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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 64

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOUSING TAKES SECOND HIT
SEE PAGE 11

We have you covered

THE FOUND OUR WOMAN ISSUE

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi boys soccer ranked No. 2 in CIF

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Santa Monica High School's boys' soccer team is ranked second in the latest California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 4 poll released on Monday.

The Vikings have raced out to a 12-2-2 record and sit atop the Ocean League standings.

Next for Samohi is a league matchup on the road at Hawthorne today. The game is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

CIF-SS DIVISION 4 POLL TOP 5

1. El Rancho
2. Santa Monica
3. Cathedral
4. Norwalk
5. Oak Hills

VERDUGO NOMINATED COACH OF THE YEAR

Marty Verdugo, Samohi's head girls' basketball coach, has been nominated by the California Coaches Association as coach of the year, it was announced late last week.

Verdugo has led the Vikings to a 14-6 record this season a year after guiding Samohi to last year's CIF-SS Division 1A championship, the first in the sport in school history.

The award goes to one coach from each sport from across the state.

"This is a real honor for me," Verdugo said. "It's nice to know that people take notice of what you do."

His Vikings are currently ranked No. 7 in the latest CIF-SS Division 1AA poll.

Verdugo announced earlier this season that he is stepping down as coach at the end of the year. Verdugo was named Division 1 state coach of the year last season by Cal-Hi Sports and was named CIF-SS Division 1 coach of the year.

CROSSROADS, ST. MONICA REMAIN IN BOYS POLL

Santa Monica-based St. Monica and Crossroads remain in the latest CIF-SS Division 5AA boys' basketball poll, released on Monday.

Crossroads is tied for No. 4 while St. Monica is No. 13.

SEE ROUNDUP PAGE 8



CREATING A COMMUNITY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A construction worker watches as dirt is carried away from the future home of the Luxe Studios @ Lincoln, a mixed-use apartment complex on the corner of Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard Tuesday afternoon. The 97-unit, five-story luxury apartment community will have 7,000 square feet of mixed retail and restaurant space on the ground floor.

Company targeted in probe sponsors chamber event

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN What does the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce have in common with Fox News host Glenn Beck?

Both, it turns out, have been sponsored by the company Goldline International, a locally-based seller of gold coins that is under investigation by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office and county prosecutors for allegedly misleading and defrauding customers.

Goldline, the company announced this month, is one of four principal sponsors of the chamber's "State of the City" event, which is set to take place on Thursday morning at the Broad Stage.

Goldline made headlines last year when Adam Radinsky, who heads the consumer protection unit in the City Attorney's Office, revealed he was investigating complaints the company allegedly misled customers into buying gold coins and never delivered coins other customers had paid for.

The investigation into the company's practices gained national media attention in part because Goldline has been a prominent advertiser on the Fox News program hosted by Beck, who himself frequently touts the wisdom of investing in gold.

"As a part of the Santa Monica business community for many years, we are proud to help support the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce in presenting this prominent community event," Goldline CEO Scott Carter said in a statement announcing the sponsorship arrangement.

"We can't imagine a better place to do business than Santa Monica, and the year ahead looks to be one of strong growth and recovery for our city," Robert J. Fazio, the company's president, added.

At the Chamber of Commerce, leaders were not willing to discuss Goldline's sponsorship.

In response to inquiries from the Daily Press, Laurel Rosen, the organization's president and CEO, sent a brief statement that read: "The Santa Monica Chamber of

SEE CHAMBER PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011

Homeless count
Citywide
11 p.m. — 3 a.m.
City Hall will hold its annual count of homeless individuals with the help of a legion of volunteers. The count is intended to help better understand the changing trends of the city's homeless population. For more information, call (310) 458-8701.

'The Donkey Show'
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 7 p.m.
"The Donkey Show" in Project Room 1 is an audio-visual exploration of the intersection of myth and reality in Tijuana, focused on American expectations, misconceptions, and fantasies of Mexico. For more information, call (310) 453-9184.

'Hoppy' Chinese New Year
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with puppets, stories and crafts. This event is recommended for grades K-4.

Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011

Volunteer with Doctors Without Borders
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
Medical aid group Doctors Without Borders wants you. This recruitment information session is designed to attract medical and non-medical professionals to find out how they can help. Aid workers from the L.A. area will be on hand to tell their firsthand stories of "life in the field." This event is free. For more information, visit msflosangelesinfosession012711.eventbrite.com.

Teen theatre
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 4 p.m.
Young actors get the opportunity to create an original play from scratch as part of the Teen World of Acting Performance LAB. This is a four-month session. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 3.

Protecting seniors from fraud
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St., 8:30 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Experts help guide seniors through the latest frauds targeting the elderly. Representatives from government agencies will be on hand to answer questions and dispense advice. For more information about this free event, call (310) 394-9871.

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





GAME ON

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The Sutton family from New Jersey enjoys a game at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday afternoon.

Pet or paramour? Many say pets come first

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK Your sweetheart or your pet. Which would you dump if one had to go?

Most current pet owners said they would hold on to their spouse or significant other (84 percent), but a sizable 14 percent picked their pet, according to an AP-Petside.com poll.

Put Sally Roland, 53, of Omaha, Neb., down in the dog-first column. "I'm divorced, so that might explain it," she joked.

The unmarried, like Roland, are more apt to choose their pet over their mate — 25 percent among unmarried pet owners versus 8 percent among the married.

Count Fidel Martinez, 30, of Akron, Ohio, as forever loyal to Killer. That's his mix-breed, 100-pound rescue dog.

"I would absolutely give up my girlfriend for him," Martinez said. "I know it sounds insane but I've had numerous relationships with women. My dog has never let me down."

For the record: Martinez and Killer have been together for seven years. Martinez and his girlfriend have been together for four. The two-legged pair have no immediate plans to cohabitate, he said, but she does like the dog a lot.

Women are far more likely than

SEE **PETS** PAGE 9

Rose Bowl renovation includes new scoreboard, video screens

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. A $152 million project to renovate the historic Rose Bowl has begun.

A groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday kicked off the effort that will widen tunnels and improve the concourse, scoreboards and video boards.

More restrooms, concession stands, a museum and press box upgrades are also part of the plan for the stadium which hosts the annual Rose Bowl game and is UCLA's home field.

Mayor Bill Bogaard says the city committed to the project to ensure the stadium remains an icon of the nation's college football tradition.

Work on the Rose Bowl, which was built in 1922, is scheduled to continue into 2013.

Planners say UCLA and Rose Bowl games won't be affected because most work will be done between football seasons.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Twilight in winter

CityTV Santa Monica is bringing some warm vibes to the month of February, airing concerts from last summer's Twilight Dance Series.

Airing at 11 p.m. nightly on Channel 16, plus back-to-back music marathons on Saturdays starting at 8 p.m., viewers will be able to experience a wide variety of musicians from around the globe playing their tunes on the famous Santa Monica Pier with the setting sun at their backs. The concerts will start airing on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Premiering in the month of February will be Italian superstar Jovanotti, funk jazz organ trio Soullive, Chilean rapper Ana Tijoux, hip-hop group Breakestra, Indiana born singer/songwriter Jace Everett, and Australian musical talents Ben Lee, Brother, and Ry Cumming.

CityTV is the government community cable channel for the city of Santa Monica.

DAILY PRESS

PICO BLVD

Bowling for a cause

Over 550 bowlers representing various businesses, social service agencies and local government will compete Feb. 4 SuperBowl-A-Thon XV, a fundraiser benefiting the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition.

The event takes place at AMF Bay Shore Lanes from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. This bowling marathon brings the private and public sectors together with local social service agencies to raise funds for the eradication of homelessness on the Westside of Los Angeles.

