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TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 63

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN?
SEE PAGE 2

THE SPLISH SPLASH ISSUE

Large senior apartment complex goes smokefree

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILMONT One month ago, Westminster Tower, a seniors-only apartment building on Seventh Street, made the papers when an elderly resident reached out, afraid of the effects that a neighbor's secondhand smoke was having on her health.

Today, Westminster Tower has been declared smokefree to all new residents.

John Bohn, president of the nonprofit organization that runs the facility, Westminster Tower Inc., said that his board agreed to step in to enforce a policy they had passed two years ago to limit the smoking at the residence.

"We passed a nonsmoking guideline in 2010," Bohn said. "That was fully implemented at Geneva Plaza, the other building we own. It's been nonsmoking for over a year."

The same guideline was not put in place at Westminster Tower because, as Bohn said, there were more smokers in that building and there was confusion about the requirements of the federal Housing and Urban Development Department, which helped to finance the building.

"We decided we'd go ahead, even though HUD regulations are not clear on what we can do," Bohn said. "We're going to go ahead."

This won't change anything for current

SEE SMOKING PAGE 5

State dries out after storms

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Staying dry will give way to staying cool in California, as rain and wind are swiftly replaced by sunshine and higher temperatures, meteorologists said Monday.

Rain totals, which are well below normal, will benefit a little from the weekend storms that hit California, National Weather Service Meteorologist David Sweet said.

But forecasters say the rain wasn't enough to make California normal.

Northern California took a drenching over the past five days, but totals are still about 50 percent less than what they should be for this time of year, forecaster Mark Strobin said.

"It's been a very dry winter so far," he said.

From Thursday to Monday morning, more than 4 inches of rain fell in Napa; Santa Rosa got nearly 7 inches; 2.5 inches fell on San Francisco; and 2 inches were reported at Oakland International Airport.

The Sierra Nevada finally had its first serious snowfall of the season.

"It was kind of late," said Brian O'Hara, a NWS forecaster in the Reno, Nev., office.

The Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe typically get their snow in late November or early December, but the first good accumulation didn't hit until this weekend, with ski resorts getting an average of 12 inches to 20 inches of snow, O'Hara said.

The Homewood Ski Resort on the west side of Lake Tahoe boasted 26 inches of

SEE STORM PAGE 8



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

REMAINS OF THE DAY: **Debris and trash accumulate near the Pico-Kenter Storm Drain on Monday as a winter storm settled over the area. County health officials warn beachgoers to stay out of the water for the next few days due to the elevated bacteria levels.**

Major contract changes beef up consent agenda

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL The City Council will be asked to get the ball moving on the Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square parks tonight with over $8 million in new appropriations for the two parks.

The money comes on top of the "not to exceed" contract of $39 million awarded to W.E. O'Neill Construction Company in June 2011, and includes money for additional scope of construction, a contingency fund of 7 percent and allowances for testing and inspection services of $5,126,248.

The new contract total is $47,090,523.

That's slightly larger than the total for the consent agenda expected to be approved tonight, which comes in at $45,594,159, largely as a result of money spent on the two parks, seismic improvements for the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and city-funded enhancements to designs for the Exposition Light Rail stations planned for the city by the sea.

SEE CONSENT PAGE 6


Andrew Thurm
COLDWELL BANKER
310.442.1651
AndrewThurm@aol.com

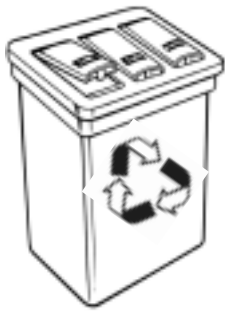
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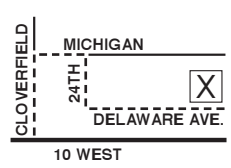
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012

Follow the bouncing ball
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave.,
10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Warm up your throat for the Senior Center Sing-a-Long. Show off your songbird skills at this interactive event, led weekly by Douglas and Marybeth. Must be a Senior Center member and 50 or older to participate. Senior Center membership is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

The dog will have his day
Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5:15 p.m.
The Main Library is screening Akira Kurosawa's "Stray Dog," the story of a young homicide detective, played by Toshiro Mifune, who loses his pistol on the bus. In his quest to find his stolen sidearm, he begins to question his own life and morality. In Japanese with English subtitles. Part of the build up to this year's noir-themed Citywide Reads. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012

A bug's life
Santa Monica Pier
1550 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
times vary
Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" is under the big top by the sea. In this show, Cirque delves into the secret lives of bugs to tell their unlikely stories. The show runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call (800) 450-1480.

Our story
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Already attracting rave reviews, David Cromer directs this adaptation of Thorton Wilder's "Our Town," the deceptively simple story of the birth, life and death of ordinary couple Emily Webb and George Gibbs; but within their story lies a piece of us all. Featuring award winning actress Helen Hunt. For more information, call (310) 434-3200 or visit www.thebroadstage.com.

Make it count
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 10:30 p.m.
Santa Monica needs volunteers for the annual Homeless Count. Volunteers will gather at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for training and then take to the streets to visually count the homeless population. For more information, visit www.smgov.net/homeless-countvolunteer.aspx.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012

Big band
Santa Monica High School, Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
The award winning Samohi jazz bands kick off the new year with a "too cool" concert featuring trombonist Andy Martin. There's also an auction where the prize is the jazz combo playing at your next party or event. Cost: $10 adults, $5 students and seniors. Middle school students are free with an ID. For more information, visit www.samohiband.org.

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



Forecasters anticipate modest gains in '12

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES A new economic forecast calls for the U.S. economy to make some modest growth strides this year, but not quite enough to significantly reduce the number of jobless Americans looking for work.

About two-thirds of the economists who participated in the latest National Association for Business Economics survey expect the nation's gross domestic product, or GDP, to grow at a rate above 2 percent this year, according to the outlook released Monday.

GDP reflects the economy's total output of goods and services. The latest forecast is in line with one issued by the group in November that called for the economy to grow 2.4 percent this year.

"That is not the sort of GDP growth that's really going to dramatically improve our labor market, but it's certainly not going to make it worse," Nayantara Hensel, professor of industry and business at National Defense University and

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 5

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Parking Structure 6 going down

Parking Structure 6, located at 1431 Second St., is set to be demolished this March. The structure will close on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 12:01 a.m.

The rebuilt structure will have over 700 spaces, almost double the current amount of spaces, as well as offering environmental improvements.

The community is invited to a public meeting regarding the construction, which will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Ken Edwards Center on 1527 Fourth St. The meeting is set to begin at 6 p.m.

Staff from different Santa Monica offices, including Finance, Architecture Services and the police, will be available to answer questions about the upcoming construction, including parking and noise concerns.

Construction on the parking structure is expected to be complete in late 2013. For more information, visit www.smconstructs.org/ps6.

COLIN NEWTON

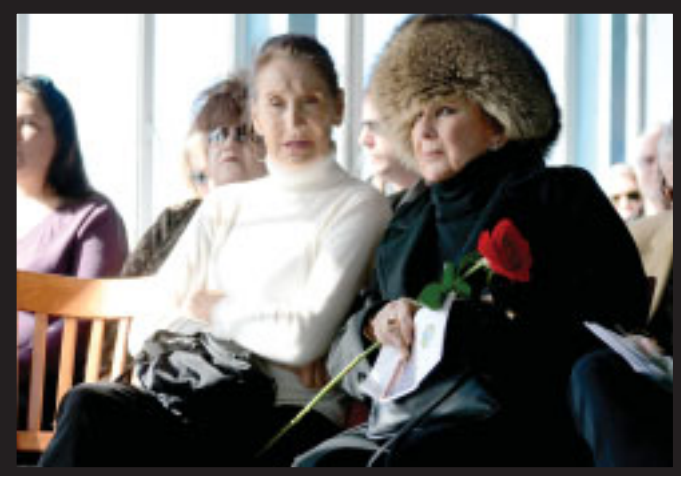


MEMORIAL ON THE WAVES

Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

A memorial for retired Harbor Patrol officer Patrick Cunningham was held Saturday on the Santa Monica Pier, a place he worked for many of his 27 years on the job. During his lifetime, he fought bulls in Spain and played college football at USC.

