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Santa Monica Daily Press
JANUARY 21-22, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 61



# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

PROPERLY RESTRAINED
SEE PAGE 4

THE UNDER THE BIG TOP ISSUE

# School board accepts softer alcohol, drug policy

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Board of Education formally accepted a controversial policy Thursday that reduces the amount of punishment levied on a student for violating school rules on alcohol and drug use.

The vote ended eight months of work on the part of district staff, parents and the board to create consequences for breaking the rules on drinking or drug use at school or at school events that adequately punished students while also getting them the help they might need for any substance abuse problems.

Previous rules required students to serve a five-day suspension, complete 40 hours of community service and attend 24 hours of drug and alcohol counseling while serving a 10-week academic probation.

During that probationary period, students were not allowed to attend school events, including milestone moments like graduation.

A second offense put a student up for expulsion.

The new rules, called an administrative regulation, assigns different punishments for different age groups.

Elementary and middle school students would receive a three-day suspension for their first violation, and be required to complete community service either on or off the

SEE POLICY PAGE 7





## CIRQUE CITY

Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

**ABOVE: Performers take the stage Thursday for the 'Banquet,' which closes out the show with music and dancing and butterfly confetti during the dress reversal of Cirque du Soleil's 'OVO' at the Santa Monica Pier. The show runs through March 25.**

**LEFT: Volodymyr Hrynchenko balances with one hand on top of a structure during the dress reversal for 'OVO.' The show is a headlong rush into a colorful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement.**

# Obama's plan to boost tourism

## Changes to visas could mean big bucks for Santa Monica

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN President Barack Obama is promising a fresh boost to the economy by making it easier for foreign tourists to travel to the U.S., a move welcomed by Santa Monica officials.

"One of the biggest obstacles facing foreign travelers who want to come to … Santa Monica is the difficult visa application process some must undergo in order to get here," said Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau President/CEO Misti Kerns said. "These inconveniences have hampered the U.S.' economic growth and global com-

SEE TOURISM PAGE 3

# City Hall to beef up enforcement of taxi companies

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City officials plan to step up their monitoring of taxi cabs that operate in Santa Monica by increasing enforcement and putting new limits on how drivers compete and comport themselves.

As of Feb. 1, responsibility for enforcing taxi cab rules will fall on the shoulders of code enforcement officers rather than the singular police officer who was charged with the task of monitoring all 300 cars and drivers that operate in Santa Monica, city officials told the Daily Press Friday.

The goal is to get more eyes on the street checking for potential violations, said Salvatore Valles, Santa Monica's taxi franchise coordinator.

"There's a certain cache that comes with a uniformed officer, but for the kinds of things we're trying to focus on, like public safety and customer service, more boots on the ground would be helpful," Valles said.

Code enforcement has beefed up its activities in the city, and will expand into a number of new fields including taxi franchise monitoring, cracking down on illegal garage sales and dealing with hoarders, said Joe Trujillo, code compliance manager for City Hall.

It's uniquely qualified to take on its new roles by dint of numbers, Trujillo said.

"There are only a few police and we have staff here, including two supervisors and three officers," he said. "Hopefully we'll be

SEE TAXI PAGE 6


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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

**A night with Sam — and Woody**
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Woody Allen's "Play It Again, Sam" will be the theatre's second production of the season. Nominated for three Tony Awards, the comedy classic ran for 453 performances on Broadway. The memorable film version is the missing link between Woody's early films like "Take the Money and Run" and "Bananas" and his later, relationship-oriented films like "Annie Hall." The production runs through Feb. 12. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

**Compost for all**
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave.,
7 a.m. until it's gone
City Hall is providing five large burlap coffee sacks of nutrient-rich compost per household. Compost has been recognized as a valuable soil amendment for centuries. Its use in gardens is an effective way to improve soil health, increase plant production, and reduce the use of water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

**Under the sea**
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
Santa Monica Pier,
12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Join the aquarium as it holds the fourth annual Underwater Parks Day, celebrating the implementation of Marine Protected Areas (known as MPAs) in Southern California. The marine science center will feature activities and presentations about the newly designated areas and give visitors the chance to meet many of the marine animals they safeguard.
For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

**Going digital**
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Get the low-down on the latest digital photography techniques with educators and professional photographers Santino Zafarana and Ken Pivak. Known as "The Photo Guys," they are the creators of Digital 1 to 1, the world's largest source on learning how to take better photographs.
For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

### Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012

**History by the sea**
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Explore the rich history of the Marion Davies Guest House, guilefully guided by a docent from the Santa Monica Conservancy. Tours last approximately 30 minutes. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

**Leftward bound**
McCabe's Guitar Shop
3101 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Roy Zimmerman's biting satiric songs have been described by the L.A. Times as a latter day Tom Lehrer, and Lehrer himself has given him his blessing. Come listen to him tear down war, neo-conservatism and big business with catchy songs and sharp lyrics. Zimmerman is also leading a songwriting workshop before the concert at 3 p.m. Cost: $17.50. For more information, call (310) 828-4497.

To create your own listing,
log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at
310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed,
log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

### School board approves funding for field lights

The Board of Education approved funding to pay for the planning and design of permanent lighting on the football field at Malibu High School at its meeting Thursday.

The board is fronting the money, which Malibu residents will eventually cover, said Ben Allen, board president.

Staff requested $225,760 to pay for the project's "soft costs," which include design, permits and agency fees, inspections, management costs and bid costs.

Environmental work will cost an additional $44,886.

According to the staff report, the project's construction costs are expected to hit $436,520, and will be requested at a future date.

In the meantime, the Malibu community has organized a Field Lighting Committee, and will be raising funds for the project.

The allocation comes at the end of a long fight to bring lights to the athletic facilities. The school used temporary lights for many years before the Coastal Commission forced them to end the practice.

In October, the Coastal Commission approved an application to allow lights at the field for 18 days of the year until 10:30 p.m.

Otherwise, the lights can be on until 7:30 p.m. three days a week between the months of September and May.

ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

OLYMPIC BLVD

### Memorial Park Fitness Room free for a week

City Hall, along with Active Santa Monica, is trying to give you no excuse to abandon that New Year's resolution to get in shape.

The Memorial Park Fitness Room, part of the Memorial Park Gymnasium located at 1401 Olympic Blvd., will be free to try for anyone ages 16 and up from Jan. 23 to Jan. 30.

Group Fitness, Yoga Sculpt and Abs! Workout programs will be offered free of charge during the week.

The fitness room also stocks weights, strength training machines and cardio machines. Entry is normally $3 a visit for residents and $4 for non-residents. Four-week passes are also available.

The fitness room is open Monday through Friday noon to 9 p.m., and weekends noon to 7 p.m. For more information, call (310) 458-2201 ext. 2020, or visit www.facebook.com/ActiveSM.

COLIN NEWTON

SMMUSD HQ

### SMMUSD seeks advisory committee member

There is a vacancy on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Measure BB advisory committee, and the district wants to fill it.

Committee members will assist the Board of Education and district staff by helping provide the community's perspective regarding school construction that uses funds from Measure BB.

Applicants should have a link to the culture and geography of the district, and some kind of expertise in a relevant field, such as construction, safety or environmental concerns.

Applications are available through the Superintendent's Office, which can be reached at (310) 450-8338, or online at www.smmusd.org/measureBB/measureBBDAC.html.

The deadline for applicants is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

CN

# Lions Gate names Summit execs to key post

**BY ASSOCIATED PRESS**

COLORADO AVE Movie and TV studio Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. said Friday it has named two executives from recently-acquired Summit Entertainment, Rob Friedman and Patrick Wachsberger, as co-chairs of its Motion Picture Group.

The announcement came a week after the companies said that Santa Monica-based Lions Gate had acquired Summit for $412.5 million in cash and stock. The deal put Summit's teen hit "Twilight" series under the same roof with Lions Gate's upcoming four-part series based on Suzanne Collins' young adult novels, "The Hunger Games."

Friedman and Wachsberger had said they would stay on to run Summit as a subsidiary of Lions Gate.

The "Twilight" series has grossed more than $2.5 billion worldwide since late 2008, and the finale in the five-movie series, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2," is due out in November.

The three "Hunger Games" books rank 1, 2 and 3 on USA Today's best-seller list with about 23 million books in print, and the first movie in that series is scheduled to be released March 23.

news@smdp.com

## TOURISM

FROM PAGE 1

petitiveness by making it difficult, sometimes almost impossible, for growing international markets such as Brazil and India to visit our destination."

The tourism initiative approved by Obama this week is intended to make the U.S. the world's top travel destination by boosting non-immigrant visa processing capacity in China and Brazil by 40 percent this year; expanding a Visa Waiver Program that allows participating nationals to travel to the U.S. for stays of 90 days or less without a visa; appointing a new group of chief executives to the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board; and directing an interagency task force to develop recommendations for a National Travel and Tourism Strategy, including promoting national parks and other sites.

"America is open for business," Obama declared Thursday against the backdrop of Walt Disney World's Cinderella castle and picture-perfect blue skies. "We want to welcome you."

The White House says the travel and tourism industry represented 2.7 percent of gross domestic product and 7.5 million jobs in 2010. But the U.S. share of spending by international travelers fell from 17 percent to 11 percent between 2000 and 2010, due to increased competition and changes in global development, as well as security measures imposed after Sept. 11, 2001, according to the White House.