This year's "Perfect Game" title sponsor is CapitalSource Bank with "Strike" sponsors Bayside District Corp., The Lobster, Morley Builders, Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, Santa Monica Police Officers' Association, Santa Monica Firefighters Association, Spectrum Athletic Club-Santa Monica and Striker Media Group. The 2011 "Spare" level sponsors are Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees, Harding Larmore Kutcher & Kozal LLP, Hotel Erwin on Venice Beach, JW Marriott Santa Monica, Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica and Santa Monica Place.

Community leaders who will bowl include Santa Monica's Mayor Richard Bloom, Santa Monica Police Chief Timothy Jackman, Santa Monica Fire Chief Scott Ferguson, members of Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education members, joining additional representatives from civic, faith, business and nonprofit organizations

The Santa Monica Daily Press is the event's media sponsor.

Those interested in bowling should call (310) 314-0071.

For over 20 years, the coalition, a project of Community Partners, has addressed the needs of the homeless and low-income population in the western part of Los Angeles County by coordinating programs, such as food and shelter, job counseling and health services, as well as providing education and advocacy. The coalition is an alliance of more than 30 organizations representing local human service, government agencies and faith communities committed to ending hunger and homelessness on the Westside.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

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Editor:

Members of the board of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition recognize that campaign donations are part of every election. We also recognize that some residents view particular contributions as a reason to support a candidate, while others view the same contributions as a reason to oppose the candidate. Indeed, Santa Monicans take a great deal of pride in our lively exchange of ideas.

Many of us have actually looked at existing filings. Some candidates file electronically, making it easy to view information on everyone who contributed directly to the campaign. Others file on paper, which cannot be searched or downloaded, and may even be handwritten. To further complicate access to information about a candidate, there may be additional filings to track independent expenditures made by other organizations to support or to oppose a candidate. All of these filings we have seen are paper filings which cannot be automatically aggregated with electronic filings. There are also slate mailer organizations for which the state does not appear to require candidate-linked filings.

This tangle of filings can make it very difficult to determine who received contributions from donors associated with various interests.

We believe that donation information should be readily available online in a way that can easily be accessed. It should be available to people at City Council meetings. Because there are people who cannot access electronic information, it should also be made available on paper at all council meetings.

We believe that this disclosure should include not only direct contributions to campaigns, but also independent expenditures and contributions made to a slate mailer on behalf of a candidate.

Valerie Griffin
Chair, Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition

Respect cyclists

Editor:

[Letter writer] Randy Walburger believes anyone should be allowed to use the bike path and wants bikers to put up with it because it's there, and other people are walking on the path, anyway! He claims that any solution to restrict the bike path for cyclists only is unrealistic. Why is it feasible to ticket cyclists but not people who trespass on the bike path? The police patrol the beach, but look the other way rather than offend the powerful tourism industry! This is unequal enforcement of the law!

[Letter writer] Chris Burrows makes the excellent point that cyclists should not use the pedestrian path, but neglects to mention that cyclists are ticketed when we break the law! Burrows also says pedestrians using the bike path knowingly run the risk of being hit by a bike, but expect to be safe on the pedestrian path. Did it ever occur to Burrows to wonder why anyone would want to walk on the bike path and endanger themselves when there is a pedestrian path right next to the bike path? Is he really clueless that he is promoting a double standard?

There are many streets in this city where it is extremely dangerous for cyclists to share the road with buses and cars, but we still are forbidden to use the sidewalks. If we stay off the sidewalk and control the traffic lane we are in extreme danger from irate drivers!

Jon Mann
Santa Monica



Meredith Pro Tem

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

Oprah still tugging on heartstrings after 25 years

WHOEVER THOUGHT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY cry for a country I've never been to, especially for one that isn't suffering from war, famine, genocide, drought, poverty or the Tea Party, sorely misjudged me.

For four days last week, I wept openly while watching Oprah's TV shows shot during her recent visit to Australia. I'm not sure if it was for Oprah, the 302 audience members who were along for the ride, or for the Aussies whom the editors of the show led me to believe have done little else in their lives besides watch Oprah and wait for her to show up Down Under, but I went through several boxes of Kleenex and roughly a dozen sleeves of Oreos (I couldn't find any Tim Tams).

I'm not a particular fan of Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Keith Urban, Russell Crowe or Olivia Newton-John (although to be honest, what's there not to like about Olivia Newton-John?), and yet when they got up on stage outside the Sydney Opera House with a children's choir and sang "America the Beautiful" (except, you know, it was sung to a different tune and the lyrics were all about Australia instead of America), I sobbed. And when some woman who, if I heard correctly, drove 30 days just to get somewhere to where she could mail a letter to Oprah stood up in the audience as a special guest, I thought I'd have to call a plumber to turn off the waterworks from my eyes and, yes, my nose.

Some guy learned how to scuba dive in literally 15 minutes so he could propose to his girlfriend underwater. Jay-Z surprised a school full of underprivileged boys, who, along with their teachers, were all later gifted with laptop computers. One woman told Oprah before she told her husband that she was pregnant after struggling with infertility for two years. Oprah cuddled two aboriginal toddlers so precious they put the Gerber baby to shame.

Why I cried, and for whom my tears were actually shed, when Bono and the Edge gave Oprah a guitar backstage at a U2 concert in Sydney is beyond me. I mean, who, exactly is the biggest star in that scenario? Bono was bowing down to Oprah, and she gushed over his sunglasses. It might be a draw, which is something to which I'm guessing neither is accustomed.

I cried when Oprah cried because the letter "O" was lit up on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in her honor, mostly, I think, because it's so rare that special things happen to Oprah. When Oprah, her staff and viewers broke a world record for how many people climbed the bridge at once, I also cried. And when Oprah got annoyed because the helicopter meant to get a shot of them posing on the bridge but had to refuel first, resulting in her waiting at the top for an extra 21 minutes, I cried for the pilot. After all, it can't feel good to be the person who keeps Oprah waiting.

FORTUNATELY, FROM YEARS AND YEARS OF WATCHING OPRAH, I AM ACTUALLY ABLE TO DECONSTRUCT AND UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR MY TEARS.

To be completely honest, all of my crying wasn't even reserved for the actual show. I was fast-forwarding past one of the promos for what was coming up in the next segment and my eyes welled up during that, too. It was something about a bald man, his wife and a YouTube video.

Fortunately, from years and years of watching Oprah, I am actually able to deconstruct and understand the reason for my tears. Some of them were undoubtedly from envy; I'd love to travel to Australia, particularly as Oprah's guest. I'd also love to have Oprah surprise me and come over for dinner just as she did with two Aussie viewers, just as long as it wasn't left overnight and just as long as it wasn't one of those days when my toddler thinks she's being clever by emptying out the contents of her toy bins on every available walking surface in the house.

What vindicated my emotions ultimately, though, was catching up on "Season 25: Oprah Behind the Scenes," on the new Oprah Winfrey Network, over the weekend. In the episode that went behind the scenes of Oprah and her best friend Gayle's "camping" trip to Yosemite National Park — you know, they roughed it like most of us do when we camp, with roasted sea bass and rosemary potatoes, a crew to shop for their gear and groceries, and producers on hand to keep the crowds away at bay when they went sightseeing — a production assistant lamented that the park ranger they surprised didn't have the proper "Oprah" reaction upon seeing the television icon.

In other words, he didn't cry. But that's OK. I did enough for the both of us, and then some.

More at meredithcarroll.com.



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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@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, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Farzad Mashhood, David Alsabery, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERN
Patrick Hourihan,
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

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

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Brittney Seeliger
brittneys@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Steven Stuart
stevens@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@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
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

smdp.com

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Disney confirms layoffs at game division

The Walt Disney Co. is confirming layoffs amid a restructuring of its video game division, a money-losing unit that is focusing more on mobile and social games and away from expensive-to-produce console games.

The company didn't specify the number of people affected, however.

Last week, Disney closed Propaganda Games, the console-game studio behind "Tron: Evolution" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: Armada of the Damned."

Propaganda, founded and then bought by Disney in 2005, was housed in a 30,000-square foot facility in downtown Vancouver.

