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Film screening to benefit SMASH

'Beyond Measure' explores new ways to test student achievement

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

For the educators at Santa Monica Alternative School House, gauging student progress goes well beyond grades and standardized tests. They aim to take a more progressive approach to evaluating academic performance, using a variety of non-traditional methods. They even invite students to

SEE **MOVIE** PAGE 7

Broken gas main prompts road closure

Line inadvertently ruptured during construction

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Construction crews inadvertently ruptured a Santa Monica gas main Friday morning, prompting responses from several agencies and snarling traffic in the area.

A gas main in the 1600 block of Cloverfield Boulevard, between

SEE **GAS** PAGE 7

More Expo testing in advance of opening day

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The next wave of Expo testing is underway with trains traveling the tracks in anticipation of a Spring 2016 opening.

Metro recently took control of most of the Expo line and officials sent out notice this week announcing train testing and operator familiarization on the track.

"These activities are necessary as we lead up to full train service (Spring 2016)," said the document.

Work is ongoing at the maintenance yard and Metro officials said they will determine the official opening day within 30 days of receiving final control over the yard. In the mean time, Metro is asking residents to be aware of activity on the tracks.

The train testing will be similar to the tests administered so far. Trains will be traveling at low speeds along the track to check clearances, test traffic signals and look for mechanical issues. Metro will begin operator familiarization training in the coming months and test trains will now run as necessary between Downtown Los Angeles and Downtown Santa Monica up to the opening of the line.

Police continue to monitor some of the train/street crossings to keep drivers aware of the newly moving train and Metro has deployed "safety ambassadors" to

SEE **TRAIN** PAGE 6

SOCCER VICTORY

Morgan Genser

The Santa Monica High School boys soccer team hosted Culver City in an Ocean League soccer match and won 2-1 to improve their record to 1-2 in league play and 2-10 overall. Pictured are Owen Koetters, Chris Sandoval, Emilo Medina and Max Foucaut.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Jan. 23

SMPL 125th Anniversary Celebrations: My Life Above the Carousel in Santa Monica

Author and former Santa Monica resident, Elaine Stevenson, discusses her younger years living above the famous Santa Monica Carousel with her family as well as the book she wrote about this period. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing following the discussion. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Living a Long, Healthy Ageless Life

Author and chef Mimi Kirk will talk about how to improve health and well-being in the new year through the food we consume, exercise, and positive thinking. A juice demonstration and Q & A will follow her lecture. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Watercolor Monotype Screenprinting with Patricia Mitchell

Apply watercolor/gouache to a screen using painterly techniques to create a monotype and several ghost prints. Monotype process is great for building and layering images and creating the unique "multiples" that are intrinsic to this technique. 1450 Ocean, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. cost is $5. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48725 or call (310) 458-2239.

Used Oil Recycling & Filter Exchange

Exchange your used filter for a new one - Free. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. O'Reilly Auto Parts, 2018 Lincoln Blvd.

Scholastic Surf Series

At Tower 22. Surf competition for high school and middle school teams. For more information call (760) 518-2727 or contact info@surfsss.org. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 24

Masterpiece Series Concert No. 3, Gershwin & Ravel

New West Symphony presents program of Gerswhin & Ravel. Tickets $29 - $102. Contact www.newwestsymphony.org or 866-776-8400. Barnum Hall, 600 Olympic Blvd., 4 p.m.

A Mozart Celebration

Hear Mozart's Clarinet Concerto performed on the instrument he wrote it for – the Basset Clarinet, played by principal clarinetist Gary Bovyer. Early and late symphonies flank this greatest and most profound clarinet concerto. Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.orchestrasantamonica.org/ or at the door. The Herb Alpert Educational Village, New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., 2:30 p.m.

13th Annual Venice Film Festival

Colorful history of films made in Venice California, and celebration of the otherwordly happenings in Venice and around the legendary Venice West Gallery. Free admission. 681 Venice Blvd., 7 p.m.

Beach Walk & Sketch

Sketch the natural wonders of SM Beach with the LA Audubon Society. Binoculars, drawing boards and newsprint will be provided, or bring your own easy to carry sketching tools. Please RSVP at http://annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/public-events.aspx. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

1450 Ocean: New Years' Resolution Nutrition & Cooking Class with Jeanie Sonnier

Come get in nutritional shape utilizing the MyPlate curriculum for adults, with other peers this New Year! Learn what your Body Mass Index means, how to measure your BMI, and how to have a happy BMI. Cost: SM Res $75/ Non-Res $86 + $15 cash material fee. Register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/48211 or call (310) 458-2239. 1450 Ocean, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 25

Airport Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Airport Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 7:30 p.m. www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Commission.

Social Services Commission Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Social Services Commission, Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th, 7 p.m.

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS.

Homework Help

Get help with your homework. This drop-in program offers a separate study area, basic supplies, and friendly volunteers to assist with homework questions. For students in grades 1-5 only. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Writer-In-Residence Office Hours 11am- 2pm

Jennifer Caloyeras is the 2016 Beach House Writer-in-Residence, and will be working on a novel in her office at the Marion Davies Guest House from Jan. 12 - March 15. Her most recent novel, Strays, is for young adults and explores an incarcerated teen's relationship with a pit bull. Caloyeras' short fiction has appeared in Booth, Storm Cellar and other literary magazines. Jennifer's current project is her first adult novel - a mixture of humor and pathos - that explores a mother's journey with her transgendered six-year-old daughter, and the weight of expectations parents place on their children. She will share her work with three public events, a weekly blog, and open office hours throughout her tenure. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Montana Ave.

NOMA annual meeting

The North of Montana Association (NOMA) has announced its Annual Meeting and community event Saturday, Jan. 30, from 2-5 p.m. at the historic Aero Theatre and all residents of the neighborhood and interested members of the city are invited to attend.

Featured on the program will be Rick Cole, who will reflect on his first months on the job as Santa Monica's new City Manager and answer audience questions, and a panel discussion on the plans for downtown Santa Monica currently being considered in the Downtown Specific Plan. Members of the panel will include Planning Commission Chair Richard McKinnon; Ron Goldman FAIA, architect from SMa.r.t.and NOMA resident; and Kathleen Rawson, CEO of Downtown Santa Monica.

Election of the new NOMA Board is also scheduled, as is announcement of the latest Community News.

To mark the long-awaited arrival of the Expo Line to our city, an early Edison short of the coming of the first rail line to Santa Monica will also be shown.

Doors open and sign-in is at 2 p.m., with program beginning at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a raffle will take place open to members of locally donated goods and services

The Aero Theatre, originally built in 1940 by Douglas Aircraft for its workers, is now the westside home of the non-profit American Cinematheque and is located at 14th and Montana Avenue.

Further event information may be obtained at www.smnoma.org.

- SUBMITTED BY DANILO BACH

Citywide

Special Olympics World Games CEO Patrick McClenahan Named 2015 Sports Executive of the Year

Patrick McClenahan, who ran the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles last summer, has been named the 2015 Sports Executive of the Year by the L.A. Sports Council. He will be honored at the 11th Annual LA Sports Awards, to be held on Thursday, Feb. 25 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel.

The World Games, known as LA 2015, brought together 6,163 athletes from 164 nations, the largest gathering of nations ever for a sporting event in the history of Los Angeles. During the event, an unprecedented 247,247 spectators attended the opening and closing ceremonies and 25 sports competitions taking place over 9 days at 23 venue sites spread across Greater Los Angeles.

In addition to serving as LA 2015 President and CEO, McClenahan also led the successful international bid to bring the Games to Los Angeles. Over the next four years he then led the effort to attract the team of sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers that made the event possible, including negotiating the first-ever World Games global broadcast agreement with ESPN, which included live coverage of the Opening Ceremony at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

McClenahan made it the mission of LA 2015 to create awareness that leads to acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. Through the power of sport, the Special Olympics World Games succeeded in transforming the lives of the

Special Olympics athletes as well as the hearts and minds of all who witnessed their courage, determination, and joy.

The LA Sports Awards are produced annually by the Sports Council to celebrate the greatest moments of the year in sports in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. The show will be televised by Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket.

The ceremony also will feature the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to

Los Angeles Dodgers Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully, presentations to the

Sportsman, Sportswoman, and Coach of the Year, plus a countdown of the year's Top

Ten moments.

