrests of homeless people compared with the prior year. The number of incidents requiring a response from paramedics involving a homeless individual was about even with the year before but was down 18 percent from 2007-2008. The City Attorney's Office filed 2,165 cases against homeless people last fiscal year, a 12 percent decrease compared with the year before, according to the report.

It remains to be seen whether the experiences of Santa Monica residents are in-line with the City Hall's statistics. This year, City Hall is planning to conduct a telephone survey of residents and businesses to gauge the community's perception of the effectiveness of Santa Monica's homeless initiatives.

City Hall contributed a total of $2.7 million to seven agencies that provide services to the homeless during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

According to the report, the agencies raised an additional $5.9 million from other public and private sources.

According to the report, Santa Monica's homeless prevention program in the past 13 months provided $200,000 in financial assistance and case management services to help 162 Santa Monica residents retain housing and stay off the streets. The program has received $553,576 through the federal stimulus bill.

nickt@smdp.com

STEAM
FROM PAGE 3

had it in my head that we would be uncomfortably squatting over a fire pit the entire time — nothing could be farther from the truth. Once comfortably seated, you control the flame underneath the bench and adjust the temperature of the mugwort. A pretty pink plastic poncho is draped over you so that the steam rises up through your entire body. The sensation is delightful. The lights are turned down and our female bonding begins.

The idea here is that the mugwort — an emmenagogue, a medicinal herb known for its stimulating and warming properties of the pelvic area — increases the circulation in the uterus and generates a clearing effect on "clogged conditions."

Both Evans and Thomas crank their heat up. I'm on the lowest possible setting and I'm burning up. "Some people run a bit hot," Schwarz explained. Yeah, that would be me. No surprise there.

Evans says she notices an increase in Kundalini energy in her root chakra. Chakra or no chakra, after 40 minutes in the steam, Evans' skin is positively glowing. She believes combining Kegel exercises during the treatment better enabled her to draw in the healing properties of the mugwort.

"Honey, I'm just so relaxed and I feel great," chirps Thomas, who looks as though she's in a state of complete bliss.

"In America there aren't many treatments you can do for uterine health," laments Schwarz. She personally believes the treatments helped her regulate her menstrual cycle and conceive her third baby when she was 45.

As of now, the treatment is geared for women but Schwarz so believes in the remedy that she is working with an herbalist to formulate four different treatments: one for overall cleansing and general health, one that is specialized for women who are trying to get pregnant, one for post-natal women to help with regulating hormones and lactation, and one for men, who may have problems with hemorrhoids, the prostate or may need anal cleansing.

The spa itself is a little hard to find — on the corner of Fourth and Broadway (where the old Burke Williams used to be) — but there's two hours free parking in the adjacent structure on Fourth. A phone outside allows you to be buzzed into a small vestibule, nothing but an elevator in front of you. Get in and hit the "down" button. Once you descend prepare to be transported. It's worth the hunting and pecking.

As for us gals, Evans got her period the next day, Thomas had the best sleep in her life, and me, well, I'm still hot, baby.

For more info: www.TikkunSpa.com.

news@smdp.com

GLOBES
FROM PAGE 3

tices so that their awards will have credibility," he said.

Although the show is a precursor to the Academy Awards, it has long been criticized for some of its nominations, which are perceived as a way to gain favor with top actors.

This year's show has been no different, with criticism of acting nominations for Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie for "The Tourist," a critical and commercial flop.

Still, the show has been known to boost the Oscar chances of some contenders and to be more unpredictable than other award shows.

Like many of the actors and actresses it spotlights, the Golden Globes has had its share of scandal.

In the late 1960s, the Federal Communications Commission questioned the authenticity of the voting process, and the show was knocked off the air for several years. The FCC cited the network for careless oversight in failing to verify the credentials of the voters and the secrecy of the results.

Russell's lawsuit notes another controversy that cast the Globes into relative obscurity for more than a decade.

In the early 1980s, the awards show lost its broadcast deal with CBS after its members were accused of receiving favors in exchange for giving actress Pia Zadora a newcomer award.

In 2008, the show was reduced to a press conference when actors refused to cross picket lines during the height of a Hollywood writers strike.

Since 1996, the ceremony has been broadcast by NBC, which Russell said was due in part to his work rebuilding the association's credibility. According to the lawsuit, the network has paid $12 million a year for the broadcast rights in a deal that expires after Sunday's show. The lawsuit claims a renewed license fee could jump to $26 million a year.

NBC declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The association currently has 90 members from six continents, far less than the roughly 6,000 voters who select Oscar winners.

HERO
FROM PAGE 1

Tse said she didn't hesitate. She sprang into action, grabbed the child, and using the CPR training she received at the Red Cross in her hometown of Camarillo, she turned Emilio over, checked his airway and then gave him a few back blows. She swiped his airway again with her finger and the boy began to cry.

A hard candy was found a few feet from Emilio, representatives with the Santa Monica Fire Department said. Apparently Emilio and his family were visiting from Mexico and had just eaten at a nearby restaurant.

Tse was recognized for her heroic actions Thursday by the SMFD during a promotion and recognition ceremony in the City Council Chambers. City Manager Rod Gould was in attendance, along with SMFD Chief Scott Ferguson, Police Chief Tim Jackman and several members of the fire and police departments, along with their families. Tse was the first recipient of the SMFD's Citizen Recognition Award, fire officials said. A handful of fire fighters also received promotions.

"Because of Elaine's swift action, Emilio didn't need additional care," said Fire Capt. Jeff Furrows. "You truly made a difference."

Tse said she was just doing what she thought was right and what her parents taught her to do, which was to help those in need.