Disney also laid off some people at its Junction Point studio in Austin, Texas, on Monday. That studio was responsible for creating the console game "Epic Mickey."

Disney says the restructuring was "part of setting a strategic direction for future success in the digital media space."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELL

Judge: City doesn't have to pay mayor's legal fees

A judge has ruled that the city of Bell doesn't have to pick up the mayor's legal expenses in a lawsuit filed by the former state attorney general.

The Los Angeles Times reports Superior Court Judge Joseph Kalin ruled Monday that Mayor Oscar Hernandez can't bill the city for defending himself against a lawsuit brought by former Attorney General Jerry Brown to recover tax dollars.

Hernandez and seven other current or former city leaders are also facing criminal corruption charges.

He and two officials argued they were sued in their official capacity as Bell public officials, so the city should pay their legal costs.

Kalin says asking the city to cover Hernandez's legal bills would essentially be saying the mayor had proved his case.

AP

LOS ANGELES

State default notices drop in 4Q

Mortgage default notices in California dropped in the fourth quarter of 2010 to their lowest level in more than three years.

MDA DataQuick said Tuesday that the decrease was a result of improving market conditions, as well as changes in lender and mortgage-servicer foreclosure policies.

The San Diego-based firm says there were around 69,800 default notices filed in California from October through December. That's down about 18 percent from nearly 84,600 during the same period a year earlier.

The latest tally is also down about 16 percent from almost 83,300 default notices filed from July through September and just over half of the roughly 135,400 notices filed when defaults peaked in the first quarter of 2009.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Jackson's doc pleads not guilty in star's death

Michael Jackson's doctor pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the pop superstar's death as the case moved rapidly toward a trial that will likely be televised.

"Your honor, I am an innocent man," Dr. Conrad Murray told Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor in a soft voice. "I definitely plead not guilty."

Lawyers for Murray, who is accused of giving Jackson a lethal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives, said they would be ready to go to trial within the 60-day statutory time limit, which would make for an unusually speedy trial.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said the prosecution would be ready to go as well for the trial he estimated would last six weeks. The judge scheduled the trial to begin March 28 and set a pretrial hearing for Feb. 7.

AP

TWENTYNINE PALMS

Mock city rises at Marine base for urban training

A 1,560-building mock city has risen in the Southern California desert.

The $170 million Marine Corps urban training center at the Twentynine Palms military base, some 130 miles northeast of Los Angeles, is roughly the size of San Diego.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center facility uses mock cities and role players to prepare Marines and sailors for urban terrain missions.

The Palm Springs Desert Sun says the new center, debuting Tuesday, expands on a similar training program called Mojave Viper, which launched in 2005 to prepare troops for the war and life in Iraq.

The Q Line

SPONSORED BY

Banning jets

The City Council suffered a loss in its drive to ban some jets at Santa Monica Airport last week.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Should City Hall cut its losses and drop the legal fight or press on for an appeal?

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


Kate Bransfield
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Charter schools expand with public, private money

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. As cash-strapped school districts lay off teachers and close campuses, publicly funded charter schools are flourishing and altering the landscape of public education.

Despite a painful economic downturn, the charter school movement is expanding rapidly across the country with support from the Obama administration, wealthy donors such as Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey, and the highly publicized documentary "Waiting for Superman."

Charter schools typically receive a mixture of public and private money and operate free of many regulations that govern traditional public schools in exchange for achieving promised results.

Nationwide, less than 4 percent of public school students are enrolled in charters, but that number is expected to rise significantly because of increased financial and political support.

More than a dozen states loosened restrictions on charters over the past year for a chance to win a share of the federal $4.3 billion Race to the Top school reform competition.

The number of charter schools grew by 6.7 percent to 4,936 in 2009-2010 and is projected to increase by 7.5 percent in the current school year, according to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

The 2010-11 growth is expected to be dramatic in states such as Florida with a 12 percent increase, Illinois with a 14 percent rise and New York with a 20 percent jump, according to the association's projections.

"Families that have options are increasingly choosing charter schools over traditional schools," said Peter Groff, who heads the national association.

California saw a 15 percent increase, with a 115 new campuses despite budget woes that led to mass teacher layoffs and shuttered traditional schools, according to the California Charter School Association.

Many charter schools are boosting the academic achievement of disadvantaged students, but critics say charters siphon students and resources away from traditional public schools, result in greater racial segregation, block access to certain groups of students and operate without proper oversight.

"What we're seeing basically is an effort to impose deregulation and the free market into education," said Diane Ravich, an education historian at New York University. "The fascination with charters among philanthropists and Wall Street has diverted the attention away from tackling the hard problems of public education."

Charter schools are growing most rapidly in urban districts with struggling schools and large numbers of poor, minority students. In 16 districts, more than one in five public school students attend charters, with 36 percent in Detroit, 38 percent in Washington, D.C. and 61 percent in New Orleans, according to the national alliance.

Much of the growth is being driven by charter management organizations that have received multimillion-dollar grants from the Obama administration and foundations funded by philanthropists such as Gates, Charles Schwab, Eli Broad and Reed Hastings.

San Francisco-based KIPP, the Knowledge Is Power Program, plans to double its national network of schools to 200 over the next decade.

Aspire Public Schools, California's largest charter school operator with 30 campuses, plans to open as many as 45 new campus over the next decade, said CEO James Willcox.

The Oakland-based nonprofit, which offers kindergarten through high school, was recently named one of the world's 20 most improved schools systems — one of only three in the U.S. — by the consulting firm McKinsey and Co. after producing impressive results on standardized tests.

Aspire officials say nearly all of its students are accepted at four-year colleges, and most are their first in their families to attend. They attribute that high rate to smaller schools and class sizes, a longer school day and school year, and its relentless "College for Certain" culture.

"Our entire program from kindergarten all the way through high school is geared toward getting youngsters to go to college and get a college degree," Willcox said.

At ERES Academy, an Aspire K-8 school in Oakland, every classroom is named after a college and students eat in University Hall.

Jorge Lopez, a senior at California College Preparatory Academy in Berkeley, said he didn't think college was possible for him before he came to the Aspire-run high school. He's now poised to be the first in his family to get a college education.

"Upon coming here I found out that college is where you want to be at," said Lopez, 17. "My parents tell me it's an honor that I'm leading the family, that I'm being an example for them."

But not all charter schools produce strong academic results.

A 2009 study by Stanford University found that only 17 percent of charter schools performed significantly better than traditional public schools while 37 percent performed worse and 46 percent showed no big difference.

A 2010 study by the UCLA-based Civil Rights Project found that charter schools tend to be more racially segregated than traditional schools.

"Charter schools are publicly funded schools, and we need to make sure students of all backgrounds have access to them," said study co-author Erica Frankenberg, an education professor at Pennsylvania State University.

Oakland Unified School District has seen a major expansion of charters over the past decade, when it spent years under state control because of financial mismanagement. The district is now home to more than 30 charter schools.

Betty Olson-Jones, head of the Oakland teachers union, complains many charters recruit top students and get rid of poor performers, boosting the schools' test scores and saddling traditional schools with a disproportionate number of students with disabilities, behavior problems and poor English language skills.

"You end up with schools that are filled with kids that are really struggling," Olson-Jones said.

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Hollywood


That uproar over 'Skins': A blessing for the show

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK You gotta love a show that can upstage MTV's raunchy reality hit, "Jersey Shore."

"Skins" has done it.

In a week of TV happenings that included Ricky Gervais going comedically postal at the Golden Globes, Regis Philbin announcing his retirement from his daytime show, and the return of "American Idol," "Skins" soared to most-talked-about status, even reducing the reprise of attention-sucking "Jersey Shore" to the level, for the moment, of "Snooki who?"

Way to go, MTV! For a network that's no stranger to provocative fare or controversy, here's another buzz-blessed smash!

