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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

Volume 9 Issue 60



MR. POPULARITY
SEE PAGE 11

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE SO LONG, LAMONT ISSUE

Council tackles leaf blowers, food trucks

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City Council on Tuesday decided it will consider changing its stance on leaf blowers and gourmet food trucks, but gave few details about potential new ordinances on either topic.

All types of mechanical leaf blowers, whether gas-powered or electric, will remain illegal in Santa Monica, but the council will look at the possibility of shifting fines for violations from gardeners who use the machines to property owners who allow them to be used on their lawns.

Though leaf blowers have been banned since the 1990s, the Santa Monica Police Department has admitted that the use of leaf blowers remains widespread because of difficulties enforcing the ban.

The council voted 4-1 to begin drafting a revamped leaf blower ordinance, but several council members raised concerns about the possible change.

The proposal before the council was to draft an ordinance that would shift fines to homeowners and move enforcement responsibility from the police to City Hall's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. It would cost an additional $50,000 a year for that office to enforce an updated ordinance.

Before the vote, however, Councilman Kevin McKeown, who had placed the item on the agenda, broadened his motion to ask staff to look into other potential fixes as well.

Another idea that was discussed involved providing contracts explaining the leaf blower ban that homeowners could require gardeners to sign.

Though Councilman Richard Bloom voted to look into changing the leaf blower ordinance, he said he's undecided about how the updated ordinance should look.

"I'm not convinced that this fairly dra-

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 9



TEST TIME

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Environmental scientist Michael W. O'Hearn from AEI-CASC Consulting collects storm water quality samples along Pacific Coast Highway on Wednesday afternoon.

All good things must end in time

Praised for healing fractured relationships, City Manager Lamont Ewell steps down

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL When he puts the last box of personal items in his car today and hands over the keys to City Hall to his successor, outgoing City Manager Lamont Ewell will take comfort in knowing that his 34 years of public service are ending on a high note.

Ewell, 56, is retiring after nearly four years as Santa Monica's top administrator, earning praise from both residents and the business community for being a conscientious, compassionate and considerate leader who was always willing to collaborate. He will be replaced by Rod Gould, formerly the city manager of Poway, Calif.

During his tenure, Ewell completed an extensive reorganization of City Hall and focused on improving customer service, all the while giving credit to city staff. Almost $300 million worth of redevelopment projects are now in progress and the path to the completion of the MTBE water treatment plant is firmly set and progress is being made on the California Incline and Palisades Bluff stabilization projects.

Ewell also appointed several new department heads during his tenure.

"He's going to be an extremely hard act to follow," said attorney Tom Larmore, former chairman of the board for the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, who remembers when the relationship between City Hall and local merchants was strained.

"I think he improved substantially City Hall's relationships with not only the chamber, but [Santa Monica College] and the school district," Larmore said. "He works well with all of these people. I think in retrospect we will realize we owe a lot to him, particularly since he managed the city in difficult economic times."

In an interview with the Daily Press Wednesday, Ewell talked about his accomplishments and his failures, expressed his love for Santa Monica and the people he worked with, both within and outside City Hall.

"I have stated this repeatedly because it is

SEE EWELL PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

State of the City
Broad Stage
1310 11th St.,
Find out what direction Santa Monica is headed at this yearly event. Speakers will address some of the pressing issues facing the city. Tickets range from $40 to $60.

Hayden speaks
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 7 p.m.
Tom Hayden, Santa Monica's former state assemblyman, state senator, author, lecturer and activist will discuss his recent book, "The Long Sixties: From 1960 to Barack Obama."

Opera at the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Come enjoy presentations about five upcoming operas and a behind the scenes peek before heading out to see them. For more information, call (310) 458-8600. This event takes place every third Thursday of each month through May.

Dog Town's evolution
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
The California Heritage Museum is proud to present "Skateboard: Evolution and Art in California. Guest curated by legendary Z-boy Nathan Pratt in conjunction with museum staff curator Michael Trotter and advisory committee members Jeff Ho, Skip Engblom (Zephyr co-founders), Cris Dawson (1966 Hobie Champ), Z-Boys Tony Alva and Stacy Peralta, and 1980's world champion Christian Hosoi, the exhibition traces the evolution of boards from pre-1950 to the present showcasing the riders, designers, artists, and manufacturers that created the California phenomenon known as the skateboard. This is the first exhibition of the California skate movement to be shown in "Dog Town," the Santa Monica/Ocean Park area where modern skateboarding was born and the skate became an art form. For more information call (310) 586-6488.

Friday, Jan. 15, 2010

Mariachi and dinner
El Texate Restaurant
316 Pico Blvd.
Mariachi Alta California fills the air with the sounds of Mexico every Friday night. Show times are 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Ice skating by the beach
Arizona Avenue at Fifth Street
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — and create new ones — as you slice through the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer and balmy ocean breezes. The ice rink will remain open through January. Admission is $10 and includes skate rental. The rink is periodically cleared for short periods to groom the ice. If raining, the rink will remain open in light rain or drizzle conditions, closing only for heavy downpours. For more information go to www.downtownsm.com.

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





IN SEARCH OF ...

Photo courtesy Stiv Wilson

Local environmental activists Anna Cummins and husband Marcus Eriksen are in the middle of conducting the first global study of plastic ocean pollution and so far have found plastic debris in every single surface sample on the first leg of their voyage, which brought the Santa Monica residents to Bermuda Monday. Sailing some 900 miles from St. Thomas to Bermuda in the remote middle of the Atlantic Ocean, they found plastic trash wherever they dropped their trawl. 'I've never seen anything like the plastic on the beaches here. They're just covered with plastic. It's much worse than the beaches in California,' Cummins said. This debris, Cummins said, was carried by the Gulf Stream and started its life as plastic discarded by people on the East Coast.

Candidate seeks 'no jet pledge' at SMO from area celebrities

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO For years, activists concerned about pollution they say is generated by planes and jets flying in and out of Santa Monica Airport have asked the government to take action.

Now, a congressional candidate is taking the plea for cleaner air near SMO to a more personal level.

This week, Marcy Winograd, a Democrat who is running for Congress in the 36th District, now represented by Jane Harman, sent a letter asking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and other celebrities asking them to stop using SMO for private jet flights.

"The health and well being of people in West L.A. should take precedence over convenience," she said.

The letter seeking a "no jet pledge" at SMO also went to Steven Spielberg, Julia Roberts, John Travolta and Tom Cruise, all of whom reportedly use the airport, Winograd said.

She said she isn't suggesting the celebrities forego private jets, just that they land at another airport, such as Van Nuys, with a larger buffer between runways and residential areas.

Winograd said she had the idea after attending a forum this month where researchers discussed studies that detected high levels of ultra-fine particles in the air near SMO.

"I don't know of any organized efforts to reach out to the people who are actually using these jets so I thought it's certainly worth a try," she said.

The City Council on Tuesday took a step toward supporting a broader governmental response to concerns about pollution caused by private jets, directing staff to lobby other regulatory agencies to work on the issue. No federal standards exist for regulating ultra-fine particles, in part because there hasn't yet been a definitive study to determine the particles' toxicity.