But not everyone is like Tse, fire officials said, citing a study by the American Red Cross which showed that only 15 percent of those who were interviewed would step in and help someone in a critical condition.

"It takes an extraordinary person to step up and give aid to a stranger," Furrows said.

Lead Park Ranger Greg Marsh was the first to respond the day Tse stepped up. He praised Tse for her quick response, which he believes most likely saved Emilio.

"When it comes to a child choking, time is off the essence," said Marsh, who worked as a 911 dispatcher for Santa Monica before becoming a park ranger. "Seconds count. Imagine holding your breath for one minute, two minutes or three as people are running to get help."

Tse received a shiny gold medallion with the fire department's logo and a description of her good deed etched on the back. As she left City Hall Thursday with her son by her side, Tse said she was humbled to be recognized by the people who risk their lives to help others.

"I'm in awe of you and am honored to be a part of this," she said.

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SIGNS
FROM PAGE 1

"My whole life, I thought I was a Capricorn," the 25-year-old publicist said. "Now I'm a Sagittarius? I don't feel like a Sagittarius!" It felt, she said, like a rug had been pulled from under her feet.

"Will my personality change?" she mused. "Capricorns are diligent and regimented, and super-hard-working like me. Sagittarians are more laid back. This is all a little off-putting."

Countless people reacted on social networks Friday to the "news" that the stars have shifted alignment, astrologically speaking. No matter that the astronomy instructor who started it all in a weekend newspaper interview said it was an old story — very old; 2,000 years old, actually — and that astrologists were insisting it wouldn't change a thing. The story had traveled around the blogosphere like, well, a shooting star.

Some people seemed angry. "I believe it's a zodiac scam," said Jose Arce, a 38-year-old from Fort Lee, N.J., who runs a body shop. "I've known myself to be a Sagittarius, I believe, since I was born. So to come up now with some new sign? It's unacceptable!"

But others weren't so ready to curse the stars. Kathy Torpey always felt like she was "a Scorpio trapped in a Sagittarian body" — emotional and creative, she said, more than competitive and intellectual like Sagittarians.

So on Friday, even though she pays little heed to horoscopes, Torpey said she was thrilled to discover that she may have always been a Scorpio, after all.

"You have no idea what relief and joy I felt after hearing the wonderful news of the zodiac changes," wrote the 43-year-old mother of two from Willow Grove, Pa., in an e-mail, tongue-in-cheek to be sure. "Up until now, I felt like my whole life has been a lie!"

Astrologers across the country reported a wave of calls, e-mails or website hits from concerned clients. "People are more attached and loyal to their signs than they thought," said Eric Francis, editor of PlanetWaves.net, who said he had had 25,000 hits on his site since midnight. "It's interesting how many people are panicking their sign is wrong."

Astounded by all the kerfuffle was the man who started it, astronomy instructor Parke Kunkle.

In an interview Sunday in the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, Kunkle had explained that the Earth's wobbly orbit means it's no longer aligned to the stars in the same way as when the signs of the zodiac were first conceived, about 5,000 years ago. That means, Kunkle said, that when astrologers say the sun is in Pisces, it's really in Aquarius, and so on.

"Astronomers have known about this since about 130 B.C.," Kunkle told The Associated Press Friday in his office at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College, his phone ringing constantly, as it had since the article came out. (One person had even demanded: "Give me my sign back.")

"This is not new news. Almost every astronomy class talks about it."

New news or old, most people had never heard it before. And one of the more fascinating elements of the story was talk of a new sign altogether.

By the reckoning of Kunkle and other astronomers, astrologers are not only a month off in their zodiac signs, but they are neglecting a 13th constellation, Ophiuchus (Ooh-FEE-yew-kus) the Serpent Bearer, for those born from Nov. 30 to Dec. 17.

According to myth, Ophiuchus became a healer when he killed a snake and another appeared with an herb in his mouth that revived the dead one, said Amy Sayle, an astronomy educator at the Moorehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Mary-Iris Taylor, a writer in St. Louis, had seen the story of Kunkle's zodiac on TV, but on Friday, she read a link a friend had posted on Facebook and realized she was an Ophiuchus.

And what, she wondered, did that mean?

"I'd just like to know what I'm supposed to be like now," she said. "As a Sagittarius, I was supposed to be the life of the party — at least, that's what I wanted it to mean," she laughed. "Now what?"

According to many astrologists, she shouldn't worry.

Linda Zlotnick, an astrologer for 32 years in St. Paul, Minn., said she and fellow astrologers have long known of the issue raised by Kunkle, but that the most commonly used zodiac — tropical — isn't affected by it. Zlotnick said the sidereal zodiac, which isn't as widely used, IS based on the constellations.

Other astrologers expressed resentment that the brouhaha had been launched by an astronomer.

While astronomy is a science, astrology is not recognized as having any scientific basis. "This is an attempt to show ignorance on the part of astrologers," said Jim Sher, who runs an astrological institute in Los Angeles.

"We do know about this," he said of the planetary wobble. Added Craig Martin, another Los Angeles astrologer: "It's unlikely the astrology community is going to accept what an astronomer is trying to put on them."

A spokeswoman for the American Federation of Astrologers, Shelley Ackerman, said she'd been swamped with e-mails from worried clients. She advises them not to overreact.

"This doesn't change your chart at all. I'm not about to use it," she said. "Every few years a story like this comes out and scares the living daylights out of everyone, but it'll go away as quickly as it came."

That should make one demographic pretty happy — people who have zodiac tattoos.