Most people know by now that "Skins" is a steamy scripted drama about overwrought teens, spun off from the acclaimed British series of the same name. It began its 10-episode season last Monday on the wings of heavy promotion by MTV, generally positive reviews and high anticipation by its young target audience.

There was also a smattering of pre-opening outcry, mainly as an inevitable protest from the Parents Television Council, a TV watchdog group. It declared that "'Skins' may well be the most dangerous television show for children that we have ever seen," which had to be as welcome a critical rave as MTV could wish.

The premiere of "Skins" drew 3.3 million viewers, 1.2 million of them under 18, the Nielsen Co. reported. This was a robust turnout, though hardly in the league of "Jersey Shore," which, a week ago, seized 8.4 million viewers for its Season 3 debut.

But this is only the beginning for "Skins." With its new wave of publicity, it has nowhere to go but up.

On Thursday, a front-page story in The New York Times introduced the notion that "Skins" may — with the emphasis on "may" — be trafficking in kiddie porn.

"Skins" producers have boasted of its gritty realism. In that spirit, many of the teenage characters are played by actors who are 17 or younger, and therefore legally minors.

Executives at MTV "in recent days" have become concerned that some scenes "may violate federal child pornography statutes," the Times reported, without naming those executives.

Faced with the possibility that future episodes of the show may be breaking the law, those unnamed MTV executives "ordered the producers to make changes to tone down some of the most explicit content," the Times reported.

Oddly, the only potentially problematic scene the Times identified occurs in the third episode, airing Jan. 31. Jesse Carere, a 17-year-old actor playing the tragicomic character Chris, is shown from behind, naked, striding down the street. In the preview of that episode provided to critics, the played-for-laughs sequence lasts about 10 seconds, and it's impossible to tell whether Carere was really in the buff when shooting the scene.

In the face of brewing controversy, MTV said "Skins" is a show "that addresses real-world issues confronting teens in a frank way.

"We review all of our shows and work with all of our producers on an ongoing basis to ensure our shows comply with laws and community standards," the statement continued. "We are confident that the episodes of 'Skins' will not only comply with all applicable legal requirements, but also with our responsibilities to our viewers."

Any scenes that might leave MTV, well, exposed will be up to the lawyers to determine, if it comes to that. In the four episodes shared with critics, "Skins" shows almost no skin. Despite all the talk of sex, there is almost no explicit sex depicted.

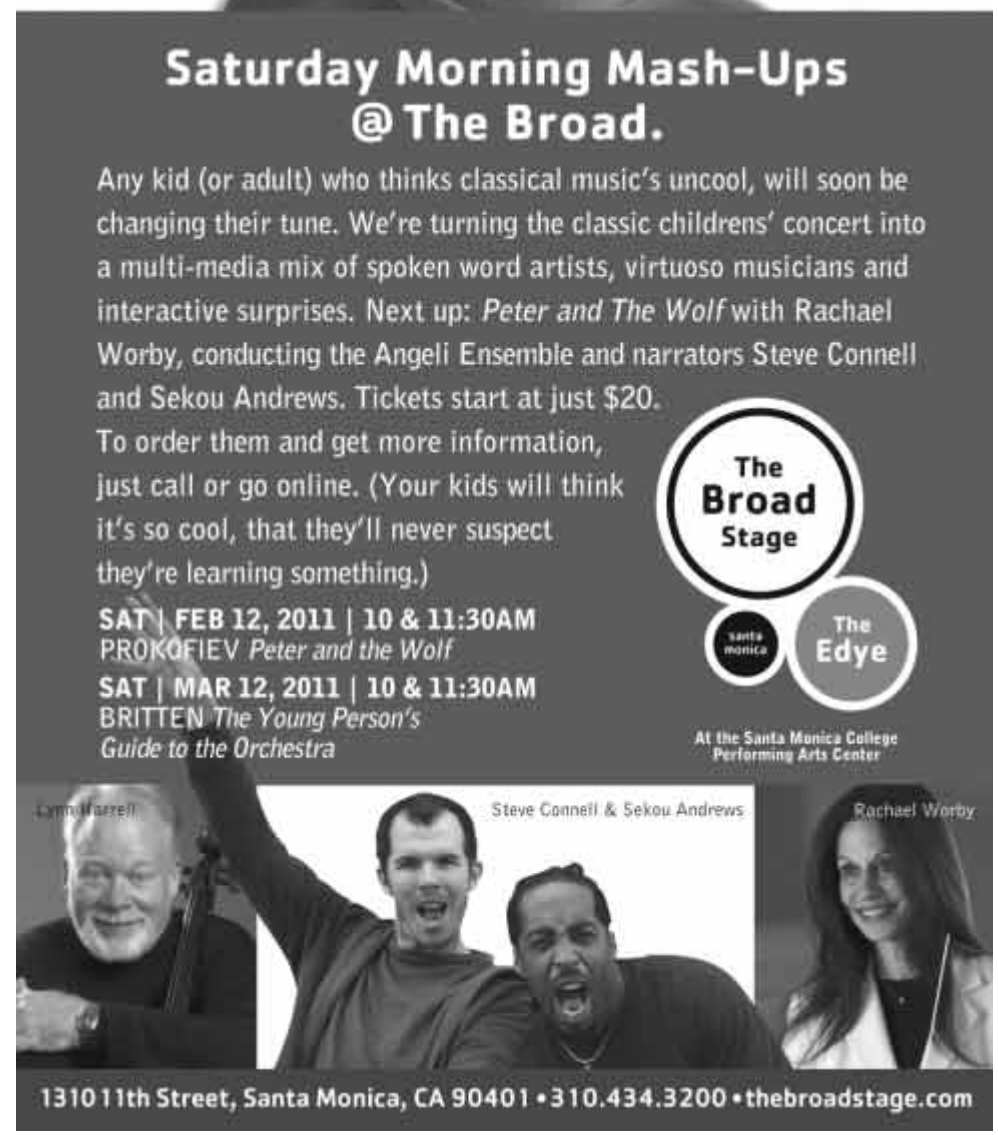
Nonetheless, by raising the specter of kiddie porn, the Times story made "Skins" notorious with new urgency. And it gave the show's detractors a fresh new front for attack. (Viewers who condemn a show like, say, "Jersey Shore," must acknowledge at least that its degenerate house mates are adults, whether they act like it or not.)

Within hours of the story, the PTC called for the U.S. Senate and House Judiciary Committees and the Department of Justice to "immediately open an investigation regarding child pornography and exploitation on MTV's 'Skins.'"

Meanwhile, Taco Bell announced it would pull its advertising from "Skins," explaining in a statement, "We've decided that the show is not a fit for our brand and have moved our advertising to other MTV programming."

As a publicity spectacle, this couldn't be going better if MTV had masterminded it.







CHAMBER
FROM PAGE 1

Commerce provides each and every one of its 900 members with sponsorship opportunities that help promote and enhance community partnerships."

At City Hall, Radinsky declined to comment on Goldline's participation in Thursday's event or on the ongoing investigation, which has not resulted in legal action against the company.

City Hall attorneys and the L.A. County District Attorney's office, though, have jointly sued another Santa Monica-based gold company, Superior Gold Group — which also happens to be a Glenn Beck advertiser. Last month, a judge froze Superior Gold's assets and ordered that the company be placed in a receivership.

The other three main stage sponsors for the chamber's event on Thursday are The Water Garden, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel and the Bayside District Corp.

The Chamber of Commerce's website on Tuesday listed Goldline as one of 20 sponsors for the event, including the Santa Monica Daily Press.

The event will feature Santa Monica City Manager Rod Gould and Brad Cox, chair of the Santa Monica Alliance, a collaborative effort to attract more businesses to Santa Monica. Local business owners will also be on hand to talk about how they are surviving and thriving in the city by the sea.

For more information and tickets, visit online at SMChamber.com.

nickt@smdp.com

ROUNDUP
FROM PAGE 1

Crossroads is currently 12-4 overall and 3-1 in Delphic League play. St. Monica sits at 10-6 overall, 3-1 in the Camino Real League.