Reached on Wednesday, Schwarzenegger's press secretary, Aaron Mclear, declined to discuss the governor's air travel arrangements and said he was unaware of Winograd's letter.

"We never talk about the governor's movements for security reasons," he said.

SEE **PLEDGE** PAGE 9

Running for Haiti

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM BEACH Actor Josh Duhamel, who has a long history of supporting the Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross, is hosting a short run for youth this Saturday to raise funds for those affected by the magnitude 7.0 earthquake the devastated Haiti.

Duhamel, who starred in "Transformers" and the television show "Las Vegas," is asking children of all ages to participate in the "Youth Run for Haitian Earthquake Relief" fundraiser, which will take place Saturday morning at 9 a.m., rain or shine.

"There will be no prizes, no winner or losers — just the sheer joy of running and knowing that you're also helping vital Red Cross earthquake relief efforts in Haiti," Duhamel, 37, said.

Those who register for the run are encouraged to donate $10, which will go entirely to relief efforts in Haiti, organizers said. The run will begin at 10 a.m. Participants will run on the beach north to the Santa Monica Pier, where they will turn around and head back to the starting point at the 2600 Barnard Way beach lot. The run will cover roughly 2 miles.

"We are gratified that our friend and long-time Red Cross supporter Josh Duhamel has taken this event on to help raise money for the relief efforts in Haiti," said Santa Monica chapter Executive Director John Pacheco.

Duhamel, who is married to actress and singer Stacy Ferguson, also known as Fergie, will be promoting the run on the Jay Leno Show and the KTLA Morning Show on Friday. Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol" fame will also be reporting on the run on his nationally syndicated radio show heard locally on 102.7 KIIS-FM.

Duhamel, who is committed to fighting childhood obesity, said some of his celebrity friends will also be on hand to help with the run.

Information about Red Cross Haitian relief efforts can be found on the chapter's Web site, www.redcrossofsantamonica.org and on Duhamel's Web site, kidsrunnin4haiti.ning.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Think Haiti, not pigeons

Editor:

As a lifelong resident of Santa Monica, minus the few months it took my parents to drive from Texas to California, I have witnessed many changes. There is one thing that has not changed and that is pigeons. I have never felt the need to respond to the Letters to the Editor, but we all have our tipping point and mine is the letter from Marilyn Brennan crucifying the City Council for their efforts to reduce the pollution in the bay by preventing pigeons from nesting under Santa Monica Pier. Most of the letters I read range from informative to right up there with News of the Weird and the latter is where I would place Ms. Brennan's latest salvo.

To use the word "indigenous" to describe pigeons is to insult truly indigenous populations such as Native Americans, Maoris and Inuits. To then anthropomorphize these nuisances as they "struggle to feed their babies" is to trivialize the suffering that is going on right now in Haiti. If Ms. Brennan has all this spare time to moan over the fate of the pigeons, how better to use that energy than to e-mail a donation to Operation USA or Doctors Without Borders. Real parents there are trying to rescue their children from collapsed buildings; real parents are mourning their dead babies.

I have two words for Ms. Brennan: Get real! You are talking about feathered rats that are programmed to feed their offspring, nothing more. They will continue to breed and pollute. Apologize to the City Council and the people of Haiti.

Ruth Mount
Santa Monica



Life Matters



JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dealing with men who are down in the dumps is tough

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

My family is very worried about my brother. Over the past year he has become increasingly sullen, moody, irritable and difficult to get along with. He is very successful in his career and he is also the oldest child, which seems to contribute to his attitude of "you can't tell me anything." His wife is getting kind of fed up and frankly, we don't understand how this change in him — he is almost like a stranger — could keep from interfering with his job performance. We think he is depressed, but he insists that he is not. Is it possible that he is depressed and how can we tell for sure and how can we tell him?

Signed,
Worried

DEAR WORRIED,

Depression is absolutely a possibility, in fact it sounds like a pretty good hunch on your part. The fact that he denies it means nothing and actually is fairly common among men. In our society, men tend to think they are not real men, that they are somehow weak, if they admit to the feelings or symptoms that go along with depression such as hopelessness, feeling overwhelmed or inadequate, exhaustion, sadness, moodiness, or not being able to take care of oneself.

Depression can take on many forms but there are two that I want to highlight. In the mental health field we refer to these as retarded depression or agitated depression. The first is evidenced by someone being slowed down, sad, tired, and weepy and actually, more obviously depressed. The agitated type shows up as agitation, irritability, short-tempered, difficult. Unfortunately, it is the type we are least sympathetic to and it can be the most dangerous. These are the folks that can put their foot to the pedal and drive off a cliff.

An agitated depression often causes others to get fed up and walk away from the person they once loved, or admired or worked so well with. You have good reason to worry about your brother because many men simply will not admit to this and they stand a four times greater chance of committing suicide. Depression is also linked to heart attacks, strokes and other serious medical problems. Men are more likely to try to mask their problem with alcohol, drugs or other addictive behavior that becomes a distraction and makes them feel better temporarily, but can lead to dire consequences.

Women are much more likely to discuss their depressed feelings openly. Unfortunately, we have come to accept depression in women and actually for hundreds of years, depression was thought of as a woman's disease. It was literally thought to be connected to the hormonal problems that women can experience along with their menstrual periods or menopause.

We now know that depression exists in the brain, whether it started there or not. It is not something one chooses to have; it is actually very painful. This is not to say that we do not make our own choices along the way that may lead us into a depression, we do. Anger turned inward is a major cause of depression. But by the time you have these symptoms and it becomes unbearable to you or those around you, it is in the brain.

Fortunately, there are many excellent treatments now and new ones coming all the time. Neuroscience has shown that certain types of talk therapy can actually change depression in the brain and there is also an array of good medication. The problem is in getting someone to admit to depression and seek the help that they need. It can be difficult for anyone to admit to; we are a society that likes to think we can control just about anything.

If you are a guy who is feeling irritable, becomes easily frustrated over small things, finds yourself screaming at people you care about and you simply do not feel good, be courageous and take charge of your life now. Get the help you need. Talk to your doctor or call a mental health professional. Go online and find out about depression; it really can happen to anyone, a man or a woman.

For men who just cannot seem to do it, maybe their wives, sisters or relatives will have to start the process. Worried, you and your family can see a professional to help you find the best way to approach your brother, if he can't do it. Usually, it is worth the effort.

Good Luck!

DR. BARGE is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Please send your questions to newshrink.com. All questions will be kept strictly anonymous and confidential. Let us help you with your life matters.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Frequent flyer trials and tribulations

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE: those who have kids and those who don't. (There are also those with no kids who have dogs, and oftentimes they fall into the first category by default. People with cats are on their own.)

I never thought much about the distinction between the two until earlier this month when it took a village to raise my child. Thankfully, the people in my village all fell into the first category.

My daughter and I were in New York seeing family when she fell grossly ill with a stomach virus. It started the second night of our visit at around 2 a.m. when she projected everything that's ever been in her stomach (ever) on to me while we shared a twin bed (she had made it abundantly clear a few hours earlier she wouldn't sleep in the Pack 'n' Play at Grandma and Pop Pop's house). I tried my best to simultaneously tend to her and deal with the mess, but ultimately, it was a job for a real mom — namely, mine.

