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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 70



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

FROM STARLET TO COURT JESTER?
SEE PAGE 3

THE LET'S GRAB SOME BAGELS ISSUE

SMO pilots may get discount for installing mufflers

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO The Airport Commission wants to explore incentives for pilots to fly more quietly in the wake of a successful test of a muffler that cut some airplane noise in half.

The device, manufactured by German company Golmozig, reduced the noise emitted by a Cessna 172 by over three decibels in some cases, and almost five in others, according to a study by City Hall.

It also shortened the duration of the sound — the total time that neighborhoods were exposed to the noise — by 43 and 56 percent, depending on where in the area one lives.

SEE SMO PAGE 10

Bagel shop owner donating sales to customer's charity

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

WILSHIRE BLVD As the owner of a small bagel shop and deli on Wilshire Boulevard, Brian Gruntz makes it his mission to get to know his loyal customers, the lifeblood of his business. And it's not just their favorite cream cheese spread either.

Gruntz considers those who frequent New York Bagel and Deli members of his extended family. So when he heard that one was a passionate volunteer with Guide Dogs of America, which provides professionally-trained guide dogs for the blind and visually impaired, Gruntz knew he wanted to do something to help out.

For the first three days in February he plans to donate 10 percent of his gross sales to the nonprofit in the name of his customer, Santa Monican Glyn Judson, and his 11-month-old golden retriever Fred.

SEE DONATE PAGE 10



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

SHARE THE ROAD: **Check out the new lanes on the Santa Monica Beach Bike Path. The lanes are being installed to accommodate pedestrians, who often use the path — even though they are not supposed to. The lanes will run throughout the entire bike path along Santa Monica Beach. The lanes are currently being installed and it should take about a month to complete the shared-lane project.**

Work begins on bike path so cyclists, peds can coexist

Officials hope paint job equals increased safety on popular route

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH Work began this week on improved markings and signage along the beach bike path meant to make it easier for bicyclists and pedestrians to coexist around the busy route.

The project will stretch along the entire 2.5-mile route, with special attention to sections like the north and south entrances to Santa Monica and the areas surrounding the Santa Monica Pier.

It will include new crosswalks to give pedestrians places to safely traverse the path as well as different colors for pedestrian and bicyclist sections where the two modes of travel sit side-by-side.

That's particularly relevant north of the pier, where there is a single, shared path, said Judith Meister, beach manager.

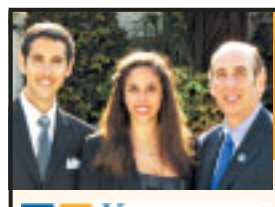
Crosswalks will be picked out in durable thermoplastics, and the bicycle lanes will be painted green where they are near pedestrian routes, similar to the new treatment seen on Ocean Park Boulevard.

The project will also involve specialized signs developed to show distances to major destinations like the pier and Venice as well as signs directing cyclists to slow down when they get to particularly busy sections.

