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Volume 10 Issue 60



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

A BAZOOKA FOR EVERY HOME?
SEE PAGE 4

THE STAND UP ISSUE

City Hall fights to keep RDA funding

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Bracing for a fight with Sacramento, Santa Monica's City Council joined a raft of other California cities this week by moving to shore up tens of millions of dollars per year in Redevelopment Agency funding that Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed using to help close the state's multi-billion dollar budget gap.

City officials downplayed the significance of the moves made at Monday's special council meeting, calling the series of votes "house keeping" measures to clarify technical details of previous agreements between City Hall and the Redevelopment Agency about projects that have been in the works for several years.

But the moves are intended to defend against a possible attempt by the state government to claim nearly $283 million in Redevelopment Agency funds Santa Monica officials have allocated for projects like the proposed Pico Library, the Civic Center-Santa Monica High School joint use project and the Palisades Garden Walk & Town Center.

The Redevelopment Agency receives its funding from property taxes paid on real estate in designated "redevelopment districts" throughout the city. Brown has proposed abolishing redevelopment agencies in order to reclaim the revenue, a move he said would "return billions in property tax revenues to schools, cities and counties and help pay for public safety, education and other services."

If successful, the move would also force Santa Monica to scrap its highest-profile projects.

In recent days, many cities in the state, including Los Angeles, have sought to set up hasty agreements allocating redevelopment

SEE RDA PAGE 8



TOUGH LOSS

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School's Trevis Jackson dribbles around Beverly Hills' Austin Mills on Wednesday on campus. Samohi would lose the Ocean League game, 65-62.

Water treatment plant goes online

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Flashback to the days leading up to this past Christmas: The region was being pounded by a rare, nearly week-long storm that brought down trees and caused hill dwellers to fear their homes would be swallowed up in a cascade of mud.

In Santa Monica, there were few reports of damage. In fact, the storm had an upside for locals.

Three of its wettest days brought something even less common than an around-the-clock downpour to Santa Monica: The period from Dec. 20 through Dec. 23 was the first stretch since the 1994 Northridge earthquake when the city's water plant didn't have to import any H2O to meet locals' needs.

Sprinkler systems were (hopefully) shut off, car washes went on temporary leave, and residents, who probably weren't going for long walks or jogs through the neighborhood, weren't consuming as much water as usual either.

Besides decreased demand, there was another big reason behind the feat. After being closed since 1996 because of groundwater contamination caused by gasoline leakage, the Santa Monica Water Treatment Plant re-started its pumps in early December, greatly boosting the local water supply.

With the new wells online, Santa Monica can now produce about 72 percent of the water it needs on a typical day, according to Water Resources Manager Gil Borboa. The rest is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District, which gets its supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River.

While the three days of self sufficiency were admittedly something of a fluke, Borboa said the feat points toward the possi-

SEE WATER PAGE 7

Santa Monica earns B from American Lung Association

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN While nearly two-thirds of all cities in the state received failing grades in an annual smoking report released Thursday by the American Lung Association, Santa Monica earned a B for its policies restricting smoking and the sales of tobacco products.

The report rates cities in the areas of providing smoke-free outdoor environments, smoke-free housing and reducing sales of tobacco products.

Santa Monica has banned smoking in most public areas and went so far as to ban smoking on balconies and patios in apart-

SEE GRADE PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Jan. 21, 2011

A nose for theatre
Ruskin Group Theatre
3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.
Ruskin Group Theatre 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. This production also takes place on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (310) 397-3244.

The sound of nations
Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
"International Voices" features a 13-member ensemble that will perform works by Peter Senchuk, Soong Fu-Yuan, Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Antonin Dvorak. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

Diavolo at The Broad
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Back at The Broad after sold-out performances, this troupe of dancers, gymnasts, actors and athletes leaps, flies and twirls amidst gigantic objects from everyday life. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

'Hoboken to Hollywood'
Edgemar Center for the Arts
2437 Main St., 8 p.m.
"Hoboken to Hollywood: A Journey Through The Great American Songbook" has been extended through Feb. 27. This popular musical is a behind-the-scenes look at the taping of a television special, possibly in '64 or soon thereafter. It even includes spoofs on commercials. For more information, call (310) 392-7327.

Helping the Red Cross
Morgan Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 6:30 p.m.
A special performance of "Caught in the Net" by Ray Cooney will benefit the American Red Cross of Santa Monica. Cooney, one of Britain's most successful playwrights, is known as "the Master of Farce." He is one of England's most prolific and successful playwrights. Tickets are $25. Parking is free.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011

Talking schools
Professional Development Learning Center
2802 Fourth St., 8 a.m. — 12 p.m.
The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is hosting the "Big Idea Meeting," which is billed as a fast-paced session with a cross-section of leaders from the business, schools and the overall community. For more information, call (310) 396-4557.

Cooking with the pros
La Cachette Bistro
1733 Ocean Ave., 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Chef Jean Francois Meteigner leads this weekly culinary class for cooks of all levels. This week's installment will focus on lamb. Everything from stewing to roasting will be discussed. For more information, call (310) 434-9509.

Compost for all
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave., 7 a.m.
Santa Monica Public Works is offering free compost to all city residents. The event begins at 7 a.m. and runs until the material is gone. For more information, call (310) 458-2223.

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 SM police chief Butts wins Inglewood mayoral race


BUTTS

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

INGLEWOOD Former Santa Monica police chief James Butts edged out incumbent Inglewood Mayor Daniel Tabor in the special Jan. 11 mayoral election, according to election results released Thursday.

Butts had 55.6 percent, or 3,776 votes, to Tabor's 44.3 percent, or 3,004 votes, official election results show.

Butts' winning margin is about the same as it was before all the mail-in ballots were counted.

Tabor had been mayor since August, when he won a runoff election to fill out the term of former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn, who resigned in January 2010 after pleading guilty to a conflict-of-interest charge.

Dorn's guilty plea came as prospective jurors were set to be questioned in his trial on charges stemming from his acceptance of a $500,000 loan through a city housing program.