(Above) A Harbor Patrol boat sails along the pier as a tribute to Cunningham. (Right) Friends and family were among those who attended the ceremony.



State Senate votes to extend mortgage protections

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. State senators voted Monday for a pair of bills extending protections to those hit by California's mortgage crisis, sending both measures on to the Assembly.

Senators approved continuing a law passed during the peak of the mortgage crisis that provides added protections for property owners, renters and neighbors of foreclosed properties.

The law passed in 2008 says foreclosure proceedings can't begin until the lender has tried for 30 days to work out alternatives with the delinquent homeowner.

Lenders also must notify renters that they are beginning foreclosure proceedings. And they must give renters 60 days' notice before evicting them from a foreclosed property.

They also are required to maintain vacant foreclosed houses or risk fines up to $1,000 a day.

SEE **MORTGAGE** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Calling for harmony

Editor:

Never having had children in area schools, I have not closely followed related issues; however, it seems racial tensions ("Fights break out at Samohi," Jan. 13) could be helped by permanent reinstitution of the Racial Harmony program "promoting dialogue between racial groups" ("Racial Harmony returns to Samohi," Jan. 17). 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, Jan. 16) 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.

Caroline Mayson
Santa Monica

Not a good business move

Editor:

I've lived in Santa Monica over 50 years, so that makes me an old timer. I wanted to weigh in on Santa Monica going into the mortuary business ("City Hall enters the mortuary business," Jan. 14). I can remember when there were at least five funeral homes in town. Now there is only one. There was one on Seventh and Arizona, one on Montana, one on Wilshire between 15th and 16th, another on Colorado, and the only one remaining, Gates, Kingsley Gates, at 20th and Arizona. What I want to know is if private funeral businesses cannot thrive and survive in this city, how on earth is the city of Santa Monica going to do it? The way our wasteful city government operates, I can only guess that us overburdened taxpayers are going to have to foot the bill for another misadventure by the city. The city has a hard enough time running a government, it shouldn't waste time and taxpayer money going into the funeral business.

Sam Feinberg
Santa Monica



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The capitalist commune

I JOINED TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL to improve my speaking skills. I'm not terribly nervous speaking in front of people, as a divorce lawyer I do it all the time in front of judges. I have spoken to groups as small as three people and as large as 300, so for me the improvement needs to be in the delivery of the information. I ask: How am I communicating and what can I do to be more effective and efficient in my speaking?

Little did I know that would be meeting so many other people with such a diverse range of backgrounds. From the nervous first-time sales person to the highly accomplished corporate executive, the Westside Toastmasters is a commune of cultures, companies and characters.

One of our newest members is a guy I call Marathon Mike. At 24 he's one of the new crew of entrepreneurs who have found their way to Toastmasters. His story is another example of why I love Santa Monica and all that we offer.

Marathon Mike is Mike Townsend, a 6-foot-something man with blonde hair, eyes the color of hand burnished oak and the body of a runway model that he keeps in top form by running marathons, hence the nickname.

He's not your typical engineer turned Internet startup geek. With his close cropped hair, he looks like he belongs on an obstacle course barking at new recruits for the military, but once you speak to him, his quiet and confident demeanor changes all that. I met him about six months ago when he was checking out the Westside Toastmasters.

Mike had joined us in the community room at Santa Monica Place one Wednesday night to see how we could help make him more effective for his new company. He was in the process of co-founding along with Nate Stewart, this new venture called Zingcheckout.com. It is an online point of sale service that allows companies with multiple retail outlets to process their sales orders over the Internet and allows for management to track sales at any computer or mobile device, and interact with their customers. Of course there is the capability that allows customers to link their purchases to their social network which builds brand loyalty for the retailer.

Zingcheckout.com also has the ability to do automatic discounts based on loyalty, it allows a retailer to set up promotional features and increases the transparency of product pricing — which is good for the customer.

I chatted with Marathon Mike at his company headquarters this past Sunday, which is located inside Coloft on Santa Monica Boulevard. I'd been curious about Coloft for a long time now, as I would ride by on my bicycle and see people working away. Coloft is a membership based office space where hipsters who are starting their own companies rent space and informally collaborate. It was born out of a frustration with the noisy environs of the coffee shop scene and by loneliness. The founders were working together but they wanted more quiet, and more social life, but didn't want the dreaded corporate lifestyle. They saw a need and created Coloft, which has a very open and breezy office feel that reminded me of my days working at GeoCities on Main street. It's like a commune but for capitalists.

Coloft is the recipient of this year's Innovation Award at the State of the City banquet being hosted by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment where the Santa Monica Daily Press is a media sponsor. But Coloft is more than just an office space, they offer startup meetings to help the budding entrepreneur, companies like ZingCheckout.com, to get their sales and marketing or programming or design work completed. It's all very hip and fun which makes me want to start a business just so I can hang out there with the cool people.

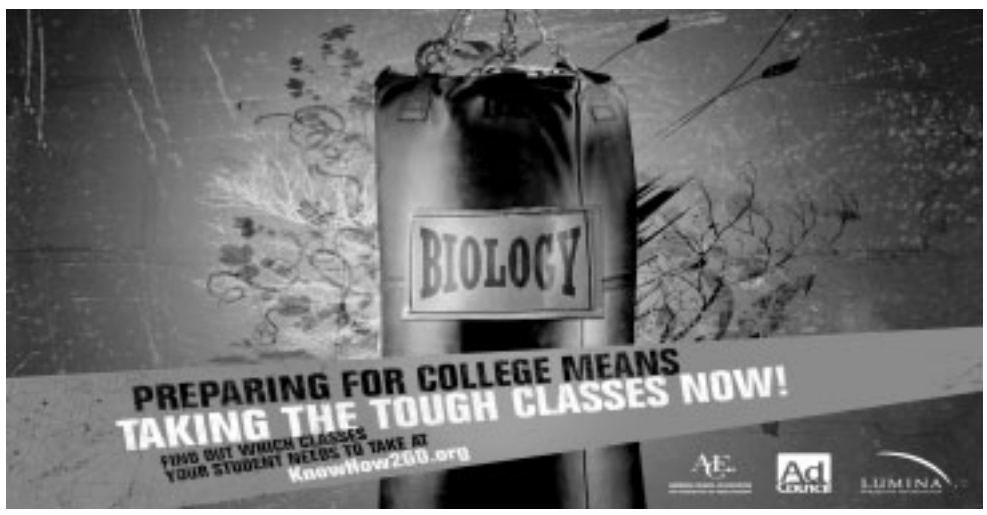
Cool people like Marathon Mike, who are changing the world. His company will make multi-store retail businesses more profitable and more responsive to their customers, all while making reporting easier for the managers. He will be demonstrating ZingCheckout for new and not-so-new businesses that need online point of sale reporting this Thursday at the State of the City event.

I went to Toastmasters to improve the effectiveness of my public speaking and I found that, but I also found a community of people who are building new and exciting ventures and taking adventures in their lives. Which is similar to what Marathon Mike found at Coloft.

If I only received what I thought I wanted from Toastmasters, I would have robbed myself of meeting new and interesting people.

People like Marathon Mike.

DAVID PISARRA is a Divorce lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

NEWS INTERNS
Colin Newton
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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ECONOMY
FROM PAGE 3

chair of the NABE survey, said in an interview.

GDP growth needs to be above 3 percent to significantly lower unemployment, which is at its lowest rate in nearly three years, but remains at a troubling 8.5 percent.