- SUBMITTED BY MARK MEYERS

Culver city

Golden Globe Winner Gina Rodriguez will host Westside Family Health Center's

Gina Rodriguez, Golden Globe winner from The CW's Jane the Virgin will emcee Westside Family Health Center's (WFHC) annual fundraising event, "I HEART WFHC."

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Bar & Garden Annex at 8558 W. Washington Boulevard in Culver City. The event will feature gourmet food and dessert stations, organic wine and beer, dancing demonstrations, a prize drawing and more. It will also honor Darlene Lasher with the Community Leader Award. Tickets are $100 each and sponsorships range from $250 - $10,000. All proceeds will benefit WFHC, a non-profit community health center that has been an integral part of the community for 42 years.

Rodriguez has been a supporter of WFHC for the last year.

"My family and I have a great deal of respect for the community outreach and health services that Westside Family Health Center provides," said the Golden Globe winning actress.

The event has been generously sponsored by individuals and businesses and more sponsorship opportunities are available. Top sponsors include Kaiser Permanente and Comerica Bank. The event will also feature a prize drawing, which will feature a handbag from Chloe, Disneyland tickets, Southwest tickets, artwork from Venice Beach Sunsets and more. Drawing tickets, sponsorships and tickets are available at weblink.donorperfect.com/FebruaryFundraiser2016. Please contact Molly Maher at mmaher@wfchenter.org or (310) 450-4773, ext. 253 for more information about "I HEART WFHC."

WFHC serves low-income and uninsured women, men and children through five core programs: Family Practice, Prenatal, Pediatrics, Reproductive Health Services and Community Outreach and Education. Services include, but are not limited to: birth control; pap smears; mammograms; pregnancy testing; prenatal care; childbirth classes; mother-child support groups; sick-child exams; well-child checkups; adult physical exams; vision screening; nutrition counseling; immunizations; chronic condition screening, treatment and management; anonymous, confidential HIV testing and counseling; and more. WFHC also provides community outreach and education on multiple health care topics, as well as health insurance enrollment counseling.

Going forward, WFHC hopes to continue to build healthier communities. Future aspirations include moving to a new clinic space and adding programs in mental health, dental and vision care. Community tours of the clinic can be scheduled by contacting Celia Bernstein, Director of Development, at cbernstein@wfhcenter.org or (310) 450-4773, ext. 254.

- SUBMITTED BY MOLLY MAHER, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Ordinance Numbers 2507-2508 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinances Number 2507 and 2508, which were adopted by the Santa Monica City Council at its meeting of January 12, 2016.

Ordinance Number 2507 creates the San Vincente Boulevard Courtyard Apartments Historic District by designating as historic properties on San Vincente between Ocean Avenue and 7th Street. The ordinance also sets up temporary procedures for alterations or modifications to those properties until permanent procedures are established.

Ordinance Number 2508 approves a development agreement for the property at 1601 Lincoln, allowing that property to be developed with a five-story, mixed-use project, consisting of 77,758 square feet, 90 residential units, ground-floor retail and 168 parking spaces in two levels of subterranean parking.

Ordinance Numbers 2507 and 2508 will become effective 30 days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available from the Office of the City Clerk at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401; phone (310) 458-8211.

Public Meeting Notice

The City of Santa Monica will be holding a Public Meeting to update the community on planned improvements for the City Yards Modernization.

At this meeting, City staff and the design build consultant team will provide the community with an overview on planned improvements to the aging City Yards Facility and opportunity to discuss needed improvements for essential city services, the City's vision and goals for the project, community vision and goals, community integration opportunities, and a group question and answer session.

Meeting Date & Time:
Monday, February 1, 2016, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Meeting Location:
Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building
2200 Virginia Avenue
Santa Monica, California 90404

For further information on this project, please contact Tom Afschar at (310) 434-2611 or tom.afschar@smgov.net.

The Thelma Terry Building is wheelchair accessible. For special accommodations, including translation services, please contact Marcelo Serrano at (310) 458-2205 or marcelo.serrano@smgov.net three working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD (310) 917-6626.

Virginia Avenue Park is served by Big Blue Bus Line 7. Limited Parking is available. Childcare provided and light refreshments will be served.

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SMart Thinking

By SM a.r.t. Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New code has big plans for our small city

LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE DISCUSSED
Urban & Architectural Design (www.SMDP.com 1/16/16) and this week's article will discuss Process, Zoning & Conclusions as related to Urban & Architectural Design.

"The fates of cities are decided in the town hall." Le Corbusier

As populations increase in urban areas, densification is inevitable. The question then becomes- how much and where? How can this expansion take place without degrading quality of life for current and future residents? At present, Santa Monica's zoning would allow doubling of existing building areas in downtown and tripling existing buildings areas along our eight boulevards. This would be possible since over 80% of existing parcels along the boulevards are either vacant, or one or two stories. In the downtown area, 50% of parcels are similarly underbuilt. Taken together, 15% of our city is available for future development- providing over 20 million additional square feet - nearly twice the current downtown building area. You would think that it would be sufficient.

Is our City Planning Department aware of this? Their actions would imply not. If they were, we would expect them not to continue approving 5, 6 and 7-story block buildings that degrade both our City's ability to function and its beachside allure. Negative impacts from increased density are overburdening our City's fragile infrastructure, creating traffic gridlock and long shadows darkening our City's streets and open spaces. Many residents are saying "enough"!

It has become the new "normal" that most new commercial and multi-family projects are not built within City's zoning codes or limits. The public process has become co-oped as loopholes are found and exploited. In this scenario, the Planning Department and investors negotiate "Development Agreements" behind closed doors allowing projects to be built that far exceed limits set in the Building and Zoning Codes. The results are huge profits for developers and negative impacts for residents.

This is the reason that many residents feel that our city is "for sale." Inclusion of a few affordable units in these projects are crumbs compared to developer's profits. Still they are enough to seduce City Planners, and some community organizations, to believe that we are getting a good deal. It's a devil's bargain. For example, in place of the "affordable" Village Trailer Park nestled under a grove of trees, the City approved the Millennium East Village project in exchange for $2.4 million in "community benefits." In exchange for these benefits, the developer was allowed to double the height and density of the project. When the City asked for more, the developer claimed he would not make a profit. The City backed down. Shortly thereafter, the same developer sold his approved agreement for 68 million dollars to a second developer without ever breaking ground. The first developer made a huge profit. Residents will pay the price for years to come with increased traffic on an important cross town link as well as an increased tax burden and a project that is out of scale with a neighborhood consisting of 1 and 2 story buildings. This is a prime example of what happens when City's codes are modified behind closed doors by staff-the City as well as residents, come out on the short end of the deal.

If codes are to be interpreted, it should not be on a case-by-case basis but once only and for everyone. We had this opportunity with the adoption of the LUCE- a planning document intended to set a new vision for Santa Monica's future. Five years later, a revised zoning code was finally approved. Unfortunately, instead of completely rewriting the entire Code, as occurred in Los Angeles, Santa Monica chose to add provisions to a code that was already burdened with 30 years of revisions? This approach compromised the LUCE recommendations due to the complexity and contradictions that inevitably occur with such an approach.

Instead of simplifying the existing, complicated 500-page document, Santa Monica's new zoning code is even longer, more complex and more difficult to decipher. Closing "loopholes" will become more difficult and exploiting them more common. In Los Angeles with a population of nearly 4 million residents and a land area of 470 sq. mi., an 800-page Building Code was more than cut in half. But in Santa Monica with a population of 92,000+ residents and a land area less than 9 square miles, the old 500-page code was made even larger. This was great news for developers but less so for residents and small business. Once again, the City's Zoning and Building Codes favor those with funds to interpret Codes to their advantage. Unfortunately, most do not have means to retain such services nor the time to do so.

The LUCE and its Environmental Impact Report (EIR), adopted in 2010, didn't anticipate the amount of growth that has occurred in recent years, or the traffic and related infrastructure improvements that would be required on account of it. Although LUCE did have a clearly stated goal of "overall height reduction," it was never enacted. Most residents would like to see a simple 2-3-4 story (or 30-40-50 foot) height limit. Lower height limits would apply to our residential neighborhoods and higher ones to the boulevards and downtown. These limits would keep our community from exceeding its limits to growth while still providing more than ample opportunity for responsible development. We have many attractive three and four-story buildings in our downtown and on our boulevards, some historic, that would be candidates for adaptive reuse. If we limit heights across our city to three and four stories, land prices and construction costs would remain lower and the temptation to demolish becomes less tempting. This would retain the look of our beach town, make housing more affordable and the preservation of our natural environment

SEE **SMART** PAGE 5

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

Service Station

Susan Lee DeRemer
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lions collecting food

WANT TO JOIN THE SANTA MONICA Lions in getting 2016 off to a good start? We are working on two projects and could use your help.