Sam Bielinski, who owns Atomic Tattoos in Milwaukee, estimated that one in five customers asks for a zodiac tattoo, making the art among the most popular requests.

"I think most people are going to brush it off," he said of the new zodiac.

In that camp, for now, is Heather McGowan, a student from Winnipeg, Manitoba, who's had a red Aries symbol in a black maple leaf tattooed between her shoulders since she was 19.

"Go figure — seven years later there's a possibility that I am no longer an Aries," quipped McGowan, 26, though she said she remains unconvinced and hasn't considered getting rid of the tattoo.

One astrology follower said that in her native India the reaction may be stronger because astrology holds more importance there. Shirrin Kumana said her Indian friends, chatting on Facebook, had mixed emotions.

There was skepticism — and perhaps a little entrepreneurial practicality — at a spiritual bookstore on Philadelphia's South Street, Garland of Letters. Owner Candace Smith said she thought all the discussion over astrological signs would probably be good for business.

"Isn't it bizarre?" said Smith, who doesn't give out her sign. "I can't wait to talk to my astrologer. He must be going crazy."

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LA redevelopment agency allocates $930 million

BY JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The city redevelopment agency voted Friday to allocate $930 million for hundreds of projects before it is possibly dissolved under an austerity budget proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The funding for infrastructure, affordable housing and cultural facilities was expected to be generated by taxes from agency projects through the fiscal year ending in 2016.

Community Redevelopment Agency board chairman Kenneth Fearn said the hastily called vote was necessary after Brown proposed eliminating local redevelopment agencies and diverting the tax money to other uses.

Brown spokeswoman Elizabeth Ashford said in a statement that the governor's office hoped the agency was "going to spend this money now to create jobs for Californians during this difficult recession and they are not squirreling money away for an indefinite future when our schools, police and firefighters are in need of this funding."

The move by the redevelopment agency requires the approval of the Los Angeles City Council, since the city would receive the funds and complete the projects on behalf of the agency.

Ed Johnson, a spokesman for Councilman Herb Wesson, who chairs the council committee that would likely consider the proposal, had no immediate comment. Wesson and five other council members signed a resolution earlier this week in support of the redevelopment agency.

Redevelopment agency budgets come from retaining a portion of taxes generated by improvements within project areas. That money is then reinvested in other projects as long as officials can demonstrate the work is needed to counter blight.

Fearn said the Los Angeles agency needed to keep improving neighborhoods and boosting employment but feared the state would redirect the tax money to other parts of California.

"There's no means of assuring that the money gets returned to the city of Los Angeles" under Brown's proposal, Fearn said.

Brown has recommended using the tax money for police, fire, schools and other county and local services.

Agency staff had originally recommended that the board allocate $885 million at Friday's hearing, but commissioners added an additional $45 million during the meeting.

Tom Dresslar, a spokesman for California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, condemned the agency's actions in a statement as "needlessly provocative acts of gamesmanship that warp the status quo."

Calif. man used Facebook to hack women's e-mails

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. In a cautionary tale for users of social-networking sites, a California man has admitted using personal information he gleaned from Facebook to hack into women's e-mail accounts, then send nude pictures of them to everyone in their address book.

The California attorney general's office said Friday that George Bronk, 23, commandeered the e-mail accounts of dozens of women in the U.S. and England. He then scanned the women's "sent" folders for nude and seminude photos and videos, and forwarded any pictures he found to all their contacts, prosecutors said.

Bronk coerced one woman into sending him more explicit photographs by threatening to distribute the pictures he already had. One victim told authorities the intrusion felt like "virtual rape."

Bronk, who lives in the Sacramento suburb of Citrus Heights, pleaded guilty Thursday to seven felonies in Sacramento County Superior Court, including computer intrusion, false impersonation and possession of child pornography.

Prosecutors are seeking a six-year prison term when Bronk returns for a sentencing evaluation March 10.

His attorney, Monica Lynch of Roseville, called her client a "23-year-old boy going on 15."

"He's accepted full responsibility. It's a tragic situation," she said.

Lynch said she will argue for less than a six-year prison term.

Prosecutors said Bronk would scan women's Facebook accounts looking for those who posted their e-mail addresses. He would then study their Facebook postings to learn the answers to common security questions like their favorite color or father's middle name.

He contacted the women's e-mail providers and used the information to gain control of their accounts. He also often gained control of their Facebook accounts by hijacking their passwords, then posted compromising photographs on their Facebook pages and other Internet sites.

"This case highlights the fact that anyone with an e-mail account is vulnerable to identity theft," Attorney General Kamala Harris said in a statement announcing Bronk's guilty plea.

Investigators found 172 e-mail files containing explicit photographs of women when they searched Bronk's computer in September, according to a court affidavit. They were able to track his victims to England, Washington, D.C., and 17 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

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Plan set to end government involvement in AIG

BY PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The government will wind down its largest and most complex rescue from the 2008 financial crisis, a $182 billion package to save insurer AIG, by selling stock over the next two years. The plan could net taxpayers billions in profits.

American International Group Inc. paid its $21 billion outstanding balance to the New York branch of the Federal Reserve on Friday and converted preferred stock owned by the Treasury Department into more than 1.6 billion shares of common stock that can be sold on the open market.

The common stock gives the government a 92 percent ownership stake. The Treasury Department is expected to start selling its shares in March.

Converting the government's $47.5 billion investment in preferred shares into 1.6 billion common shares means the government paid about $30 for each share. AIG stock closed at $54 on Friday on the New York Stock Exchange. If it holds that value over the next two years, as the government unloads its shares, taxpayers would clear about $40 billion profit.