The NABE economists previously forecast growth of 1.8 percent for all of 2011. Final GDP numbers for the last three months of 2011 are due out Friday.

The recent improvement in the unemployment rate, a pickup in retail sales during the holiday season, and hopefulness that Congress will be able to reach a debt reduction deal, are among the factors behind the rosier GDP outlook among better than 60 percent of the survey respondents.

Almost two-thirds of respondents said they expect no change in employment, the highest share of survey participants to hold that view in recent quarters. And the share of those who expect hiring to pick up in the next six months declined to 27 percent from 29 percent in the previous survey.

That doesn't bode well for new job growth, but it also suggests employers don't expect to slash payrolls further.

A majority of the respondents said wages and salaries are unchanged, while nearly all expect either no change in prices or increases by their companies of 5 percent or less.

The holding pattern on prices could reflect a caution on the part of businesses due to uncertainty in the economy, given the burgeoning debt crisis in Europe, rising tensions with Iran and the potential for higher oil prices, Hensel said.

On the sales front, about 81 percent of the survey participants, which include some company managers, said sales were either unchanged or rising along with profit margins. But 19 percent said sales were falling.

Some 63 percent of the NABE forecasters on the panel expect that there will be no impact from the European debt crisis on sales over the next six months. While about 29 percent reported sales fell 10 percent or less due to the region's lingering debt woes.

The survey was conducted between Dec. 15 and Jan. 5. It is derived from responses given by 63 NABE members

SMOKING
FROM PAGE 1

smokers, who are grandfathered in under the policy, but beefs up 15-year-old restrictions on smoking in community spaces and will transform the residence into a smokefree facility over time.

It's a change that excited Natalie Lewis.

Lewis, who brought the issue to the attention of the local press in December, is a fitness enthusiast who eats mostly raw vegetables and works out constantly.

She lives in Westminster Tower, and until recently, her neighbor of four months was a smoker.

"I couldn't breathe," she said. "I was sleeping on the floor. I was quite miserable sleeping on the floor and walking around with a jacket on because my windows were always open."

Lewis took the unusual step of speaking up, and now she has a new neighbor (the other moved to a different apartment) and the building is becoming smokefree.

"I'm very happy," she said. "I talk to people who live in these multiunit places and they're always complaining about it."

Lewis' story put a face on the debate taking place at City Hall over whether or not to require all multi-family residences in Santa Monica, be they condominiums or apartments, to go smokefree.

The push comes as mounting medical evidence points to the fact that not only does secondhand smoke kill, it spreads easily, seeping through electrical sockets and shared air conditioning systems to impact smokers and nonsmokers alike.

In November 2011, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health released the results of a study showing that tobacco smoke particles travel through cracks in fixtures, electrical outlets, pipes, vents and baseboards.

As much as 30 to 50 percent of air comes from other units, and particles in units of nonsmokers can reach levels equal to and exceeding those of a smoky bar or casino, according to a press release about the study.

More than 41 percent of housing units in the county are multi-unit structures. Approximately 70 percent of Santa Monicans rent, many of which are in multiunit buildings.

"The science is clear: all units, and all buildings should be nonsmoking," said Esther Schiller, director of Smokefree Apartment House Registry.

Santa Monica received a B-grade from the American Lung Association recently, in large part because of its stance on smoking in multiunit housing. Today, smokers can light up in their apartments, but not in common areas, near open doorways or in parks.

City Council members have held back on making all apartments smokefree over fears that it would negatively impact the elderly and disabled or give landlords opportunities to force some tenants out.

It's time to act, Schiller said.

"We made the bars smokefree, and people said, 'Oh my god, how can you do that?'" Schiller said. "The same thing needs to happen in apartments."

ashley@smdp.com

The Q Line

Make your pick

The race for the newly-formed 53rd Assembly District is starting to attract attention.

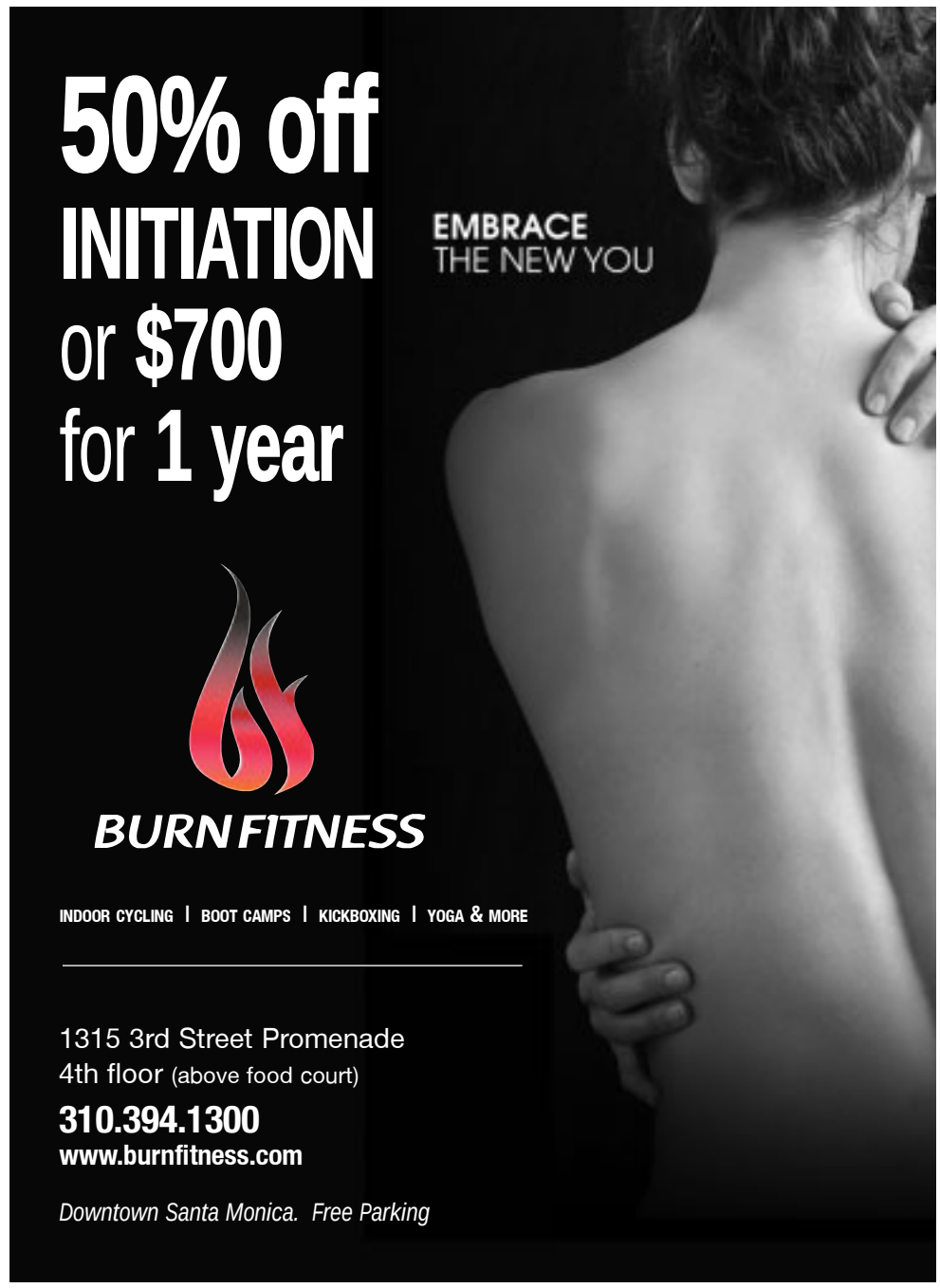
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Who do you like in the race? Do you favor Mayor Richard Bloom, activist Torie Osborn or Assemblymember Betsy Butler?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 107**.