When I woke her up and relayed the sordid details, my mom swiftly, silently and sympathetically went to work clearing the mattress pad and pillowcases, laundering the soiled sheets and offering blankets fresh from the dryer as well as more sympathy.

A few days later when my daughter was still stick, it was all hands on deck. My dad went to the store to buy bananas and Imodium and then called the pharmacist for advice on how to get the baby to not throw up the Imodium for a fourth time. My mom mopped and sanitized the kitchen after each failed Imodium attempt. My sister offered advice that rivaled that of the pediatrician (perhaps making my sister the only attorney in history who spends more time practicing medicine than she ever did law).

My parents probably thought they were done with sick kids when I left for college (or at least after I graduated from college or at the very least after I moved out of the state). My sister probably thought her role of caretaker stopped at her three kids (and her husband). But everyone pulled together for my daughter, making our village a busy one. It was sort of like how I imagine Disney's Celebration Village in Florida, only with fewer Mickey Mouse ears and more diarrhea.

I thought back to the flight on the way to New York when two kids got sick on the plane.

"I'm so glad those aren't my kids," I thought, looking with pity at their parents, and with even more pity at the people in their rows who were not their parents.

So it was with that in mind — and the fact that my dad, sister, youngest niece and I (and a few days later, my mom and husband) had come down with versions of the same rotavirus — that we took the pediatrician at her word when she said the virus was extremely contagious and called upon a Frontier Airlines customer service agent to try and delay our flight out west for a few days.

"Your ticket was paid for with frequent flier miles," said Frontier supervisor Britney (who, like Cher, apparently has no last name), icicles dripping from her voice. "The only availability on flights for this week is for people with cash tickets. The next time we have an awards seat available is 10 days from now. Those are the rules."

"OK, then forgetting that the idea of a sick baby on a plane seems borderline cruel — what about your other passengers? The baby has a very contagious virus, and since you actually have room on flights before next week, is there any way you can make an exception for the sake of the other passengers?" we asked politely.

"We have rules," Britney repeated matter-of-factly. It became clear to me at that moment that people who work at Frontier Airlines don't have kids. It might actually be another one of their rules.

So we woke up early the next morning, my daughter eerily listless, and left the comfort of our little village for the Frontier "No Child Left Behind if The Ticket Was Paid for with Miles" Airlines flight. The plane landed an hour early, which would have been ideal any other day except it added an extra hour to our already four-hour layover. My baby was still showing signs of dehydration when I made it over to the Frontier customer service desk in the Denver airport and pleaded softly with the woman behind the counter to help get us on an earlier flight on another airline so we could get home and, if necessary, to a doctor or hospital.

"Your ticket is worth nothing because it's an awards ticket," the lady behind the counter said, barely peering at me over the rim of her glasses. "There's nothing that can be done. Those are our rules."

Our village has rules now, too. Actually, it's only one rule, just two words long, and really, it's more of a mantra. Both words in the mantra start with the letter F. The second word is Frontier. Did I mention the first word starts with the letter F?

More on and from **MEREDITH** at www.MeredithCarroll.com.

The Q Line

Money for schools

The SMMUSD's Board of Education recently agreed to place an emergency parcel tax on the ballot. This issue is sure to divide the local electorate. Some are no doubt willing to pay more for education while others feel that taxpayers are overburdened as it is.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What's your opinion of the proposed tax?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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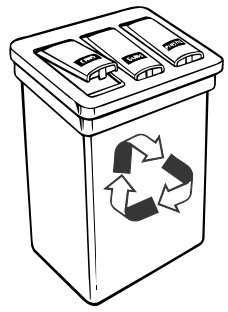
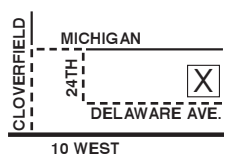
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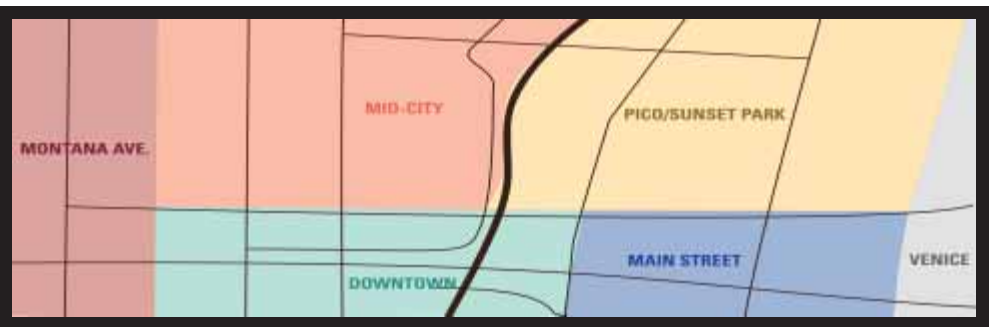
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Real Food Daily 514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
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Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd.	(310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-1595
Le Marmiton 4724 Admiralty Way	(310) 773-3560
Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd	(310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-4534
Tsuji No Hana 4714 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 827-1433
The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5451

121: time to see LOL: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BCNU: be seen BF: **boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CB: crying in disgrace CMP: continued (in my next post) CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSL: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIIK: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DUNNE: don't quote me on this EE: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FF: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FITWITN: for more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GHWST: gee, I wish I'd said that GIWIM: giggling my whole self GMTA: great minds think alike GNL: giggling not loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you HAK: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHO: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IMA: I hate acronyms IMC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IRL: in real life IWALI: I will always love you ITRMM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMA: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LAB: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMCK: laughing my cocks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOOS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MOSS: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NANI: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJI: pardon me for jumping in but PNWF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now SAL: spam for life SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SMH: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOHF: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STW: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter TTFN: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TGIF: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TLLK: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TTFN: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UW: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIIFM: wouldn't it be nice if **WIIIFY: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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Ewell regrets handling of ficus fiasco

FROM EWELL PAGE 1

true," Ewell said. "I have not seen a group of city employees equal to the ones here and I think that I am in a good position to make that statement. I've worked in five other municipalities and one county and I've not seen any that equal the caliber of employees here. I will miss them most."

A dedicated public servant, Ewell, who started off as a firefighter in Compton, was hard at work in the days before his retirement, preparing a budget plan for Gould to give him some breathing room while sitting in on negotiations with SMC for a land swap to allow City Hall to build a buffer adjacent to a proposed light rail maintenance yard off Exposition Boulevard and Stewart Street. He plans to spend today attending the chamber's State of the City breakfast and then he will take his support staff out to lunch before heading home. He promises to still be available if Gould needs to pick his brain.

"This really was the pinnacle of my entire career," Ewell said of working for Santa Monica. "I've never met a community more gracious, more engaged … . This was a great way to cap off my career."

There is some unfinished business, mainly the negotiations with the Broad Foundations to create a museum in the Civic Center to showcase Eli Broad's extensive art collection. Ewell said he wishes he had more time to "help make that a reality," but he is confident Broad will chose Santa Monica over competing cities and that the council next month will vote in favor of a deal. Ewell spoke with Broad Tuesday, the philanthropist wishing him well.

"I told him that I am optimistic and that two years from now I will come back to the city and attend the ribbon cutting," he said.