The White House said more than 1 million U.S. jobs could be created over the next decade, according to industry projections, if the U.S. increases its share of the international travel market.

"Tourism is a critical component to the strength of our local economy and quality of life of our residents," said Santa Monica City Manager, Rod Gould. "TOT (transient occupancy tax) from our hotels generated close to $34 million to the City of Santa Monica's general fund in 2010. This enables the city to maintain the excellent service that is its hallmark."

According to Kerns, $1.2 billion is generated by tourism each year in Santa Monica, with over 10,000 local jobs supported by visitors. Kerns said without tourism dollars, each Santa Monica household would pay an additional $809 annually to retain the same level of services currently provided.

Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau has partnered with the U.S. Travel Association to increase travel to and within the United States. Among U.S. Travel's objectives for 2012 will be for the U.S. government to pursue concrete actions to increase international travel, business travel, participation in meetings and conventions and leisure travel throughout America. Policies U.S. Travel will champion include expansion of the Visa Waiver Program to Brazil, Argentina and Chile; further improvements to the entry process for international guests; streamlining the security process for trusted travelers; and building an aviation system that encourages greater air travel.



MAN WITH A PLAN: **Speaking at the Walt Disney World Resort on Thursday, President Obama unveiled plans to increase international visitation and make the U.S. the world's top travel destination.**

"This is the first time our country has had a national strategy and set goals for the amount of visitors we want to welcome to our country," said Roger Dow, president and CEO for the U.S. Travel Association. "The timing of the president's announcement could not be better."

Obama's approach was welcomed by Brazilian tourists Lilian Lara and Lindbergh Souza, who shopped along the Disney resort's streets hours before the president's speech. Souza said the visa process was expensive, at $500, and time-consuming for Brazilians who don't live close to consuls in Rio de Janiero and Sao Paulo.

"The whole process took me six months," Souza said.

In April, Kerns said the visitors bureau will welcome top market buyers to Santa Monica Place and Downtown for "Shop America," an exclusive reception for those attending Pow Wow, the travel industry's premier international marketplace and largest generator of inbound U.S. travel.

"This event will feature Santa Monica as a premier California beach destination by providing buyers an opportunity to explore our destination's shopping along with ocean breezes, sunset views, farmers market fresh cocktails and entertainment.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

### Drivers must share the road

**Editor:**

Larry Hutchison claims he walks to maintain his health ("He wants more," Letters to the Editor, Jan. 16). Well he should try cycling to keep fit. Then he will learn how motorists on our streets do not obey the rules of the road, which is why cyclists are being forced onto the sidewalks.

Before you can expect cycling safety on city streets, City Hall has to make the streets safe for cyclists, and in spite of all their propaganda, that is not the case.

Narrow streets are very dangerous for cyclists, especially in parts of Santa Monica like on Nielson Way where City Hall makes it even worse by using up an entire lane in the middle of the street for plants instead of putting in painted bike lanes!

Cars will stop suddenly, or make turns without signaling. I never see cops ticketing motorists for not signaling. City officials want more revenue. That's the way to get it! Instead they spend more hiring more meter maids to give more parking tickets!

Cars are supposed to stop for three seconds at stop signs before proceeding. Most drivers fail to yield to pedestrians or cyclists. For every cyclist who passes through stop signs (after looking both ways), I see just as many vehicles and pedestrians doing the same thing. You can't judge all cyclists for what a few do running red lights, especially when many pedestrians do the same thing!

If Mr. Hutchison wants cyclists off the sidewalks then we are within our rights to block the lane by riding right down the middle whenever necessary. It's a heck of a lot safer than letting drivers clip me with their side mirrors (instead of giving us the mandated 3 feet).

If I do that, however, I am really in danger of road rage from drivers who refuse to share the road. Drivers expect me to stay way over to the right where I am in danger of being "doored" by people opening their doors without looking. Happens all the time, and cyclists have a lot less protection than motorists.

**Jon Mann**
Santa Monica

### Wood-n't you know

**Editor:**

Shocked again in this fine Santa Monica to see two more giant apartment/condo projects being built out of wood – trees!

Shocked with the continued supporting of clearcutting our fantastic forests in the building of these projects at Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street. And Lincoln Boulevard at Broadway. It is an outrage with so many other building materials available to use, that you continue to use lumber! Incredible trees from a glorious forest.

**Richard Sproul**
Santa Monica




## On the Beat

NRO Mike Boyd

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Keeping kids safe while driving

Q: I WAS WATCHING NEWS ON TELEVISION and they reported that children have to ride in a booster seat until they reach 4-feet, 9-inches tall. I thought children didn't need a booster seat if they were 6 years old or weighed 60 pounds. Is this a new law? Can you give me more information on this subject?

A: There was a change to the existing law regarding child safety restraints in vehicles. The change took effect on Jan. 1, 2012. A child safety restraint is a device, such as a seatbelt or small car seat with a seatbelt, used to control and protect a child in a motor vehicle.

There are four types of child safety restraint systems. They are infant seats, convertible seats, combination seats, and booster seats. The difference in the type of seat is directly related to the size of the child. The seats are designed to fit children at different stages in their lives. Some seats are designed for infants until they reach a certain height or weight, while others are designed specifically for toddlers. Your child's size will determine which seat is right for him/her.

By definition, a booster seat is one that adjusts a child's height in order to allow a seatbelt to properly fit. A proper fit is when the lap belt lies snuggly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Let's take a look at the changes to the law in greater detail.

Section 27360 of the California Vehicle Code defines the requirements necessary for child passengers in motor vehicles. The old law stated in essence that a child passenger needed to be in an approved child restraint system in the rear seat of a motor vehicle until the child was 6 years old or weighed 60 pounds.

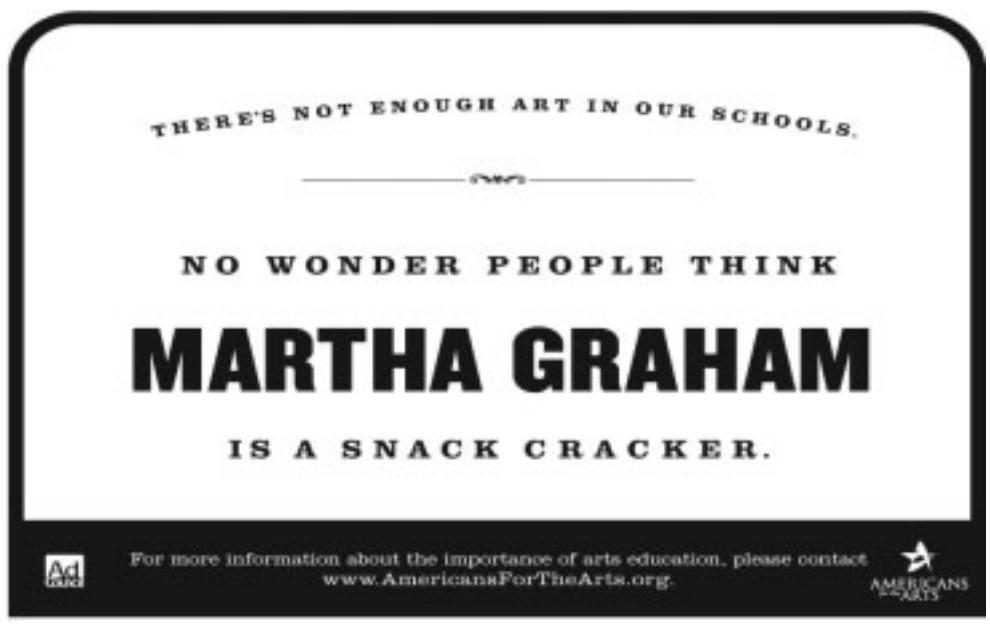
The new law focuses more on the child's height rather than weight. One of the reasons for the change was based on information from several studies of motor vehicle accidents involving child passengers. The studies revealed startling information on injuries that children sustained while wearing seatbelts without the use of a booster seat. The study also showed that child passengers involved in motor vehicle accidents who were 6 years old or weighed 60 pounds, and not using an approved booster seat, were slipping through seatbelts and ending up in hospital emergency rooms. Seatbelts in motor vehicles are designed to fit adults. A booster seat can raise a child to the height of an adult and provide a better fit for the seatbelt. The new changes to the law aim to better protect child passengers in motor vehicles.

As of Jan. 1, 2012, section 27360 of the California Vehicle Code now states in essence a driver shall not transport a child under 8 years of age in a motor vehicle without properly securing that child in an approved child restraint system in the rear seat. An approved child restraint system is basically a child seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards. There are a few exceptions to this section listed in 27363 of the California Vehicle Code. The exceptions are for children riding in the front seat. Children under the age of 8 may ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle when they are properly secured in an approved child safety restraint system under the following circumstances:

- The motor vehicle's rear seats are side facing or rear facing.
- The child restraint system cannot be properly installed in the rear seat.
- The motor vehicle does not have a rear seat. In this case the child restraint system should be used in the front seat (i.e. a regular cab pick-up truck). Please note that a rear facing child restraint system should never be used in the front seat of a motor vehicle equipped with active frontal passenger air bags.
- All rear seats are being occupied by children 7 years of age or younger.
- Medical reasons necessitate the child not ride in the rear seat. The court may require satisfactory proof of the child's medical condition.
- A child passenger who is 4-feet, 9-inches tall and under the age of 8 does not need to be in an approved child restraint system.