"We will work to make sure that the U.S. taxpayer will get back all of its money with a healthy profit," AIG CEO Robert Benmosche told The Associated Press in an interview.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a statement that the government "remains optimistic that taxpayers will get back every dollar of their investment in AIG."

The government came to the rescue of AIG in September 2008, at the depths of the financial meltdown. It did business with hundreds of firms around the world, and officials feared its collapse would wreck the financial system.

AIG became a symbol for excessive risk on Wall Street and a touchstone of public anger. It was criticized by some members of Congress for spending $440,000 on spa treatments for executives only days after it was bailed out.

The bailout, which included loans and federal guarantees, was the largest of a series of rescues announced during the stomach-churning weeks of the financial crisis in the fall of 2008.

Much of the $700 billion fund set up by the government to help wobbling banks, plus AIG, General Motors and Chrysler, was never disbursed. About $385 billion in cash had been handed out as of Sept. 30, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Almost $204 billion has been paid back to the government, and the fund has made $28 billion more on interest, dividends and profits on investments in companies like Citigroup. About $180 billion is outstanding, most of it with pieces of AIG, auto companies and small banks.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated in November, the fund, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, will wind up costing taxpayers $25 billion.

The government sold the last of its stake in Citigroup in December. The transaction was smaller, but similar in structure, to the unwinding of the federal stake in AIG: The government converted its investment into common stock and sold it publicly. The government owns about a third of the common stock of GM and is paring that down gradually as well.

Most of the large banks have repaid their bailout amounts in full.

AIG first announced its repayment plan in September. Since then, the company has worked to raise cash to pay back the government by selling parts of itself around the world.

On Thursday, it agreed to sell its 98 percent stake in Taiwan's third-largest insurance company. Before that, it took Asia's AIA Group life insurance company public, raising $20 billion. It raised $16 billion by selling American Life Insurance Co. to MetLife.

Poll: Certainty about equality unchanged since '06

BY ERRIN HAINES
Associated Press

ATLANTA Having a black president hasn't exactly led Americans to believe their country has moved closer to the ideal of racial equality preached by Martin Luther King Jr., according to a new poll.

The AP-GfK poll found 77 percent of people interviewed say there has been significant progress toward King's dream, about the same percentage as felt that way in 2006, before Obama was elected. Just more than one in five, 22 percent, say they feel there has been "no significant progress" toward that dream.

On Monday, the nation will mark the 25th anniversary of the federal observance of King's birthday. The civil rights icon would have been 82.

On the heels of the post-racial sentiment that swept Obama into office in 2008, critics have emerged questioning the president's U.S. citizenship, mocking his Kenyan heritage, and criticizing his stance on health care reform as socialist and costly. Some say Obama's efforts to unify Americans ring hollow in a nation that is palpably more partisan and divided since he became president two years ago.

"The exuberance and thrill of seeing an African American elected to the presidency has been tempered by the outrageous claims that we've heard about him," said William Jelani Cobb, a history professor at Rutgers University.

Real concerns that King fought for remain, even with a black president, he said.

The poll also reveals that more people plan to celebrate the federal holiday honoring King — 30 percent, compared to 23 percent who had such plans five years ago. That includes 46 percent of non-whites, 38 percent of college graduates, 36 percent who live in urban areas and 36 percent who attend religious services at least weekly, according to the poll.

Margaret Bertels, 58, a legal assistant from Berkeley, Calif., and a Democrat, said Obama's election was important symbolically. But in practical terms, she said, it has been difficult for the president himself to move the nation closer to King's dream.

"On the ground it has been a very hard situation for him to address," Bertels said.

Hugh Simpson, 57, of rural Butte Falls, Ore., who is white, said he will celebrate by flying his American flag and talking to his friends about King. He said he believes the country has clearly made progress since King's days, having elected a black president.

But he's not an Obama fan — he favors the tea party movement. In terms of racial equality, "I don't think we've had any great change in, like, two years," Simpson said.

Some communities in the South, including around Atlanta, where schools have been closed because of a snow and ice storm, have decided to make up one of the days on MLK Day, upsetting some African-American groups.

In 1994, Congress added community service as a focus of the federal holiday, and more than one million Americans are expected to participate in 13,000 projects around the country on the King Day of Service, said Patrick Corvington, head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency charged with administering service projects on the King holiday.

"The focus on service has allowed for a different kind of conversation about Dr. King and what he was about," Corvington said. "It allows all people to connect with Dr. King in different ways."

The new poll also shows most of the nation in support of the King holiday. Three-quarters of those surveyed this year say King's birthday should be so honored, with 84 percent of non-white respondents believing so, compared to 68 percent of white respondents. Younger adults are also more apt to feel the birthday deserves the honor, as 81 percent among those under 50 years old supported the holiday, compared to 66 percent among those 50 to 64 and 62 percent among seniors.

King is the only American who was not a U.S. president honored with a federal holiday.





Republicans ousts Steele, pick Priebus to head party

BY LIZ SIDOTI
AP National Political Writer

OXON HILL, Md. The national Republican Party, coming off huge election victories but facing a $22 million debt and an internal war over identity, ousted chairman Michael Steele Friday and chose Wisconsin party chief Reince Priebus to lead in the run-up to the 2012 presidential race.

The embattled Steele dropped his re-election bid halfway through an afternoon of balloting when it became clear he could not win another two-year term after a first marked by verbal missteps and financial woes.

"We have to get on track. And together we can defeat Barack Obama in 2012," Priebus, the chairman of the Wisconsin GOP, said in a brief victory speech, pleading for unity within the fractured 168-member Republican National Committee. "We all recognize that there's a steep hill here ahead of us, and the only way that we'll be able to move forward is if we're all together."