Butts, who also put in a stint as head of security for Los Angeles World Airports, has a four-year term ahead of him.

Butts, 57, spent nearly 20 years as a Inglewood police officer before being hired in Santa Monica, where he served as chief for 15 years.

news@smdp.com

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Samohi not overlooking Morningside

Ocean League game comes a day before taking on national power Long Beach Poly

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI It's unwise to look past any opponent, but this may be the one occasion when you can forgive a team for doing so.

As Santa Monica High School's girls' basketball team prepares to travel to Inglewood for a matchup with Ocean League rival Morningside tonight, they can't help but have their minds on Saturday's game at Long Beach Poly, currently ranked No. 2 in the nation by USA Today.

While Samohi Head Coach Marty Verdugo said he's focused on the non-league Poly game, he's careful to keep it in perspective.

"We're not taking anybody for granted anymore," Verdugo said of Morningside. "We've learned a lesson by overlooking some teams, like Culver City."

Culver City was able to upset Samohi at home last week, sending the Vikings to 1-1 in league at the time.

Another loss to highly-regarded Fullerton Troy on Monday gave the Vikings reason to reassess how they approach opponents.

"We're going to treat it as a game-by-game situation," Verdugo said. "With Morningside, we expect a battle. I think we'll be ready for them."

As for Poly, Verdugo is taking a more measured approach.

He considers them the most athletic team in the country, a determination made on good experience. The Vikings have played a

SEE **HOOPS** PAGE 10


Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

TAKING A DIFFERENT ANGLE: **Santa Monica High School's Kalaria Obasi attempts a pass as Beverly Hills' Tiffany Haney tries to defend on Wednesday. Samohi won, 52-31.**

'Survivor' champ arrested in SM


BIRZA

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Police said Thursday that Judson Birza, the million dollar winner of "Survivor: Nicaragua" just one month ago, was arrested around noon on Wednesday while riding his skateboard in the middle of the street.

Birza was detained for a vehicle code violation. Officers ran his name through a database and discovered he had a warrant for his arrest for a prior incident in which he is suspected of driving under the influence. Police said Birza was on probation for DUI.

"During the time the officer was with him, the officer determined he was under the influence for a controlled substance and placed him under arrest for the open charge of being under the influence and a probation violation, along with the outstanding warrant," a sergeant told "The Insider."

Test results will show what substance was in his system, but no such conclusions have yet been drawn.

Birza's bail was set at $37,000. He was released Wednesday night. According to TMZ.com, Birza said he was "treated like a baby." He was caught on video leaving the Public Safety Facility and hopping into a stretch limo. Moments after he was seen drinking beer in the limo with friends.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The decline of America

Editor:

I see that the "American Idol" fan bus rolled into our city on Wednesday. It's making a national tour! Visitors can go inside to see many items and memorabilia from the actual TV show, including the famous clothes and guitars worn and touched by the gods, those great and fantastic contestants and winners of (wipes a tear) "American Idol!" Oh, and you can even see the actual Coke glasses the judges drank from! Honest! They showed 'em on channel 11! Oh, beating heart be still before you pop!

From 1947-1949, there was the Freedom Train. What the hell was that, you ask? It was a locomotive that toured the United States. On board, and protected by a company of U.S. Marines, were 127 of the most precious documents and flags of our nation, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, one of the original 13 copies of the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address. Millions of Americans – and those who would become Americans – got the chance to see and wonder upon these magnificent artifacts that helped shape this nation into the great melting pot it is. And then to celebrate America's bicentennial in 1976, the American Freedom Train toured the country. On board with many of the above-mentioned items were George Washington's personal copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase, a rock brought back from the moon, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s pulpit.

Is it like, any like wonder why, like so many high school kids, like, um, you know, like can't find the United States, like on a world map and stuff? Or why guns and gangs and drugs rule the campus at the end of the day? Or why a celebrity like Jessica Simpson honestly believed Chicken of the Sea cans contained sea chicken? Or why the UCLA student I met in a novelty store truly believed that the voice coming from the President Abraham Lincoln electronic doll she was holding was the actual recorded voice of The Great Emancipator?

The leaders of this city are clowns, as always, and should be ashamed for allowing such a ridiculous joke as the brain-cell-killing "American Idol" bus onto the Third Street Promenade. Kids are fawning over pop culture idols while America and her history are falling over the cliff, and it isn't Randy Jackson's fault, it's because our nation's elected, self-absorbed leaders at all levels of government have become star-struck politically correct wimps too concerned with polls and too frightened of the ACLU. They won't promote American history, but like Obama, would rather apologize for it. I'm sure they'll all enjoy having President's Day off next month, and will take advantage of the 30 percent discount at the President's Day sale at Sears. Oh, and maybe instead of remembering Washington and Lincoln, they can catch an episode of "Idol!" Shame on you. And no, I didn't visit the bus, but I did take the train.

James Zeruk, Jr.
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The right to bear a bazooka

TOMORROW MARKS TWO WEEKS SINCE the shooting rampage in Arizona, which left six dead and 14 wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords whose life hung in the balance.

The good news is that today, Giffords was moved to a rehab center. I've got my fingers crossed for her recovery (which would explain any typos).

Surprisingly, some people are critical of the story's coverage like my friend, Sheila, who's furious with the media for exploiting it. Sheila's outspoken on the issue. Actually, she's outspoken on every issue.

In fact, as Sheila rants I often suggest that she should stop sitting on the fence all the time and take a stance. This occasionally gets a laugh, which I take as a good sign.

At the risk of drawing Sheila's ire, I note the recent wave of gun violence here in Southern California. Tuesday, at Gardena High School, a 17-year-old brought a gun to class in his backpack. (Can you say trouble?)

Sure enough, as the boy set the backpack down, the gun discharged, sending two students to the hospital. One, a 15-year-old girl, is still in critical condition (proving that guns aren't the problem, backpacks are).