CONSENT

FROM PAGE 1

SEISMIC IMPROVEMENTS

Staff is looking for increases to the contracts for the Civic Center improvements that are similar in nature if not cost.

According to a staff report, the council will need to approve an additional $16,944,432 to pay for pre-construction and design services, extra construction costs for features required under the American Disabilities Act, a contingency for the city and allowances for testing and inspection services.

The City Council approved a $35 million contract with Morley Construction Company for the construction services — forgetting design and pre-construction — in June 2011.

The money will go toward renovations and seismic upgrades to the aging Civic Auditorium, which received landmark status in 2002 after the City Council upheld a Landmarks Commission designation on appeal.

THE TRAIN IS COMING

City Hall is expected to pay $25.35 million for its portion of the Exposition Light Rail line and enhancements to the Downtown station expected to arrive in Santa Monica by 2015.

Municipal coffers will be tapped for Santa Monica's portion of a 3 percent local match for the $1.5 billion slated to be spent on the second phase of the $2.4 billion project which will run from Culver City to Santa Monica.

That comes out to $16.5 million.

City Hall has also spent the last several months in negotiations with the Exposition Light Rail Authority for improvements to the three stations planned for Santa Monica at Memorial Park and 17th Street, Bergamot Station and 26th Street and Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue.

Modifications at the last station include softening the curvature of the tracks which will allow the trains to move more freely through the intersection at Colorado Avenue and Fifth Street, reduce wheel noise and keep development options open for the surrounding land.

Those changes are expected to cost City Hall $8.85 million.

WELL RELOCATION

The City Council will decide whether or not to front over $1.4 million to relocate a municipal well so that a private school can make improvements on its sports facilities.

The Windward School leases city land at the Charnock well field for its football, soccer and baseball fields. The football field and the baseball field overlap, a situation which could be fixed by moving the football field approximately 50 feet.

To accommodate the change, an existing well would also have to move approximately 50 feet, a task which the school has offered to pay for, according to the staff report.

City Hall has an existing relationship with the firm Black and Veatch, and staff proposes using that firm to complete the work and then getting reimbursed by the school for the $1,421,417 it would cost to get it done.

TRAFFIC STUDY

Staff is recommending a $740,000 contract increase with a company to investigate the possibility of modifying roads near Fourth Street to improve access to the freeway and new Downtown attractions.

The analysis would look at modifying the Fourth Street bridge to improve pedestrian and bicycle access, and realign the I-10 off ramp to open up the area for better circulation and access.

It would also look at the possibility of capping the freeway.

The contract would include the feasibility of the proposed changes, how much they would cost and what options that would open up for city-owned land adjacent to the Downtown Expo Light Rail Station.

According to the staff report, the study could help improve traffic conditions on Fourth Street, and may be necessary as increased development in the Downtown area — including new parks, the Exposition Light Rail Station and other attractions — brings in additional people and vehicles.

Staff proposes amending an existing contract with AECOM to complete the work.

EXCELLING AT DELEGATION

City staff is looking to abdicate responsibility for constructing a portion of a bike path planned to run next to the Exposition Light Rail line and within the Metropolitan Transit Authority's property.

The project consists of 1.3 miles of bike path that will stretch between Centinela Avenue to 17th Street. It will be 17 feet wide and will have nine access points in the city.

There will also be signage, fencing, lighting and landscaping.

City Hall was originally responsible for designing and building the bike path, and received $2,018,650 million in funding through the federal government, of which it spent $352,350 on design services.

The Exposition Construction Authority, known as Expo, took over responsibility for the design and construction of the project, and left MTA to administer the remaining $2,018,650 grant funds.

City Hall is still on the hook for a local match for the grant, which comes to $672,000.

If approved Tuesday, City Hall will write the check to Metro as part of the grant obligation.

PUBLIC ART

A major work of public art planned to be included in the Palisades Garden Walk park will cost City Hall $440,220 if the City Council gives the thumbs up.

The piece, designed by artist Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, will be composed of 49 telescoping stainless steel poles each affixed at the top with anemometers and wind vanes.

Manglano-Ovalle was chosen out of 14 applicants by a selection panel consisting of five prominent arts administrators and curators. He's famous for work that includes sculpture, video and other disciplines.

He also collaborates with scientists on projects that evoke objects that are difficult to touch, like DNA molecules or clouds.

According to the staff report, it was this aspect of his work that endeared him to the panel.

The piece is expected to cost $440,200 upfront, and then $2,000 in annual maintenance.

BBB UPGRADES

Staff has requested another $600,273 in upgrades for the Big Blue Bus system to cover devices that would allow buses limited control over traffic lights in an effort to improve traffic flow and new fare boxes.

Trapeze, Inc., an Iowa-based company, is recommended for the $400,273 contract for devices that give buses priority at stop lights under certain conditions.

Officials have already installed its Transit Master system, a system that provides the Big Blue Bus with real-time tracking information of its buses.

The contract would involve software licenses for 56 buses and upgrade kits for 26 of those vehicles, as well as labor and installation.

The new equipment will give the buses the ability to request priority when they hit

SEE CONSENT PAGE 7



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

UP: **A work crew relocates a tree at the future site of the Palisades Garden Walk last year.**

CONSENT
FROM PAGE 6

traffic signals, particularly if the bus is already behind schedule or has a heavy passenger load.

GFI Genfare, an Illinois-based company, was selected to provide replacement parts and service for fareboxes, which were last replaced in 2001.

That is a one-year, $200,000 contract.

ACID

City Hall will likely award a contract for the purchase of sulfuric acid to Univar USA, Inc., a Washington-based company, for a one-year contract of $381,375.

Sulfuric acid is used at the Arcadia Water Treatment plant to adjust the acidity level of the water before it goes into a reverse osmosis unit. The procedure extends the life of the expensive membranes that compose the units and reduces the need for staff to clean them out.

LEGAL SERVICES

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a one year, $300,000 contract with the specialty labor law firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore.

The firm specializes in representing municipalities in employee discipline matters, workplace investigations, Personnel Board Hearings, labor law-related training and the preparation of legal reports.

LCW has worked for City Hall for several years. The proposed contract will last one year with four options to renew.

CONSULTING SERVICES

Staff recommends that City Hall increase a contract with a financial advisory firm by $150,000 as the scope of its work continues to grow.

The Public Resources Advisory Group, based in New York, has provided analyses on City Hall and the Redevelopment Agency's debt capacity and affordability. It has also served as a financial advisor for the debt financing for Parking Structure 6 and refunding of some bonds for the Public Safety Facility among other projects.

City Hall expects to need the firm's services in the future, and proposes a $650,000 contract for the next five years, although only $150,000 will be allocated in this fiscal year.

REAL ESTATE ADVICE

The City Council is expected to approve two contracts totaling $150,000 for real estate and economic development advice.

Staff recommends bringing on Keyser Marston Associates for $80,000 and extending an existing contract with Allan D. Kotin & Associates by $70,000 for advice on complex property transactions involving leasing, acquisition or creating joint public and private development partnerships.

The consultants would be used on an as-needed basis, particularly for the proposed development at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue and the leasing structure at the Bergamot Station arts Center.

The contracts will be paid for through redevelopment funds.

BBB ADMIN BUILDING

City Hall is expected to enter into a $27,577 contract with a California-based company to deconstruct trailers used to house employees while the Big Blue Bus administration building was being built.

Workers finished construction on the building on Dec. 2, 2011. Prior to that, dispatch and operations staff were put in trailers on the Big Blue Bus campus.

This will constitute the third contract modification with Design Space Modular, for a total of $366,299.

EXPENSIVE BATHROOMS

Further complications with bathrooms constructed on Santa Monica Beach will result in another $21,952 added to the construction contract.

According to a staff report, a problem with a sewer will force workers from the Monarch Plumbing & Mechanical company to remove and replace a concrete curb, sidewalk, asphalt paving and the immediate emergency replacement of 20 feet of sewer line.