Remember, all passengers in a motor vehicle are required to utilize seatbelts regardless of age or height. If you would like more information on child restraint systems, please visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website at www.nhtsa.gov/ChildSafety. The website offers recommendations for child seats, current manufacture recalls, seat inspection stations, as well as other valuable information.

This column was prepared by Neighborhood Resource Officer **MIKE BOYD** (Beat 8: Pico Neighborhood). He can be reached at (424) 200-0688 or Michael.boyd@smgov.net.




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The Q Line

# Keeping the peace

**Police and school officials reported last week that a rash of fights had broken out at Santa Monica High School recently. Some believe that the fights may be a sign of racial tensions on the campus.**

This past week, Q-line asked:
**What do you think school officials should to do address the problem, or is this just a case of kids being kids?**

Here are your responses:

"THE SAME PROBLEM, YEAR AFTER YEAR. There is nothing the high school administration can do about this. By the time the kids get to high school, it is too late. The elementary schools do a poor job of teaching kids how to get along. Instead, they make excuses for badly behaved children by saying their parents have so much to do, it would be too hard to add discipline to the equation. Those kids are allowed to go through elementary and middle school as thugs preying on well behaved kids. By the time they are young adults in high school, they know they are boss. No authority figure there will be able to discipline them and, if the high school authorities seek help from their parents, those parents get mad and respond, 'My kid is fine, no one from elementary school or middle school had any problems. You deal with it.' You can try all the sensitivity training money can buy, but until parents are included in the training and held accountable for their children's behavior at the earliest possible age, nothing will change."

"MY DAUGHTER ENJOYED AND FOUND valuable the Racial Harmony program at Santa Monica High School and I'm glad to see it's back. The program highlighted the misconceptions all groups carry, and fostered an improved attitude. It's unfortunate that the program has never been offered as widely as it should be."

"SCHOOL OFFICIALS NEED TO ADDRESS these racial problems continuously and even pre-emptively. They have to care enough to do so. All we ever hear about schools these days are that they are forever crying poor! No matter how much they get it is never enough. But there is enough money around to hire the top people at the salary the mayor of L.A. gets. What do they do for it? The results are always below standard. Take an example of Samohi sports coaches. They seem to have the racial harmony down pat and their success at football and basketball in particular shows it. The spirit and the level of dignity of these teams are immediately apparent."

"OVER 40 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS A student at Samohi, I never saw or heard of a fight on campus. Why is there now a difference? What, because time's changed and there's a larger, non-white attendance, why should that be a problem? The problem is in a lack of leadership. The school district does not hire or promote people with ability, only with need. It's an institutional Marxist rot that permeates the entire district. The professional race agitators love this kind of situation. By agitating doubtful race problems means a larger salary or a higher level of phony instruction. Board member Mr. [Oscar] de la Torre runs such a tax payer-supported business. Why is he allowed to financially thrive? Your paper endorsed the glass ceiling of the top five managers, all women. Maybe you should have supported competence instead. All people need clarity. Rules are in place to facilitate an orderly society. Young people need strict rules, not wavering intellectual hypocrisy. Heads need to roll, starting at the top. The superintendent, the Samohi principal, and especially the school board. Good luck succeeding against the highly paid intellectual district deceit."

"THE GANGBANGERS ARE MOSTLY FROM Compton or East L.A. and don't live here. It is easy for students to lie about where they live and come to Santa Monica schools. They come here because our schools are better. Our school district is run by the commies from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights as is everything in our town. They don't care about this because if they double checked on student homes they would have to close some elementary schools and lay off many teachers and administrators who are their cronies. We get a little money from the state per student, but it doesn't cover the costs. Our district also lets parents who work for the city to send their kids to school here. There is no reason for this or any of these problems. There are probably hundreds of out-of-town kids going to our schools. We could have a surplus of school money and no gang or race wars if we just threw out these kids who don't live in our town."

"THE MOST POSITIVE WAY TO STOP THE ignorance and violence is to have them see the similarities they share in common."

"NEVER HAVING HAD CHILDREN IN AREA schools, I have not closely followed related issues; however, it seems racial tensions ('Fights break out at Samohi' page 1, Jan. 13, 2012) could be helped by permanent reinstitution of the Racial Harmony program 'promoting dialogue between racial groups' ('Racial Harmony returns to Samohi' page 1, Jan. 17, 2012). Many cultural differences can lead to tensions between diverse groups due to misunderstandings of motivation and intent. These can be no-fault situations which can nevertheless have serious consequences. City officials' policies regarding low-income rental projects which 'recruit' families far from Santa Monica, not Santa Monicans, ('RDA Funding: $267M going, going, gone' My Write, page 4, Jan. 16, 2012) brings diverse groups together and does not allow time for the assimilation which could occur in a more typical city-growth pattern. The presence of large numbers of construction workers, often culled from lines outside of paint or hardware stores, adds elements to this mix."

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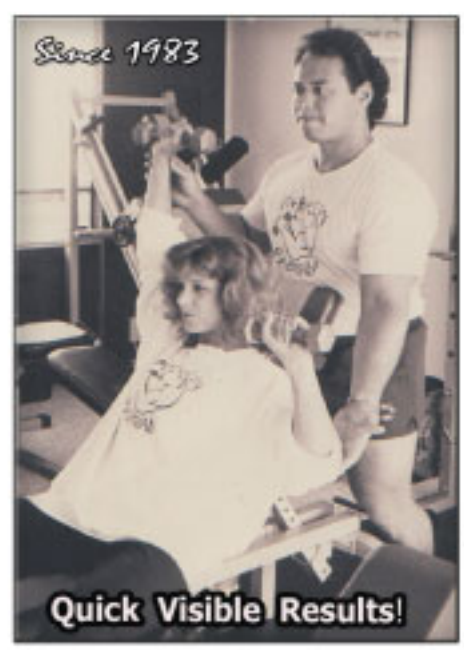















# TAXI
FROM PAGE 1

gaining ground and getting them out there. It's something we haven't done in the past."

The compliance officers will perform safety and cleanliness checks of taxis, make sure drivers look clean and treat customers well and don't throw cigarette butts on the ground around taxi stands on public property.

Also at issue are "bandit" or "gypsy" cabs, cars that do not belong to one of the five franchise companies and come into Santa Monica on the sly to poach business.

Cab drivers and company managers believe that they're aided by doormen at major hotels or restaurants in the area, who call the out-of-towners for lucrative fares in exchange for bribes, called "cookies."

When the franchise system went into effect, it became illegal for cab drivers to offer the bribes, and in September the City Council voted to even the playing field by making it illegal for doormen and others to request money.

No one has yet been caught in the act, and one of the first tasks of the code enforcement officers will be to investigate the allegations and conduct sting operations in conjunction with the police to catch bandit cabs and their alleged counterparts, Trujillo said.

Cracking down on the illegal cabbies helps the drivers operating within the system and ensures public safety, said Michael Kalin, general manager of Bell Cab Co., one of the five franchisees.

"The practice infringes on legit companies and the income of drivers who are doing everything right," Kalin said. "We have to conduct brake maintenance, tire changes, alignments, headlights, et cetera. It's for the safety of the public and the drivers."

Code enforcement officers will also be enforcing new rules handed down by City Hall regarding how the taxis can queue at taxi stands, an issue which has proponents and opposition within the taxi franchise community.

Taxi companies try to stack taxi stands in popular places with a lot of foot traffic so that their drivers get the business.

Under the new rules, if there are two cars from the same company at a taxi stand, and a car from another company drives up, one of the two cars already there must leave.

The rule, which prevents cars from the same company from circling around blocks waiting for a spot to open up, was implemented in Beverly Hills first. Three of Santa Monica's code compliance officers hail from that town.

The rule isn't fair to drivers and creates a traffic hazard, said Nettabai Ahmed, president of the Independent Taxi Operators Association.

"Put yourself in the driver's place," Ahmed said. "You spend an hour on the stand. Your own company car is ahead of you by five minutes. Another car comes, and now you need to move out. That is going to create havoc."

Ahmed painted a picture of cars being forced out of the taxi stands into oncoming traffic, creating further congestion on already-busy streets like Broadway or Colorado Avenue.

Kalin didn't take it so harshly.

"Our perspective is that it will be beneficial for Bell Cab," he said. "The way it's set up now, if there's a popular stand, one company can practically monopolize it."

It's not fair to other drivers, and it doesn't give customers a choice, Kalin said.

The officers will face challenges.

Code enforcement officers do not have the same powers as police. They cannot conduct traffic stops or impound cars, which limits their ability to enforce some of the laws regarding bandit cabs.