Ewell said there is no substance to a rumor that he would be working for the Broad's as a consultant. He does not plan to do anything for the next six months but spend time with his family and travel. His daughter recently gave birth to her second son. He and his wife already have plans to visit Arizona for spring training, tracking his favorite Major League Baseball teams, including the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants.

If he does go back to work, Ewell said he would like to help President Obama "in some small way." Ewell is extremely concerned about health care and the war in Iraq given that his son is stationed there.

Most likely through, Ewell said he will try to find opportunities to work as a volunteer.

He's definitely looking forward to enjoying Santa Monica now that he is not a public figure. In the nearly four years he's been here, Ewell said he has never been to the beach, aside from ribbon cuttings and other ceremonies. He and his wife would like to dine out more and attend performances at Santa Monica College's Broad Stage.

"Quite frankly, I'm looking forward to having a beer," said Ewell, who never felt comfortable cutting lose as the city's top administrator.

Looking back, Ewell believes his greatest accomplishments are building stronger relationships with various stakeholders "so that we are working together to help move this city forward," pushing through redevelopment projects and instituting a new customer service initiative dubbed "Doing The Right Thing Right!"

He does regret not being able to find a different approach to the ficus tree debate in Downtown. Environmentalists and business interests clashed over a proposal to chop down dozens of ficus trees along Second and Fourth streets. Those critical of Ewell said the ficus issue is what turned them, claiming Ewell was in the pocket of the business community. Eventually 23 structurally-deficient trees were removed.



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

MAN ON THE JOB: **City Manager Lamont Ewell discusses the 2009 budget during Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's 'State of the City II: Economic Outlook' last year.**

"He could have made a difference in how that matter was handled, but instead didn't rise to the occasion," said Susan Hartley, a co-founder of Santa Monica Treesavers. "After all, it was business v. residents and he was 100 percent for business."

Ewell said he understood the Treesavers' passion and the need to protect healthy trees, but he had to balance that with public safety and concerns that the damaged trees posed a danger to pedestrians because of falling limbs and roots protruding from the sidewalk.

"I don't think I articulated those concerns very well," Ewell said. "I wish I could unring the bell and start over again, bring the Treesavers and others in to talk and achieve both the needs of the city and the environment.

"I've never been in anyone's pocket," Ewell said. "I've always looked at what makes the most sense for the community as a whole. I put the public first."

Ewell pointed to his creation of community meetings surrounding the budget process in which residents could meet directly with him and department heads to express their concerns and desires. The "Can We Talk?" series became very popular. Ewell also got residents involved in the selection of a new police chief and attended neighborhood group meetings.

Zina Josephs with Friends of Sunset Park said Ewell "went to bat" for Sunset Park, particularly when it came to fighting the FAA over Santa Monica Airport operations.

"For me. Lamont is a role model for public officials," she said. "We were very lucky to have him here in Santa Monica and I'm sorry to see him leave."

As for the future of Santa Monica, Ewell would like to see more progress made on creating housing that is affordable for various income levels, with an emphasis on workforce housing so that police officers, firefighters, nurses and teachers can live close to work.

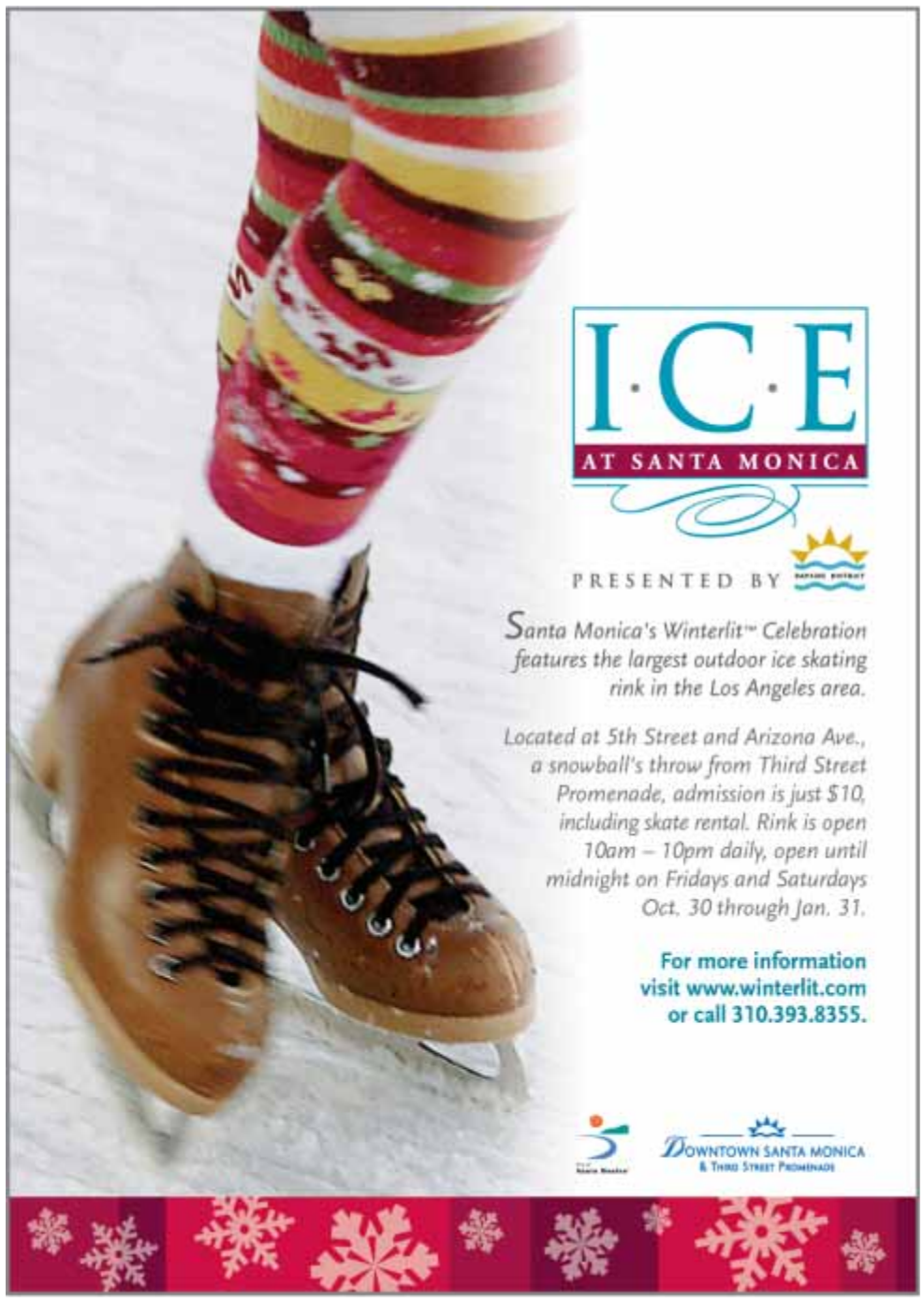
"We need to have a full array of housing available to all our residents, and not just for them to be renters, but to have the opportunity for home ownership," he said. "And it can't just be government subsidy. The private sector has to step in. We have outstanding hospitals in the community and dare I say many of the nurses can't even afford to live here. The same is true with the school district and community college. They are wonderful, but if our teachers and professors can't afford to live here, we are defeating the purpose of reducing our carbon footprint.