St. Monica hosts St. Bernard today on campus. The game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Crossroads took on Paraclete last night, but the score was not available at presstime.

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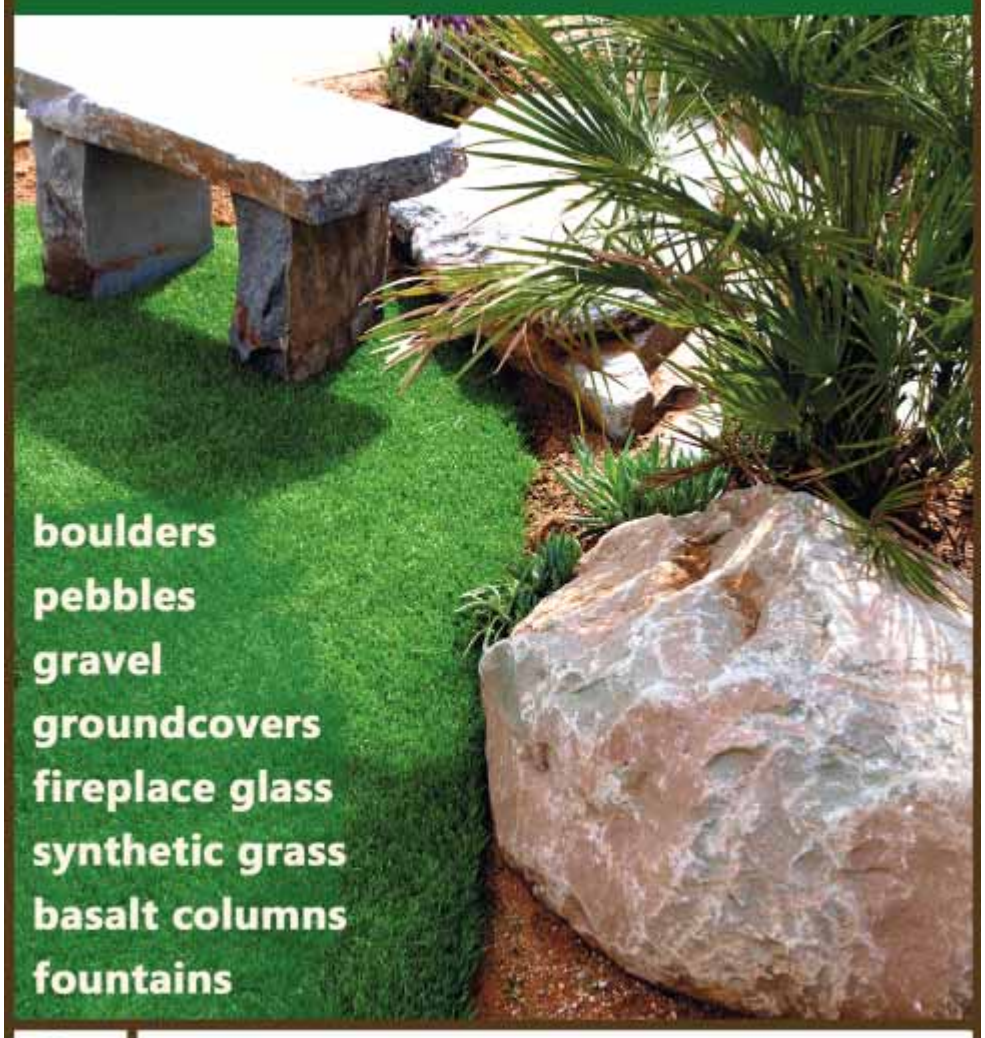
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PETS
FROM PAGE 3

men to say the human-pet choice would be a tough one (40 percent among women compared with 26 percent among men). Both genders were equally likely to go with their spouse or significant other, according to the poll conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications.

There was also no difference between dog and cat owners: 35 percent of each said the choice would be a hard one and more than eight in 10 would choose their spouse.

Urban dwellers (47 percent) are more likely to say they'd have a difficult time choosing than did suburbanites (35 percent) or rural residents (25 percent).

Giving up a pet for any reason can be really tough — unless you are the owners of Princess the canine escape artist.

David Rosenthal and his family in Missouri City, Texas, were ready with what they considered an ideal fenced backyard when they welcomed the 2-year-old American Eskimo from a shelter. Then things went from pretty good to not at all.

"She kept getting away," he said. "She'd dig underneath the fence, sneak out through every little crack. It would usually take about an hour or so to corral her."

Even worse, the 49-year-old Rosenthal discovered the hard way that the bushy sago palm plants in the backyard were poisonous to dogs (and humans, too). Princess sampled them and nearly died. Treatment cost about $2,000.

"Plus she was nipping at kids," said Rosenthal, who has three. "We were told it was friendly to kids." So off Princess went, back to the shelter after a year. "It was sad but we knew there was already somebody there to adopt her."

The family now has two other rescue dogs.

About six in 10 adults (57 percent) have had to give up a pet at some point in their lives, with current pet owners (64 percent) a bit more likely to have done so.

The most common reasons had to do with the pet's health: 69 percent said their pet was too sick to live on, 52 percent too sick to be cared for at home. But there are other reasons as well, including about one in 10 (9 percent) who, like Rosenthal, said their animal was too dangerous to keep.

One-third (34 percent) of current pet owners said it would be "extremely" or "very" difficult if they were forced to choose between a pet and a family member who became allergic. Another 20 percent would find the choice somewhat difficult and 46 percent said it would be "not too difficult" or "not difficult at all."

Christopher J. Hampton, 67, in Bellingham, Wash., has loved Pembroke Welsh corgis since he was a kid. He had a 5-year-old he had raised from a pup when he and his wife realized 40 years ago that their year-old son's asthma was dangerously exacerbated by their pet.

"I couldn't give up my son, so that was it," Hampton said.

The AP-Petside.com Poll was conducted October 13 to 20, 2010 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,501 adults nationwide including 1,000 pet owners. Results among all adults have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points; for results among pet owners it is 4.0 percentage points.

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Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
SOCCER				
Jan 26	JV/Var	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	3:30/5pm
Jan 28	JV/Var	Mary Star	Mary Star	1:30/3pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 26	F/JV/V	St. Bernard	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
Jan 28	F/JV/V	Mary Star	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 27	JV/Var	St. Joseph	SMCHS	5:30/7pm
Jan 29	JV/Var	El Segundo	SMCHS	1/2:30pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Jan 26	F/S/J/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	3/3/6:00pm
Jan 28	F/S/J/V	Inglewood	Inglewood	3/3/6:00pm
Jan 29	Var	La Jolla Country Day	SM Westside Challenge	7:00pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Jan 26	F/S/JV/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	4:30/6/7:30pm
Jan 28	F/S/JV/V	Inglewood	Inglewood	4:30/6/7:30pm
Jan 29	F/S/JV/V	Harvard Westlake	Harvard Westlake	3:00pm
GIRLS SOCCER				
Jan 26	JV/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	4:30pm
Jan 28	JV/V	Inglewood	Inglewood	5/3:00pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Jan 26	F/S/JV/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	3:30/5/3:30pm
Jan 28	JV/V	Inglewood	Inglewood	4/2:30pm
WRESTLING				
Jan 27	Coed All	South Torrance		3:00pm
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GIRLS WATER POLO				
Jan 27	JV/Var	Torrance		3/4pm

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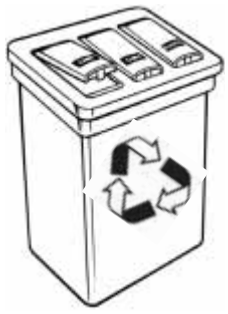


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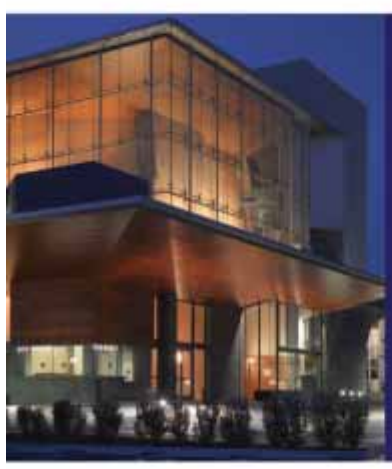


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Stocks make little progress

DAVID K. RANDALL &
MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Stock indexes finished about where they started Tuesday after a round of disappointing corporate earnings and another drop in home prices. Trading was muted ahead of President Obama's State of the Union speech, in which he was expected to outline a plan to reduce the deficit.