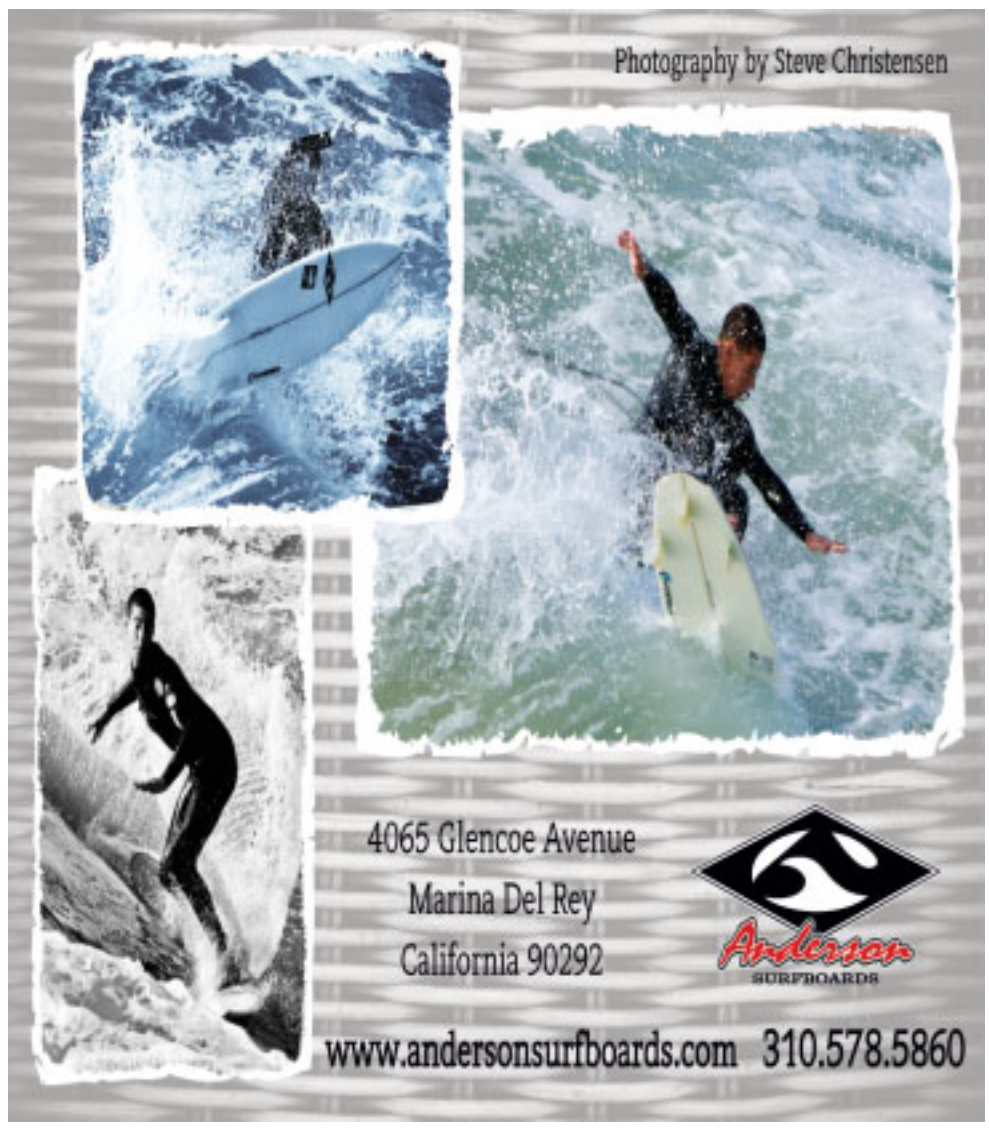
The effort will require coordination between the new crew and police to make it work smoothly, Valles said.

Cab companies view the switch to code compliance as a good concept, and are willing to work on the details.

"The code enforcement personnel, I know these people, because they work with us," Ahmed said. "We think this is a positive change."

ashley@smdp.com



## POLICY
FROM PAGE 1

school site.

High school students would automatically get a five-day suspension, complete 40 hours of community service, attend 24 hours of substance abuse counseling and receive academic probation for four weeks.

During that month, they would still not be allowed to participate in school activities, but they could get a pass for graduation if they show proof that they're making progress on their community service.

Parents would also be required to commit to 12 hours of substance abuse counseling.

The changes soften an otherwise excessive policy, said Lisa Golden Balfous, a psychiatrist in the community and outspoken critic of the original policy.

"The parameters are somewhat more flexible," she said. "It's still really time-consuming for kids and parents, but if kids are intoxicated at school, it's a serious issue."

> THE PARAMETERS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE. IT'S STILL REALLY TIME-CONSUMING FOR KIDS AND PARENTS, BUT IF KIDS ARE INTOXICATED AT SCHOOL, IT'S A SERIOUS ISSUE.
>
> **Lisa Golden Balfous**
> psychiatrist

The policy came under fire in May for what parents considered its draconian nature after three 18-year-old Samohi seniors were found in a bar with beer on their table while on a choir trip overseas.

Although they were of legal drinking age in England, the girls were punished under school rules because they were participating in a school-sponsored trip.

The girls weren't allowed to continue in the choir and would have been kept out of their own graduation, but the board stepped in.

Under pressure from parents, and their attorney, the Board of Education suspended the harsh policy and directed staff to do a comprehensive review of how other districts punish malfeasant students.

In the meantime, an interim policy was put in place that let the three girls and all others under academic probation for drug or alcohol offenses to attend graduation if they had already met the other terms of the punishment.

That policy expired on June 30, 2011, and the original policy took its place.

The new version will be reviewed by Superintendent Sandra Lyon. It will go into effect after she approves it.

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Bookkeeping by the Numbers

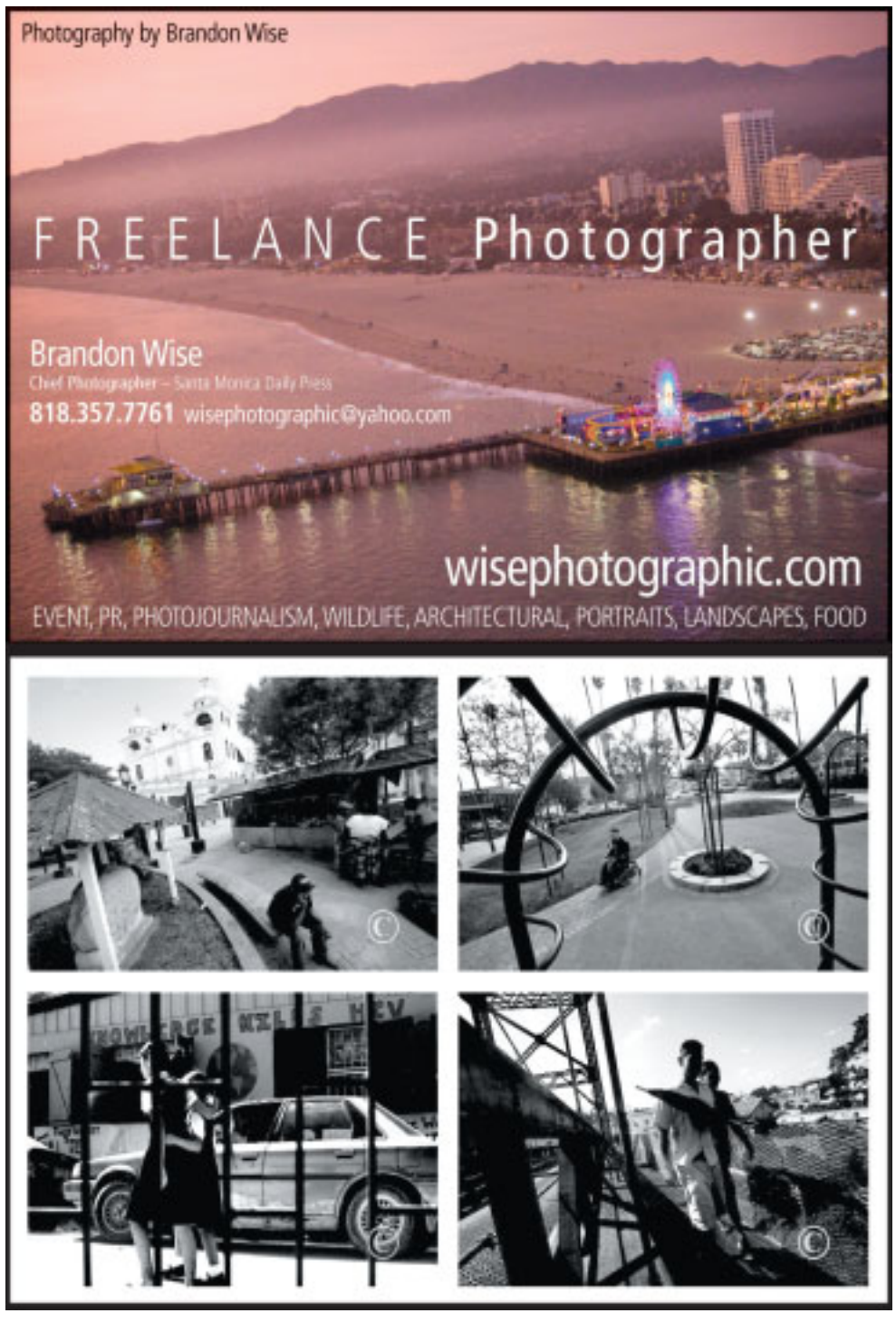
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Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
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# Coffee made with care

PATROLLING THE SANTA MONICA STREETS with fellow food writer Merv Hecht, a hot lead brought us to the Yahoo! Center on the east side of town. The complex is a major business hub with some high profile tenants like HBO, Apple and, of course, Yahoo. The massive structure has many amenities, but all inconspicuously self contained. So if you are just a passerby it is easy to be completely oblivious to everything that this place has to offer.

Being at one of Santa Monica's biggest business centers, we were conversely searching for one of the smallest and newest businesses in the entire complex. After some asking around we found The Brew Coffee Bar situated at one of the corners of the main plaza. Brew Coffee Bar is a specialty coffee shop along the lines of the more established Intelligentsia Coffee. Following in the same mantra, Brew Coffee is not just your standard cup of Joe, but more of a coffee experience.