First is our food drive for the Westside Food Bank (WFB). While donations pour in between Thanksgiving and Christmas, they drop off in January. However, the people that rely on the WFB does not decrease. We are asking the Santa Monica Community to help with donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, diapers, blankets and even dog food. You can take items to the Westside Food Bank at 1710 - 22nd St. in Santa Monica off of Michigan Ave. and tell them you are donating as part of the SM Lions food drive.

Feeling short on time, but still want to help out? You can make a cash donation at www.tinyurl.com/Lions2016. Last year we were able to raise just over $900. Help us reach a goal of $1,200 this year. The great thing about the cash donations is that WFB has special deals with food suppliers that increase their buying power. It also lets them provide perishable items, such as healthy fruits and vegetables.

The other focus for the SM Lions is finding participants for the 79th Annual Student Speaker Contest. The topic this year is "Liberty and Justice for All" - What Does it Mean to You? The contest is open to any high school student at Santa Monica High, St. Monica's, Crossroads, Pacifica or New Roads. Contact your English department for the guidelines and to register for the first contest to take place on Thursday, February 18. This is a great opportunity to try your public speaking and debate skills, add to your college resume and earn scholarship money from the Lions Student Speaker Foundation. The winner of the first Club receives $100, with the amount increasing as you progress through the levels. Each of the fifteen District winners received a $4,500.00 scholarship, each of the four Area winners received an additional $6,500.00 scholarship and the winner of the Multiple District Four Contest receives an additional $10,000.00 scholarship. If you have further questions please call Susan at 310-623-4499 or email santamonicalion@gmail.com.

Help us make 2016 a year to remember. Join us at one of our monthly community service projects, participate in a Lions sponsored event or think about becoming a Santa Monica Lion.

Since 1922 the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica has been the most active service organization in Santa Monica; each year the club awards over $120,000 to our community in the form of grants, scholarships and sponsorships. Regular club lunch meetings are the first three Wednesdays of the month from 12 to 1:30 p.m. To join us or to donate to Kiwanis Charities, please visit our website at www.KiwanisClubSM.org or follow us on Facebook.

SMART

FROM PAGE 4

more likely.

If we fail to act, outside developers will continue to push for six and seven-story buildings creating more mistrust, referendums and initiatives. While mixed-use development is a positive feature of the revised code, it does not go far enough with specific form-based design guidelines. Our future will depend on our ability to correct this oversight and amend or adopt a better code - one that is simple and concise. It may be the only choice if we are to preserve our City's character.

Conclusion:

Santa Monica residents accept the inevitability of change and welcome it. We also believe, however, that development can and must be done responsibly to preserve our unique beachfront community. If done properly, development can enhance our environment to improve the City's draw for tourists and residents alike. If done improperly, it could destroy both the reason to live here as well as the desire to visit. In this scenario everyone loses. In this need for instant gratification, we need to transfer our priorities from "consumerism" to "community," from quantity to quality. Plenty of opportunities still exist in the City for growth that is both economically viable and sustainable. We need to strike this balance to remain a City that can be business friendly while preserving our unique character, beautiful oceanfront and small beach town atmosphere. We would do well to appreciate more the sounds of the birds and the beauty of blue skies than the ringing of the cash register and the dark shadows that are consuming our community. To do so, will ultimately be in everyone's best interest.

RON GOLDMAN and Thane Roberts for SMa.r.t. Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow

Mario Fonda-Bonardi AIA, Bob Taylor AIA, Dan Jansenson Architect, Ron Goldman FAIA, Thane Roberts AIA, Sam Tolkin Architect, Armen Melkonians Civil & Environmental Engineer, Phil Brock Chair, Recreation & Parks Commission. SMa.r.t. is a group of Santa Monica Architects concerned about the city's future.

For previous articles, please see santamonicaarch.wordpress.com/writings.

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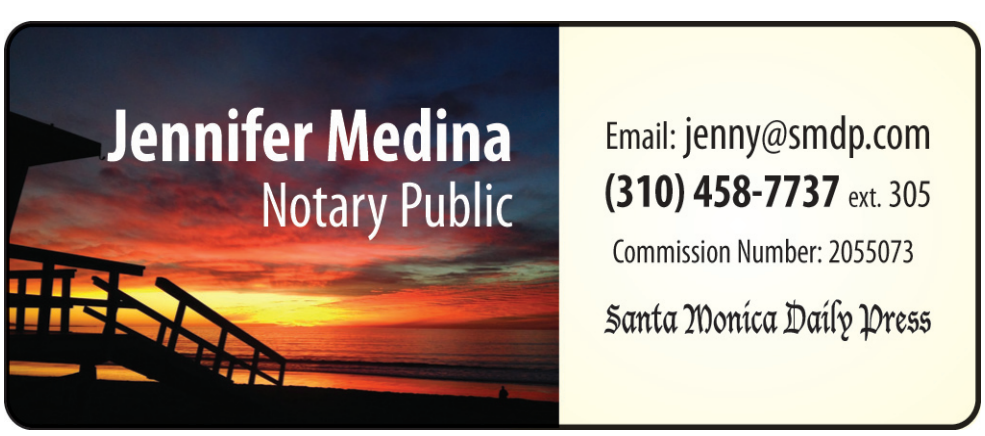
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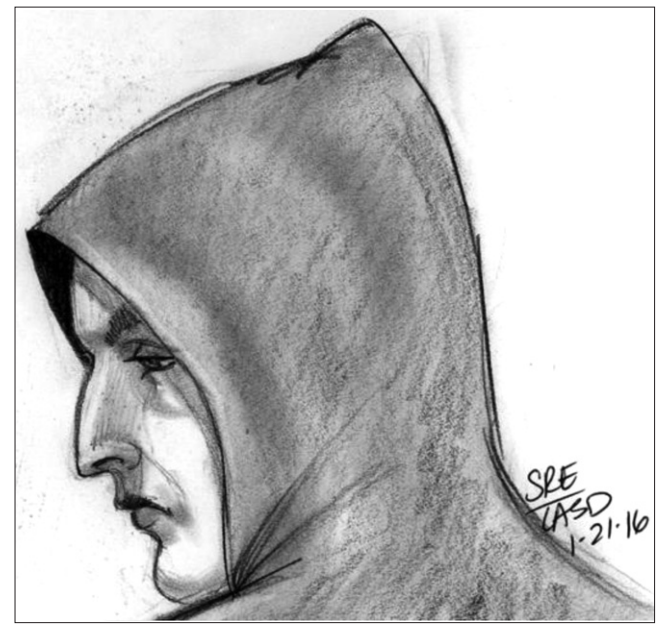
Police searching for assault suspect

The Santa Monica Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating a suspect involved in a sexual assault.

On Jan. 13, 2016 at approximately 6:15 p.m. a female victim reported that she was walking southbound along the waterline in the 1600 block of the beach, when she observed a male subject walking northbound towards her.

The victim stated that as the male passed her, he said something in Spanish. The victim continued walking southbound telling him she wanted to be left alone.



WANTED SUSPECT

The suspect then turned, grabbed her from behind and threw her to the ground. The suspect held the victim down while he physically and sexually assaulted her. The suspect then fled northbound along the beach's waterline and out of sight.

The suspect is described as a light skinned male Hispanic or White, in his 30's, 5'06"-5'08", 180 pounds, wearing dark colored pants and a black hooded sweat shirt with the hood pulled over his head.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Eddie Soto at (310) 458-821844, Sergeant William Heric at (310) 458-8453 or the Santa Monica Police Department (24/7) at (310) 458-8495.

- SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT RUDY CAMARENA,

TRAIN

FROM PAGE 1

talk to pedestrians.