Four of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average reported results before the market opened: DuPont, 3M Co., Verizon Communications Inc. and Johnson & Johnson.

3M lost 2 percent after the manufacturing company's income fell because of higher costs.

Johnson & Johnson lost 1.8 percent after reporting a 12 percent drop in income. The maker of Tylenol and other drugs was hammered by costly recalls of its products.

DuPont's income fell but still beat expectations. Its stock rose 0.3 percent. Verizon's stock gained 1.6 percent after the phone company's profits surged.

Another Dow member, American Express Co., fell 2.2 percent after reporting earnings late Monday that came in below analysts' expectations.

The Dow lost 3.33 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 11,977.19. It had been down as far as 11,898.74 in earlier trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index inched up 0.34, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,291.18.

The Nasdaq composite index gained 1.7 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,719.25.

Doug Roberts, chief investment strategist for Channel Capital Research.com, said that investors are looking ahead to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech Tuesday night and a Federal Reserve meeting that concludes Wednesday. The Fed's $600 billion bond-buying plan, launched in November, was partially aimed at boosting stock prices. The S&P 500 has gained 8.9 percent in the last three months.

"As long as the Fed keeps pumping money into the economy," Roberts said, "stocks will probably keep going up."

Prices fell in 19 out of the 20 cities tracked by the Standard and Poor's / Case-Shiller home price index in November.

Treasury prices rose ahead of the President's State of the Union speech as traders hoped for news on spending curbs. That would ease worries in the bond market that the U.S. might soon run up against its borrowing limit.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.33 percent from 3.39 percent late Monday. Bond yields move in the opposite direction of their prices.

Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume came to 1 billion shares.

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Housing market experiencing second slump

ALEX VEIGA &
CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Business Writers

A second wave of falling home prices is battering some cities that had escaped the worst of the housing market bust.

Prices in Seattle, Charlotte, N.C., and Portland, Ore., have hit their lowest points since peaking in 2006 and 2007. Denver and Minneapolis are nearing new lows. High unemployment and rising foreclosures are taking a toll even on markets that never overheated during the boom years.

Home values are dwindling in nearly every American market. Prices fell in November in all but one of the 20 cities in the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index released Tuesday. Eight of those markets hit their lowest point since the housing bubble burst.

The damage from the real estate bubble has spread well beyond Las Vegas, Phoenix and Miami, which built frantically during the mid-2000s, and is sapping prices from coast to coast. In many places, prices are expected to keep falling for at least the next six months.

In Charlotte, homes are going for 2004 prices. Last year, more than half of the homes sold in surrounding Mecklenberg County were foreclosures, says Mark Vitner, a senior economist with Wells Fargo.

"There's a huge oversupply, and a lot of people are struggling," says Vitner, who works in Charlotte. "We're expecting it to fall even further in 2011."

The banking industry, which helped Charlotte boom over the past two decades and accounts for roughly one in every 11 jobs there, was hit hard during the recession. The city lost 12 percent of its financial jobs in 2008 and 2009, according to the Labor Department.

Adding to the region's economic woes, about a third of jobs tied to the auto industry also vanished in the downturn, said Michael Walden, an economist at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Charlotte's unemployment rate was 12.8 percent a year ago, well above the national rate. It has fallen to 10.8 percent, still more than twice what it was when the recession started.

"We're feeling it, there's no doubt about that," says Mike Shaffer, owner of Century 21 Southern Comfort Realty.

Of course, while foreclosures weaken resale values, they're great for renters who want to own a home. Robert Hubbard closed on Monday on a three-bedroom, two-bath house in Charlotte that he bought for about $79,000. While it takes some looking to find the right place, the market is "saturated" with foreclosures, he says.

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MEAT AND BEANS Choose lean turkey, chicken, roast beef or ham for sandwiches.
Success in school depends on a lot more than the right pencils, books and erasers. Studies show that a diet rich in vegetables, fruits and whole grains, along with a healthy lifestyle, can help your child succeed. Find out how good nutrition can lead to great things at MyPyramid.gov.
MyPyramid.gov
Ad Council USDA

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Comes to Your Door
On February 1, 2011, the City of Santa Monica will launch the **Household Hazardous Waste Door-to-Door Collection Pilot Program**, a pick-up system where the "Haz Mat" technicians come to you. The goal is to expand levels of service for residents while reducing costs. The service will be provided on a free and unlimited basis to home owners and renters alike.
Also, beginning February 1, 2011, the **Household Hazardous Waste Center** will be available for drop-off service on **SATURDAYS ONLY**. If the pilot program is successful, the city will transition to a permanent pick-up system in June 2011.
The new service is provided in a few easy steps:
1. Reserve collection service: call **1 (800) HHW-PKUP** (1.800.449.7587), Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; or e-mail **hotline@curbsideinc.com**;
2. Receive collection kit in the mail (includes detailed instructions with collection day reminder);
3. Prepare collection kit at your doorstep or at a predetermined location on collection day;
4. Leave prepared materials and we'll do the rest.
For additional information or feedback please visit www.sustainablesm.org/hhw or call (310) 458-2213.
The door-to-door collection program is managed by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and WM Curbside, LLC
City of Santa Monica sustainablesm.org
City of Santa Monica

IT only TAKES A SPARK.
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ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.
smokeybear.com
Ad Council USFS

Vintage Fashion Expo
Feb. 5-6
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
Main St. at Pico
$2 off Reg Adm with ad $10
Sat 10:30-6, Sun 11-5
Early Buy Sat: 9-10:30 $20
www.vintageexpo.com
707-793-0773 SMDP



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

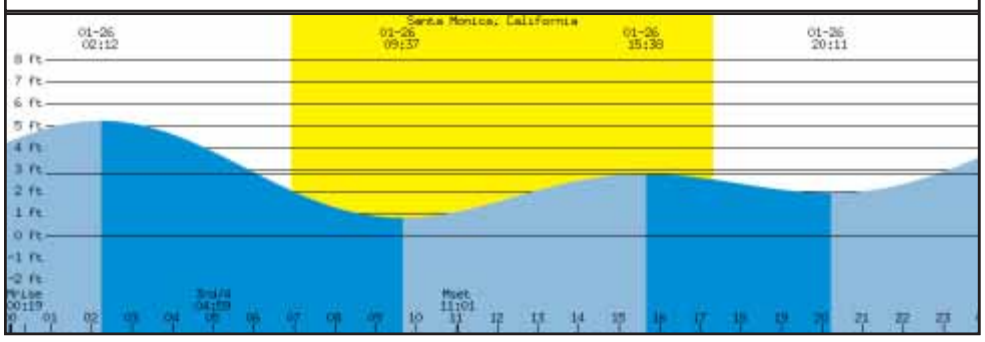
Swell Forecast

Should see size drop to chest+ around west facing breaks, with still some rare head high pluses.

Long Range Synopsis

West facing breaks are looking at chest+ waves, with some head high sets at standout west facing spots.