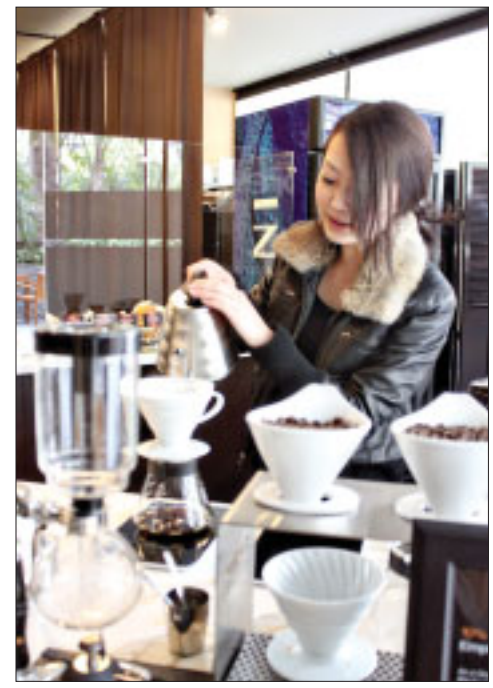
Merv and I did not hold back, taking a whirlwind tour of the menu and really exploring the studio. Off the bat we were offered a complimentary sample of their French hot chocolate. Being so rich and thick, I labeled it more of a melted chocolate, while Merv wasted no time supplementing his sample with a shot of espresso making some sort of mocha concentrate. The tasting was indeed off to a good start.

Merv is the coffee connoisseur, while I consider myself more of a tea guy. I ordered an organic tea, more specifically the rooibos latte with tangerine accents and steamed milk. The flavors blended so well they reminded me of a Creamsicle. Very nice indeed. Merv had no interest, deeming it too sweet, but took to their cappuccino. He compared it to his favorite cappuccino at a small place in the south of France, his highest honor.

The whole coffee experience really comes into play when you opt for the pour over option. It is at the pour over station where we met co-owner Joy Park who talked to us about her desire to open up a specialty coffee place that has somewhat been lacking here in SoCal. I did not know what specialty coffee was until I started picking up all the little details Joy went through to create a cup. From presoaking the filter with hot water, to throwing a couple of beans in the grinder first to expel any staleness, to doing the actual pour over in increments, it all serves a purpose.

This is where the "experience" aspect of Brew Coffee is most noticeable. Personal one-on-one service is something that has long gone by the wayside, especially with something as matter-of-fact as a cup of coffee. For anyone really passionate about coffee, the pour over option is something I recommend. Although it was not quite strong enough for Merv's robust palette, we both concluded no traces of acidity or any bitter aftertaste was a testament not only to good beans but the perfect pour.

The prices are not so much higher than your standard Starbucks and you seem to get a starkly better product. Plus, supporting a local upstart is much more fashionable than going the way of the corporate monster. The Yahoo! Center also offers wonderful indoor/outdoor seating and common areas and so many shops that neither Merv nor myself even knew existed. If you do indeed visit Brew Coffee Bar by way of automobile, make sure you have them validate your ticket. Do not learn the hard way with a $12 parking charge. Thankfully, Merv was driving.



Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

FRESH BREWED: **Joy Park, CEO (chief espresso officer) of Brew Coffee Bar at the Yahoo! Center, performs the pour over.**

## If you go

**Brew Coffee Bar**
2425 Colorado Ave., Suite B 118
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(310) 635-3355
http://brewcoffeebar.com/

**MICHAEL** can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.

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The Re-View
Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Old timers, Vol. 4: Casa Escobar

WHEN MY DAD FIRST TASTED PIZZA around 1950, he proclaimed it a fad that would disappear soon. Years later he would proclaim his love of American food, things like pizza and tacos.

It certainly is true that many foreign foods have become mainstream American, and in Southern California, Mexican imports might be number one on the list. That might explain why Casa Escobar has been around for 46 years, still run by one of the original founding family members.

This could be considered an historical tourist site. There is the leather bar, leather-vinyl booths, piñatas, and that most rare of restaurant commodities: a parking lot. It's really dark inside, with no windows, and the building itself is clearly from the 1950-1960 era. A few men at the bar look like they've been coming there since the day it opened.

The food? Well, good chips and two delicious salsa dips came within 60 seconds of our sitting down. That might be in part because we were the only customers at lunch the last time I was there. At the waiter's suggestion, a bottle of Noche Buena quickly followed. A few sips confirmed that I prefer Dos Equis. No water was offered, but that's just as well.

The menu confirmed my recollection that almost all of the lunch dishes were under $10, probably one reason for its longevity. I ordered a chile relleno and a crab enchilada, and my friends ordered a few other standard Mexican-American dishes. I didn't care for the relleno at all: it was a small chile with negligible cheese stuffing encased in a thick breaded coating with an over thickened sauce on top. I like my rellenos full of cheese with a lightly breaded tempura-like cover. Try it at Lares on Pico Boulevard and you will see what I mean.

The crab enchilada was typical, with good crab flavor, but unexceptional in seasoning or saucing. But it is the best dish I've ever had there.

Casa Escobar is a throwback to the old style Mexican restaurant specializing in tacos and enchiladas, burritos and chile verde — everything covered with spicy tomato based sauce. Like so many others it has not kept up with the wonders of Mexican cuisine. Its main claim to fame is its margaritas.

While the staples of Mexican foods are corn, beans, squash and chili peppers, there are many wonderful regional dishes in Mexico that restaurants like Casa Escobar are ignoring that include these ingredients as well as regional specialties.

In northern Mexico (and on the Casa Escobar menu) one can find carne asada — thin beef strips marinated with lime, garlic and Worcestershire sauce and grilled over coals or on a griddle. In the Yucatán the locals dine on tamales and moles. In Jalisco there is delicious goat birria.

Then there are the coastal regions with seafood specialties, including fish a la veracruana and Mexican ceviche. In the southeast there are spicy vegetable dishes a bit like Indian foods and chicken-based dishes with various flavored sauces.

Some of my favorite Mexican foods are the slow-cooked pork dishes from the Yucatán Peninsula. On the other hand, I stay away from the Mayan and Aztec based foods such as iguana, rattlesnake, corn fungus, spider monkey, ant eggs and insects. As they say in French, everyone to his or her own taste.

Needless to say, few of these mouthwatering dishes are on the menu at Casa Escobar. But the current owner says he's about to come out with a new menu, so maybe something wonderful will happen. Until then, I prefer those special regional Mexican restaurants we are so fortunate to have in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

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




John Blanchette *news@smdp.com*

OLD SCHOOL: **Casa Escobar is a throwback to the old style Mexican restaurant specializing in tacos and enchiladas, burritos and chile verde — everything covered with spicy tomato based sauce.**

## If you go

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# Personhood push kindles abortion debate

**BY DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK In poll after poll, Americans say the economy is the paramount issue facing the nation, with hot-button social issues trailing far behind. Nonetheless, abortion will likely be in the election-year spotlight in a slew of states facing possible votes on sweeping abortion bans.

In at least 12 states — including crucial national battlegrounds such as Ohio and Virginia — anti-abortion activists are seeking to place "personhood" measures on the ballot this year. The measures vary in some details, but in general they define human life as beginning with fertilization and are intended to ban virtually all abortions, even in cases of rape and incest.

Supporters and opponents of personhood will be seeking to galvanize their camps this weekend during a flurry of rallies, vigils and fundraising events marking Sunday's 39th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. Personhood measures, if approved, would directly challenge that ruling, which established a woman's right to an abortion.

Thus far, the personhood movement is 0 for 3, losing referendums in Colorado in 2008 and 2010 and in Mississippi last November. But instead of retreating, the movement is trying again in Colorado and expanding to every other region except the Northeast on the premise that it can influence public opinion even if the measures fail.

"These are defeats only if we quit," said Keith Mason, president of Personhood USA. "If we continue on, they are building blocks for success."

Mason likened his movement to the campaign to legalize same-sex marriage, noting that gay-rights activists had persevered and made headway despite losing referendums in all 30 states where voters have weighed in on the issue.

For now, it's unclear how many of the personhood proposals will actually go before voters later this year. Authorities have given the green light to gather signatures for proposed ballot measures in Colorado, Ohio, Montana and California, while legislators in Kansas, Virginia, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Alabama and Georgia have been working on bills that could lead to personhood referendums.

In Nevada and Arkansas, personhood campaigns also are in place, but have been slowed by disputes over the wording of proposed ballot measures. In Florida, anti-abortion activists are gearing up to seek a referendum in 2014.

In Colorado, the new personhood measure is considered likely to qualify for the ballot again this year because of the state's relatively low threshold for petition signatures. It's frustrating to the state's abortion-rights activists, who spent heavily to defeat the 2008 and 2010 measures by better than 2-to-1 margins.

"It's very clear that one of the goals of the personhood movement is to waste our resources," said Vicki Cowart, president of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. "Every dollar we're spending on getting people out to vote is a dollar not spent for birth control or sex education or breast exams."

Criticism of the personhood movement also has come from some anti-abortion groups which worry the strategy could backfire if federal courts became involved and upheld Roe v. Wade.