SEE PATH PAGE 8


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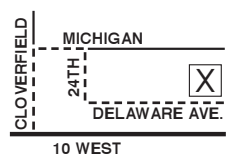
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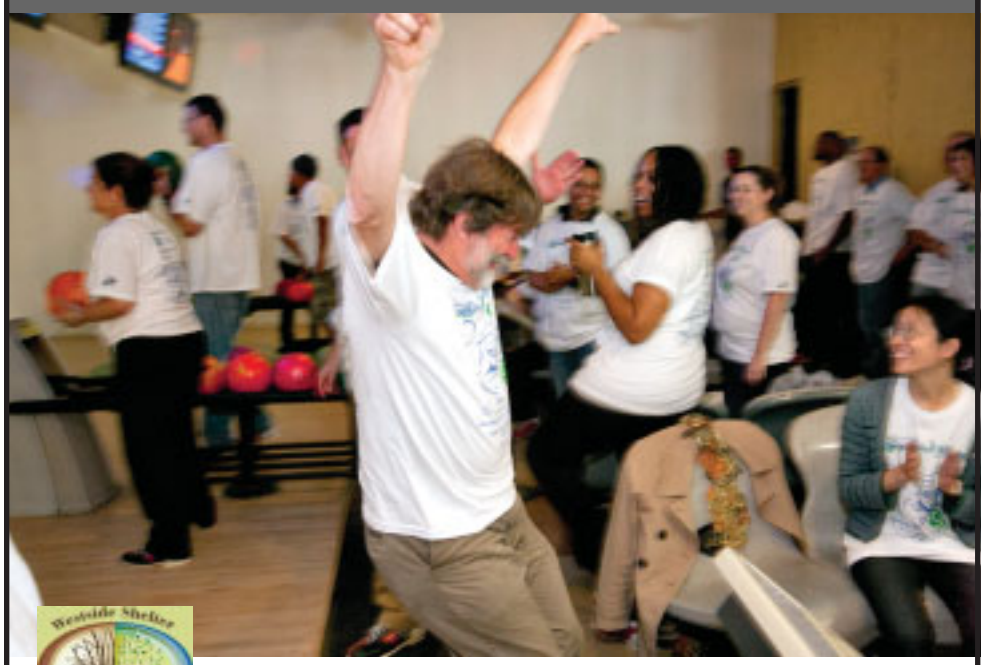
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Strike Out for Hunger



This super FUN community event is nearing a sellout. All you need is a team of 5 bowlers to participate and support an event benefiting the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition's mission to fight hunger and homelessness on the Westside.

For more information visit: westsideshelter.org

SUPER BOWL-A-THON 17

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

Learn what's going on in the news
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Join a current events discussion for adults ages 50 and up. Discussion moderated by Jack Nordhaus. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Talking classic film
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m. — 4.15 p.m.
There will be a screening of "Local Hero." The comedy stars Burt Lancaster as an American, representing a Texas oil company and the small inhabitants of a village in Scotland. The screening is followed by a discussion with film scholar Vivian Rosenberg. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Unlock your goals
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Dr. David Allen and Gary Kobar will give a lecture on ways you can identify and realize your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual goals. The event is located in the MLK, Jr. Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Friday, Feb. 1, 2013

Let the games begin
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon of video and board games for all ages in the Children's Activity Room. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Celebrating mother
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Experience the rich heritage of the spoken word tradition with Woman's Voices, an ensemble group of storytellers, as they present a concert titled "YES MOTHER!" that is sure to entertain. Come and eavesdrop on this colorful group of long-term friends as they gather on the front porch to sample a new cookie recipe and reminisce about past holidays. Put on by a partnership with the Institute of Musical Arts and the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside. Tickets are $20. For more information call (310) 452-3881 or e-mail jmiele@smywca.org.

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013

Le salon de Santa Monica
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 4 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club will be transformed into a 17th-century French salon in an effort to fundraise money for the upcoming 2013 season. The event starts with live music and a mix and mingle, where guests will be able to make masks, have their hair coiffed and participate in a silent auction and raffle. A fully costumed stage reading of Moilere's "The Learned Ladies" will be the primary entertainment of the evening. Guests are encouraged to dress in costume. Tickets are $50 and can be purchased at www.santamonicarep.org.

Feeling flutey?
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Come and enjoy a free classical concert of the Northridge Flute Quartet. Julianna Bruce, Cheryl Lopez, Mary Cervantes and Sheila Molazadeh will play selections from Handel's "Water Music," Mozart's "Divertimento" and "Contredanse," Debussy's "Sarabundy," Mitushkin's "Quartet Movement" and popular tunes such as "Edelweiss," "The Rose," "All I Ask of You" and the Harry Potter theme. All ages are welcome but space is limited and on a first arrival basis. For more information, visit www.smpl.org.

Carbs and classics
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m.
Join the award-winning Santa Monica High School Orchestras for their 10th Annual Spaghetti and Strings Dinner, Show, and Silent Auction. There will be performances by the full philharmonic and symphony orchestras, an elegant dinner service and catering by local favorite Fritto Misto restaurant. Tickets are $30 for adults, $15 for students, available at the door, or can be ordered in advance by contacting Lori Whitesell at lwhite6397@aol.com.
Seating is limited.