The new chairman's name is pronounced Ryns Pree'-bus.

A former top lieutenant to Steele, Priebus promised to hire top-notch staff, restructure the organization and put it on solid financial footing so the next GOP presidential nominee will be prepared to take on Obama. Later, he rejected suggestions the national party organization's power might have waned, given the proliferation of outside groups that have assumed campaign functions the party historically has performed.

"It's very relevant," he said.

For the next two years, Priebus will try to prove that.

Most urgently, the new chairman must retire an RNC debt of about $22 million owed to vendors and banks, as well as lure back demoralized donors who have been so frustrated with Steele's management that they sent their dollars elsewhere or didn't open their wallets at all last year. The party had only about $1 million cash on hand at year's end.

He'll also serve as the party top spokesman promoting its agenda, countering Democrats, raising money to help Republicans and improving a get-out-the-vote effort that critics say languished under Steele.

Additionally, Priebus will have to figure out how to navigate a GOP civil war in which conservatives and tea party disciples are trying to pull the Republican Party further to the right, to the chagrin of moderates and some longtime establishment leaders.

The favorite heading into Friday's balloting, Priebus led the field through seven rounds of voting. Steele quit after the fourth round. Ann Wagner, a former Missouri state GOP chair, abandoned her bid a few rounds later. Maria Cino, a New York native and a veteran party operative who served in President George W. Bush's administration, and Saul Anuzis, a former chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, stayed on the ballot until the end.

"Despite the noise, despite the difficulties, we won" in November, Steele said, noting huge gains that included the GOP taking control of the House. "We must go forward, and we must win. We fired (Nancy) Pelosi. Let's take the Senate. Let's take the White House."

It was a message Priebus echoed.

Virtually unknown nationally, the Wisconsin GOP chairman has a high profile in his home state.

He's an attorney with the law firm Michael Best & Friedrich, where he is a partner specializing in corporate litigation, according to the firm's website. State and federal campaign finance records show the Wisconsin Republican Party has paid the firm at least $89,572 in legal fees during Priebus' tenure as state GOP chairman.

Priebus' political statements have sometimes contrasted with the law firm's actions.

He has criticized Obama's multibillion-dollar economic stimulus package as a costly failure; Michael Best & Friedrich has helped clients try to win stimulus funds. Firm spokesman David Krutz said Friday that Priebus has had no role on the stimulus team.

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Guide to Starting a New Business

Forming a new business is a challenging and exciting process. Putting the time and effort into the formation process will help set the tone for a sustainable and prosperous business. Below is a brief list of some of the first steps you will need to take, from a legal perspective, in order to start off right.

CREATE YOUR BUSINESS PLAN
The first step in creating your new business is often to compile all of your ideas and goals into one comprehensive business plan. Your plan is a unique roadmap that will help guide you in forming and running your company during those first critical years. Sections that you may want to include are: the business purpose, marketing plan, an analysis of the competition, operating procedures, employment needs, insurance needs, financial data including a balance sheet, pro-forma income projection, and a three-year operating budget, and copies of all documents that you create during the start-up phase such as your licenses, articles of incorporation, and bylaws.

DEVELOP POLICIES
The beginning stage of any organization is a critical time to develop policies that the organization will utilize in its decision making process. Policies should include: conflict of interest, employment, director and officer compensation, ideological or social entrepreneurial values, organizational ownership and management.

INCORPORATE
The first step in this process is deciding upon a name for the business and performing a name availability search to ensure that the name is not already in use in the location where you will be operating. Secondly, the business will need to determine what type of entity to form – whether it's a corporation, LLC, PC, LLP, L3C, Benefit Corporation, sole proprietorship or partnership. Choosing the type of entity will depend upon the purpose of the organization and the tax and legal status of its owners and stakeholders. Once the entity type is chosen, the next step is to draft, ratify and file the appropriate documents with state and local agencies and draft either Bylaws or an Operating Agreement.

PROTECT YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
In a competitive world, it is important to assess whether it is necessary to protect your brand and products with trademarks, copyrights or patents. It is also important to ensure that your new business does not infringe upon other companies protected rights.

ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LAWS
Finally, your new business will need to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable laws including: employment, wage and hour laws, licensing requirements, zoning regulations, tax reporting and withholding laws.

At the law Office of Becki Kammerling, we can assist your business with every step of this process. Contact us through the Legal Grind to schedule a consultation.

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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5:00–6:00pm	Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling
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
5:00–6:00pm	(2nd & 4th Monday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
WEDNESDAY	
5:30-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields
THURSDAY	
1:00-3:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2st & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

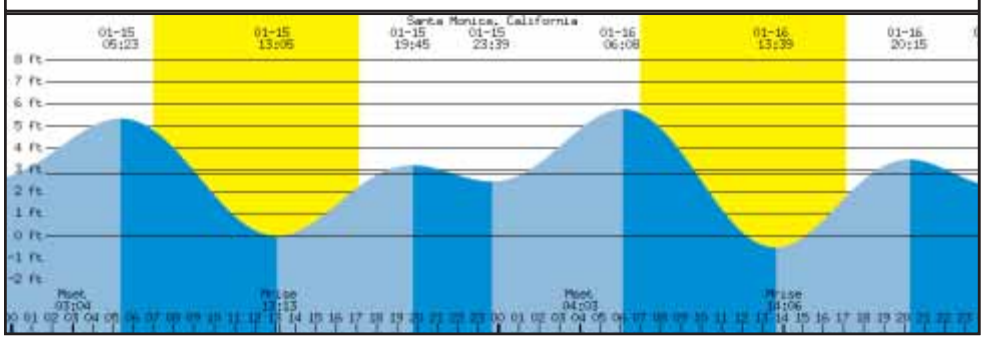
Swell Forecast

Should see an increase in WNW swell, bringing west facing breaks into chest to head high surf.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a slight decline, more along the lines of chest high at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 12, 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 -- 20
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 11
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 32

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+	C
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa 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+	F
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+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	C
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	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+	D

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

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.