On Wednesday there were two more shootings on local high school campuses. One was in Bell and the other in Woodland Hills where a school cop was shot in the chest but a bullet proof vest saved his life. (Given Tucson, at political rallies in the near future common attire might include bullet proof vests.)

The fact is that nationwide, an average of eight teenagers a day die from gun violence. I suppose it shouldn't be so surprising since there are a mere 200,000,000 guns estimated to be in U.S. households. (If the country was a retail store it could be called, "Guns R Us.")

The Second Amendment reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." Judging by the number of guns, our country has become one giant militia.

Not to sound patronizing but some of my best friends own guns. One owns five. And he's a liberal lawyer in a rent-controlled apartment. This, as opposed to a Tea Bagger in a trailer. Not that there's anything wrong with the Tea Party or trailers. (Although it would be nice if the Tea Partiers who hold signs defending the U.S. Constitution could spell "Constitution.")

What frightens me is our insatiable love affair with guns. That, and how easy it is for a mentally ill person to obtain one.

I don't pretend to have answers but I do have questions. Jared Loughner was so clearly disturbed that one Wall-Mart refused to sell him ammunition. So what did he do? He went to another Wall-Mart, which did. Jared is psycho but resourceful.

I'm mindful that the NRA, the U.S. Supreme Court, and a majority of Americans favor gun ownership. Even after the Tucson tragedy, public opinion polls showed that most Americans were against more gun control. (And meanwhile sales of the Glock 9 mm doubled!)

WHAT FRIGHTENS ME IS OUR INSATIABLE LOVE AFFAIR WITH GUNS. THAT, AND HOW EASY IT IS FOR A MENTALLY ILL PERSON TO OBTAIN ONE.

Interestingly, gun ownership is important to some on the radical left. They see it as a means to keep government from tyrannizing its citizens. They point out that Hitler was a gun control advocate. They also note that if the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto had owned guns, the outcome might have been very different. (On that subject, I highly recommend the movie "Defiance.")

Guns I get, but why are assault weapons, or 31 bullet magazine clips, legal? The answer, of course, is money. The gun business is big bucks. The NRA has a ton of it and, as Godfather Don Corleone might have said, has Congress in their hip pocket.

The NRA is so powerful that they've defeated laws all across the country that would restrict a person from buying more than one hand gun a month. Other than a drug kingpin or your average para-military organization, who in their right mind needs more than one gun a month?

Actually, the NRA wants everyone over the age of 21 to be able to own an unlimited number of guns and cites the Second Amendment. Following that logic, I say why stop with semi-automatic guns or assault weapons? Why not proclaim the right to bear a bazooka? Ta da!

I can picture the president of the NRA at their national convention whipping up the minions by shouting into the microphone "It's our constitutional right to own a bazooka."

Or maybe he would defiantly raise his fists into the air, "You can have my bazooka when you pry it out of my cold, dead hands." (Given the size of the average bazooka, I don't imagine a dead guy's grip could be too tight anyway.)

As Jared Loughner said, "Peace out."

If he's not on the firing range, **JACK** can be reached at Jnsmdp@aol.com.



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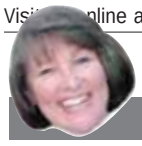
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

John Lithgow: Charm and humor and talent, O my

WE'VE ALL SEEN JOHN LITHGOW ON THE stage or screen at one time or another. As five-time Emmy Award winner in the television series "Third Rock From the Sun." Or as a two-time winner of Broadway's Tony Award (for "Changing Room" and "Sweet Smell of Success"). And certainly we remember him in the film "The World According to Garp" as Roberta Muldoon, surely one of the clunkiest women ever seen on the big screen.

Well, none of those characters are currently appearing on stage at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Nor is the American diplomat M. Butterfly or the Tony-nominated lead in the Broadway musical "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." Instead, it's John Lithgow, teller of tales.

On an empty stage dressed with patterned carpets, a small end table and a high-backed upholstered chair, the actor bounces in to pose the questions, "Why do all of us want to hear stories?" and "Why do some of you want to tell them?" And then for the next two hours he proceeds to regale us with the answers.

The one-man show is called "Stories by Heart" and Lithgow begins by telling us about the tales his grandfather used to tell his four children at bedtime. The art of story-telling so captivated his third child, John's father, Arthur, that Arthur grew up to become the head of a repertory company that endlessly produced Shakespeare's plays in small towns — in Ohio, of all places!!

The book from which the stories were taken is called "Tellers of Tales" and it has been passed down through the Lithgow generations like a family Bible. In fact, Lithgow tells about his father, morbidly depressed after surgery at 86, falling into a funk and virtually giving up on life. John, as the only one of his siblings then "between engagements," was deputized to return to his parents' home to help out. Woefully unequipped to deliver the kind of care his father needed, he floundered for weeks, until one night when he decided to read from the book of tales. At his father's suggestion, John launched into "Uncle Fred Flits By," a family favorite by P.G. Wodehouse. And his father laughed at the telling, started to pull himself together, and lived for another 18 months.

With this introduction, Lithgow begins to read the story to the audience. But he soon abandons the book and begins to act out all 10 parts as he tells the very funny adventures of the protagonist, Uncle Fred. In the telling, he prowls the stage, he prances, he does John Cleese-like funny walks, he speaks in veddy propah British accents, he sputters in outrage, he imitates a parrot, and he holds a two-way conversation in sign language, fluttering his hands wildly, with a make-believe man who isn't really deaf and flutters back uncertainly.

The second act is not quite so felicitous. Bounding onstage again, Lithgow responds to the audience's applause by segueing into a clapping beat to accompany an old English folk song. "It's a peppy ditty about adultery and murder," he tells us by way of introduction. That finished, he tells us of another favorite family tale: "Haircut," by Ring Lardner. Lardner, who had a "broad streak of gin-soaked cynicism," according to Lithgow, wrote the story some 80 years ago. It's a monologue delivered by a small-town barber, telling all the local gossip as he provides a shave and a haircut to an invisible customer. Lithgow's miming is precise and engaging, but the story is long and while he's telling it he appears to shave the same customer twice. Or maybe that's what they did in the 1930's?