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



Lohan appears in court for PCH crash, trial delayed

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE Lindsay Lohan briefly appeared in court Wednesday for the first time in nearly a year and left with a new attorney, new trial date and new judge.

Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner shook her head when she saw Lohan seated with her attorney, just months after the judge had warned the "Liz and Dick" star to grow up and stay out of trouble.

The actress was required to attend the pretrial hearing involving three misdemeanor counts filed after a car crash last summer on Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica. Lohan has pleaded not guilty to lying to Santa Monica police, reckless driving and obstructing officers from performing their duties.

Sautner previously sent her to jail, placed her under house arrest and forced her to

SEE **COURT** PAGE 9

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNTYWIDE

County accepting water quality fee protests

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is now accepting protests via e-mail from property owners who oppose the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure.

The measure proposes to raise $295 million a year for cities and unincorporated areas in the county to clean the region's rivers, lakes and beaches to protect public health and safeguard local sources of drinking water, officials said in a news release issued this week.

Protests must be submitted by the end of the public hearing period on March 12 when the Board of Supervisors will evaluate the protests received. The board has yet to consider whether it will move forward with an election concerning the measure.

To send a protest be sure to include the parcel's site address, assessor's parcel number, the name of the parcel owner and a signature. Parcel owners may use the protest form provided at www.lacountycleanwater.org or submit a letter and e-mail to wqfi.info@dpw.lacounty.gov. Only scanned or photographed e-mail protests with a handwritten signature will be accepted.

Protests can still be sent by mail through the protest period to the executive officer of the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 866006 Los Angeles, Calif., 90086. A ballot box for hand-delivered protests is located on the third floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple St., Room 383. Only one protest will be counted for each parcel.

For more information on the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure, visit http://lacountycleanwater.org or call (800) 218-0018. Follow the measure on Twitter at @LACleanWater.

– MYA MCCANN

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

$14M grant for highway safety

The city of Malibu received approval for more than $14 million in grant funds for improvements to Pacific Coast Highway and other intersections, city officials said this week.

Awarded by the Los Angeles County Metro Transit Authority, the grant will include funding for bike lane improvements and will allow the city to conduct necessary projects tied with the Pacific Coast Highway Safety Study.

This is all due to the passing of Measure R in 2008. Measure R, a half-cent sales tax increase, commits up to $40 billion toward traffic relief and transportation upgrades throughout the county over the next 30 years.

More information about Malibu's ongoing mission to improve public safety and promote driver awareness can be obtained by visiting www.malibucity.org.

– MM

CIVIC CENTER

Spots still available for Super Bowl-a-thon

It's not too late to sign up for the 17th annual Super Bowl-a-thon, a fundraiser on Feb. 1 benefiting the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition.

Roughly 700 bowlers, representing various businesses, social service agencies and local governments, are expected to attend, organizers said. Some highlights to look forward to are the Gutterballers, a team including Councilmembers Pam O'Connor and Gleam Davis and Assemblyman Richard Bloom at 11 a.m., and the police department vs. the fire department at 4:15 p.m., with a trophy presentation at the conclusion of the session.

The event will be held at the AMF Bay Shore Lanes from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

To participate in the event, call (310) 314-0071.

– MM



Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

DETERMINED: **St. Monica's Katrina Balatico drives in between several St. Paul defenders Tuesday night as the teams battled it out for best in league. The Mariners lost 53-49.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

St. Monica loses to league rival

HENRY CRUMBLISH
Special to the Daily Press

ST. MONICA The top ranked St. Paul women's basketball team on Tuesday defeated the second-ranked St. Monica Mariners 49-53 in a highly anticipated league showdown. St. Monica is now 4-2 in league play and 18-6 overall.

The Mariners gained an early advantage

SEE **GAME** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Defending Village Nation

Editor:

I am an African-American parent of an African-American/Caucasian/Native-American student at Santa Monica High School. We live in Santa Monica in a house owned by an African-American family that's lived in Santa Monica for several generations. Our house is in a historically African-American neighborhood. I have lived here for 12 years. My youngest daughter was born in Santa Monica. My church is The Church In Ocean Park. That's about as belonging here and being part of this community as it gets.