In Nevada, a coalition of anti-abortion groups spoke out Jan. 12 against the state's personhood initiative, saying it will hinder their cause in the long run.

Some national anti-abortion groups have made clear that their preferred strategy is to push state by state for incremental legislative restrictions — such as requiring women to undergo sonograms before an abortion, restricting insurance coverage of the procedure, and imposing tough regulations on abortion clinics.

According to a tally by the abortion-rights group NARAL Pro-Choice America, 69 bills aimed at restricting access to abortion were enacted last year in 26 states — the second-highest total in 16 years of tracking such data.

Charmaine Yoest of Americans United for Life, one of the anti-abortion groups active in state legislatures, said she expected many more victories this year. But she declined to endorse — or criticize — the campaign for personhood measures.

In Ohio, the personhood proposal shares the political stage with the so-called heartbeat bill, which would outlaw abortions at the first detectable fetal heartbeat, sometimes as early as six weeks into pregnancy. The bill, stricter than any existing state abortion limit, passed the Ohio House last June and is pending in the Senate.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday suggested that Ohio voters were evenly split, with 45 percent supporting the measure and 46 percent opposing it. Senate President Tom Niehaus has suspended hearings on the legislation and says debate will resume after the state's March 6 primary.

If the bill is enacted, supporters hope to provoke a legal challenge of Roe v. Wade, which upheld a woman's right to an abortion until the fetus is viable outside the womb, usually at 22 to 24 weeks.

Dr. Christopher Estes, an obstetrician-gynecologist and abortion provider in Miami, described the influx of restrictive laws in Florida and elsewhere as dismaying.

"All these things don't do anything to decrease women's need for abortion," he said. "It just hurts their care — particularly for the most vulnerable women."

Estes, who teaches at the University of Miami's medical school, said pressure from anti-abortion activists is unlikely to ease.

In the presidential campaign, abortion has been mostly a secondary issue thus far, though that could change in the fall.

While President Barack Obama supports abortion rights, the remaining Republican candidates depict themselves as staunchly anti-abortion.

For most voters, abortion is not a front-burner issue. In a Gallup Poll earlier this month, 66 percent of respondents said the most important issue facing America related to the economy, while 1 percent cited abortion.

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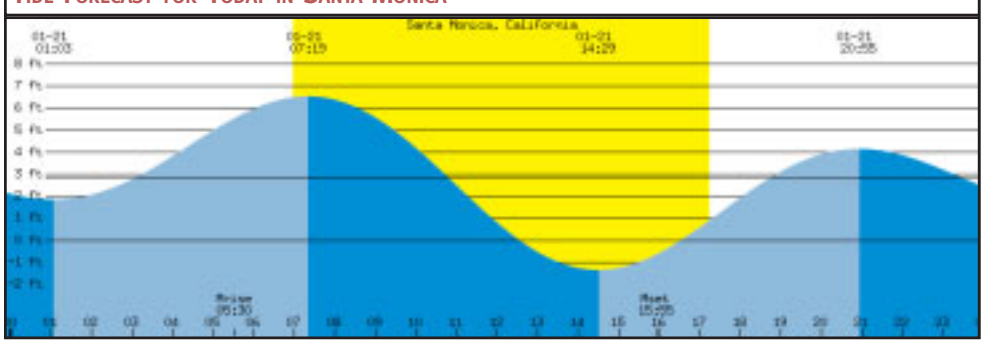

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**Surf Conditions** **Water Temp:** 61°

## Swell Forecast

**NW swell is expected to increase to chest to head high at most all west facing breaks. South facing breaks are looking at wrap from the NW as the light southern hemi backs off. Conditions are questionable with rain expected in the morning and onshore winds picking up early (and also wide tidal swing and bacteria level concerns).**

**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 18, 2012**

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

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

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 1
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBBA

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 or the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

| LOCATION | DRY | WET |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks. | ns | ns |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | ns |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | A+ | B |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | D | D |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | ns |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | F | F |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | ns |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | F |
| Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach. | F | ns |
| Puerco State Beach at creek mouth. | D | D |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd. | A+ | ns |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence. | A+ | A+ |
| Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily. | F | ns |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east. | A+ | F |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon. | A | ns |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero). | A+ | ns |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs. | A | A+ |
| Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach. | A+ | ns |
| Tuna Canyon. | A+ | ns |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth. | B | ns |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | ns |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain). | A+ | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence. | A+ | F |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain. | A | ns |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain. | A+ | F |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua). | A | ns |
| Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain. | A+ | F |
| Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain. | C | ns |
| Santa Monica Municipal Pier. | A | ns |
| Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain. | B | ns |
| Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms). | A+ | B |
| Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain. | B | ns |
| Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain. | A+ | ns |
| Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain. | A+ | A+ |
| Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain. | A | ns |
| Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south. | A+ | A+ |
| Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St. | A+ | A+ |
| Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower. | A | ns |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth. | A | ns |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain. | A | ns |
| North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach. | A+ | ns |
| Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBW jetty). | A+ | A+ |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain. | A+ | ns |
| Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant. | A+ | F |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain. | A+ | F |

**LEGEND**

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

Heal the Bay 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.

MLB

# Dodgers file bankruptcy reorganization plan

**BY RANDALL CHASE**
AP Business Writer

DOVER, Del. The Los Angeles Dodgers filed a proposed bankruptcy reorganization plan Friday, a little more than a week after resolving a court fight with Fox Sports that threatened plans to sell the ball club.

The Dodgers said in court documents filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Del., that the pending sale of the team should satisfy all creditor claims in full, either through cash payments or assumption of the claims by the new team owners.

The Dodgers intend to complete a sale of the team by April 30, as called for in a settlement with Major League Baseball. The April 30 date coincides with the deadline for Dodgers owner Frank McCourt to pay $131 million to his ex-wife, Jamie, as part of their divorce settlement.

"The plan resolves fully the financial challenges confronting the Dodgers that precipitated the filing by the debtors of the Chapter 11 cases through a sale of all of the equity of the Dodgers, which will result in a change in ownership of the team," the Dodgers said in a prepared statement.

A spokesman for Major League Baseball declined to comment on Friday's court filing.

According to court documents, the Dodgers plan to disclose the terms of the team sale by early April, in advance of a bankruptcy court hearing on whether to confirm the reorganization plan.

The Dodgers are asking for a Feb. 22 hearing for approval of the statement outlining the reorganization plan and the process for creditors to vote on it.

But the only creditor who would be allowed to vote on the plan is LA Partners LLC, the parent company of LA Holdco LLC. Holdco, in turn, is the sole member of the Los Angeles Dodgers Holding Co.

According to court documents, LA Partners is a wholly owned subsidiary of The McCourt-Broderick Limited Partnership, in which McCourt owns a 90 percent interest and is the sole limited partner. The McCourt Co. is the sole general partner in TMBLP and owns the remaining 10 percent.

The Dodgers sought bankruptcy protection in June after baseball Commissioner Bud Selig rejected a new TV deal with Fox that McCourt was counting on in order to make payroll and keep the franchise solvent.

After the bankruptcy filing, attorneys for Selig successfully fought to force the Dodgers to accept bankruptcy financing from Major League Baseball, arguing at the same time that McCourt had looted more than $180 million from the team for his own use and for business reasons not related to baseball and should be forced to sell the team.

The Dodgers, meanwhile, threatened to seek court permission to enter into a new media rights deal without the approval of MLB.

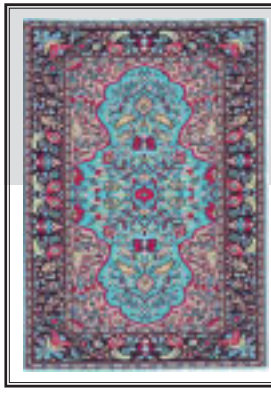
But after battling for several months, the Dodgers and MLB reached an agreement in November that authorized a sale of both the team and a process to market the media rights to games starting in 2014.

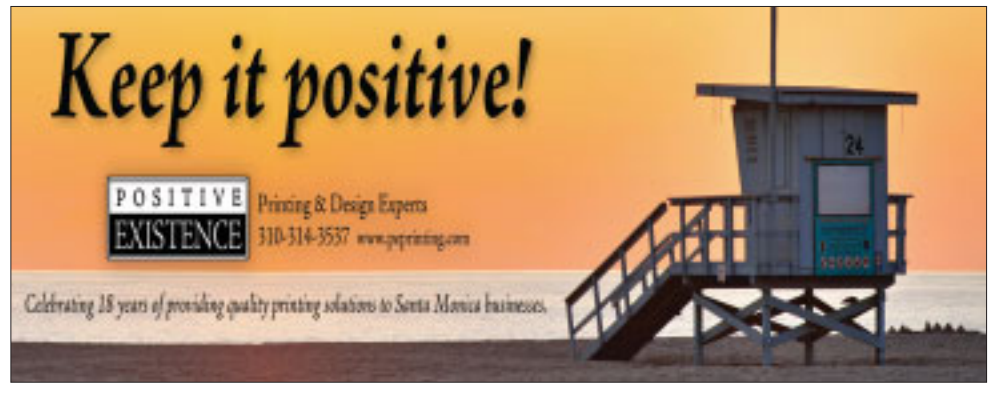
Fox Sports objected to the settlement with MLB and the proposed marketing of future media rights, saying it violated Fox's rights under an existing telecast contract with the Dodgers.