Lithgow, who conceived and wrote "Stories by Heart," lists no director for the production, but when it was premiered at Lincoln Center in New York in 2008 it was directed by Jack O'Brien.

"Stories by Heart" provides a charming visit with John Lithgow and a worthy answer to the question "Why do all of us want to hear stories?" It will continue its run Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 1 and 6:30 p.m. through Feb. 13. The Mark Taper Forum is located at the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., in Los Angeles. Call (213) 628-2772 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

The Q Line

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On the rise?

City officials are considering raising fees on a number of recreational programs including youth sports and the Santa Monica Swim Center.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think an increase in fees is necessary in these tough economic times, or do you think City Hall should look elsewhere to shore up budget gaps?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**

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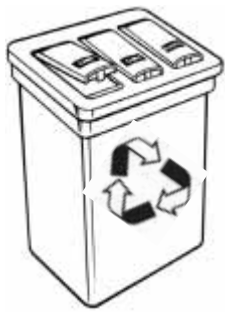
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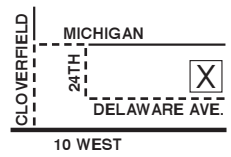
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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Suspect gets overexposed

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FRIDAY, JAN. 14, AT 10:17 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2600 block of Alley Five regarding a suspect throwing garbage cans and exposing his penis. When officers arrived, they located the suspect in the alley. He was throwing trash on the ground. Officers made contact with the suspect, who was agitated and argumentative. Police said he was showing signs of being under the influence of a narcotic. Officers said the suspect told them he had recently smoked methamphetamines. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for being under the influence. He was identified as Justin Lower, 22, a transient. His bail was set at $2,500.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11, AT 10:46 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 500 block of Wilshire Boulevard – Whole Foods – regarding a fight. When officers arrived, they made contact with a store employee who said that he saw a fellow employee being pushed by the suspect. When he went to lend a hand, a fight broke out. The employee's shirt was ripped and the suspect fled the location. Officers located the suspect a short distance away. Police said he would not listen to their commands and other officers had to be called out to subdue him. The suspect was arrested and booked for assault and battery, obstruction of a police officer and violation of parole. He was not eligible for bail. He was identified as Jarris Castaneda, 31, a transient.

THURSDAY, JAN. 6, AT 1 P.M.,
Officers responded to a local hospital regarding a report of an assault. When officers arrived, they made contact with a patient who told them that their nephew was inside their house causing a scene. When the victim asked the man to calm down and be quiet, he went over and struck the victim in the face, causing lacerations to the victim's mouth and eye area. The suspect then fled. Officers located the suspect at Santa Monica College two days later and placed him under arrest for felony battery. He was identified as Evan Grant, 20, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $50,000.

FRIDAY, JAN. 14, AT 8:19 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1900 block of Cloverfield Boulevard regarding a driver slumped over his steering wheel. When officers arrived, they saw the suspect asleep behind the wheel of his car. Officers attempted to get the driver to open his driver's side window but the driver allegedly had a hard time understanding the officers. He tried to open the window, but was unable to. At one point, officers said the driver tried to put the car into gear. Officers broke the window to gain access to the driver. Officers said the driver was under the influence of GHB, commonly-known as the date rape drug. Officers found GHB in the suspect's car. Officers arrested the suspect and he was booked for possession of narcotics. He was identified as Johnnattan Pezan, 36, of Redondo Beach. His bail was set at $10,000.

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Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #3019 PROVIDE ON-SITE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

A mandatory job walk will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 11:00 AM Pacific Time. Vendors are to meet Al Davis & Kellee Mac Donald at the Big Blue Bus Maintenance Training Room located at 1620 6th Street, Santa Monica, CA. 90401

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline is February 10, 2011 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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WATER
FROM PAGE 1

bility of a future when Santa Monica produces 100 percent of the water its residents and businesses need on a daily basis from its own water table. It's a goal City Hall is aiming to achieve by 2020, Borboa said.

"It shows us that we can indeed work toward complete 100 percent self sufficiency," he said. "We are aiming toward that and we're starting to develop a plan as to how we're going to achieve that."

The plan will likely include a mix of measures, from steps that are already underway like additional exploration of the local basin for potential new well sites, to increasing the use of recycled water to improving conservation.

Borboa said he expects the City Council to hold a study session on the topic in March, but added there are no specific proposals on the table to boost the share of Santa Monica's water that is produced locally.

No one thinks getting to self sufficiency will be easy, but leaders seem to agree reducing water imports should be a high priority.

Mark Gold, who chairs City Hall's Task Force on the Environment, said eliminating Santa Monica's reliance on imported water would be a significant move toward true sustainability.

"Imported water from MWD costs more than local water supply and it comes with environmental impacts to the Bay-Delta and Colorado River basins, as well as a large carbon footprint because of the energy needed to pump the water here," he said. "California's water crisis will only worsen in the future and local water self sufficiency will give Santa Monica a reliable, drought-proof water source."

To Councilman Terry O'Day, the reopening of the water treatment facility presents "a historic, once-in-a-lifetime moment to think about [water] issues for the city."

"CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS WILL ONLY WORSEN IN THE FUTURE AND LOCAL WATER SELF SUFFICIENCY WILL GIVE SANTA MONICA A RELIABLE, DROUGHT PROOF WATER SOURCE."

Mark Gold,
Chair of the Task Force on the Environment

O'Day said the ability to provide 72 percent of needed water from local supplies — as opposed to about 20 percent while the plant was offline — puts self sufficiency within reach. The state government, he noted, has already urged localities to reduce water consumption by 20 percent in the next nine years.

"It wouldn't take much more investment to take us across [the 100 percent] threshold," he said. Getting there, he added, will bring Santa Monica cheaper water as well as environmental and water security benefits.