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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NCAA FOOTBALL

USC WR Collier leaves Trojans, but WR Ambles stays

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Southern California receiver Markeith Ambles has reconsidered his plan to transfer, deciding to stay with the Trojans.

Receiver Thearon Collier also announced Friday he's leaving USC after a few months on campus. The Miami transfer never played for the Trojans.

Ambles caught just one pass during his freshman season at USC, and the Georgia native said last fall he planned to leave the program. Coach Lane Kiffin says Ambles changed his mind during the Christmas break.

Collier transferred to USC last August after two seasons with the Hurricanes. He sat out last season under NCAA rules.

With Collier's departure and tight end Blake Ayles' recent announcement of plans to transfer to Miami, the Trojans have just 59 scholarship players.

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Comes to Your Door

On February 1, 2011, the City of Santa Monica will launch the **Household Hazardous Waste Door-to-Door Collection Pilot Program**, a pick-up system where the "Haz Mat" technicians come to you. The goal is to expand levels of service for residents while reducing costs. The service will be provided on a free and unlimited basis to home owners and renters alike.

Also, beginning February 1, 2011, the **Household Hazardous Waste Center** will be available for drop-off service on **SATURDAYS ONLY**. If the pilot program is successful, the city will transition to a permanent pick-up system in June 2011.

The new service is provided in a few easy steps:

1. Reserve collection service: call **1 (800) HHW-PKUP** (1.800.449.7587), Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; or e-mail **hotline@curbsideinc.com**;
2. Receive collection kit in the mail (includes detailed instructions with collection day reminder);
3. Prepare collection kit at your doorstep or at a predetermined location on collection day;
4. Leave prepared materials and we'll do the rest.

For additional information or feedback please visit www.sustainablesm.org/hhw or call (310) 458-2213.

The door-to-door collection program is managed by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and WM Curbside, LLC

City of Santa Monica
sustainablesm.org
City of Santa Monica



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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Jan. 15
West Side Story (NR) 2hr 31min
7:30pm

Sunday, Jan. 16
Double Feature
The Red Balloon (NR) 34min
White Mane (NR) 40min
4:00pm

Call theater for more information.

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

Somewhere (R) 1hr 38min
12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 4:10pm, 9:20pm

Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG) 1hr 25min
1:55pm, 7:00pm

Dilemma (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

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

Little Fockers (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:10am, 1:50pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
10:30am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:40pm

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Dilemma (PG-13) 1hr 58min
10:15am, 1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:05pm

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

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

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

Concert (Le concert) (PG-13) 2hrs
1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:00pm

King's Speech (R) 1 hour 58 min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:30pm, 9:50pm

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

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Dogtooth (Kynodontas) (NR) 1hr 34min
11:00am

Nora's Will (Cinco dias sin Nora) (NR) 1hr 32min
11:00am

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

Queen of the Lot (R) 1hr 54min
11:00am

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

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

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:35pm

Season of the Witch (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm, 10:15pm

Yogi Bear (PG) 1hr 22min
11:20am, 1:45pm

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

You are the party, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Finally, you experience a day without obligations. Why not go out? Visit with a neighbor or a missed friend. You find out how sorely missed you were, too. Take off for a movie, flea market or whatever makes you happy. Tonight: Dinner and visiting with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might notice that you are tired and on a slow downhill slump. You do for everyone else, why not do for you? Schedule a massage, take a snooze or just become a couch potato. The theme is "indulge yourself." News from a distance causes reflection. Tonight: Continue the take-care-of-me theme.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You see many people and situations differently. Your ability to flex and empathize helps you walk in another person's shoes. You could feel slightly ill at ease with another person. Don't worry, as you will figure this issue out soon enough. Tonight: All grins.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Step back out of the limelight for a while. Much-needed personal time might be necessary. A partner could be extremely difficult and touchy. You know what needs to be done, but you want to be in agreement with this person. Give the situation space. Tonight: Not to be found.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You are like coffee percolating. You have lots of energy, but your direction might be unclear. Make plans to join friends for racquetball or some other favorite pastime. Take advantage of the weekend and more free time for people in general. Tonight: You are the party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Check in with an older friend or relative. You can be sure someone needs an extra push. You are more in tune with the possibilities, especially as you have an excess of energy. Use it well, understanding you, too, have limits. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for a loved one at a distance. You could be tired and exhausted, more than you are aware. Detach, and you might recharge. You know best what form of relaxation works for you. Tonight: Let your mind roam. Go for something different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Deal with others on a one-on-one level. Make time for a special person; nothing replaces your attention. Be willing to change plans at the drop of a hat. Make yourself available. Tonight: Chat over a cozy dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen to what is being shared. You might learn a lot. Don't respond immediately. Give yourself time to mull over what you hear. Your sense of humor saves the day in a heavy conversation. Tonight: Avoid overindulging.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Finally, you have some time. Invite a loved one along, only if you want to. Question a need to drop some cold water on another person. You want this person to be realistic. This might or might not work. Tonight: Slow down, if you are tired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Mars, the planet of energy, enters your sign. Get ready, world, as you become a ball of fire. You could become a terror if you are frustrated. The damages might not be reversible. Use care. Tonight: Be naughty, as only you can be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Imagine what it is like to spend an easy day without pressure. Do you like the idea? Then make it so. You alone can create this type of happening. Whatever you decide, choose your company with care. Tonight: Play it low-key.