The work will ensure the integrity of the new piece, and prevent sewage backup which could endanger public health.

POOL REPLASTERING

Staff is requesting an additional $16,350 to finish work replastering two municipal pools at the Santa Monica Swim Center

Sea-Clear Pools began construction to replace and repair the plaster on two municipal pools during the center's winter closure period between Dec. 19 and Feb. 5.

As the company worked, it found problems with five main drain sumps and covers at the pool would need to be replaced in order to meet the requirements of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Sumps are pumps that raise water against the grade.

To put the project out to bid would take too much time and would force Santa Monica College and the Community and Cultural Services Department to cancel or reschedule classes, so staff recommends increasing the contract amount without further process.

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Irene Gonzalez-Castillo, McKinley Elementary Principal
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BIRD BUDDIES: **Seagulls rest on Santa Monica Beach on Monday during a winter storm.**

STORM
FROM PAGE 1

snow.

O'Hara said the snow was preceded by two days of rain. When followed by snow, it usually bodes well for moisture the state needs to build its water supplies.

Between July 1 and Sunday, downtown Los Angeles recorded 4.44 inches of rain. Normal for this time of year is 6.55 inches, Sweet said, leaving a gap of 2.11 inches.

The storm was blamed for one death over the weekend. In Yosemite National Park, winds killed an employee when a tree fell on top of his cabin.

The storm moved south, arriving in Los Angeles early Monday. Throughout the state, the rain was being replaced by a high pressure system expected to bring a heat wave for Los Angeles.

By Wednesday, it will be 60 in San Francisco and over 80 in Los Angeles, Sweet said.

Wednesday and Thursday will be the warmest days of the week. Temperatures will drop to the mid-60s and low 70s in Los Angeles by Sunday. No rain is in the forecast, Sweet said.

A winter storm warning for Los Angeles County mountains lasted through Monday, with snow dropping to 5,000 feet and accumulations of 6 inches to 10 inches above 6,000 feet.

Drivers were warned about wind gusts as high as 50 mph, causing areas of blowing dust and reduced visibility in the Antelope Valley's Lancaster and Palmdale areas, Sweet said.

Traffic accidents were the main byproducts of the storm in Los Angeles.

Between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. Monday on Los Angeles County freeways, the California Highway Patrol reported 123 accidents, said Officer Francisco Villalobos. That compares to 60 accidents on Jan. 9, a rainless Monday, he said.

Despite the storms leaving the Los Angeles area, county health officials warn beachgoers to stay out of the water for 72 hours after a storm due to the risk of illness.

MORTGAGE
FROM PAGE 3

The law was set to expire after this year, but senators voted to extend it another five years, through 2017.

"Unfortunately, foreclosures remain a major problem throughout the state. This legislation continues important protections for homeowners and renters that have proved tremendously helpful in this trying time," Sen. Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro, said in a statement after her SB708 passed on a 32-1 vote.

Senators unanimously approved a second bill, this one designed to prevent the California Housing Finance Agency from foreclosing on certain borrowers who rent out their homes.

The prohibition is limited to homeowners who are current on their mortgage payments, but rent out their homes because they owe more than their house is worth. The bill's author, Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, said it is designed to help property owners who find themselves in financial trouble because of circumstances like a lost job or growing family, and is not aimed at helping housing market speculators.

Housing agency officials previously said they believed they were required to foreclose if the property was no longer the borrower's primary residence. The agency suspended those foreclosures in October at the urging of DeSaulnier and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento.

The agency's board is scheduled to consider the policy at its meeting in March. DeSaulnier said his SB447 would give the agency the statutory authority to change its policy.

There was no opposition and no debate on either bill.

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Major youth groups make headway against sex abuse

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK The Boy Scouts have labored for decades to curtail sexual abuse of scouts by adult volunteers. But when their name was evoked in a lawsuit linked to the Penn State abuse scandal, the reference was not to problems — it was acknowledgment that the Scouts' current prevention policies are considered state of the art.

While the local youth charity in the Penn State case has been accused of lax policies, experts in abuse prevention say most of the national organizations serving young people — such as the Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America — have performed commendably in drafting and enforcing tough anti-abuse policies even as they're sometimes faced with wily and manipulative molesters.

"I'd give them all an A-plus," said Portland State University psychologist Keith Kaufman, who has studied and treated child sex abuse victims.

If there's a systemic problem, Kaufman and other experts say, it's lack of data — from the organizations themselves and from law enforcement agencies — that could illustrate progress by youth groups. The Scouts, for example, said, "We simply do not track or have data that would help quantify trends."

Nonetheless, several independent child-protection experts told The Associated Press that the Scouts — though buffeted in the past by many abuse-related lawsuits — are now considered a leader in combatting sexual abuse.

"The Boy Scouts have the most advanced policies and training," said Victor Vieth, a former prosecutor who heads the National Child Protection Training Center in Minnesota. "With even slight violations, there's no debate. Someone who transgresses one of these rules is moved out — you don't need to give them a second chance."

In the Penn State case, former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky is charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period, including many engaged in a youth-oriented charity he founded called The Second Mile. Sandusky, who maintains his innocence, has acknowledged showering with boys — an interaction banned by the Boy Scouts and other major groups.

Attorneys for one of Sandusky's alleged victims, in a lawsuit filed in November, said they intend to charge The Second Mile with failing to follow preventive policies used by the Scouts and other organizations, such as the "Two-Deep" rule that requires at least two adults to be present at all activities.

One of the lawyers handling that suit, Jeffrey Fritz of Philadelphia, is the father of a scout and was impressed that the handbook his son brought home included detailed child-protection information that parents are required to read and discuss with their children.

"It's not just adopting the policies, it's educating members, volunteers, parents about them," Fritz said, "I applaud the Boy Scouts' efforts in going so far as that."

Dating back to the 1920s, the Scouts have been keeping secret files about potential molesters — files it refuses to disclose on the grounds that they contain some unverified allegations and that informants expect confidentiality.

Prevention efforts have intensified in the past 30 years, with the Scouts prohibiting one-on-one adult-youth activities, mandating criminal background checks for all staff who work with youth, and including an insert for parents about child protection in the handbook issued to new scouts.

Nonetheless, the Scouts' public image took a blow in April 2010 when an Oregon jury ordered the organization to pay $19.9 million in damages to Kerry Lewis, who had been abused in the 1980s by an assistant scoutmaster in Portland. The jury decided that the Boy Scouts were negligent for allowing the abuser to associate with Lewis and other boys after admitting to a Scouts official in 1983 that he had molested 17 boys.

Within a few months of that judgment, the Scouts announced that all adult volunteers — now numbering 1.2 million — would be required to take child-protection training when they join the Scouts and repeat the training every two years. The Scouts also created the full-time position of youth protection director, and filled it with Michael Johnson, a former police detective from Plano, Texas, who is an authority on child abuse detection and prevention.

Last year, in one of his first major directives, Johnson stipulated that all adult Scout staff are mandated to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement authorities and Scout leaders, even if this would not be required by state law.

"That's one of the things we're most proud of," Johnson said in an interview. "I don't want our people wondering if they're mandated reporters."

Gary Schoener, a Minneapolis-based therapist and expert on sexual misconduct, testified at the Oregon trial that the Scouts could have been more proactive in the '80s in using their secret files to warn about pedophiles.

Now, Schoener said, the Scouts' prevention program is "considered somewhat the gold standard" — though he suggested that the training material could more clearly show how the Scouts learned from past problems.

"They need to shout loud and clear, this has happened in the Boy Scouts — here are examples," Schoener said.

Johnson indicated he agreed, saying, "There are some Scout-specific situations that should be addressed in the training going forward."