He said steps City Hall should take include increasing investment in water conservation programs and requiring new large-scale development projects to use recycled stormwater in their irrigation systems — something few landowners do.

City Hall plans to hold a ribbon-cutting for the re-opened water treatment plant, which is located at Wilshire Boulevard and Bundy Avenue in West Los Angeles, next month, O'Day said.

nickt@smdp.com

GRADE
FROM PAGE 1

ment buildings.

The city of Los Angeles received an overall C grade, despite being credited with steps taken to provide more smoke-free environments.

Despite the large number of F grades in the county, Glendale and South Pasadena were among nine cities statewide to receive an overall grade of A. Baldwin Park, Burbank, Pasadena and Santa Monica each earned a B.

In Orange County, Santa Ana earned a D, while Anaheim earned an F. An overwhelming majority of Orange County cities — 31 — received an F grade.

According to the report, California cities and counties earned mixed results, even though the state used to be a national leader on tobacco-control policies.

"It's time to raise the grade," Jane Warner, president and CEO of the Lung Association in California, said. "Strong state and local tobacco control policies must be a top priority for our elected officials."

Each year, 443,000 people die from tobacco-related illnesses and secondhand smoke exposure, making tobacco the leading cause of preventable death, according to the association. In addition, it costs the economy more than $193 billion annually in healthcare costs and lost productivity.

kevinh@smdp.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Santa Monica

Please take notice that the Santa Monica Rent Control Board adopted Regulation 8066 at its regular meeting of January 13, 2011.

These changes, as set forth below, will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in this newspaper.

8066. Time of Decision

Pursuant to section 1809(b)(1), the Board will take final action on any complaint for excess rent within one-hundred and twenty (120) days following the date of filing of the complaint unless good cause is shown or the parties otherwise agree. This regulation is declarative of existing law and practice and does not impose any new requirements or rights, or limit any existing requirements or rights under the Rent Control Law.

[8066 Adopted 01/13/11]

A complete copy of this regulation is available at the Rent Control office, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, (310) 458-8751 or on the website: http://www.smgov.net/rentcontrol


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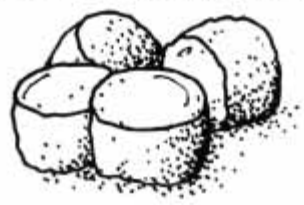
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RDA
FROM PAGE 1

money to specific uses, under the theory that money that's already spoken for will be harder for Sacramento to reclaim.

Andy Agle, Santa Monica's director of housing and economic development, said the local Redevelopment Agency has already entered into a "cooperation agreement" with City Hall for all of its pending projects.

The moves on Monday, he said, merely laid out more precise timelines for reimbursements between the agency and City Hall.

"We believe that the cooperation agreement creates a contractual obligation from the agency to the city," he said, but added there remains a high level of uncertainty surrounding redevelopment funds. "If the governor ended up eliminating redevelopment, I don't know if the state would agree with [us], which is why we're concerned that all of these projects could be killed by the governor's actions."

The City Council, whose members also sit on the board of the Redevelopment Agency, quickly approved all of the redevelopment items on Monday's agenda without discussion.

Council members Bob Holbrook and Bobby Shriver were not at the meeting, but it's nevertheless clear a solid majority on the council views the redevelopment projects as high priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis said she hopes there's an "alternative tactic the governor can use to keep form making school cuts" that leaves Redevelopment Agency funds in place.

While redevelopment agencies around the state have been criticized for failing to complete projects and for funding developments of dubious community-wide benefit, she said that's not the case in Santa Monica.

THESE ARE ALL VERY VALID PROJECTS THAT WILL PROVIDE JOBS TO SANTA MONICA AND WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL SANTA MONICANS.

Gleam Davis,
Mayor Pro Tem

"These are all very valid projects that will provide jobs to Santa Monica and will improve the quality of life for all Santa Monicans," she said.

She acknowledged the site slated to become the Pacific Palisades Garden Walk & Town Square project in the Civic Center is a far cry from what most people would call "urban blight," but defended it as a legitimate use of redevelopment funds.

"Any open space we can add is incredibly valuable," she said. "Yes, we're using a high-end architect (James Corner Field Operations), but would Santa Monicans have accepted anything less?"

Councilman Kevin McKeown also defended Santa Monica's right to spend redevelopment funds on already announced projects.

"Unlike other cities where redevelopment money sits unused, Santa Monica made commitments to residents on needed projects a year and a half ago," he said. "Monday's action keeps our promise on the Pico Library, the Samohi campus plan, new parks, and the rehabilitation of affordable housing where possible and construction of new affordable housing where needed."

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HOOPS
FROM PAGE 3

monster of a schedule this year with games against nationally ranked Mater Dei and Illinois' Bolingbrook. The teams were ranked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively when they Vikings faced them earlier this season. Samohi came up short both times, but the experience of facing elite teams should serve the Vikings well when they travel to Long Beach on Saturday.

"There's league and then there's Poly," Verdugo joked. "We'll go down and try to get some momentum going.

"We just have to enjoy the opportunity to play them. Hopefully we'll able to play these types of teams deep into the playoffs so this experience will be key."

Both Poly and Mater Dei are in the same regional division so future meetings are a real possibility. Poly is currently ranked No. 2 in the latest California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 1A poll. Mater Dei is ranked No. 3. Samohi sits at No. 9.

ST. MONICA GIRLS HOOPS RANKED

The latest CIF-SS Division 5AA poll has St. Monica's girls' basketball team falling one notch to a tie for No. 12 with Milken.

St. Monica is 7-13 overall and 1-1 in Camino Real League play. The Mariners faced Cantwell-Sacred Heart last night on the road, but results were not available at presstime.

daniela@smdp.com

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Firm: California home prices drop 4 percent in December

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California's median home price dropped 3.8 percent last month to $254,000 from $264,000 in December 2009, as low-priced foreclosures and other distressed properties continued to dominate the market, a tracking firm said Thursday.