"Housing has got to be critical."

Ewell said he has no advice for Gould, confident he will perform well despite the economic challenges ahead. He believes he is bright and has the right temperament for the community.

"There's never a good time to leave," Ewell said of his retirement. "There's always work to be done, but the city of Santa Monica will do just fine."

kevinh@smdp.com



No responses yet to 'no jet pledge'

FROM PLEDGE PAGE 3

Referring to concerns about pollution caused by jets at SMO, he said, "it sounds like a local issue — I'm not sure that we have an opinion."

The first frequent-jet-flying Hollywood star or politician to sign the pledge will be featured on Winograd's Facebook page, the candidate has promised.

Since sending the pledges out on Monday, Winograd is yet to receive a response. She said if none of the celebrities signs the pledge within a week she'll follow up with phone calls and may pass out fliers publicizing her request at events the celebrities attend. As she learns of more celebrities who regularly use the airport she said she'll send out more requests for pledges not to use SMO.

Bob Trimborn, SMO's manager, said the airport averages about 40 jet take-offs and landings each day.

He said of Winograd's "no jet pledge" campaign: "It's an interesting concept I've really never heard of before. Anyone can ask anyone to do anything."

Martin Rubin, who heads the group Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, called Winograd's effort "a great idea."

Rubin, though, already asked the governor to stop using SMO in a letter he sent last March. He said he never received a response.

nickt@smdp.com

Council could allow mobile food court

FROM COUNCIL PAGE 1

matic shift in the law and shift in responsibility as to who's going to do the enforcement is necessarily the right way to go," he said.

Councilwoman Gleam Davis, who also supported the leaf blower motion, said she had concerns about the legality of holding property owners responsible, noting that not all properties are owned by a single individual and assigning blame for an infraction could become complicated.

"I would like to hear a more thorough discussion about it before deciding on a particular course of action, but I'm all for enforcing the leaf blower statute," Davis said.

Councilman Bob Holbrook, who voted against the motion, said landscaping businesses that are licensed by City Hall should be accountable for following city code.

"I see my gardener about twice a year … and I can't guarantee that he's following the law or not because I barely ever see him," he said.

Also on Tuesday, the City Council directed staff to begin work on an ordinance that would create guidelines for allowing food trucks to operate on private property.

The issue arose this month after property owner Steve Taub allowed several gourmet food trucks to do business on his vacant lot at 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The so-called "mobile food court" attracted hundreds of customers but was quickly shut down by Santa Monica's code enforcement department, which said zoning laws didn't allow private property to be used for hosting food trucks.

With a unanimous vote, the council directed staff to start working on an ordinance that would address food truck operations on private land.

Speaking to the council, John Bowler, president of the Southern California Mobile Food Vendors Association, said crafting a new food truck ordinance would benefit the city.

"I think that we're onto something here that none of us anticipated," he said, mentioning the large and diverse crowd that came out to the food truck lot on its first and only day in business.

"Santa Monica has a very well deserved reputation of often be on the cutting edge of trends. … I think this is a perfect place to carry on [this trend]," he said.

As with the leaf blower item, council members made it clear they are only beginning to address the issue and will have plenty of questions before any new law is approved.

McKeown said the council will have to carefully consider potential impacts of allowing a mobile food court in the city, especially in residential neighborhoods that could see increased traffic as a result. He said that although the council is interested in looking into allowing a mobile food court to operate in the city, there's no guarantee the makeshift version that sprang up earlier this month would be permitted.

"No promises to anybody on that particular site or exactly how this is going to go," McKeown said.

nickt@smdp.com

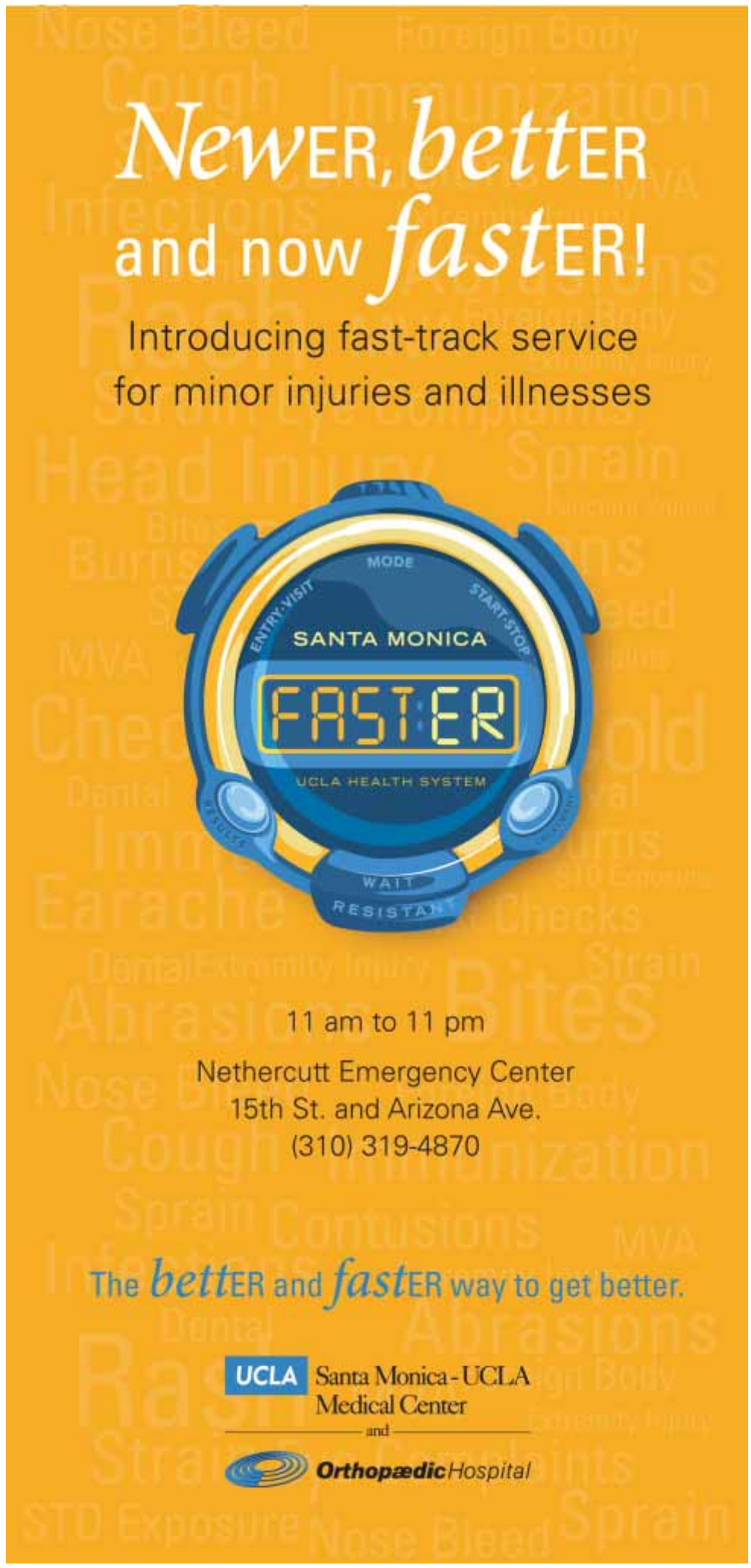


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TSA nominee with local ties withdraws from consideration

JULIE PACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama's choice to lead the Transportation Security Administration withdrew his name Wednesday, a setback for an administration still trying to explain how a man could attempt to blow up a commercial airliner on Christmas Day.