Happy birthday

This year, you move in a new direction because you feel more innovative. You also will want to spend more money on yourself, and you probably need to. Don't avoid the doctor or certain necessities that make you feel better. Often, misunderstandings start out of nowhere. Be willing to confirm what you hear, as well as meetings. If you are single, you meet people when you least anticipate it. Summer 2011 looks unusually productive. If you are attached, the two of you could see a lifetime goal realized this year. GEMINI offers different talents but can work well with you.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

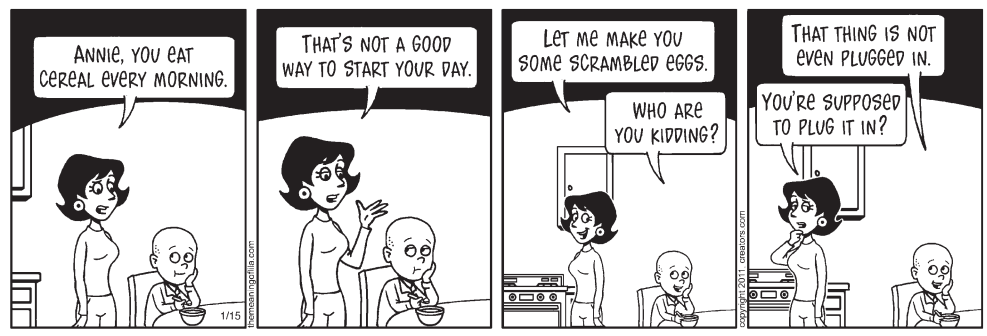
Garfield

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 ★★★★

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

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

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



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Tasty bit
7 Casual eatery
11 Source of answers
12 Egg outline
13 Punctual
14 — avis
15 Derby prize
16 Jack of rhyme
17 School on the Thames
18 Live
19 Action star Jackie
21 Scoundrel
22 "Fine!"
25 Family
26 Skin feature
27 Football team
29 Mariners
33 Tartan pattern
34 Hardware item
35 Ocean motion
36 Boss
37 Fresh
38 Charm
39 Turner and Danson
40 Plains homes

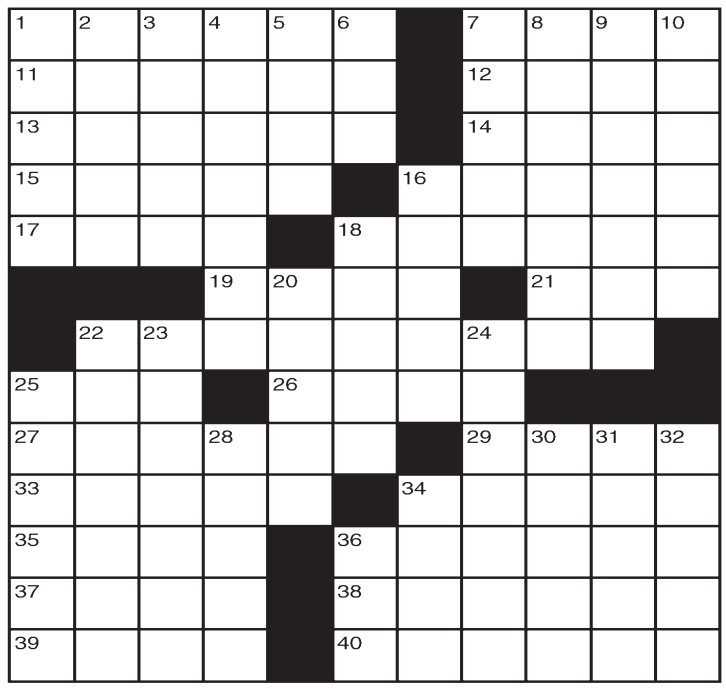
DOWN

1 Sculptor Henry
2 "Believe it —!"
3 Role for Dustin
4 School subject
5 Avenue liners
6 Grant's rival
7 Ballet company
8 Greed
9 Electro-magnet-ism pioneer
10 On cloud nine
16 Man of Madrid
18 Densest gas
20 Promoted
22 Engine hose
23 Worked dough
24 Burger topper
25 Didn't give up on
28 Beholds
30 As — (generally)
31 Cath-erine's "Chicago" co-star
32 Smacks
34 Identical
36 Krazy —

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-15

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

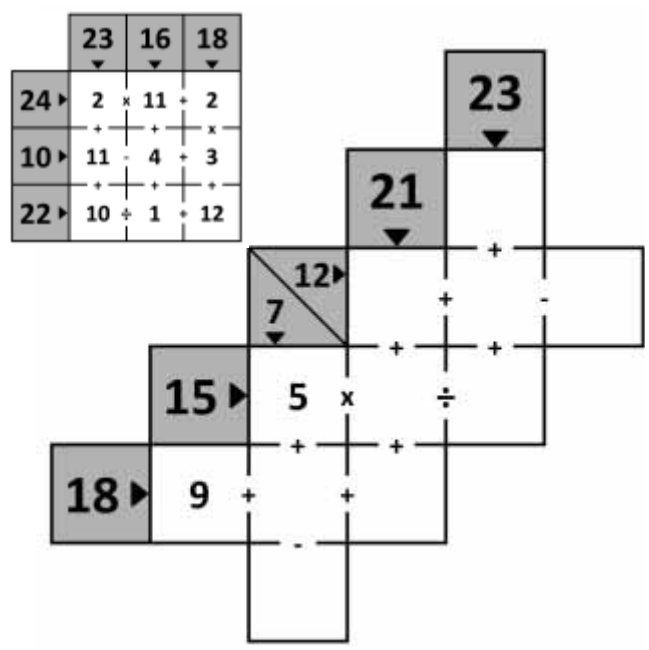
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