According to Metro Spokesman Jose Ubaldo, the Rail Safety Ambassadors work with Metro's Transit Safety Programs team to encourage the community to adopt safe behaviors; intervening when they observe unsafe behavior; and educating the public about the meaning of warning signs installed at the light rail crossings.

The program was the first to win a Gold Award from the American Public Transportation Association in 2013.

Ubaldo said eight Safety Ambassadors will be posted at key locations along the Expo Line Phase 2 during the testing phase. Their exact location will vary depending on where the test trains are running. He said the program will expand in the next month to a total of 24 Ambassadors posted along the alignment from Bagley/Exposition in Los Angeles to 5th/Colorado in Santa Monica.

In addition to providing education, the Ambassadors are also receiving feedback about the project.

The public has been informing the Safety Ambassadors about certain safety issues concerning the Expo Line; the Ambassadors then report those comments/concerns back to me and then gets forwarded to the appropriate department either within Metro or outside agencies such as LADOT, City of Santa Monica, law enforcement," said Ubaldo.

In June 2013 Metro's Safety Ambassador Program was honored with the first ever Gold Award for program innovation at the 2013 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) in Philadelphia.

Metro said anyone driving, walking, biking or just standing near the tracks should be aware of basic safety information. Their advice includes obeying all warning signs, adhering to traffic signals, looking both ways before entering the street, never walking on the tracks and using crosswalks at all times.

The City of Santa Monica recently authorized the installation of new fencing along the center of the track to discourage pedestrians from crossing the street/tracks mid-block.

Visit www.metro.net/projects/exposition for more information.

editor@smdp.com

GAS

FROM PAGE 1

Olympic Boulevard and Colorado Avenue, was accidentally broken at about 10:15 a.m. The line in question is approximately 6 feet below surface level on the west side of the street.

"It was a pretty large line in the street that was ruptured during construction," said Mike McElvaney, battalion chief with the Santa Monica Fire Department. "They were doing some digging, hit the line and ruptured it."

The Southern California Gas Company and the local police and fire departments responded to the scene, officials said. The fire department's team included 19 people with three engines, a truck company and a hazardous materials unit, which McElvaney said is standard for a potential gas leak.

No injuries were reported, although first responders evaluated one construction worker who McElvaney said got "a face-full of gas." No evacuations were ordered.

Within an hour, the City of Santa Monica sent out an alert notifying citizens of road closures in the area, a high-traffic point in the city. Cloverfield was closed between Colorado and Olympic for several hours, but Olympic remained open in both directions. The scene was clear by Friday afternoon.

jeff@smdp.com

MOVIE

FROM PAGE 1

help shape the curriculum.

"Authentic assessment is such an important topic to the SMASH community," principal Jessica Rishe said.

It's a topic that will come into full view, literally, on Wednesday during a film screening and panel discussion about the role of assessment in student development and the pitfalls of fixating on test scores. The showing of "Beyond Measure" at ArcLight Cinemas in Santa Monica will benefit the Parent Teacher Student Association at the K-8 campus.

The viewing comes amid ongoing talks in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district about how to judge student success and improve college and career readiness.

The movie and conversation will help stakeholders "further explore how students can meaningfully demonstrate what they learn in school in collaborative, performance-based, non-competitive ways," Rishe said.

Among the featured panelists is Pedro Noguera, a renowned educator and sociologist who has studied the effects of race and socioeconomic status on academic development. He was recently hired by SMMUSD to address longstanding achievement gaps that have persisted locally and across the country between black and Hispanic students and their peers.

But although Noguera's work with the district will focus on equity and access, he is also interested in changing how schools evaluate students in general. His review of Vicki Abeles' "Beyond Measure," the book accompaniment to the film, was recently published in the New York Times.

"Abeles offers a compelling set of arguments for reconsidering how we define success in American education and for radically altering the approach we've taken to get there," Noguera wrote. "High grades, high test scores and admission to one of the nation's elite colleges have long been embraced as symbols of excellence and, by extension, successful parenting. Abeles suggests that pursuit of this narrow form of success is actually harming children and families, and distorting our educational institutions ... "

The local screening of the film arrives shortly after SMASH was included on this year's list of 1,000 low-performing schools in the state, a registry mandated by the Open Enrollment Act. The list allows parents to transfer their children from schools on the annual list to other campuses.

School officials have contested the state designation, saying that it's based on outdated and nonrepresentative data. SMASH is the only SMMUSD school on the list, which relies on 2013 figures.

Founded in 1973, SMASH aims to incorporate alternative and unconventional approaches to education and assessment. Students engage in project-based learning, side-by-side reading evaluations and analyses of written work as well as mindfulness sessions and other social-emotional development exercises.

The screening event, which will run from 6 to 9:15 p.m. Jan. 27, costs $54 per person and includes food and drinks. To buy tickets, or more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/SMASHreelseries.

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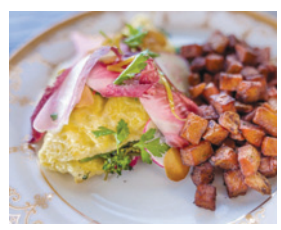

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Google to pay $140 million in back taxes in Britain

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Google will pay about $140 million in British back taxes in a concession driven by a shift in how the Internet company will measure its success in the United Kingdom. The amount translates into 130 million pounds.

The accord disclosed Friday comes amid mounting criticism that Google and other major U.S. companies have been scrimping on their tax bills with a variety of accounting maneuvers that have rankled governments around the world.

In the United Kingdom, for instance, Google has been facing accusations that it hasn't been paying its fair share of taxes in a country that represents its second largest market outside the U.S. Similar complaints have been leveled against at Facebook, Amazon.com and Starbucks in the U.K.

Google has been minimizing its tax bill for years in the U.K. by keeping its headquarters in Ireland, where rates are lower. The strategy has helped Google boost its profits and its stock price and fatten its bank accounts. Google and its recently formed parent company, Alphabet Inc., have about $73 billion in cash.

The tax-reduction tactics spurred a six-year inquiry into Google's practices by an arm of the British government, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or HMRC.

Although Google insists it never broke any laws, the company says it agreed with the HRMC on a change that reflects the "size and scope" of its U.K. operations.

The accounting switch, retroactive to 2005, requires Google to base its U.K. tax bill on ad revenue generated in the country instead of just profit.

Google's U.K. ad revenue totaled $5.1 billion through the first nine months of last year, that a 7 percent increase from the same time in 2014. That accounted for 10 percent of Google's revenue during the period.

The agreement in Britain may foreshadow similar concessions in other overseas countries.

"The way multinational companies are taxed has been debated for many years and the international tax system is changing as a result," Google said in its statement.

Google has rankled U.S. lawmakers by keeping most of its cash overseas so it won't be taxed, a practice that the company has given no indication that it's ready to abandon. As of Sept. 30, Google kept 50 percent of its cash — $42 billion — in overseas accounts.

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Micole Diana Mercurio

March 10, 1938 – January 19, 2016

Micole Diana Mercurio, age 77, passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at her home in Santa Monica. Micole was born March 10, 1938, in Chicago IL, the Daughter of Michael Mercurio and Nancy De Angelo. Micole will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a loving mother and grandmother, actor, teacher, artist, lover of people and life. Micole is survived by her brother, Tony and his wife Sally Mercurio; daughter Stacy McKearn (Bill) of Wisconsin, and sons, Rocco Armonda (Heidi) of Maryland and Albert Armonda (Jill) of Virginia, and nine loving grandchildren.

A visitation is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
at Santa Monica Woodlawn Cemetery.

Judge orders new medical examination of Sumner Redstone

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment

LOS ANGELES A judge on Friday ordered a medical examination of Sumner Redstone as part of an ongoing court fight over the media mogul's health and mental capacity.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David J. Cowan said Friday that a doctor hired by the mogul's ex-girlfriend should evaluate Redstone's health and mental health. He based the ruling on the depositions of two doctors who have evaluated Redstone and believe he could undergo a short examination from another doctor.

Cowan says the evaluation should last up to an hour and cannot be attended by Redstone's regular physician or attorneys handling the case.

Redstone's ex-girlfriend and longtime companion Manuela Herzer has raised issues about the 92-year-old's health and decision-making capacity after she was expelled from his house in October.

Herzer's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, praised the ruling. "Sumner asked Manuela, and she promised, to care for and protect him for the rest of his life," O'Donnell wrote in a statement. "Today's victory is a major milestone in honoring her commitment."