Erroll Southers said he was pulling out because his nomination had become a lightning rod for those with a political agenda. Obama had tapped Southers, a top official with the Los Angeles Airport Police Department and former member of the Santa Monica Police Department, to lead the TSA in September but his confirmation has been blocked by Republican Sen. Jim DeMint, who says he was worried that Southers would allow TSA employees to have collective bargaining rights.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Southers said the confirmation process made him question his willingness to participate in public service.

"I am not a politician. I'm a counterrorism expert," Southers said Wednesday. "They took an apolitical person and politicized my career."

Southers said he couldn't give DeMint a definitive answer on the collective bargaining issue because it wasn't a yes or no question, and required access to information he wouldn't have had until he was confirmed.

DeMint said in a statement that answering simple, direct questions about security and integrity appeared to have been too much for Southers. He said he hoped Obama would select a new nominee quickly.

Questions have also been raised about a reprimand that Southers received for running background checks on his then-estranged wife's boyfriend two decades ago. Southers, a former FBI agent, wrote a letter to lawmakers earlier this month acknowledging that he had given inconsistent answers to Congress on that issue.

In an October affidavit for the Senate Homeland Security committee, Southers initially said he asked a San Diego police employee to run a background check on his then-estranged wife's boyfriend and was censured by his FBI superiors 20 years ago for what he said was an isolated instance.

But a day after the committee approved his nomination and sent it to the full Senate, he wrote to the senators and told them that he was incorrect, that he had twice run background checks himself.

The White House said Wednesday that the Obama had accepted Southers' withdrawal with great sadness and continued to believe he would have made an excellent TSA administrator.

The withdrawal of Southers' nomination was another setback for the TSA at a time when the government is still trying to answer questions from Congress about how a man was able to carry out a bombing attempt on Christmas Day.

Democrats had lined up behind Southers' nomination after the December incident, with Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., saying he would call for a full Senate vote on his confirmation this year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Sand bags available to residents

With a series of winter storms currently pounding the area, the Public Works Department has made sand bags available to residents to help divert storm water.

To request bags, call (310) 458-4991. The Public Works Street Maintenance Division is located at 2500 Michigan Ave. in Santa Monica.

DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE

Time to apply to college

High school seniors or recent graduates who meet eligibility and financial requirements were reminded this week they have until March 2 to apply for up to $9,700 per year in Cal Grants to attend a California public college or university.

Cal Grants also cover tuition and fees at some private and independent colleges or career schools, and can also help students pay for textbooks, living expenses and equipment for community college and career technical education.

Applicants must fill out and submit two forms – a Free Application or Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, according to the California Student Aid Commission, which administers the grant program.

Help with the forms is available at more than 500 "Cash for College" workshops, which are conducted throughout the state during the Cal Grant application window from Jan. 1 until March 2.

At the workshops, applicants receive assistance completing the required forms. High school seniors who attend workshops could qualify for extra scholarships from $1,000 to $4,000, depending on the workshop location.

Students can visit www.calgrants.org to locate a workshop in their area, or call 888-CA-GRANT (888-224-7268). A workshop is scheduled for Feb. 6 at Santa Monica High School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DP

NORWALK

Price hike for getting hitched

Those looking to tie the knot will have to pay a little more for a marriage license come February.

Dean Logan, the Los Angeles County clerk/registrar-recorder, announced this week that effective Feb. 1 the public marriage license fee will be $90, while the confidential license will cost $85.

The price hike was authorized on Dec. 22, 2009 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors after a fee study revealed that current fees were below actual processing costs. The adjustment is the first since 2004 and reflects an increase of $20 for a public license and a $15 increase for a confidential marriage license. Prior costs were $70 each for both licenses.

DP





NBA

Kobe still tops in jersey sales

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Kobe Bryant has retained his spot atop the list of the NBA's best-selling jerseys, while young stars Dwight Howard and Derrick Rose moved into the top five.

Howard vaulted from No. 10 to No. 3 behind LeBron James. Rose, last season's rookie of the year, climbed to fourth from No. 11. Dwyane Wade was fifth.

The list released Wednesday by the NBA is based on sales at the NBA Store and nbastore.com since the start of the season. Bryant has topped the list since the beginning of the 2008-09 season. His jersey is also No. 1 in sales in Europe and China.

Shaquille O'Neal was ninth, his first time in the top 10 since June 2008.

The Lakers remained No. 1 in team merchandise sales, with Boston second and Cleveland up one spot to No. 3.

LOL: laughing out loud
BRB: be right back
MUSM: miss you so much
A/S/L: age, sex, location
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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TRAFFIC RELIEF IN THE WORKS

Everyone talks about being stuck in traffic, but LA County voters did something about it. In November 2008, Measure R was approved, committing a projected $40 billion to traffic relief and transportation upgrades over the next 30 years. Following are updates on some of the projects supported by Measure R.

LA To Culver City Expo Line On Track

The Exposition Light Rail line is the newest extension of the 70-station Metro Rail system. The line runs along the Metro-owned Exposition right-of-way from Downtown LA to Culver City. It will share a track and two stations (7th St/ Metro Center and Pico) with the Metro Blue Line as it leaves Downtown. For more information visit *buildExpo.org*.

Alternatives Studied For Westside Subway Extension

Public meetings were held late last year to discuss various station locations along the proposed routes of the Westside Subway Extension. Metro is currently preparing an environmental study of two project alternatives: a Metro Purple Line extension under Wilshire Boulevard through Santa Monica; and a Metro Purple Line extension plus a subway extension from Hollywood.

$9.5 Million Returned To Cities From Measure R

The first installments in Measure R local return sales tax monies totaling $9.5 million have gone out to 38 cities in LA County for transportation improvements. First and second payments for sales taxes received from July through September ranged from $2,635 for the City of Irwindale to $6.1 million for the City of LA.



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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

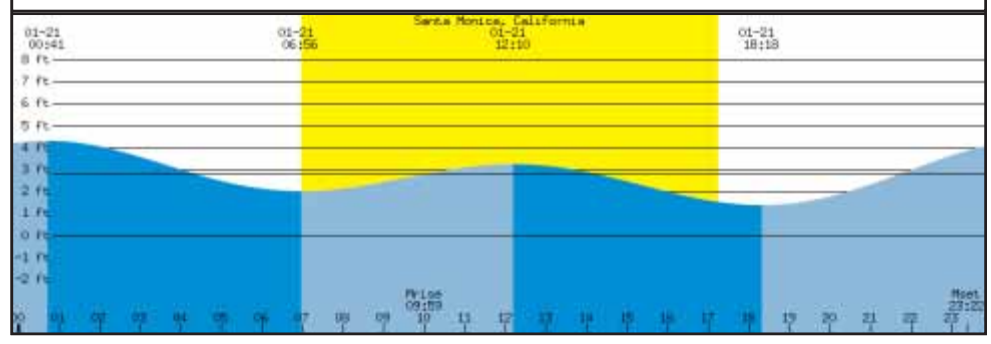
Swell Forecast

Should see the next swath of westerly swell. This could produce 15-foot face heights along west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

This swell could produce face heights 20+ feet along west facing beaches.