It grieves my spirit that people who don't want Village Nation ("SMMUSD creates strategy to attack achievement gap," Jan. 25) have stooped so low to attack the families and individuals who support the program. As for Caucasian people standing up to help African-American children, lest we forget the people who died for our civil rights. They are not all black. There were Caucasian Freedom Riders, people who registered voters, drove people of color in their cars during the Montgomery bus boycott, and Quakers who gave safe passage to slaves on the Underground Railroad. We enjoy our freedoms on the blood that they shed for us. As for the involvement of a church. The civil rights movement started in the church and we just celebrated The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

If these people who don't want Village Nation know so much about closing the achievement gap, where are their books? When are they going to be on Oprah's show? When are they going to be the keynote speaker for the superintendent of public education in California? When are they going to speak at the U.N. like Fluke Fluker, one of the founders of Village Nation?

If families don't want their child to participate in Village Nation, there is an option. It's called "opt out," just like if you don't want your child to drink chocolate milk at school.

Class dismissed!

Debra Shepherd
Santa Monica

Forming a collective voice

Editor:

It is interesting to note that the defenders of the shutdown of Emeritus College's winter session all have some connection to the administration: the Executive Council members and instructors. The average Emeritus student, who was left out of the process that led to the shutdown, does not share their enthusiastic support.

Jerry Schneir ("Worried about Emeritus," Letters to the Editor, Jan. 22) would like to see everyone docilely accept whatever the administration decides. He seems to envision anything less as "seniors picketing and yelling at college trustee meetings," something that never happened except in his mind. On the contrary, when Emeritus students exercised their democratic rights to address their public officials at a December trustees meeting, they expressed their disapproval in a respectful manner.

While educating college age students is a primary concern, even closing Emeritus College would not mean all Santa Monica College's fiscal issues will magically disappear. California community colleges have a mandate to serve all segments of the community. Santa Monica, a city that promotes a "lifetime of learning," has a large senior population that deserves attention.

Rather than buy into top-down actions by the administration, Emeritus students want to have a collegial approach to decision-making. SMC students were able to influence their college to reverse a decision to end its winter session by negotiating directly with the administration. Emeritus students want the same access. Towards that end, we are organizing the Emeritus Students Union which will give seniors, who are most directly affected, a voice in future actions. Working with the administration, we hope to find ways to keep Emeritus open and functioning as fully as possible.

Harriet P. Epstein
Santa Monica



Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Relocating for success

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

After many years in Los Angeles, I have finally decided that it is time to move closer to family. While I have established a successful career here I dread coming back after trips to see my family and hearing about friends who have been able to purchase a home with a mortgage far less than what I pay in rent. Although I have decided that it is time to move, I am now realizing all the complications that come with changing jobs and cities. I am writing to you to see if you have any helpful tips for finding a job while living in another city.

Signed,
Leaving Los Angeles

DEAR LEAVING,

Making the decision to relocate is a difficult one. Congratulations on listening to your heart and determining what is truly important to you. While the coming weeks and months may be difficult as you look for new career opportunities, plan for transition and physically pack up your belongings, focus on your goal and allow your family and friends to support you throughout this change.

To get started, it is important that you narrow down and decide on a time frame for this change. Having an open-ended move date may make it more difficult to take the necessary steps to make your move a reality. There are several viewpoints on job search and relocation. Some believe that it is easier to find a job if you are already in the immediate area and others state that it is too risky to move without a secure plan. You are the only one to decide what is truly fitting for you and your situation. However, it is important to recognize that if you are committed to relocating within a specific time frame, you may need to make a transition before all of the pieces fall neatly into place.

As you begin to explore career opportunities, make sure that everyone in your network is aware of your career goals and relocation plans. Now is the time to reconnect with past mentors, colleagues and classmates. Develop a strong pitch to highlight your professional background and current career goals and make sure that others know what you are looking for. The power of personal connections makes a huge difference in securing a new job opportunity. You will also need to consider if you will inform your current supervisor about your plans.