Redstone controls CBS Corp. and Viacom Inc.

His lawyers have opposed Herzer's efforts and say Redstone receives frequent visits from a doctor and tests have shown no signs of impairment. Cowan has previously rejected attempts to have Herzer's expert physician meet with Redstone, citing privacy concerns. He changed his mind after Herzer's lawyers submitted a new request earlier this week and depositions from Redstone's physicians.

One of the doctors testified that he had difficulty understanding Redstone and had to have a nurse interpret the businessman for him.

Cowan however rejected a request by Herzer's attorneys to have Redstone undergo a deposition in his home. The judge said that would be invasive and probably beyond Redstone's ability.

"We are gratified that the Court continues to reject Ms. Herzer's increasingly desperate and disingenuous attempts to depose Mr. Redstone," Redstone's attorney Gabrielle Vidal said after the hearing.

Herzer was in control of Redstone's care until late last year, when she was thrown out of his home. She has said she is only interested in the billionaire's care, not his fortune.

Redstone controls CBS and Viacom through National Amusements Inc., which holds nearly 80 percent of the voting stock in both media companies. He hasn't joined an investor conference call since November 2014. His longtime attorney Philippe Dauman, now Viacom's CEO, has authority to make medical decisions if Redstone is deemed incapacitated by his physician, but that has not yet happened.

Herzer contends that Redstone is unable to speak and cannot meaningfully engage in decision-making about his medical care or other topics.

The allegations, which Redstone's lawyers have vehemently contested, prompted a lawsuit Tuesday by a Viacom shareholder. The suit contends that company directors breached their fiduciary duties to shareholders by allowing millions of dollars to be paid to Redstone while he was physically and mentally incapacitated and unable to carry out his duties as chairman.

Viacom said Wednesday that Redstone's compensation in fiscal 2015 declined 85 percent to $2 million from $13 million in fiscal 2014.

A key securities filing ahead of Viacom's annual shareholders meeting issued Friday did not include a signature from Redstone, as previous years have.

The company owns several popular television networks, including MTV, VH1, Comedy Central, BET and Nickelodeon, as well as film studio Paramount Pictures.

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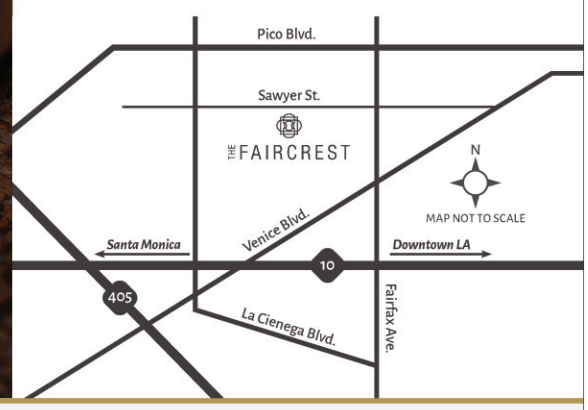

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Oil from Santa Barbara spill could be trucked out

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Eight months ago a ruptured pipeline created the largest coastal oil spill in California in 25 years, fouling beaches near Santa Barbara with crude and spreading goo as far as 100 miles away.

The beaches reopened last summer, but the fallout is continuing.

Santa Barbara County planners are expected to decide in about a week whether to grant ExxonMobil's latest request to use trucks to move more than 17 million gallons of oil stranded in storage after the pipeline shut down in May after the break.

With the pipeline shut down indefinitely, the county last year rejected the company's emergency application to truck the oil to refineries. In a second proposal filed this month, the company says it's been determined the pipeline will be shut down for months, if not years, creating an "unusual risk" for the remaining oil.

"The lack of a pipeline to quickly empty the ... crude storage tanks during a natural disaster or unforeseen circumstance could potentially result in the loss or damage to property, the environment or essential public services," the company warns.

If approved, the company would run up to 30 truck trips a day for as long as six months to move the remaining crude.

The plan has run into opposition from environmentalists who warn that transporting the marooned oil would be more dangerous than leaving it where it is.

"Trucking millions of gallons of crude oil down winding coastal highways would put Santa Barbara at risk of another disaster," said Kristen Monsell, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity.

"Exxon's request is yet another example of why dirty oil transportation and development doesn't belong in California's fragile coastal environment," she added.

On May 19, a 6-inch breach along a corroded section of pipeline west of Santa Barbara, owned by Texas-based Plains All American Pipeline, caused thousands of gallons of oil to spill onto the beach while creating an ocean slick that spread for miles along the coast.

The company has been criticized for taking about 90 minutes to alert federal responders after confirming the spill from the pipeline. The spill is also being investigated by prosecutors for possible violations of law.

The cause of the break has not been determined by federal investigators, but preliminary information suggests that corrosion was the culprit.

The cleanup is completed, although monitoring of the spill area and investigations continue. State and federal officials are in the early stages of a comprehensive study of damage, which includes assessing harm to seabirds, fish and the habitat.

The spill was initially believed to be up to 101,000 gallons, but later calculations tentatively pegged the maximum amount at 126,000 gallons, according to company filings with federal regulators.

The company has estimated total costs from the break at $257 million, which includes the cleanup bill, third-party claim settlements, estimates for fines and legal fees and other costs. The company has said that bill will be offset by an estimated $192 million in insurance.

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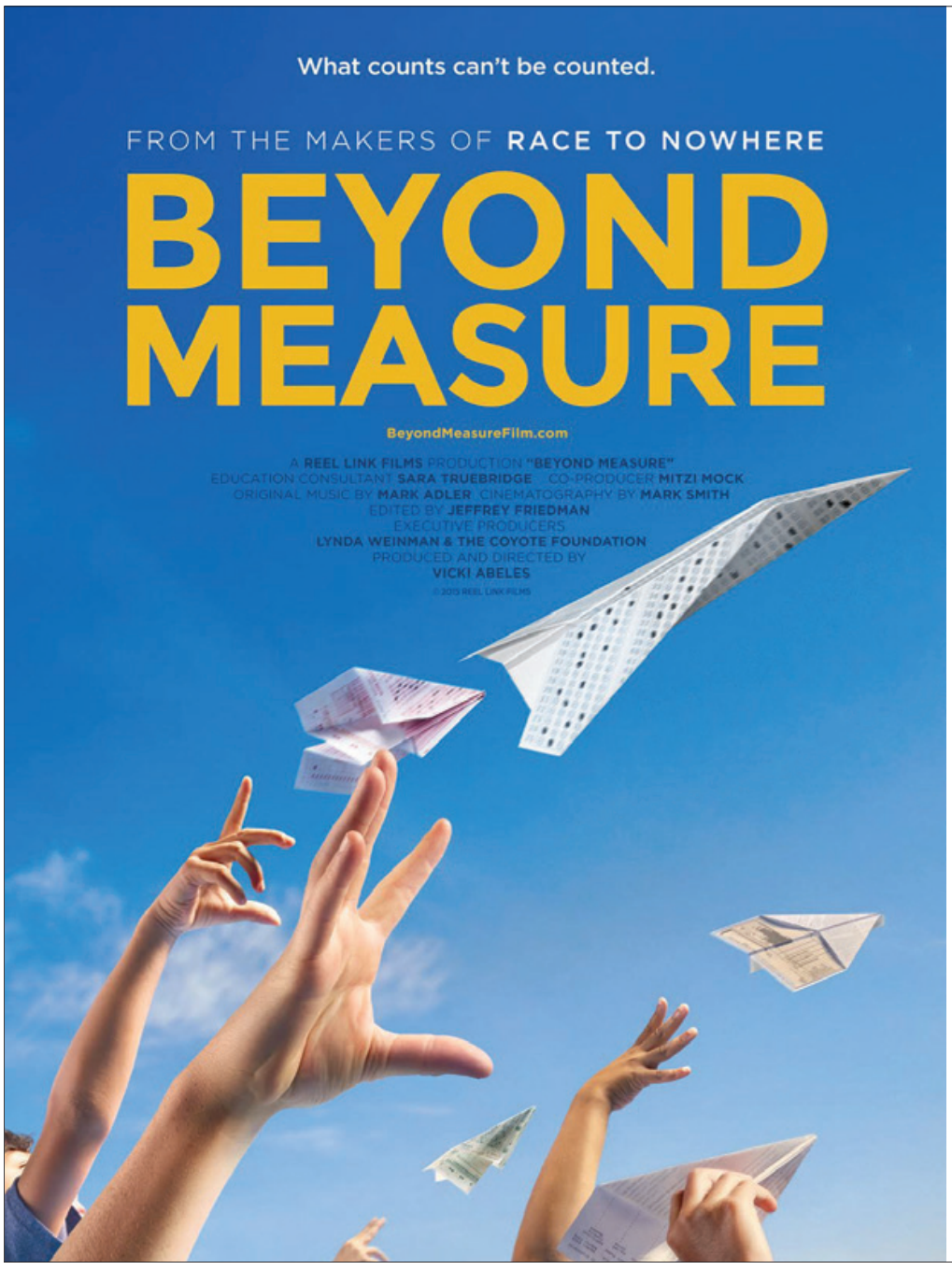

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SURF REPORT

SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **60.3°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **4-6 ft** shoulder high to 1 ft overhead occ. 7ft
Solid West-WNW swell all day. Minor SW swell. Light AM wind, then breezy west wind in PM.
Deep high tide in the morning slows down most spots.