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, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / 21

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	B	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	B

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

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 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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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.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Fort Apache (NR) 2hrs 05min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
4:00, 6:45, 9:30

Daybreakers (R) 1hr 38min
2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:15

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
Noon, 2:15, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20, 10:05

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
12:01

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Crazy Heart (R) 1hr 51min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Single Man (R) 1hr 39min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:00, 6:50

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00,

Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
11:00am, 12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20,

Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hr 12min
3:50, 9:40

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

Follow the action, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Be direct in your dealings, and you will feel better. You are on top of your game. Others could be taken aback by your creative, energetic and smiling ways. You will have what you want, no matter what. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Listen to news and understand what is happening behind the scenes. Someone is very fiery and full of him- or herself. Rather than get into a heated dance or argument, look the other way. Tonight: Do for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Get ready, as friends and associates join together to help you accomplish something that is very important. Curb a tendency toward sarcasm, especially if you're trying to heal a rift. This person might be overly sensitive, but you are also very dramatic. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might want to understand exactly what is going on behind the scenes. Be sensitive to the possibilities. Someone sees you as far more capable than he or she ever could be. Be sensitive to this associate. He or she is competent but needs some encouragement. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Look at the big picture, and then you'll have less of a chance for a backfire. You'll also be less likely to waste energy when your plate is full. Communicate what is on your mind. Others might be more upset than you realize. Tonight: Imagine. Walk in someone else's shoes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Deal with another person directly. You might want to avoid that situation but honestly cannot. Listen to your inner voice when you're angry or hurt. Don't hold back, but also don't explode. You want to be heard. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You have been so serious for so long. Listen to someone's opinions and share. Could you be looking at the glass as half-empty? Though normally you are not negative, you could be right now. Tonight: Listen to a partner. You will hear a whole different version of what occurred.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ If you are not feeling 100 percent, it might be time to see the doctor or start a reasonable diet. In any case, you cannot go wrong taking better care of yourself. Don't forget the dentist, either! Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Allow more playfulness to come forward than in the past. Your inventiveness and creativity emerge as your strong suit once more. Evaluate a friend's suggestion, keeping in mind where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Follow the action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Steer clear of problems and stay more upbeat. You might be wondering what to do in order to get past an issue with a family member or someone you care a lot about. Let this person express his or her anger, even if you don't like what you hear. Tonight: Order in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Stay in touch with your feelings and express them before they become bottled up and even more of a problem. In fact, someone might find it quite disarming to hear your vulnerability. Tonight: Chit chat over dinner.

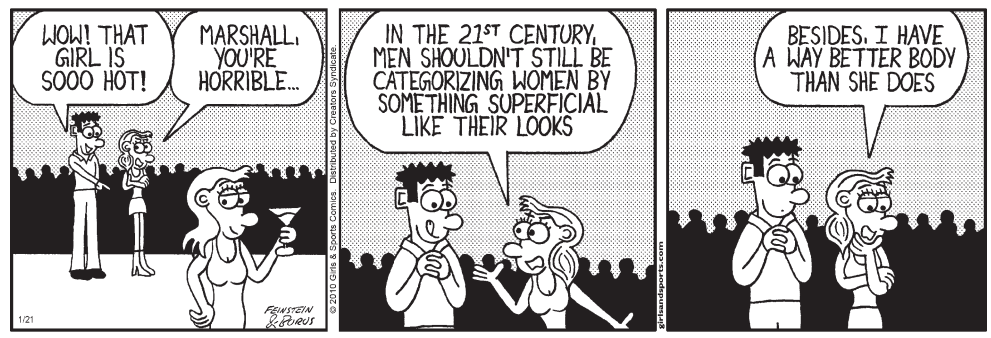
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Be aware of your efforts and what they are worth. It is important to ask for what you feel is fair. A partner starts acting up. You might want to assume more responsibility to complete this project. Tonight: Balance your checkbook. Pay a bill or two.

Happy birthday

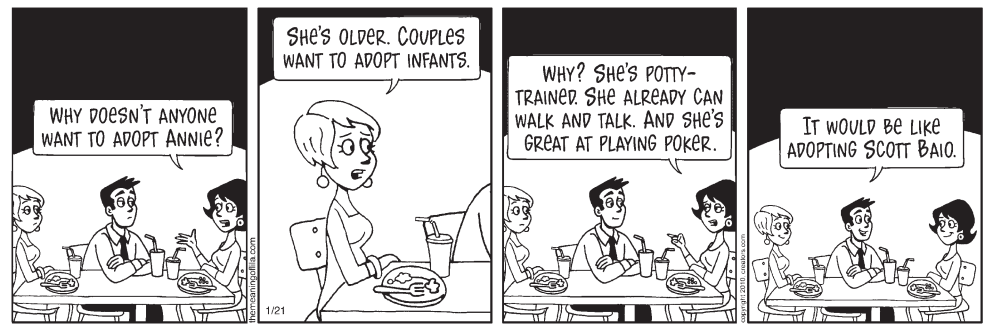
This year, you are able to break past restrictions. You often become energized after a conversation with a key associate or partner. You might not always see eye to eye. In fact, you might actually like the difference of opinion. Issues could develop this year involving travel, education and/or in-laws. You might have difficulty detaching in order to see the complete picture. If you are single, you often find people you date quite challenging. Learning to respect different opinions and not always being right could be important. If you are attached, the two of you need to juggle your different concerns, each taking over what is critical to his or her well-being. ARIES always has a wild idea or two.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



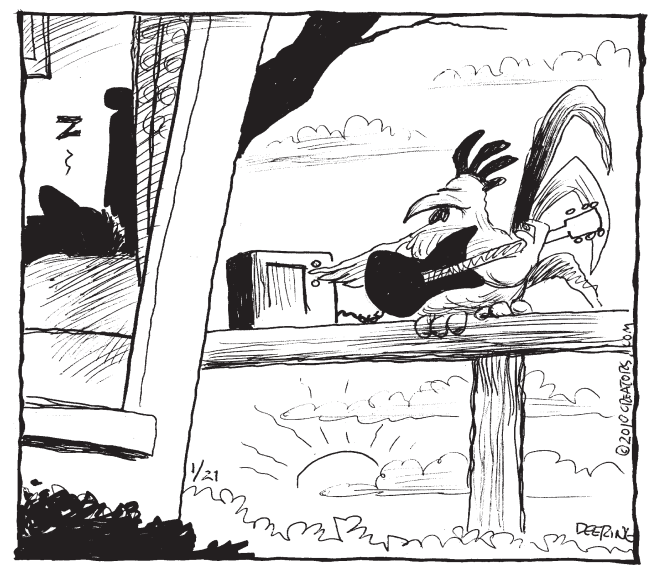
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