Searching for job opportunities in a new city also requires that you are familiar with the hiring organizations in the area. For a number of major U.S. cities the local business journal will publish an annual "Book of Lists" which ranks the top performing companies within that city or region. This list may be available at your public library or available for purchase online through the Business Journals Digital Network. The Book of Lists can be a great way to identify key players within your field as well as up-and-coming organizations. Once you identify those that fit your key criterion, you can visit the corporate website to examine potential job opportunities within that firm. Job search websites can help in identifying new openings in a particular area, but keep in mind that if it is easy for you to find, it is easy for other job seekers to find also. To increase your odds of success, search your LinkedIn network or university alumni database to explore possible connections with the company.

As you craft your application materials, make sure that your plans to relocate appear on your resume or cover letter. If you plan to visit the area at a specific time, include those dates on your documents to show an employer that you'll be available to interview in person. Many employers will ask for your salary requirements as part of the application process. Keep in mind that the cost of living varies across different geographic areas so your salary offer may reflect these differences. If this is your first time working in your home state, it is important that you review any professional licensure requirements that may exist for your field. You will want to take steps to ensure that you meet these standards as you plan for your move.

It is important that you break your search down into actionable steps; set smaller goals and attach a time frame to each target to make your job search manageable.

KATRINA DAVY, M.A., Ed.M. is a Santa Monica based professional career counselor who holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia Universities. Visit her online at www.kdcareer.com. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!



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Sales of million-dollar homes soar in Calif.

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Sales of million-dollar homes in California hit a five-year high in 2012, with sales of multimillion-dollar homes showing even bigger gains, a research firm said Wednesday.

There were 697 homes sold for more than $5 million last year, up 42 percent from 2011 and the highest since DataQuick began tracking sales in 1988. There were 460 homes sold between $4 million and $5 million, up 34 percent from the previous year and also the highest on record.

The most expensive sale was a Silicon Valley home in the community of Woodside that changed hands for $117.5 million in November. Public records identify SV Projects LLC as the buyer of the 8,930-square-foot, four-bedroom home that sits on nearly nine acres. The Los Angeles Times has identified the seller as Tully Friedman, chief executive of Friedman, Fleischer and Lowe, a San Francisco-based private equity firm.

The Woodside home eclipsed the 2011 purchase of a property in nearby Los Altos Hills for $100 million as the highest-priced sale in California public records, said DataQuick analyst Andrew LePage.

There were 26,993 houses and condominiums sold for at least $1 million last year, up 26.9 percent from 21,267 in 2011 and the highest since 42,502 sold in 2007, DataQuick said. The all-time high was 2005, when 54,773 homes sold for at least $1 million.

The increase far outpaced an 8.2 increase in all sales of California homes.

Janice Lee, director of luxury properties for California Prudential Realty, said she has seen an influx of Chinese buyers who are disenchanted with their government seeking to raise families in Southern California.

"There is a huge foreign buyer pool in Southern California," said Lee, who is based in Pasadena.

The Silicon Valley community of Hillsborough registered the most million-dollar sales, followed by Manhattan Beach, Menlo Park, Saratoga and Newport Beach. Rounding out the top 10 were San Diego's La Jolla area, Los Angeles' Brentwood section, Beverly Hills, Los Altos and Laguna Beach.

Buyers in the million-dollar-plus market are less motivated by job security, the size of down payments and lending rates than buyers in the rest of the market, said John Walsh, president of the San Diego-based research firm.

"Returns on investments in a low interest-rate financial environment and safe-haven investing do play a role," Walsh said.

DataQuick said 7,791 million-dollar home buyers paid cash, up from 5,802 a year earlier and the highest on record.

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Lawmaker proposes training school staff to use guns

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A group of seven California Republican state legislators wants to allow school districts to use state funds to train staff to use guns to ward off campus attackers.

Assemblyman Tim Donnelly said Wednesday that he introduced AB 202 in response to the December shooting at a Connecticut elementary school that killed 20 children and six adults.