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-5 ft** waist to head high
BIGGEST EARLY - Fading West-WNW swell. Minimal SW swell. Light AM wind, but with deep high tide.

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
BIGGEST EARLY - Old/fading WNW swell. Minimal SW swell. Light AM wind, but with deep high tide.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is 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.

ON JANUARY 13 AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT

Officers on patrol observed a vehicle with a broken rear tail light in the 2500 block of Lincoln Blvd. They stopped the car to contact the driver for the violation. The driver's wallet, ID, and vehicle registration were in the trunk of the car. Officers had the driver exit the vehicle and go to his trunk to retrieve the items. Prior to allowing the driver to go into his trunk and duffle bag for the items, the officer conducted a cursory search of the driver for weapons. The driver was found to be in possession of brass knuckles and was placed under arrest for the weapons violation. He also had an outstanding warrant from LAPD. Michael Evans, 27, of San Diego, had bail set at $20,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 298 calls for service on Jan 21.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Battery 1300 block of 9th 2:39 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block of Montana 6:32 a.m.
Traffic collision Main/Hill 7:01 a.m.
Burglary 1700 block of 22nd 7:19 a.m.
Grand theft 1400 block of Montana 7:19 a.m.
Silent robbery alarm 1200 block of Georgina 7:33 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1000 block of 11th 7:51 a.m.
Stolen vehicle recovered 2400 block of Santa Monica 8:03 a.m.
Traffic collision 4th/Pico 8:11 a.m.
Identity theft 900 block of 6th 9:18 a.m.
Battery 1300 block of Euclid 10:03 a.m.
Traffic collision 1100 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 10:10 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 200 block of Pacific 10:40 a.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 200 block of Bay 11:08 a.m.
Battery 2900 block of Colorado 11:08 a.m.
Burglary 1700 block of Cloverfield 11:32 a.m.
Burglary 2900 block of 31st 12:33 p.m.
Indecent exposure 400 block of San Vicente 12:52 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 700 block of Strand 12:55 p.m.
Speeding Franklin/Lipton 1:04 p.m.
Assault 1400 block of Palisades Park 1:17 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 900 block of Broadway 1:18 p.m.
Burglary 2200 block of Colorado 1:42 p.m.
Petty theft 1100 block of 6th 1:50 p.m.
Grand theft sea Colony 2:05 p.m.
Identity theft 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 2:09 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 2:17 p.m.
Petty theft 900 block of Wilshire 3:14 p.m.
Identity theft 900 block of 6th 4 p.m.
Fight 3100 block of Wilshire 4:22 p.m.
Hit and run 3200 block of Pico 4:39 p.m.
Petty theft 300 block of Olympic 5:27 p.m.
Identity theft 900 block of Centinela 5:38 p.m.
Auto burglary 800 block of Pier 6:12 p.m.
Traffic collision 26th/Arizona 7:32 p.m.
Attempt auto theft 600 block of Santa Monica 8:20 p.m.
Prowler 200 block of 23rd 8:46 p.m.
Lewd activity 900 block of Ocean 9:15 p.m.
Hit and run 2100 block of Santa Monica 9:17 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 39 calls for service on Jan. 21.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS 1300 block of 15th 2:20 a.m.
EMS 1200 block of 6th 2:58 a.m.
EMS 2000 block of Ocean 3:15 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 14th 6:24 a.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 6:31 a.m.
EMS of Main/Hill 7:01 a.m.
EMS 1500 block of Pearl 7:03 a.m.
EMS 800 block of San Vicente 7:10 a.m.
EMS 500 block of California 8:27 a.m.
EMS 800 block of Pico 9:25 a.m.
EMS 2800 block of Ocean Park 10:01 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 10th 10:33 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 20th 10:45 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 11 a.m.
Elevator rescue 2800 block of Santa Monica 11:12 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 20th 11:14 a.m.
EMS 1100 block of 3rd 12:08 p.m.
EMS 2500 block of Kansas 12:15 p.m.
EMS 3200 block of Urban 1:31 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of 10th 2:08 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of 12th 2:35 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block of Arizona 2:45 p.m.
EMS of 11th/Wilshire 2:58 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Cloverfield 3:20 p.m.
EMS 800 block of bay 3:25 p.m.
Automatic alarm 200 block of 19th 3:58 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk 5 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of Broadway 5:13 p.m.
EMS 200 block of Pier 6:26 p.m.
EMS of 26th/Arizona 7:33 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block of Washington 7:36 p.m.
Injuries from assault of 7th/Olympic 7:42 p.m.
EMS 2900 block of Main 8:04 p.m.
EMS 2100 block of Delaware 8:09 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of 9th 8:27 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Pearl 9 p.m.
EMS 2600 block of Ocean Front Walk 9:40 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?

Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Rough voice
5 Geometry class challenge
10 Stockpile
12 Gold unit
13 Be effective
14 Sword material
15 Yale rooter
16 Curator's concern
18 Plopped down
19 Bill makers
21 Stock holders
22 Art director's indications
24 "The Waste Land" poet
25 Novelty store buy
29 Locks
30 Castle part
32 Curry on TV
33 Nile serpent
34 Mess up
35 Pesto herb
37 Yucca's kin
39 Perfect
40 Sees socially
41 Rotates
42 Garden areas

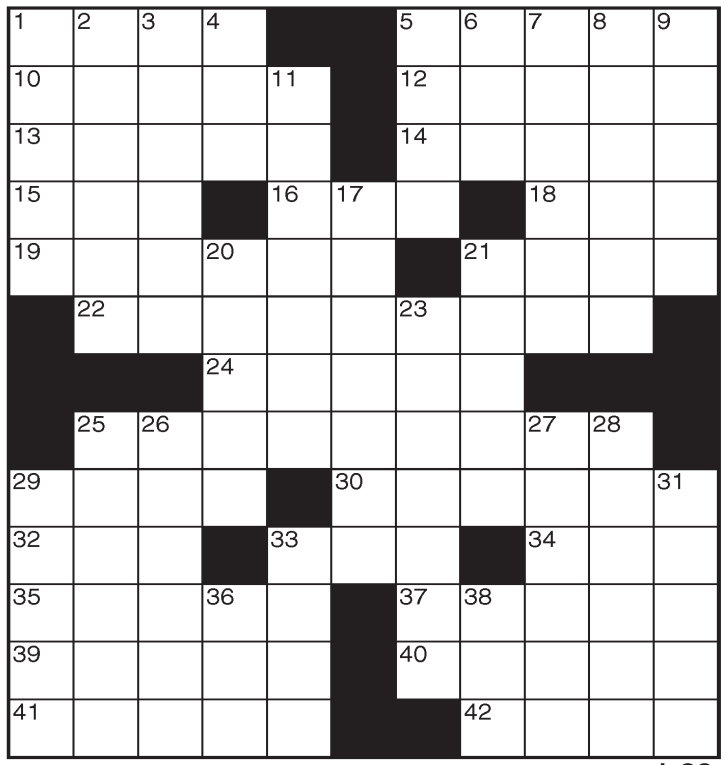
DOWN

1 Sprints
2 Charm
3 Lustrous
4 Omega preceder
5 Fence feature
6 Tire track
7 "Be right with you"
8 Vast expanses
9 Soft fabrics
11 Grand
17 Stands up to
20 "...partridge in — tree"
21 Wendy's friend
23 Browsing annoyance
25 "Citizen Kane" estate
26 Car wash device
27 Invent
28 Worked for
29 Custom
31 Lock
33 "— fair in ..."
36 Golfer Woosnam
38 Yak it up

M	O	N	E	T	■	B	A	N	D	S
A	R	O	A	R	■	A	G	O	R	A
R	E	P	R	O	■	S	E	P	A	L
A	L	A	■	T	H	E	S	A	M	E
U	S	S	■	S	I	T	■	R	A	M
D	E	S	I	■	D	E	C	K	S	■
■	■	I	D	E	■	N	O	I	■	■
■	G	N	O	M	E	■	O	N	T	O
A	U	G	■	P	E	P	■	G	I	N
P	I	Z	A	R	R	O	■	Z	E	E
A	T	O	N	E	■	R	H	O	D	A
R	A	N	T	S	■	T	O	N	I	C
T	R	E	S	S	■	S	P	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



1-23

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@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*.