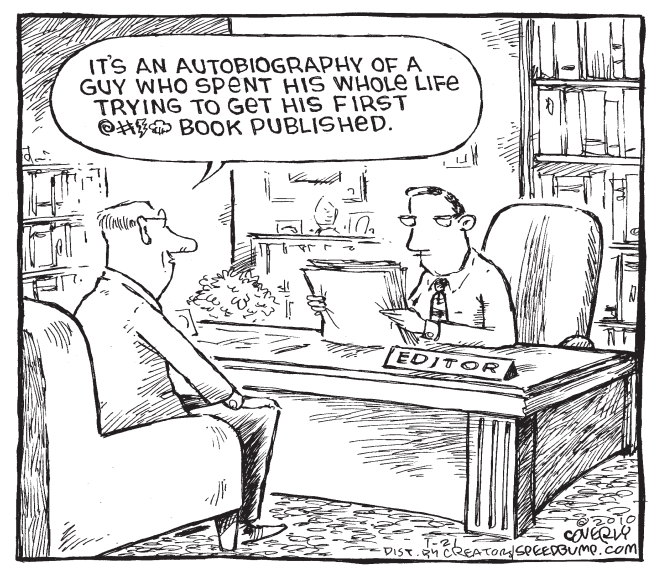
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Travel aids
5 Mark with spots
11 "Yeah, right!"
12 Corporate firers
13 "Yeah, right!"
14 Freed of suds
15 Burner spot
17 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
18 Puzzle-book features
22 Monk's music
24 Goes downhill
25 Bundle
26 Squealer
27 Musical drama
30 Particles
32 Sea motions
33 Fragrant tree
34 It began in 1957
38 Straw hat
41 Goblet part
42 Admit as a member
43 Circus sight
44 Entices
45 Some poetry

DOWN

1 Fail to hit
2 Touch on
3 Spoke at length
4 Tyler of Aerosmith
5 Move quickly
6 Wise sayings
7 Child's correspondent
8 Blair and Brown: Abbr.
9 Director Spike
10 Finish
16 Devour
19 Like some bonds
20 Kind of cheese
21 Fast jets
22 Artery problem
23 Rain-dance tribe
28 Get some sleep
29 Mien
30 Patriots' org.
31 Connects with
35 Newspaper section
36 Heredity unit
37 Ambulance workers, for short
38 Particle
39 United
40 USN bigwig

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

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

1-21

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 5 34 38 41 Meganumber: 18 Jackpot: $105M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 26 29 33 42 44 Meganumber: 22 Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 5 23 28 29 32

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 8 3 EVENING: 9 6 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 01 Gold Rush RACE TIME: 1.41.91

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

■ In December, a court in Istanbul, Turkey, found 39 people guilty of trying to overthrow the government after a trial that lasted, on and off, for 28 years. More than 1,000 defendants had been rounded up after challenging a 1980 military coup. The original trial lasted 10 years, but the case languished in an appeals court for 13 years while judges awaited 100 folders of evidence that had somehow gone missing. The 39 were given life sentences, but were immediately released based on time already served. The European Union has urged that Turkey upgrade its judicial system as a pre-condition for membership.

■ Intelligent Design: As with all copulating species, female Muscovy ducks battle male Muscovy ducks over which controls fertilization. Patricia Brennan of Yale, writing in a recent Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, found that the female Muscovy avoids forced sex by having evolved a clockwise-spiraled corkscrew vagina that foils male intruders (but relaxing it for preferred mates, so that they don't get stuck in vaginal "cul-de-sacs"). Brennan's team worked with high-speed video and mock-up glass tubing of the respective organs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1958 The last Fokker C.X in military service, the Finnish Air Force FK-111 target tower, crashes, killing the pilot and winch-operator.

1960 Miss Sam, a female rhesus monkey, lifts off from Wallops Island, Virginia, aboard Little Joe 1B – an unmanned test of the Mercury spacecraft.

1968 Vietnam War: Battle of Khe Sanh – One of the most publicized and controversial battles of the war begins.

1968 A B-52 bomber crashes near Thule Air Base, contaminating the area after its nuclear payload ruptures. One of the four bombs remains unaccounted for after the cleanup operation is complete.

1972 Meghalaya becomes a full-fledged state in India.

WORD UP!

lacuna
\luh-KYOO-nuh\ , noun;
plural lacunae \luh-KYOO-nee\ or lacunas 1. A blank space; a missing part; a gap.

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1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1575.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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SANTA MONICA 19th Street near SM. Blvd., spacious 2bd/1bath, Large private patio, new carpets, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry, parking, small building. $1750/mo Info (310)828-4481.or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m

WEST LA Large, bright 2br upper on Barrington near National. Very spacious, large closets, stove, fridge, closed garage, well maintained building. Free month with one year lease. $1685/mo. 310-828-4481 or 310-993-0414 after 6pm.

Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit B lower duplex unit 1+1 w/office, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1575/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1325/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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Mar Vista $1750.00 2Bdrms, 2 Baths No pets, Stove, Refrig, Dshwshr, Wshr/Dryr, Parking, 4077 Inglewood Blvd., # 6, Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in Unit.

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2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

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1920 Manning Ave #6
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1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
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st (stove), fr (fridge), cpt (carpet), sgl (single), bach (bachelor), ldry (laundry), gar (garage), hdwd (hardwood floors), lwr (lower), upr (upper) , htpl (hotplate), pkg (parking), w/d (washer/dryer), hkp (hook-up), d/w (dishwasher), c-fn (ceiling fan), (fireplace)

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. $1015 & up stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage gas-fireplace. 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit Mgr#100 or #101

MV/MDR adj. Large Studio, single, Full kitchen, stove & refrigerator, large closets, carpets, laundry, parking. $900 Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1350/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 5 $895 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $500 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALM/BVRLYWD ADJ.$1300.00 2 Bdrms,1-1/2 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #5 Open daily 8am-7pm . Additional info in unit

PALM/BVRLYWD ADJ.. $900.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 9am-7pm . Additional info in unit

PALMS NEWER building ask about move-in specials $1145 + 1bdr, Gated entry + park. Tile floors + granite, 2 elevators, A/C 3848 Overland Ave (310)839-3647

SANTA MONICA . $1300.00 1 Bdrm,1 Bath, No pets, stove, refrg, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #3, Open daily 8am- 7pm. Additional info in Unit. Mgr in Apt #19 move-in-special available

SANTA MONICA 1833 16th st. unit 5 2+1. $1100 upper unit, stove, vinyl blinds, carpet, parking no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA townhouse 3+1 1/2 Two story, landry room, private patio, storage space, parking, Call Joe (310)220-7556

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WEST LOS Angeles 1bd/1ba $1375/mo, $500 deposit, 1st Mo. Free O.A.C. Pet Friendly 424-228-5609/310-405-7646

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091869674 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as AUDITECHS, 7003 ALCOVE AVE, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JENNIFER ARAGON, 7003 ALCOVE AVE, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605; ROBERT MARIN, 12812 DILWORTH ST, NORWALK, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: ROBERT MARIN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/9/2009. 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 1/7/2010, 1/14/2010, 1/21/2010, 1/28/2010





Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
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North of Montana	$2,897,500	$1,325,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,849,000	$680,000
South of Wilshire	$897,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$1,187,000	$639,500
Ocean Park	$1,700,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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