The Dodgers reached a settlement with Fox earlier this month after a federal district court judge said Fox likely would win an appeal of a bankruptcy judge's ruling authorizing the marketing of the media rights.

Under the settlement, the Dodgers will abide by the terms of the existing contract with Fox, which gives Fox an exclusive 45-day period starting in October to try to negotiate a contract extension with the Dodgers. The contract also prohibits the Dodgers from talking to other potential buyers of the media rights before Nov. 30 and gives Fox a limited right of first refusal on competing offers received after that date.

Initial bids for the team are due by Monday. Among potential buyers who have expressed interest in the team are groups that include former Dodgers players Orel Hershiser and Steve Garvey, former team manager Joe Torre, former owner Peter O'Malley and former general manager Fred Claire.


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# MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

**The Exterminating Angel (NR) 1hr 35min**
**The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz (NR) 1hr 29min**
7:30pm

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012

**George Mélies Shorts Program I (NR)**
5:00pm
Live musical accompaniment.

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

**Real Steel (PG-13) 2hrs 07min**
1:00pm, 7:00pm

**War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min**
3:50pm, 10:15pm

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min**
12:15pm, 3:35pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

**Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min**
12:10pm, 3:45pm, 7:10pm, 10:30pm

**My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min**
11:50am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

**Beauty and the Beast (G) 1hr 24min**
11:30am, 2:00pm

**Beauty and the Beast 3D (G) 1hr 24min**
4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

**Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min**
10:30am, 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:00pm, 8:30pm, 11:00pm

**Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min**
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

**Iron Lady (PG-13) 1hr 45min**
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:50pm

**Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 2hrs 09min**
11:00am, 2:05pm, 5:15pm, 8:20pm, 11:15pm

**Red Tails (PG-13) 2hrs 00min**
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

**Contraband (R) 1hr 50min**
10:50am, 1:40pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

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

**Bill Cunningham New York (NR) 1hr 24min**
11:00am

**Buck (PG) 1hr 29min**
11:00am

**In Heaven, Underground. The Jewish Cemetary in Berlin-Weissensee (NR) 1hr 30min**
11:00am

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

**Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min**
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

**Dangerous Method (R) 1hr 39min**
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

**We Need to Talk About Kevin (R) 1hr 50min**
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

**Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min**
2:15pm, 7:50pm

**Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min**
2:00pm, 7:00pm

**Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min**
10:45am, 1:35pm, 4:35pm, 7:40pm

**Haywire (R) 1hr 33min**
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

**Joyful Noise (PG-13) 1hr 58min**
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:50pm

**Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1hr 41min**
11:30am, 5:05pm, 10:40pm

**Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2hrs 07min**
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

**Hugo (PG) 2hrs 07min**
10:45pm

**Underworld: Awakening (R) 1hr 28min**
11:30am, 4:30pm, 9:40pm

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

# Play it by ear tonight, Leo

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Totally revamp your schedule, if need be. As a result, you and a loved one will be much happier. An element of the unexpected marks your new plans. Flex. You are on an adventure with twists and turns. Tonight: What starts out as a treat could become a lot more.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your efforts to see beyond the obvious help. Relaxing your mind and not overthinking could be just as important. A rested mind can get a new perspective more easily. Surround yourself with elements that help you relax. Tonight: Follow the music.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your instincts guide you in areas of uncertainty. Trust yourself. An element of the unexpected comes forward that allows greater give-and-take. A partner helps drag out this intuitive, nonintellectual part of you. Be open to the process. Tonight: Add more sparkle to a relationship.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ As a friend or partner visualizes and starts to create much more of what he or she wants, you might take a lesson from him or her. Focus on an event involving your friends. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Defer and let others make plans. You also might need to spend more time on a project, or simply catch up on sleep. The effusive Leo also can get tired and need downtime. News from a distance could be provocative at first. Tonight: Play it by ear.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You add spunk to even the most boring of tasks. No wonder people are seeking you out. Follow through on what you must do before joining others. Your sense of organization demands thoroughness, even when you are about to let go. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ To feel as good as possible, spend more time at home. A loved one or dear friend is happy to join you wherever you are. Caring emotes if you just relax. Open up a pathway for communication between you and an erratic associate. Tonight: Add romance as only you can.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Tension mounts around a domestic issue. Clearly not everyone thinks like you do. Your availability and willingness to proceed on a different route emerges. You can be quite rigid. Tonight: Join friends at a favorite spot.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your instinct is to speak your mind. You probably shouldn't hold back, yet there is no guarantee as to how someone will respond. Whatever occurs will merge insight and creativity. Take the risk if you can handle the unexpected. Tonight: Treat time.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ The Force is with you, though you might be hesitant to act as you feel. Let go of what no longer works and proceed with confidence. Lady Luck is nearby. You will land on your feet with a reasonable risk. A child or special friend demonstrates his or her caring. Tonight: All smiles. Why not?

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ The Sun in your sign signals a period with increased magnetism and vigor. If you're not feeling as good as possible, please step back some from plans. A little care and rest will go a long way. Someone approaches you with a secret. Can you keep it? Tonight: You first.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ What you say and what you hear could have a weird disconnect. Take a cue from this type of exchange. You might need some time to resolve your mind to what is happening. Tonight: Out and about.

## 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 greet many positive events. You often can be found cocooning emotionally, holding your feelings in. Others don't always know how to relate to you. Take the lead and get past a semi-introverted stance. Events often surprise you, pushing you into the limelight. You are known for your flexibility. If you are single, you might inadvertently choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. Careful! If you are attached, the two of you gain from weekends together without others. Re-create your honeymoon. CAPRICORN can be your best friend or your worst enemy.



# MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

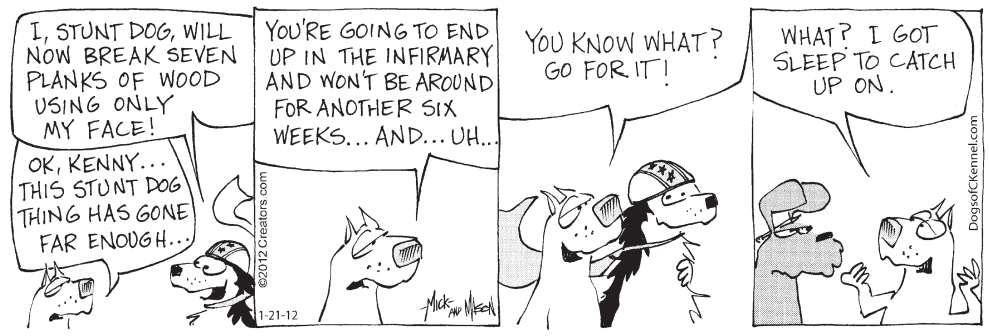
## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly




## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni




## Garfield
By Jim Davis




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



# Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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




# CROSSWORD

## By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

**1** Colleague of Jackson and Tyler
**6** Lures
**11** Steaming
**12** Tie type
**13** Mideast region
**14** Japanese dog
**15** Wedding reception events
**17** Jazz fan
**18** Avenue tree
**19** African runner
**22** Narc's org.
**23** Draws out
**24** Dance music
**25** Alveolus
**27** Crude
**30** Prison sentence
**31** Pitcher's stat
**32** Cattle call?
**33** Friend of Fozzie
**35** Pester
**38** Pester
**39** Act part
**40** Greedy one
**41** "— to you!"
**42** Starts the bidding

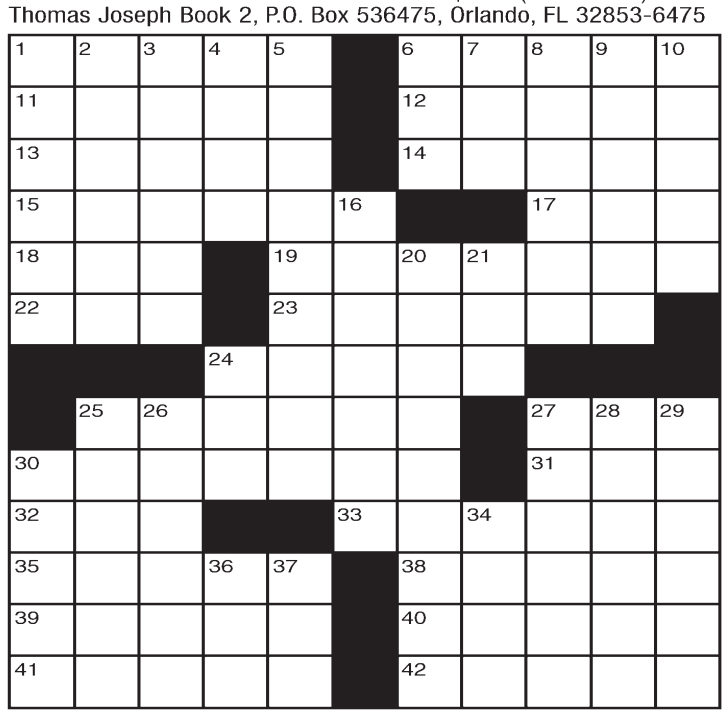
**DOWN**

**1** In the phone book
**2** Colorful bird
**3** Famed isthmus
**4** Greek vowels
**5** Spirit of the time
**6** Flock sound
**7** Invite
**8** Eaves dropper
**9** Adds up
**10** Map division
**16** Bumbling loser
**20** Cardinal's cap
**21** Green prefix
**24** Dr. of rap
**25** Without delay
**26** Laundry worker
**27** "Ocean's Eleven," for one
**28** Out of bed
**29** Spa attraction
**30** Big hit
**34** Harvest
**36** Small bill
**37** "You bet!"