Since the trial, Paul Mones, one of Lewis' attorneys, believes there has been a fundamental shift in the way the Boy Scouts view abuse. "They had programs in place before, but in terms of taking control from the top, there's been a change of vision," he said. "They could become the model for what the rest of the youth-serving organizations could do."

Indeed, the Scouts are planning to host a first-of-its-kind symposium for youth organizations this fall to share the latest strategies on abuse prevention.

Lewis himself said at the end of the trial: "Other children in the future will have more protection than I did." He declined to comment on the Scouts' recent policy initiatives.

SEE ABUSE PAGE 11



ABUSE
FROM PAGE 10

Though each major youth-serving organization has its own policies for abuse prevention, they tend to follow a common, three-pronged approach — stressing screening of would-be staff and volunteers, training and education, and explicit rules on such matters as adult/youth interaction and reporting of suspected abuse.

The basic standards are summarized in a document issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2007, based on recommendations of child-protection experts for numerous youth organizations. It's available online, and more than 18,000 printed copies have been distributed.

CDC research psychologist Janet Saul, the lead author, said the document has been useful in convincing some organizations that criminal background checks weren't sufficient — that training and firmly enforced prevention policies also were essential. But she said flexibility also is needed.

"We acknowledged that one size doesn't fit all," Saul said. "The mission of these organizations is to nurture young people, and you don't want to go so far in protection that you're no longer fulfilling that mission."

Among the major organizations, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has a distinctive challenge. Its mission is to provide one-on-one mentoring to children facing adversity, so it cannot utilize the "two deep" policy.

To maximize the safety of the roughly 210,000 children it serves, Big Brothers Big Sisters advises its nearly 370 local affiliates to screen would-be mentors carefully — even checking their Facebook pages. Then it requires the mentor, mentee and parent or guardian to meet at least once a month with a professional staff member.

Julie Novak, the organization's national director of child safety, said it's essential to educate staff and parents about possible warning signs and to be aware that potential abusers often are clever people with no criminal record.

"We have to be willing to talk about it," Novak said. "Silence perpetuates child sex abuse."

Like other national organizations, Big Brothers Big Sisters says incidents of abuse are rare but does not have publicly available statistics. Recent abuse cases that ended with criminal convictions illustrate the challenge of screening volunteers with seemingly admirable resumes.

In California, a retired Air Force officer, Jon David Woody, was sentenced in July to 226 years in prison for molesting girls he met through his role as a Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer. In 2010, a former middle school science teacher in Tulsa, Okla., John Gisler, was sentenced to life in prison for molesting a teenage boy he was mentoring.

"Pedophiles are slick," said Judy Spangler, chief program officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania. "They groom everyone — the agency, the parents, the child ... If someone seems too good to be true, that's a red flag."

Spangler, who has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters since 1999, says she's dealt firsthand with only one sex abuse case in that span — involving a boy whose mother, against the organization's rules, allowed him to stay overnight with his mentor.

"Child safety is something we think about every day," Spangler said. "It keeps me awake at night."

Like Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA of the USA relies on its locally run affiliates to implement and enforce child-protection policies, although the national office provides support and guidance.

"Our Y's have to be diligent on this issue every second of every day," said Kent Johnson, the national Y's chief operating officer.

Johnson said about 40 YMCA affiliates are expanding their efforts by working with the Charleston, S.C.-based nonprofit Darkness to Light on programs aimed at raising awareness about sex abuse among adults with no direct connection to the Y. In Delaware, the program has gone statewide, with a goal of training 35,000 people.

"If we're going to protect kids, we have to engage everyone in their community," said Cindy McElhinney, director of programs at Darkness to Light.

While heartened by the efforts of the YMCA and other large organizations, McElhinney said many smaller local organizations — notably church-affiliated groups — are behind the curve, with inadequate or unenforced youth-protection programs. Cost is sometimes a problem; so is reticence about raising the subject.

Ernie Allen, president of National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said youth groups must overcome the temptation to avoid publicity about abuse-related problems.

"When something happens, what you can't do is what many groups used to do — 'If you'll resign quietly and leave under cover of darkness, we won't bring charges,'" Allen said. "What happens then, these guys just move group to group."

He praised the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for progress in this regard.

"They want it to be known — if you harm a child in one of their facilities, they're going to throw the book at you," he said. "The only way it's going to work is if everybody does this."

Les Nichols, the Boys & Girls Clubs' vice president of club safety, noted that the large majority of convicted child molesters had no previous criminal record, and thus would not have been detected by background checks. This makes training and strict enforcement of rules all the more vital, he said, especially in an organization that serves about 4 million children with a constantly changing staff.

"You have a lot of new people coming into the system who don't necessarily have knowledge of child protection," Nichols said. "Training staff is a constant challenge."

Like officials from other major youth groups, Nichols said the screening and training is rarely a deterrent to those applying for positions.

"It shows that the goal is to create a safe place for kids," Nichols said. "The good people like that."

Tico Perez, an Orlando, Fla., attorney and former scout who serves as the Boy Scouts' national commissioner, works with Scout volunteers and parents nationwide and says most welcome the precautions.

"The only regret I hear is regret our country has got to a place where we have to do this," he said.

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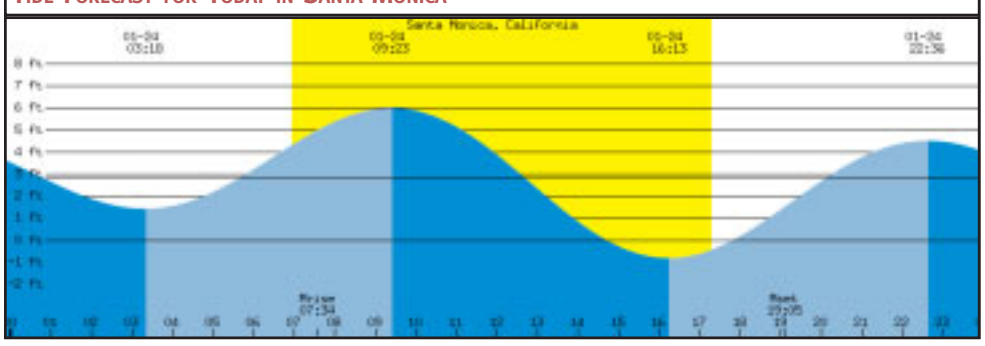
SWELL FORECAST

West facing breaks are expected to back down to head high max.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

LOOKS A BIT SMALLER, AROUND CHEST TO AT TIMES HEAD HIGH AT WEST FACING BREAKS.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 18, 2012**

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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, Goldbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SMBA

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	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
Corbon 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.

NFL

Akers: Lay off Williams

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. Kyle Williams is ignoring the barrage of hateful, hurtful, even threatening comments he has received via social media in the aftermath of his ill-timed fumble that cost the San Francisco 49ers the NFC championship game against New York.

Williams said Monday he takes full responsibility for his fumble on a punt return in overtime of a 20-17 loss to the Giants on Sunday night that set up Lawrence Tynes' winning field goal, calling the moment "painful."

"I really didn't pay attention to Twitter. All the feedback I needed was family and friends, the guys in the locker room," Williams said.

Instantly, Williams was made a villain on the Internet.

He insisted it's part of his job to face the criticism in the aftermath of his mistakes and not hide out in a difficult time. Perhaps that will go a little way in calming down the angry fans, some of whom wished harm on Williams and his family after the gaffes.

"It's one of those things you have to take accountability for," Williams said. "Everybody is responsible for what they do on the field. It's something that I was responsible for and I made a mistake and it's time to own up to it and move forward."

Kicker David Akers took to Twitter on Monday asking people to stop with the harsh remarks directed toward his teammate, saying "ppl need to get a grip! Leave Kyle alone!" He also reminded everybody the NFC West-champion 49ers (14-4) win and lose together, so there would be no finger-pointing in the locker room.