San Diego-based MDA DataQuick also said the state's median increased just 0.4 percent from $255,000 in November.

The median was being tamped down by an absence of transactions involving high-end homes, DataQuick president John Walsh said.

"Right now, most of what we're seeing are distress sales and bargain hunting, with a smattering of discretionary buying," he said.

The firm said 18.2 percent of last month's sales were for homes costing more than $500,000, down from a December average of 26.1 percent over the past decade.

Foreclosures accounted for 38.1 percent of December sales, down from 40.8 percent in December 2009, but up from 37.6 percent in November.

Jeffrey Michael, who directs the Business Forecasting Center at the University of the Pacific's business school in Stockton, said he does not think prices will sink much lower.

"We're finally starting to get a little bit better data on jobs and a little bit better economic data overall," he said. "I think there's a chance of a little bit further price declines, but I wouldn't say this is a sign of a substantial new decrease."

Home sales fell 13.4 percent from 41,837 in December 2009 to 36,215 last month, while last month's sales jumped 15.3 percent from 31,403 in an unusually sluggish November.

DataQuick spokesman Andrew LePage cautioned against reading much into the increase, noting that much of December's data included homes that entered escrow in the autumn.

"Something sort of juiced sales in the fall," he said.

Gretchen Pearson, president of a real estate brokerage that does business throughout the San Francisco Bay area, said many of her clients saw homes at affordable prices and wanted to buy them before mortgage rates increased.

"The consumer is starting to understand that if I'm waiting for the exact rock bottom of a sales price, it gets washed out if I lose some ground on the interest rate," she said.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD &
LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

DATE/TIME: January 26, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
ARB 10-587, 1343 Third Street Promenade: Retail
ARB 10-630, 1427 Seventh Street: Mixed Use/Residential
ARB 10-640, 2520 Second Street: Institutional*
ARB 11-009, 625 Montana Avenue: Bank
ARB 11-019, 2212 Wilshire Boulevard: Retail

*Special Joint Meeting with the Landmarks Commission

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9 and the Tide Ride serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.







Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

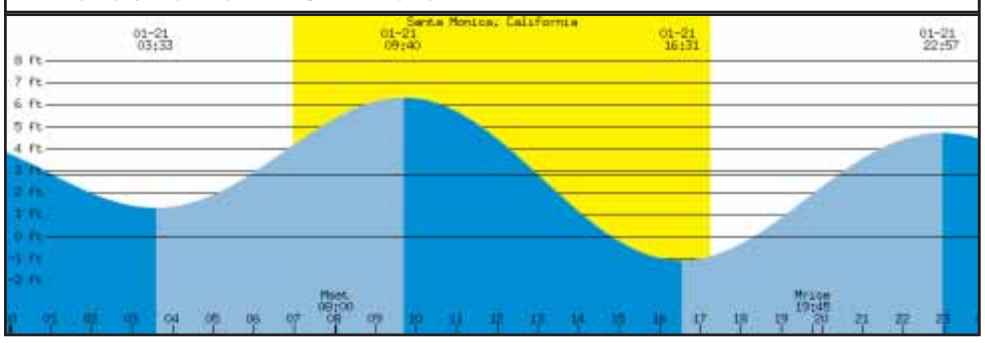
Swell Forecast

Should see west facing breaks drop to chest to head high max. Note that some forerunners/rogue waves from Saturday's swell may start hitting SoCal late in the day.

Long Range Synopsis

Rogue waves are highly likely throughout the day.

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 Aline 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 Dan 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 Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A
Topanga 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 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.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for the:

WOODLAWN CEMETERY SEWER AND PAVING IMPROVEMENTS SP2191

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on February 9, 2011 to be publicly opened and read aloud after 2:30 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE:	**$350,000.00**
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS:	**60 days**
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:	**$1000.00 PER DAY**
COMPENSABLE DELAY:	**$ 500.00 PER DAY**

Bid Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at http://www.smgov.net/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT:	**Proposed Zoning Text Amendments to amend sections of the Zoning Ordinance in order to implement State law regarding density bonuses for projects that include affordable housing**
APPLICANT:	City of Santa Monica
LOCATION:	Citywide

Public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following proposed text amendments and to forward recommendations to the City Council:

Modification of and additions to the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.04.10.14.040, 9.04.10.14.050, 9.04.10.14.060, 9.04.10.14.070, 9.04.10.14.080, and 9.04.14.090, and sections that cross-references these sections of the Zoning Ordinance to codify, in part, the provisions of Interim Ordinance No. 2176 (CCS) and subsequent extending ordinances; to comply with Government Code Section 65915, which requires cities to adopt implementing ordinances providing affordable housing incentives.

DATE/TIME:	**WEDNESDAY, February 2, 2011 AT 7:00 PM**
LOCATION:	City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City of Santa Monica
Strategic & Transportation Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200
Attn: Travis Page, Associate Planner

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Travis Page at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at travis.page@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at http://www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

CAN'T FIND A DAILY PRESS NEWSTAND IN YOUR AREA? WE'LL TRY TO GET ONE TO YOU!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Vertigo
7:30pm

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

Somewhere (R) 1hr 38min
12:05pm, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm

True Grit (PG-13)
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:15pm

Dilemma (PG-13)
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Way Back (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:50pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

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

True Grit (PG-13)
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

No Strings Attached (NR)
10:40am, 11:35am, 1:20pm, 2:20pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:40pm, 10:40pm

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

Green Hornet 3D (NR)
10:15am, 1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Country Strong (PG-13) 1hr 52min
10:50am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

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

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

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:20pm, 4:20pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

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

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

Another Year (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

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

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

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
10:00am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (NR) 2hrs 07min
10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Company Men (R) 1hr 53min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:05pm