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | U | S | E | S | ■ | C | O | D | E | D |
| A | S | I | D | E | ■ | A | N | O | D | E |
| R | A | N | G | E | ■ | P | A | N | E | S |
| ■ | ■ | E | A | S | Y | ■ | D | A | N | K |
| A | J | A | R | ■ | E | V | I | L | ■ | ■ |
| F | A | D | ■ | S | P | E | E | D | U | P |
| A | D | O | P | T | ■ | S | T | O | R | E |
| R | E | C | R | U | I | T | ■ | C | A | T |
| ■ | ■ | O | I | N | K | ■ | M | O | L | E |
| I | N | N | S | ■ | E | V | A | N | ■ | ■ |
| R | A | N | O | N | ■ | A | R | N | A | Z |
| A | T | O | N | E | ■ | S | C | O | R | E |
| N | O | R | S | E | ■ | T | H | R | E | E |

**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



1-21

# ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

**– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain**

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

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

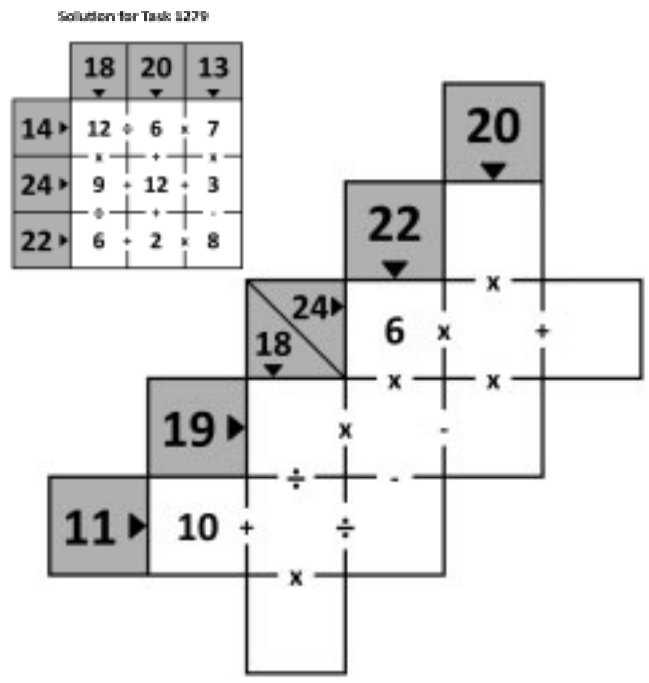
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

**Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.**

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

**2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 5, 6, 6, 12**

Solution for Task 1279:




## DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 15 31 36 53 Meganumber: 27 Jackpot: $60M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 13 25 32 45 Meganumber: 23 Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 11 16 21 23 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 7 6 EVENING: 7 2 0

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 01 Gold Rush 3rd: 11 Money Bags RACE TIME: 1:47.48

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

■ **Rookie Mistake:** Tyechia Rembert, 33, was arrested and charged with robbing a Burger King drive-thru cashier in York, Pa., in December but only after making police officers' job easier. After her clean getaway, she called the restaurant to reassure herself that none of the witnesses had noted her car's license plate number. None had, but using cell-phone records, police traced that call to Rembert.

■ Not all states have anti-bestiality laws, and Peter Bower's ongoing case in Ohio exemplifies prosecutors' frustration. There was evidence that Bower had had sex with a dog ("Maggie") and had written her "love" letters, and police arrested him in June. Prosecutors were willing to settle the case in November for minimal punishment because the only law Bower could have been charged under is "animal cruelty," and they explained that they might have had trouble showing harm to the apparently adored dog. (At the time of Bower's arrest, a search had uncovered human-animal pornography and a life-sized inflatable sheep.)

■ (1) A 77-year-old man was killed by a sheriff's deputy in December while standing beside his own engraved tombstone in a Gardnerville, Nev., cemetery. (The victim was holding a shotgun and was distraught over the death of his wife.) (2) A 20-year-old man died of an apparent cocaine overdose in North Charleston, S.C., in December as a result of trying to help his older brother. The pair had been arrested and placed in a police cruiser when the older brother convinced the younger one to swallow the ounce of cocaine the older man was carrying. (According to a police report, the cocaine had been stored in the older man's "backside.")

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1999** - War on Drugs: In one of the largest drug busts in American history, the United States Coast Guard intercepts a ship with over 4,300 kilograms (9,500 lb) of cocaine on board.

## WORD UP!

**deucedly**
**\ DOO-sid-lee \ , adverb;**
1.
Devilishly; damnably.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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- Vacation Rentals
- Apartments/Condos
- Rent
- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

## Beauty

HAIRSTYLIST AND MANICURE station for rent Santa Monica. PT/FT (310) 449-1923

## Employment

COMMISSION SALES rep needed part time with internet marketing experience. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

## Classes

Join The CREO Institute's creativity workshop with guest Kathy Altieri, Production Designer, DreamWorks Animation, SKG at Temescal Gateway Park in Pacific Palisades on February 25 - 26! Register at www.creoinstitute.com by January 31. For information: creativity-retreat@creoinstitute.com

MEMORY THERAPY & SUPPORT GROUP
This group will help normal adults who have some memory difficulties that arise in daily life.
Elle Shales has a masters degree in speech and language therapy.
(310) 562-8309
Tuesday, Jan 24. $15.00, 4:30pm

## For Rent

EFFICIENCY UNIT $695.00
Part Furnished, paid utilities
Open House Sat – Sun , 10 :00 – 2:00
917 Lincoln Blvd
(310) 668-8360

GARAGE FOR Rent
9th & Montana
$200.00 a month
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HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
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10552 (Little) Santa Monica Blvd. 2Bd + 1Bth upper rear unit in triplex. No walls shared $2395

1011 Pico #18. 2Bd+1Bth+Loft. Modern building. 2 sxs parking spaces. $2375

1623 Bundy Drive, 2Bd + 1Bth. Hdwd floors, pets ok, laundry, parking. $1695.

10703 Holman Ave. 2Bd + 1Bth. One level unit w/ hdwd floors and garage. $1725

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ASK ABOUT MOVE IN SPECIALS
Single $1080.00 plus.
1 bedrooms $1,280 and up +, 2bedroom, 2 bath, $1,595.
Gated sub-T prkg and entry, tile floors, s2 elevators, a/c. Some have granite & a balcony
3848 Overland, (310)839-3647

## For Rent

Playa Del Rey. Oceanfront, on the sand. 2bdrm + 2bth. Washer/Dryer.(310) 821-4261. $3500.

WEST LA
Ask about move in speicials
Single $1175 ,
1br $1525 and up
gated entry, tile floors some have gated sub-terranian parking granite, elevator, balcony, AC,
1755 Purdue
310-479-1079

WLA, OCEAN VIEW. Hilltop/upper 2bedroom. Private driveway, sundeck, 2pking $1,845 (310).390.4610

## Bookkeeping Services

Accounting & Bookkeeping Service
Call 310.828.5494

QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING SERVICE
Call 310 977-7935

## Services

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We'll set up your system or help you get up -to-date.
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## DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011140266 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/01/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ANN J. KIM. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Ann Kim 232 S. Reeves Dr. #205 Beverly Hills, CA 90212. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Ann Kim. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/01/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/31/2011, 01/07/2012, 01/14/2012, 01/21/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011150900 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/22/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FIBREVOLUTION. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Gwen Reichert 1940 N. Highland Ave. #55 Los Angeles, CA 90068. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)09/07/2011. /s/: Gwen Reichert. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/22/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/21/2012, 01/28/2012, 02/04/2012, 02/11/2012.

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## 1424 Marguerita Ave




North of Montana
Wonderful, Corner Lot
5 Bed + 4.5 Bath

$2,999,000
Open Tuesday
January 24th
11 am - 2 pm

## 619 Euclid Street



North of Montana
Great Square Footage
5 Bedrooms

$2,999,999
Open Sunday
January 22nd
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## 12220 Dorothy Street




Wonderful, Custom Country Kitchen
Newer, Brentwood Flats Traditional
*$2,099,000*

Open Sunday
January 22nd
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## 1053 17th Street



Renovate or Rebuild
2 Bed + 1 Bath
$989,000

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## 1320 Princeton #101




Front Unit w / Balcony
2 Bed + 2 Bath
$499,000

Open Sunday
January 22nd
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Late - January 2012

| | - | Single Family Homes | Condos & Town-homes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santa Monica Canyon | = | $1,900,000 | $2,995,000 |
| North of Montana | = | $3,195,999 | $1,074,500 |
| Between Wilshire & Montana | = | $1,985,000 | $799,500 |
| South of Wilshire | = | $799,000 | $499,000 |
| Sunset Park | = | $1,150,000 | $499,000 |
| Ocean Park | = | $1,399,000 | $1,149,000 |

Statistics updated every Monday

## 11745 Montana #305



Huge Price Reduction!
$3,900 Per Month

2 Bed + 4 Bath
Gorgeous Mountain Views

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## 1751 Appian Way



Only TWO units left!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| #101 | 1 + 1 | $4,999 / Month |
| #203 | 3 + 3 | $8,499 / Month |

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## What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.