1, 3, 6, 8, 8, 9, 9, 11, 11

Solution for Task 1226



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 4 11 16 45 Meganumber: 37 Jackpot: $30M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 11 21 26 27 44 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: $32M

Fantasy 5: 6 9 12 14 27

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 1 9 EVENING: 9 9 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot 2nd: 01 Gold Rush 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:41.95

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

■ Thank Goodness for Narcissists: (1) Murder suspect Earle Barranco, 24, was arrested in Charlotte, N.C., in November, three weeks after allegedly killing a man in a New York City diner. Barranco was spotted at a Charlotte Bobcats basketball game, mugging for the arena's JumboTron while decked out in the distinctive jewelry he wore during the alleged murder. At the next Bobcats game a few days later, with police monitoring that same seat, Barranco was arrested. (2) Dennis Davis, 40, and his wife were convicted in October in Britain's Staines Magistrates' Court of manufacturing a line of pirated music CDs. Davis initially denied ownership of the pirated stash but was unable to explain why the CDs bore his company's label with his own photo on it.

■ In August (2001), Naples (Fla.) City Councilman Fred Tarrant demanded that local artist Ted Lay's "Famous Tongue Mona Al Monica" painting (side-by-side impressions of Mona Lisa, Albert Einstein and Monica Lewinsky sticking their tongues out) be removed from its place at a Naples municipal art center because he thinks Lewinsky's "tongue" too much resembled a penis (which Lay denied). According to a Naples Daily News report, Tarrant is in fact blind but said various "advisers" assured him that the tongue resembled a penis.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1493 Christopher Columbus sets sail for Spain from Hispaniola, ending his first voyage to the New World.

1559 Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey, London.

1582 Russia cedes Livonia and Estonia to the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1759 The British Museum opens.

1777 American Revolutionary War: New Connecticut (present day Vermont) declares its independence.

1782 Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris goes before the U.S. Congress to recommend establishment of a national mint and decimal coinage.

WORD UP!

klatsch \ KLAHCH \ , noun;

1. A casual gathering of people, esp. for refreshments and informal conversation.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Rent
- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
- Yard Sales
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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

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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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101865453 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/16/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BENU. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: KERRY GRIMES 612 PACIFIC ST #1 SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. 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/:KERRY GRIMES; PRINCIPAL . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/16/2010. 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 01/15/2011, 01/22/2011, 01/29/2011, 02/05/2011.

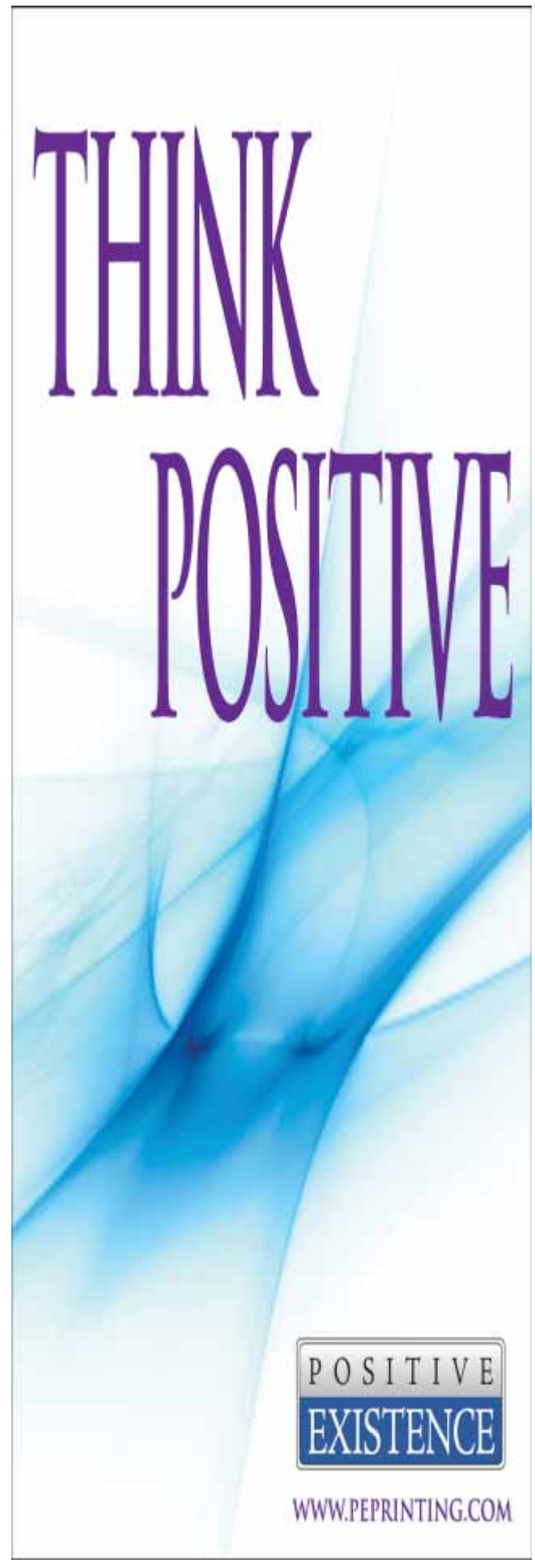


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