"I'm irritated with the way people are treating him, absolutely," Akers said. "I think it's ridiculous. You know, get a grip on what life's about. He went out and he put his soul out there. That's what he does. He was not trying to do anything other than make an incredible play for this team. He had a great kickoff return. Mistakes happen. We all make mistakes. But when you're out there truly battling to do the best you can, my hat goes off to him, to anybody that does that."

Many of the 49ers spent the time after the game and into Monday thinking about the missed chances, and not just by Williams.

"It doesn't surprise me," coach Jim Harbaugh said of players supporting Williams. "This is a class bunch of guys, a class group, a class team. They have never been a finger-pointing group."

Williams has spoken to his father, Chicago White Sox general manager Ken Williams, and also heard from players around the league who offered their support. Ken Williams told ESPN on Monday that his son might have separated his shoulder in the third quarter before making a pair of critical blunders.

Williams, filling in for injured return man Ted Ginn Jr., also fumbled with 11:06 left in regulation. The Giants won a challenge that the ball touched Williams' right knee and Devin Thomas recovered. That gave the Giants the ball back at the 29 and Eli Manning then threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Mario Manningham with 8:34 remaining.

The 23-year-old Williams, born in nearby San Jose, said Monday he still doesn't think the ball hit his knee.

"I told him to keep his head up. Things happen like that when you're trying to make a play," running back Frank Gore said. "Kyle did a great job for us all year. We can't just point the finger at that. It's a football game. Things happen, and he'll be fine. He's going to work hard. He's a great player and he made great plays for us this year. I'm happy he's a teammate of mine. I'll back him up any time."

A year ago with the Eagles, Akers missed a pair of field goals in the NFC divisional playoffs as Philadelphia lost 21-16 to the eventual Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

"I was that guy last year," Akers said. "It's tough because we're all competitors and we all give it everything we have. Kyle's made a lot of big plays for us. He's just trying to make plays out there. The weather conditions were horrible. I know he'd never give any excuses for any of that. I say this and I say it in the truest way: We win as a team, we lose as a team."

Williams, a second-year pro out of Arizona State, stood at his locker a day later and expressed his regret while also noting how eager he is to get back to work soon. Harbaugh said tests Monday on Williams' shoulder didn't reveal a separation but that he was extremely sore.

"Nobody feels worse than he does," linebacker Patrick Willis said. "Some of the stuff out there that I've seen, man, I was just like, 'They're saying that because they're hurting.' But we live this game, we breathe this game, we sleep this game. If they feel that way, you can only imagine how bad he feels. You never want anyone to go through anything like that. It's just unfortunate that it happened to a player like him. To me, he's one of the best skill players in this game. ... I'm sticking behind him. He's still my teammate."

Don't Carry Your Old Baggage into the New Year

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Call theater for information.

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

War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
1:00pm, 4:40pm, 8:15pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
1:10pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
1:15pm, 4:50pm, 8:30pm

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

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
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:25pm

Iron Lady (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Red Tails (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
12:40pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Contraband (R) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:25pm

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

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

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

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

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

Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min
2:15pm

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min
3:00pm, 8:00pm

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm

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

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

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

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2hrs 07min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Hugo (PG) 2hrs 07min
10:00pm

Underworld: Awakening (R) 1hr 28min
12:20pm, 5:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Don't go far tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might want to touch base with others before a meeting. Make sure you all are on the same page. For the most part, if everyone has the same objectives, a flow exists. Information gathering needs to continue. Tonight: Where the fun is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Take a stand and acknowledge what is going on behind the scenes. You have the ability to get together with others and clear out a problem. Your intuition combines with leadership, and new skills emerge. Trust your instincts. Tonight: To the wee hours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Your ability to clear out a mess, to think differently and to resolve issues evolves. Have you been toying around with taking a class, or perhaps a mini vacation? Tonight: Answer your emails, then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Work with someone directly before making a judgment. Much more is going on than you think with this person. Your impressions might be askew, therefore you will not be able to trust what you believe "should" happen. Tonight: Chat with a key person in your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others test the waters to see how much give you have. Listen to what is being shared, knowing the story is slightly slanted. Maintain a sense of humor, and you might even have fun dealing with the situation. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your ability to grow past an issue can determine your success. Do not get fixed on the same issue when approaching many different situations. Let go and believe there will be a solution heading your way. Examine new possibilities. Tonight: Some time off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★☆ serious attitude could prevent some of the exchanges necessary for you to be more creative and dynamic. Ask yourself: What am I trying to accomplish? Realize that your life goals might be better served by an upbeat attitude. Tonight: Choose fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Mentally or even physically, you are at home. A domestic situation might dominate. You know when enough is enough. A light attitude allows a different type of interaction. Clear out a personal matter to release your mind and increase your focus, Tonight: Don't go far.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your friendlier side emerges, despite a difficult situation involving a friend or associate. Let go and you might see everything fall into place. As long as you resist, so will others. Make necessary calls, squeezing in a chat or two with a friend. Tonight: Hang out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding in such a different mode. Others might not feel as secure as you would like. Weigh the pros and cons once more before acting on a decision. The decision is neither right or wrong. Tonight: Pay bills, then decide.

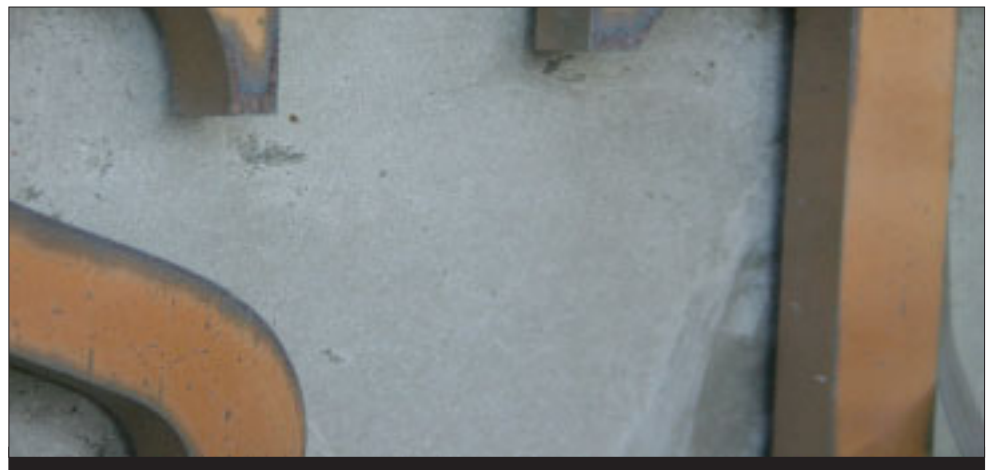
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Creativity increases. You easily could come up with the nuggets of a great idea. Do not hold back, as you have a receptive audience. Be open, yet present your thoughts with flair. Someone cannot resist you. Tonight: Whatever feels right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Know when to say less and think more. Your ability to separate reality from wishful thinking needs to emerge. You might be wishing more than gathering information. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

Happy birthday

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

You have an opportunity for a new beginning in several areas of your life. You find that often you have difficulty understanding new concepts because of a very tight belief system. Try to open up the filters to see the world with more depth. If you lighten up, many opportunities could come forward. If you are single, it might be difficult to maintain that status. If you are attached, your significant other cannot get enough of you. A fellow AQUARIUS is independent like you but very different in other ways.