Unbeaten (NR)
8:05pm, 10:35pm

Green Hornet 3D (NR)
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

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

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

Head home tonight, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Confusion could mark an accomplishment. Make it a habit to confirm a statement, a meeting location or whatever is needed. You might feel a bit awkward in the presence of others. Just note what is going on inside. Tonight: Play it easy and relaxing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might have difficulty moving from one idea to another, mainly because conversations with others could be disjointed. Should you want to clear out a problem, use your communication skills. A friend might not be relating the whole story. Tonight: Let go. You need more fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You ask a question in order to get a clearer perspective, only to discover that the answer opens the door to more confusion. Be skillful in listening, and reflect what you are hearing. Later in the day, you get a better perspective. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Do not allow another person to mow you down over an issue. You do know when someone is being unreasonable. For you, the issue might be more how to say "No, thank you" in an appropriate manner. You do not want to burn any bridges. Tonight: Join some friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Clear the haze off several issues. Zero in on the bottom line, knowing when you have had enough. Your ability to open up conversations comes through. People feel more at ease with you. Tonight: Treat a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be out of sync with daytime events. Don't worry, your time is coming. In fact, as the sun sets, you feel revitalized, just in time for the weekend! You might need to make last-minute plans, as a delay could slow you down. Tonight: Feeling great, doing your thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Zero in on the basics. Knowing what you want helps others follow along. You cut through confusion with your ability to lead. Meetings could be more important than you realize. Supporters appear after a discussion that could be uncomfortable. Tonight: Add a little mystery to your allure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Pressure builds, as others look up to you and need to follow your example or directions. Avoid taking a personal matter out into the world. The issue might melt away, given time. The other party feels it when you are not thinking of him or her. Tonight: Where the party begins.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You seem to know what needs to be done, while others seem to be working their way through a maze. You could be happiest close to home, or in a situation that has a homey atmosphere. You seem to have an unusual sense of grace, which others respond to. Tonight: Know when to call it an early night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Stay sensitive to your well-being. What another party proposes sounds excellent. The reality could be quite different. Avoid signing an agreement without legal representation. Risks could be a bad idea. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Try to be as clear as possible. Also, clarify what you are hearing, as a prevalent theme of misunderstandings could run through the day. Be careful with funds and any other major decisions. A good idea is to say "yes" to a long lunch. Enjoy. Tonight: Where you want to be, but not alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Clear out as much as you can. You could be unusually tired or withdrawn. Test out your ideas rather than declaring them as givens. You easily could see a problem and make an adjustment. Tighten up a plan. Tonight: Where people are!

Happy birthday

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

This year, you are able to assert yourself without others being offended. People close to you actually might be relieved to see a stronger yet diplomatic you. Learn to communicate with precision, knowing what your message is. If single, you might not really be sure if someone cares. Try to be more aware, and listen to observant friends! If attached, do not take your sweetie for granted. Caring comes back in multiples. VIRGO knows how to key into you.

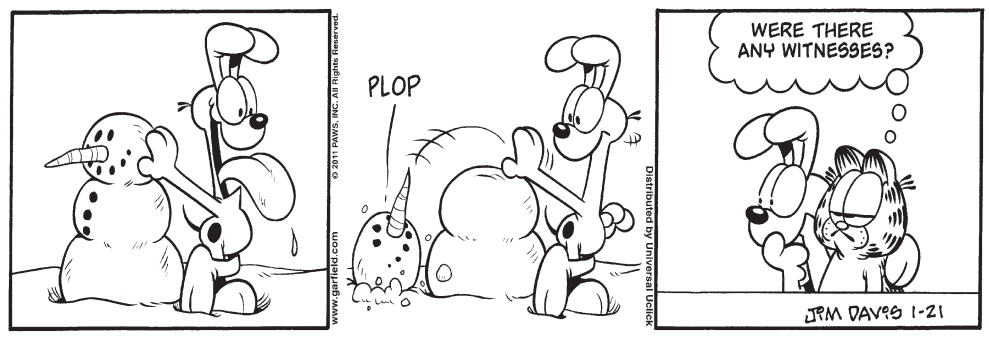


MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

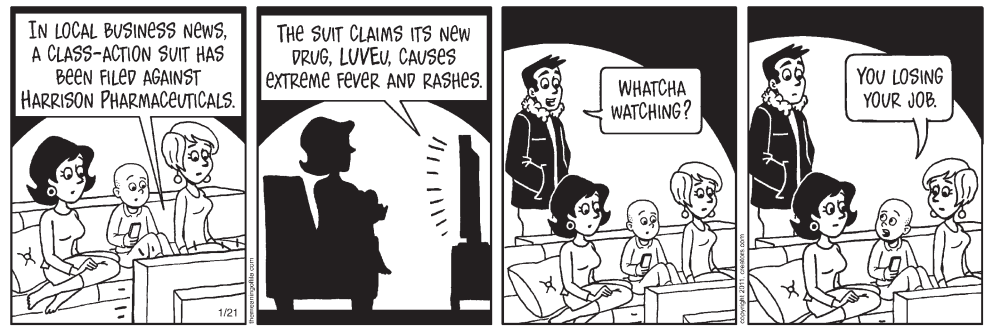
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



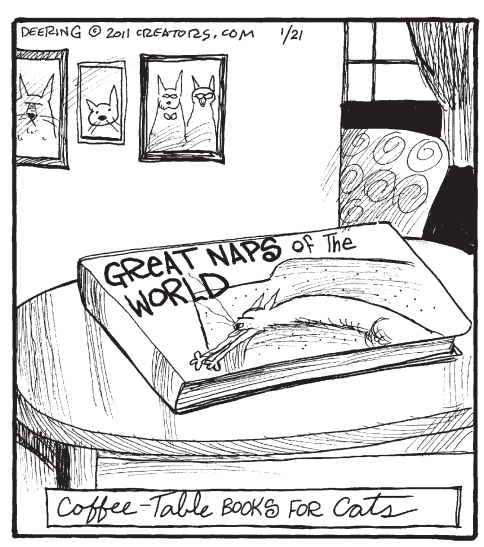
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