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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 1/20
5 39 44 47 69
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 60M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/19
2 17 31 39 47
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 39M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/20
3 14 18 25 38
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 10M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/21
5 8 21 24 31

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/21
MIDDAY: 7 2 9
Draw Date: 1/21
EVENING: 8 0 4

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/21
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:46.57

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**

WORD UP!

sitzmark
1. Skiing. a sunken area in the snow marking a backward fall of a skier.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1920 – The Netherlands refuses to surrender the exiled Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany to the Allies.

1937 – In Moscow, 17 leading Communists go on trial accused of participating in a plot led by Leon Trotsky to overthrow Joseph Stalin's regime and assassinate its leaders.

1942 – World War II: The Battle of Rabaul begins, the first fighting of the New Guinea campaign.

1943 – World War II: Australian and American forces finally defeat the Japanese army in Papua.

1943 – Duke Ellington plays at Carnegie Hall in New York City for the first time.

1943 – World War II: The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse on Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal Campaign ends.

1945 – World War II: German admiral Karl Dönitz launches Operation Hannibal.

1950 – The Knesset passes a resolution that states Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

1957 – American inventor Walter Frederick Morrison sells the rights to his flying disc to the Wham-O toy company, which later renames it the "Frisbee".

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Researchers from the University of York and the University of St. Andrews wrote in the journal Biology Letters in December that they observed wild male parrots using pebbles in their mouths to help grind seashells into powder and hypothesized that the purpose was to free up the shells' calcium in "vomitable" form so that they could pass it to females before mating, to help improve their offspring's health outcomes.

■ National Pride: (1) Factory worker Thanakorn Siripaiboon was arrested in December in a Bangkok suburb after he wrote a "sarcastic" comment on social media about the dog that belongs to Thailand's king. For the crime of "insulting the monarch," Thanakorn faces 37 years in prison. (2) Michael McFeat, a Scottish man working on contract for a mining company in Kyrgyzstan, was arrested in January after he (on Facebook) jokingly called the country's national dish "horse penis." ("Chuchuk" is indeed a sausage made from horsemeat.) The crime he was charged with carries a five-year prison term.

■ The government of the Netherlands, seeking to boost the economy while simultaneously improving highway skills, enacted legislation in December to allow driving instructors to be paid in sexual services provided the student is at least 18 years old. Though prostitution is legal, the transport minister cautioned that the "initiative" for the new arrangement must be with the instructor so that the country gains

Get some extra R and R, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have a flair for the dramatic. Today's Full Moon gives you the opportunity to express this talent. You could be juggling the needs of loved ones. It seems as if nearly everyone has a complaint about not having enough time with you. Tonight: Continue your juggling act.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Use the first part of the day to return calls and make plans. You might sense an unusual intensity emerging from others; respond accordingly. Someone at a distance makes an effort toward you. Be honest -- it warms the cockles of your heart. Tonight: Use your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Pay your bills and do what you must in the morning. By the afternoon, you could be footloose and fancy free. Get together with friends who have similar interests. Lose yourself in whatever you're doing, and forget the workweek. Tonight: What would you really like to do?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be reacting to the Full Moon, as your mood seems to go up and down like a yo-yo. A relationship might need a tranquilizer by the end of the day. Recognize that this period is but a passage. Know that this moment isn't written in stone. Tonight: With a favorite person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could be out of sorts in the morning. By the afternoon, you'll become Mr. or Ms. Personality. Revisit big decisions later in the day, when your mood becomes more relaxed. Tonight: Just because someone says he or she is your friend doesn't make it so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Race out the door and get your errands done. You could be compared with a fireball in the morning and with a slug in the afternoon. Knowing this in advance, plan your day accordingly. Let someone else entertain you. Don't take on any more responsibilities. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ The time has come to deal with a friend, relative or boss. You've been trying to avoid this moment, but you're not that lucky. This conversation even might need to be repeated later. Be patient if you want good results. You do not see eye to eye with this person. Tonight: Party.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Don't you think you have experienced enough pressure over the past few days? Kick back and let someone else be the leader of the gang for now. You need to get in contact with certain family members and friends. Excuse yourself from making plans. Tonight: Out on the town.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ One-on-one relating highlights the morning. Enjoy a dear loved one who is very special. Even if it's just taking a walk in the afternoon, you'll daydream about what could happen between the two of you. Remember, this is just an assumption. Enjoy. Tonight: Up to you. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

HHHH What stands out about today is that you don't need to make the first move. In fact, you should not make the first move. Allow others to express their caring and seek you out. Their efforts are very likely to delight you. Tonight: Go along with a friend's suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You could be dragging in the morning, but might be full of energy by mid-afternoon. Perhaps you have cleared out an errand or two, and now you feel ready to enjoy yourself. You could be entering a very exciting few days. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ The tendrils of romance could sweep through your morning. When you get into a project and/or join some friends, you'll find your mind drifting to more intimate moments. Remember where you are, and try to be present. Tonight: You might need to get some extra R and R.

Weekend Edition, January 23-24, 2016

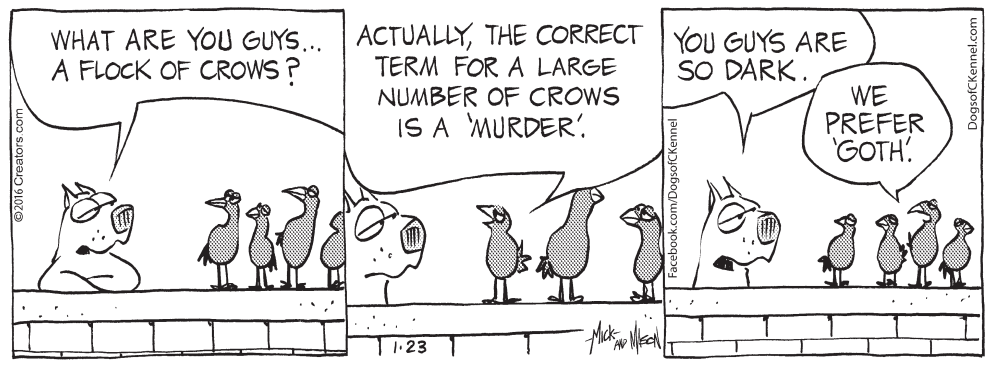
This year your birthday occurs on a Full Moon. You often are juggling two different sets of interests. Your unique abilities and insight allow you to identify with different points of view. If you are single, because of your ability to empathize with others, many people feel close to you. Decide what type of relationship works for you best. If you are attached, your new skills will help your relationship evolve in a more sensitive way. LEO makes a great friend.