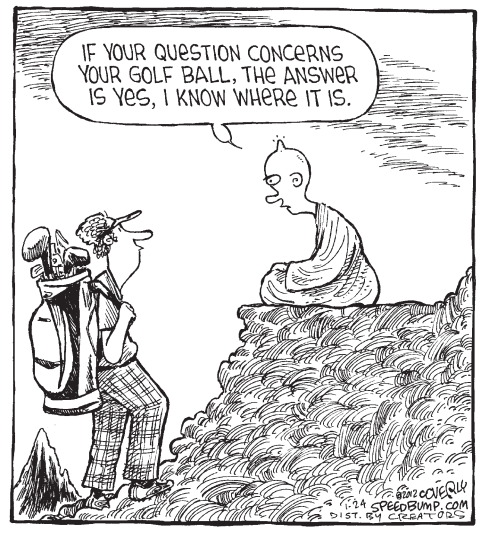


MYSTERY PHOTO

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



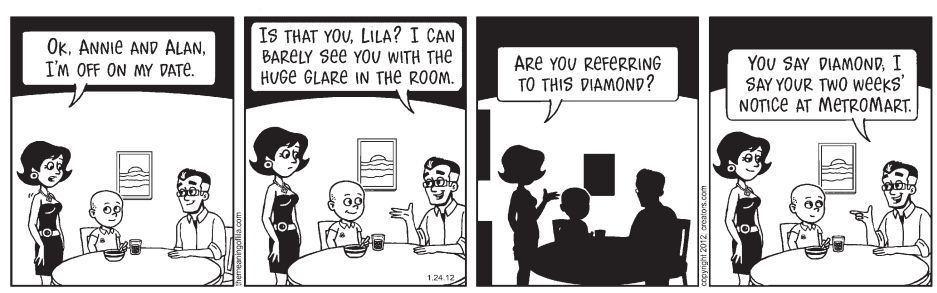
Garfield

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Clumsy
7 Louver piece
11 Familiar with
12 Warsaw native
13 Arthur Miller play
15 Ventilated
16 Distort
18 Cherished
21 Investment choice
22 French mathematician
24 "— Blue?"
25 Topper
26 Life story, for short
27 Chess opening
29 Sampras of tennis
30 Dapper
31 Shipping stop
32 Sandbar
34 Arthur Miller play
40 Carnival attraction
41 Giggling sound
42 Aid illegally
43 Decorative

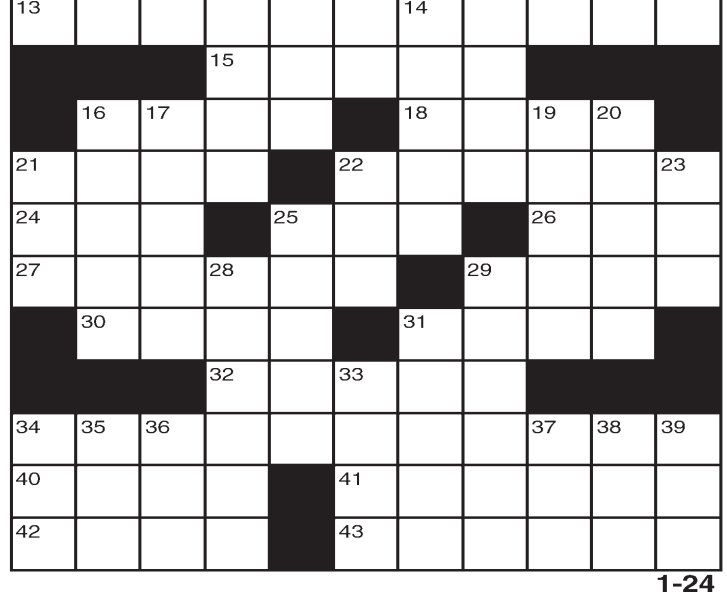
DOWN

1 Not at home
2 Cabinet wood
3 Phone-bill item
4 Entrance need, at times
5 Disrobe
6 Clock unit
7 Web spinner
8 High hit
9 Everything
10 Kickoff aid
14 Handed over
16 Grown girl
17 Cartoon genre
19 Yellow hue
20 Singer Bonnie
21 Groceries holder
22 Suitable
23 Water tester
25 Flexible
28 Celtics score
29 Sneeze causer
31 Pocket beeper
33 Aware of
34 Lingerie item
35 Chest bone
36 Keats poem
37 Cry of insight
38 Filming site
39 Behold

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

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



1-24

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• 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.

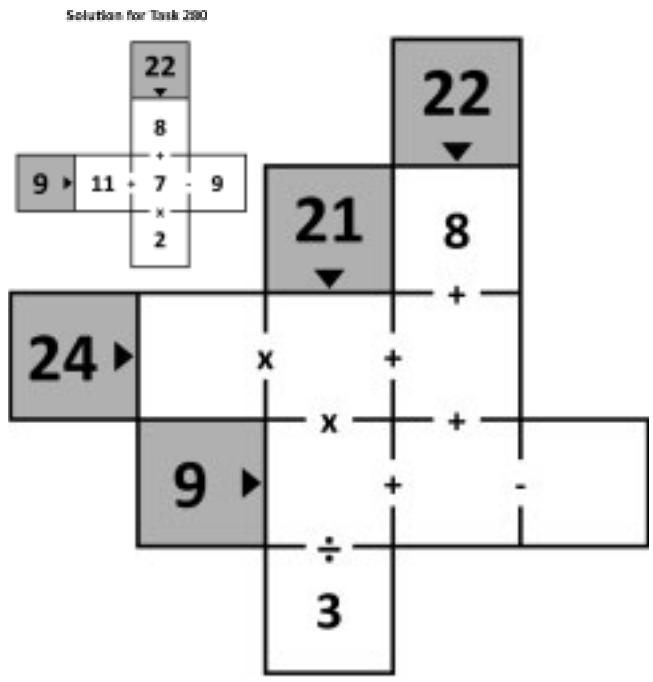
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

2, 6, 6, 7, 8, 9

Solution for Task 2880



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 9 28 38 47 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $71M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 16 18 23 40 46 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 12 20 21 22 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 0 2 EVENING: 2 2 9

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 12 Lucky Charms 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:40.45

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

■ California state legislator Mary Hayashi of Hayward pleaded guilty in January to misdemeanor shoplifting. Police said she had walked out of a Neiman Marcus store in October with over $2,400 worth of unpaid-for merchandise, caused, said her lawyer, by a benign brain tumor that might have affected her decision-making. (Miraculously, and just in time for the legislative session, the tumor, said the lawyer, is "no longer affecting her concentration or her judgment.")

■ Because this past Christmas fell on a Sunday, nearly one Protestant church in 10 in the U.S. reported having canceled Sunday services that day out of fear of low attendance, as parishioners remained at home with family. (The poll, by Lifeway Research, noted also that other churches, while not canceling, had left services to their second-string clergy.)

■ Retired sheriff Patrick J. Sullivan Jr. was arrested in November in a suburb of Denver and charged with distributing methamphetamine to men in exchange for sex. Sullivan, who had a distinguished career as Arapahoe County sheriff, was booked into the Patrick J. Sullivan Jr. Detention Center, named for him after he retired in 2002.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1986 – Voyager 2 passes within 81,500 kilometres (50,600 mi) of Uranus.

1990 – Japan launches Hiten, the country's first lunar probe, the first robotic lunar probe since the Soviet Union's Luna 24 in 1976, and the first lunar probe launched by a country other than Soviet Union or the United States.

1993 – Turkish journalist and writer U+FFFDur Mumcu is assassinated by a car bomb in Ankara.

1996 – Polish Premier Józef Oleksy resigns amid charges that he spied for Moscow.

2003 – The United States Department of Homeland Security officially begins operation.

WORD UP!

slimsy
\ SLIM-zee \ , adjective;
1.
Flimsy; frail.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Commerical Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
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Employment

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

Hair Stylist Station AND Manicurist Station for rent in Santa Monica salon on upscale Montana Ave.

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

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1br $1525 and up
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: JANUARY 10, 2012
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: BRU'S WIFFLE LLC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2408 WILSHIRE BLVD., SANTA MONICA, CA 90403-5806
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control LOS ANGELES.
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS
1/17/12, 1/24/12, 1/31/12

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From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
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	-	Single Family Homes	Condos & Town-homes
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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
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