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 19, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 16
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 27 / 11
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 16 / 31

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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

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

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

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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City of Santa Monica

RESCHEDULED DATE & LOCATION

Community Meeting for 1131 Arizona Avenue Skilled Nursing Facility Project

NEW DATE: Tuesday, March 1, 2011
7:00 PM

Main Library – Multi-Purpose Room
601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401

You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the design for a new three-story skilled nursing facility at 1131 Arizona Avenue. The new 26,883 square foot project will consist of 34 rooms with 50 beds and include a subterranean parking garage. The existing 24-room/48-bed rest home will be demolished and replaced with this new project. This meeting is a rescheduled date from the previously noticed meeting for January 27, 2011 which is no longer taking place.

This meeting is a new City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and the developer with regards to the project design. For further information, please contact Tony Kim, Senior Planner, at (310) 458-8341.

RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.



SEE NEWS HAPPENING OR HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press CALL US TODAY (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Somewhere (R) 1hr 38min
12:05pm, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:20pm

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

Dilemma (PG-13)
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm

Way Back (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

Dead Awake (R) 1hr 29min
9:35pm

Season of the Witch (PG-13) 1hr 38min
9:45pm

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

Somewhere (R) 1hr 38min
12:05pm, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:20pm

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

Dilemma (PG-13)
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm

Way Back (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

Dead Awake (R) 1hr 29min
9:35pm

Season of the Witch (PG-13) 1hr 38min
9:45pm

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

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 1:20pm, 2:10pm, 4:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 7:50pm, 9:40pm, 10:30pm

Dilemma (PG-13) 1hr 58min
12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Country Strong (PG-13) 1hr 52min
12:10pm, 3:00pm, 10:35pm

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

Metropolitan Opera: La Fanciulla del West Encore (NR) 3hrs 50min
6:00pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blue Valentine (NC-17) 2hrs 00min
12:50pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
12:00pm, 2:25pm, 4:50pm

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

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

Green Hornet 3D (NR)
12:20pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Unbeaten (NR) 1hr 30min
7:15pm, 9:40pm

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

Hang out with a friend, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Consider the pros and cons of leaping over negativity, misinformation and someone's attitude. Will it be worth the energy? Sometimes letting others sit might be more productive. Take a walk during a break in order to reduce stress. Tonight: Time to visit and share.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Defer to others, as they are likely to throw a hissy fit if you don't. A boss is very assertive. You might not be able to change the state of affairs. Detach, and you will gain yet another perspective. Run with it. Tonight: If any invitation appeals to you, say "yes."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Just when you feel as if you are soaring, someone or some situation pulls you back down to earth. A partner, however, remains supportive. Know that you will have to push others very hard in order to achieve what you want. You also can wait. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your imagination let loose is a delight, not only to you but to everyone. Who says you need to hold back? A partner will revise his or her thinking because of you. Don't push an older family member right now. He or she remains testy. Tonight: Find your favorite person, and share your favorite pastime.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Your desire to eliminate tension and stress could be frustrated. Buck trends; investigate a shortcut. Just don't say "no." Be an investigator. Be willing to root out the real story or problem. Only then can you resolve the issue. Tonight: Willingly reiterate a conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might opt to put in more overtime and/or get a second job. You might want to review your finances with an eye to the fact that in the past year, you never felt like you had enough. This feeling reminds you to be thrifty. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Pressure builds, as you deem that you might need to do more. Build financial security through real estate investments. Build emotional security through bonding more strongly with family and loved ones. Know who you can count on. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others seek you out. You could be flattered or annoyed. Your perspective determines your reaction. Rethink some of your knee-jerk feelings. You have more control than you realize. Communication needs to be in-depth. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Keep your thoughts to yourself. Not only might it be somewhat easier, but also you could change your perspective given time and observation. Fatigue marks your interpersonal reactions. Your instincts guide you with funds. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Take control of a professional matter, if you can. Otherwise, you might have more problems. You might be holding up a mirror, as on some level you feel out of sync. Be more in touch with your needs. Tonight: Say "no" to more work and "yes" to meeting a friend.

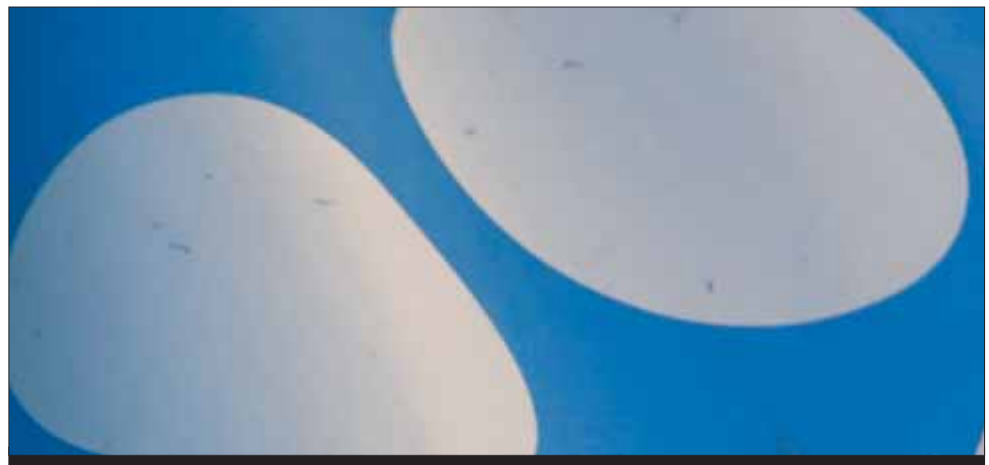
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Someone you look up to could be more provocative than you realize. You wonder what you are doing and could become frustrated. Deal with anger through detachment. Many layers of hurt exist under the anger. Resolve them first. Tonight: Working late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance whom you care about. You might wonder what is going on behind the scenes -- a partner or associate seems a bit withdrawn or frothy. A meeting draws out some hard feelings. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you take a stronger stand within the community and/or in your professional life. Often, challenges arise out of the blue. Your conventional style of detaching could be more difficult. Perhaps staying in the here and now is more important. Travel and foreigners play a strong role in 2011. If you are single, opt for a new type, and you are likely to experience success in relating. If you are attached, combine your efforts together on a project or goal. Closeness will become a given. SCORPIO thinks of you as a leader.



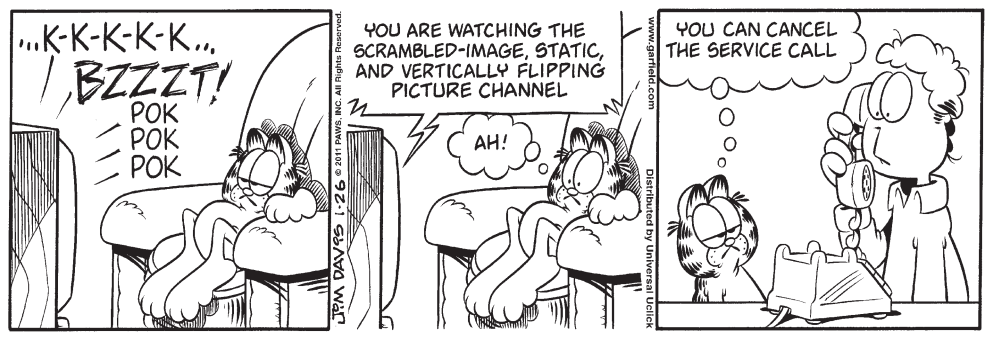
MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

Garfield

By Jim Davis



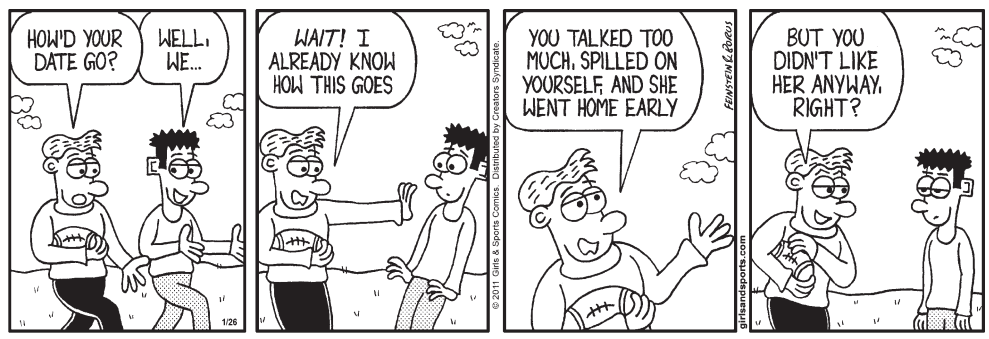
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