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

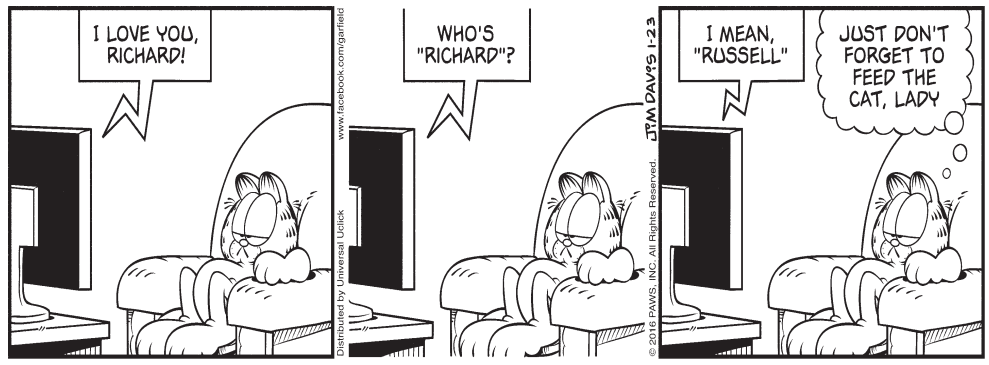
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly

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

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Announcements

Announcements

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE Commercial Office Space for lease. Westside office. 2 miles from beach. $2295. Second floor, approx. 1000 sq. ft. 2 parking spaces. 310-490-8481.

Employment

Help Wanted

CASHIER/ SALES F/ T for a Building Materials retailer, including Sat. Will train. Retail and computer exp favored. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, Ca 90404 (310) 450-6556

YARDPERSON F/ T, including Sat. Will train. Lifting reqÇd. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, Ca 90404 (310) 450-6556

Real Estate

Commercial

SANTA MONICA OFFICE SUITES- For Lease in beautiful garden building. Approx. 300-400 square feet, Office suite. Utilities included. †30th Street near Ocean Park Boulevard. $1,000.00 - $1,450.00 a month.†(310) 456-7031 ext.175.

West Side Rentals

Venice CHARMING VENETIAN ORIGINAL Parking available, Rent $9,000.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1238772

Brentwood BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM Parking included, Rent $3,350.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1209992

Brentwood LOWER 3 BED 2 BATH CONDO - LAUNDRY IN UNIT CENTRAL AIR 2-car Tandem Parking, Paid water & trash & gardener & association fees, Rent $4,975.00, Deposit 4975, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1218671

Venice FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM YOU WILL LOVE! 1-car Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent $5,000.00 to per month, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1219107

Brentwood ACT FAST ON THIS 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $3,195.00, Deposit 3195.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1227435

Venice BRAND NEW APARTMENT HOMES LOCATED NEAR ABBOT KINNEY 1-car Parking available, Rent $2,960.00 to - $4143.00, Deposit 750, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1151848

Brentwood ELEGANT CONDO FOR LEASE IN PRIME BRENTWOOD LOCALE 2-car Gated parking, Paid hot water & association fees, Rent $3,950.00, Deposit 7900.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1227060

Venice 2 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE Subterranean parking, Rent $4,500.00, Deposit 6000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1250978

Santa Monica 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT 1-car Parking included, Paid water & trash, Rent $3,000.00, Deposit 3500, Available 12016. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1250407

Brentwood UPPER CONDO 3 BED 2 BATH - APPROX 1700 SQ FT 2-car Tandem Parking, Paid water & trash & gardener & association fees, Rent $5,350.00, Deposit 5350, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1218669

Brentwood UPGRADED LARGE LOWER UNIT IN BUILDING WITH POOL, LAUNDRY AND PARKING! 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $1,850.00 to per month, Deposit 3700, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1252824

Marina Del Rey MULTI LEVEL 1 BED FLORPLAN, WITH ROOFTOP PATIO 1-car Parking included, Paid gardener & pool service & association fees, Rent $4,063.00 to AND UP, Deposit 1000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1097278

Marina Del Rey MULTI LEVEL 3 BEDROOM MARINA VIEW TOWNHOUSE 2-car Parking included, Paid gardener & pool service, Rent $5,242.00 to AND UP, Deposit 1500.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1162891

Marina Del Rey 2 BEDS 2 BATHS SPACIOUS DOUBLE MASTER FLOORPLAN 2-car Garage parking, Rent $3,510.00 to AND UP, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1186661

Santa Monica OCEAN AND PIER VIEWS, ON THE BEACH Parking available, Paid water & hot water & gas & electricity & cable & gardener, Rent $2,750.00 to $3250, Deposit 500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1245130

Santa Monica FURNISHED STUDIO APARTMENT, QUIET NEIGHTBORHOOD 1-car Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent $2,400.00 to per month, Deposit 1200.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=314325

West LA WALSH MARINA DEL REY 2-car Parking available, Paid utilities, Rent $6,000.00 to and up, Deposit 1000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1236551

West LA CHARMING 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH COTTAGE. 2-car Driveway parking, Paid gardener, Rent $5,500.00, Deposit 5500.00, Available 2116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1253570

West LA PET FRIENDLY - STUNNING 1 BEDROOM HOME NEAR THE BEACH 1-car Garage parking, Paid utilities, Rent $3,597.00, Deposit 3597, Available 21516. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1225100

Marina Del Rey LARGE CORNER UNIT W OVER 1,700 SQ FT, 2 BED2.5 BATH PLUS DENOFFICE! 2-car Garage parking, Paid partial utilities & water & gas & cable & association fees, Rent $5,000.00, Deposit 5000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1243555

Santa Monica GREAT STUDIO APARTMENT Street parking, Paid utilities, Rent $1,600.00, Deposit 1600, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1239899

Santa Monica , 1 BATH Parking included, Rent $5,046.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1242904

West LA 3 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH APARTMENT 1-car Carport parking, Paid trash & gardener, Rent $2,980.00, Deposit 3480, Available 12816. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1232852

Venice ARCHITECTURAL IMPRESSIVE LOFT 1-car Garage parking, Rent $5,995.00, Deposit 11990, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=670833

Marina Del Rey 2 BEDS, 2 12 BATHS SPACIOUS FLOORPLAN 2-car Parking included, Paid gardener & pool service, Rent $4,180.00 to AND UP, Deposit 199.00, Available 2416. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1188201

Santa Monica CLASSIC SPANISH BUNGALOW NEXT TO CLOVER PARK 2-car Parking included, Paid gardener, Rent $4,500.00, Deposit 6000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233962

Venice 2 BR HOUSE BETWEEN OCEAN AND BEACH Street parking, Paid utilities & water & hot water & trash & gas & electricity & gardener, Rent $6,000.00, Deposit 6000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1251667

Santa Monica AMAZING BEACH LOCATION WITH HIGH CEILINGS, *BRIGHT*, WALK-IN CLOSET AND AMAZING VIEWS!!! Permit parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $2,895.00, Deposit 2895, Available 2116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1252165

Venice CLASSY AND SPOTLESS FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM 1 BATHROOM APARTMENT WALKING DISTANCE TO VENICE BEACH Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent $2,575.00, Deposit 500, Available 42016. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1249274

Santa Monica AWESOME 1BR STUDIO RENTED AS A PACKAGE 1-car Driveway parking, Rent $2,400.00, Deposit 2400, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1230696

Santa Monica WHAT A TERRIFIC 2 BEDROOM 1-car Parking included, Rent $5,215.00, Deposit 2000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1252120

Santa Monica BEAUTIFUL 4 BED 2 BATH HOME IN PRIME SUNSET PARK LOCATION! 12 BLOCK FROM SMC 2-car Garage parking, Rent $8,000.00 to per month, Deposit 8000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=487988

Santa Monica BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED STUDIO APARTMENT 1-car Parking available, Paid utilities, Rent $3,080.00, Deposit 3000, Available 2816. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1229134

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Buyers Needs

I am working with well-qualified Buyers to find the following properties:

Single Family Home (Raw Land or Fixer OK)
Approx. 4,000 sq ft
Franklin School District
Up to $4,500,000

Single Family Home
North of Montana, East of 14th Street or Brentwood
Minimum 5 + 4.5
Pool
$4,000,000—$6,200,000

Single Family Home
Minimum 3+ 1.75
Franklin School District
Up to $2,500,000

Single Family Home w/ guest house, Duplex, or Triplex
Santa Monica
Up to $2,800,000

Single Family Home or 2 –3 Unit Building
Minimum 5 + 2.75
Brentwood, Westwood, Cheviot, Santa Monica
Up to $3,600,000

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Late January 2016

		Average Price	# of Listings
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$7,532,250	4
North of Montana	=	$5,973,991	13
North of Wilshire	=	$2,785,000	4
South of Wilshire	=	$1,632,666	3
Sunset Park	=	$2,214,777	9
Ocean Park	=	$2,100,000	1

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