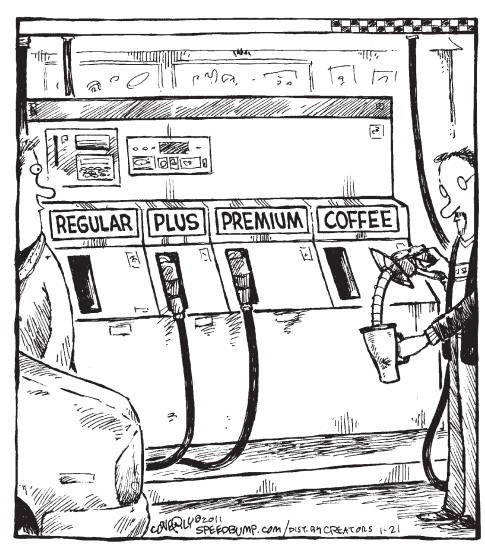
Strange Brew

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 ★★★★

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

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

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

"IRA Rollover Do's and Don'ts"

"Retirees and Soon to be Retired Make These Mistakes Losing Thousands of Dollars"

A nationally known financial expert says many retirees and boomers who rollover their retirement savings accounts make these mistakes, costing themselves and their families thousands of dollars! They risk their retirement security, increasing the chance they could outlive their money. This is true whether they handle their savings themselves, or with help from a professional! Are you needlessly losing thousands of dollars? **Find out NOW, Call toll-free, 800-238-1719 for a free consultation on the do's and don'ts of IRA rollovers and generating income in your retirement. CALL NOW, before it's too late!**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Soup servings
6 Informal greeting
11 Improvised
12 Lucy's pal
13 "Cool!"
14 Trite
15 Chiding sounds
17 Painter Dix
18 Fail to fail
20 Goals
22 English cathedral city
23 Like some tans
26 Chew the scenery
28 Self-contained
29 Symbol of honor
31 Salt Lake City player
32 Gambling city
33 Spur on
34 Office leader
36 Bookish sort
38 Leaves out
40 "Superman" star
43 Polygon corner
44 Over
45 Muscular power
46 Fixed shoes

DOWN

1 Outlaw
2 Pindar poem
3 Bar line
4 Water flower
5 Edinburgh native
6 "— So Fine"
7 Footstool
8 "Why act that way?"
9 Shoulder muscle, for short
10 Bread spread
16 Weaken
18 Disrobe
19 — mater
21 Pupil surrounder
23 Spotted
24 Atop
25 Demand
27 Bridge support
30 First name in horror
33 Answer to "grazie"
34 Fluffy wraps
35 One-time Atlanta arena
37 Important times
39 Stitch
41 Compete
42 Finale

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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					■	46				

1-21

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

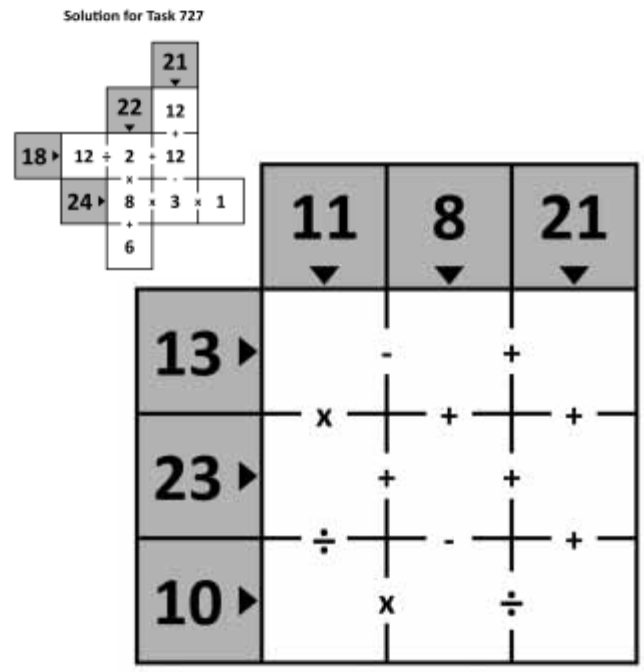
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

2, 7, 9, 9, 10, 10, 10, 10, 11

Solution for Task 727



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 27 29 38 45 — Meganumber: 5 — Jackpot: $51M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 7 16 27 39 — Meganumber: 3 — Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 5 9 10 13 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 3 9 — EVENING: 0 6 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot — 2nd: 04 Big Ben — 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms — RACE TIME: 1:48.33

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

■ The federal agency that administers Medicare acknowledged to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in November that the government often overpays for patient wheelchairs due to a quirk in its rules. Ordinary wheelchairs sell for $100 to $350, but Medicare cannot reimburse patients who buy the chairs; it can only pay for rentals (for up to 13 months), for $40 to $135 a month. (A 2009 audit found that Medicare allowed up to $7,215 for oxygen dispensers that were available for sale for $587 and $4,018 for a power wheelchair that cost suppliers $1,048.)

■ A December Wall Street Journal investigation turned up instances of physical-therapy doctors earning millions of dollars a year in Medicare payments by "treating" nonexistent patients or by overtreating real patients or by providing controversial "treatments" that other therapists say are useless. Describing the work of hard-partying, spike-haired Miami Beach doctor Christopher Wayne, one former physical-therapy association official likened Wayne's expensive "treatment" to "back rubs." (Medicare law requires prompt payment to doctors but prevents the public release of doctors' billing records -- even if all patient identification is hidden -- thus ensuring that any Medicare abuses can only be uncovered by a small team of federal investigators and not by the press unless, as the Wall Street Journal did, they investigate patient by patient.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1948 The Flag of Quebec is adopted and flown for the first time over the National Assembly of Quebec. The day is marked annually as Quebec Flag Day.

1950 Alger Hiss is convicted of perjury.

1954 The first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, is launched in Groton, Connecticut by Mamie Eisenhower, the First Lady of the United States.

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

WORD UP!

grangerize \ GRYEN-juh-rahyz \ , verb; 1. To add to the visual content of a book by inserting images not included in the original volume, often by mutilating other books.

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