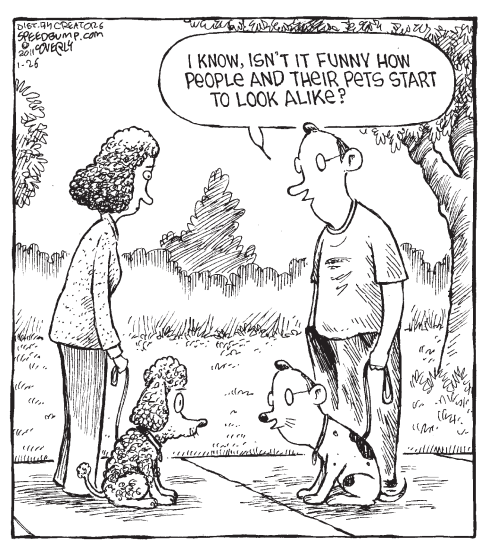
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

"IRA Rollover Do's and Don'ts"

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

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Actions at auctions
5 Ninny
9 Require defrosting
11 Body of law
12 Less colorful
13 Signs of trouble
14 Chunk of history
15 Birth-parent seeker
17 French seaport
19 Humor
20 March legend
21 Took the title
22 Allude
24 Suitable
26 Prunes
29 Decline
30 Transmitted
32 Board member
34 Shiverer's sound
35 Furious
36 Futuristic genre
38 Accrued
39 Apartment sign
40 Herring's kin
41 Used to be

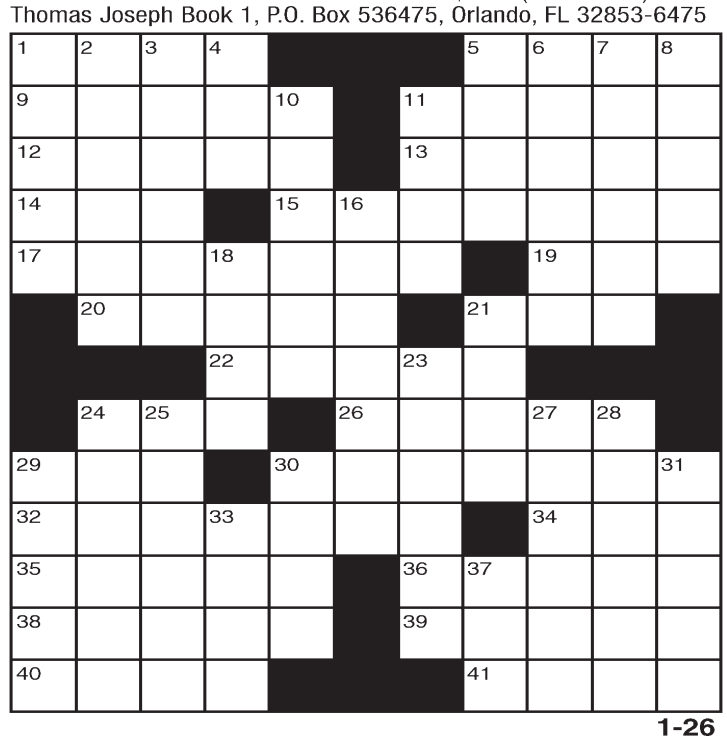
DOWN

1 Human, for one
2 Son of Daedalus
3 Presidential middle name
4 Take to court
5 Humid
6 Boxing combo
7 Murdered
8 Start
10 Commend
11 Galley worker
16 Conscripted soldier
18 "Glee" character
21 Subpoena, e.g.
23 Writer Hemingway
24 Co-star of Kate and Jaclyn
25 Big lizard
27 Dangling art
28 Wave rider
29 Mixes up
30 Dance unit
31 Hackneyed
33 Fancy button
37 Farm grazer

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-26

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.

• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.

• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.

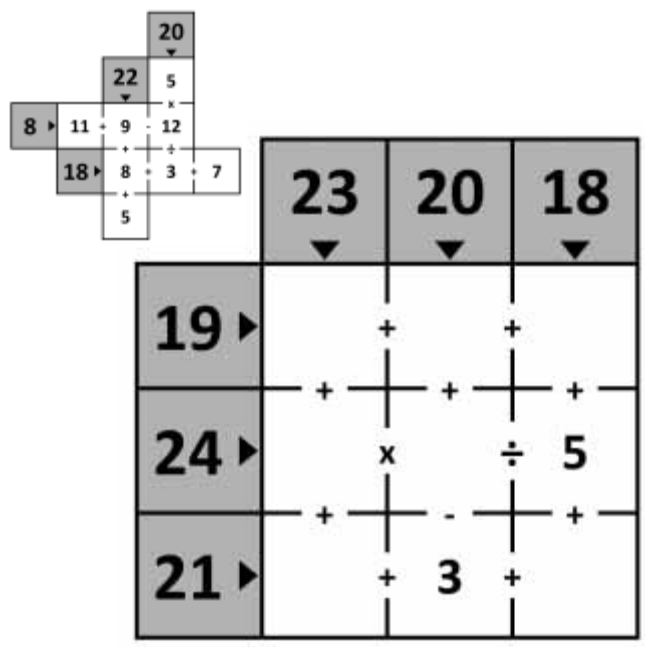
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 12

Solution for Task 528



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 5 9 21 35 38 Meganumber: 20 Jackpot: $63M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 19 24 35 45 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 5 14 25 28 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 0 5 EVENING: 3 2 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 04 Big Ben 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:49.72

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

■ Unclear on the Concept: A 41-year-old woman, arrested in Callaway, Fla., in December for beating her husband with a rock, explained that she was angry that he was endangering his health by smoking despite being ill. Said she, "A woman can only take so much."

■ Katrina Camp, 30, was picked up by deputies in September on a Forest Service road near Nederland, Colo., having earlier walked away from her unclothed 2-year-old daughter, whom she had left to fend for herself in a pickup truck. Camp, however, was candid about the problem: "I suck." ("You're a parent," she told a deputy. "(Y)ou know how it is. Sometimes you just need a break.")

■ By his own testimony, John Ditullio is a hateful neo-Nazi who despised his next-door neighbors in New Port Richey, Fla. (a white woman with an African-American friend and a son who was openly gay), but when the son was murdered and the mother attacked in 2006, Ditullio denied involvement, and though he earned a hung jury in his first trial, his retrial was scheduled for November 2010. For each day of the trial, a makeup artist was hired (paid for by the government at $135 a day) to cover up Ditullio's swastika neck tattoo and crude-phrase cheek tattoo so as to keep jurors from being unfairly prejudiced. (Nonetheless, Ditullio was convicted in December and sentenced to death.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1965 Hindi becomes the official language of India.

1966 The Beaumont Children go missing from Glenelg Beach near Adelaide, South Australia.

1978 The Great Blizzard of 1978, a rare severe blizzard with the lowest non-tropical atmospheric pressure ever recorded in the US, strikes the Ohio – Great Lakes region with heavy snow and winds up to 100 mph (161 km/h).

1980 Israel and Egypt establish diplomatic relations.

1991 Mohamed Siad Barre is removed from power in Somalia, ending centralized government, and is succeeded by Ali Mahdi.

WORD UP!

dharna \ DAHR-nuh \ , noun;
1. In India,the practice of exacting justice or compliance with a just demand by sitting and fasting at the doorstep of an offender until death or until the demand is granted.

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