Current law allows school staff to carry a concealed firearm on campuses.

The Twin Peaks lawmaker says his bill would expand that by allowing school districts to use state funds to give firearm training to teachers, administrators and other staff in a "school marshal" program.

He says the program would also serve as a deterrent to would-be intruders.

Democratic State Sen. Leland Yee predicts the bill will have a hard time winning approval.

The Q Line

Budget woes

City Hall could be facing a $29 million budget deficit by 2018 unless officials can increase revenues or make cuts to programs.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think could be trimmed to ensure that the city's coffers are not depleted in the next couple of years?

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 **310-573-8354**.



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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In and out of Ruby's mind

RUBY WAX MAY BE OUT OF HER MIND, but she makes a good point with a lot of humor.

Now onstage at The Edye, Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center's intimate performance space adjacent to the Broad Stage, "Ruby Wax is Out of Her Mind" is wickedly funny about her bouts of depression, now medically controlled ("without chemicals I wouldn't be vertical"), which have repeatedly landed her in institutions for treatment. And institutions were the first place she performed the show, which she turned into a hit at the 2011 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and has developed into the tale she tells here.

In England, where the American-born British TV celebrity lives, mental illness is a silent epidemic. "One in four," she tells us early in her one-woman show, will be afflicted with mental illness of one kind or another, but absolutely no one talks about it. England, after all, is where she went to "to get away from the crazy," so when she's been sleeping for days to avoid the troubling "dark thoughts," her "uber-polite U.K. friends" can only comfort her by saying, "Perk up."

Asked whether she would allow her photo to be taken for what she later discovered was a major British awareness campaign, she became "literally the poster girl" of that campaign, whose tagline was "This is the face of mental illness." Confronted by the posters plastered throughout the Underground (London's train transport system), she was gobsmacked to see herself so publicly outed. So, she says, she decided to pretend they were publicity posters for the show she now performs.

She takes us on an abbreviated journey through her life, coming from being "the runt of the litter" ignored by everyone, and moving to England where she joined the Royal Shakespeare Company and later became a TV star. She gives us a very funny easel-pad tour through "the three human brains" to explain how the impulses of early mental evolution conflict with the challenges of modern life, for which "there's no instruction manual."

Wax has gone on to find something resembling that manual: she received a degree from Oxford University in cognitive therapy which, in conversation with the audience after the show, she says kept her focused and gives her means to control her condition. Mental illness, she says, "is like herpes; you don't always have it."

There are only four performances left, Thursday through Sunday. Call (310) 434-3200; more info at: http://thebroadstage.com/.



WAX

IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Among the thoughts careening through my brain at the overwhelming visual experience known as Art Los Angeles Contemporary at The Barker Hangar, I wondered whether galleries selling art are trying to set trends, follow them or simply want to show us what they love and think will be timeless.

To my eye there's a great deal of derivative work: the Ed Ruscha look-alike text pieces; the faux Basquiat guerilla-style graffiti art; the neo-abstracts that remind us of prior superior works of the genre.

But my eyes will always be drawn to what they love and I found several riveting examples.

Images infused with influences from around the globe marked the dramatic graphic works offered by Tracy Williams' New York gallery. Gorgeous large handmade paper sheets painted in starkly vibrant patterns calling to mind native American art were created by Pakistani-born, American-raised artist Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz. Equally appealing, the small works by her husband, Murad Khan Mumtaz, on the opposite wall include cleverly illustrated dollar bills juxtaposing U.S. icons and Middle-Eastern symbols. He also paints fantasy scenes that are hauntingly reminiscent of a place that does not exist.

From La Jolla, the Quint Gallery showcased a powerful work by Adam Belt, "Through the Looking Glass: Hubble 2012." This is a simulacrum of the telescope embedded directly in the wall, and we look from the perspective of the lens into space, with a mystical greenish glow coming from its depths.

My favorite discovery, Lucia Koch, is a Brazilian artist whose work will be highlighted in May at Santa Monica's Christopher Grimes Gallery. Walk into this massive wall-sized work; you think you're standing inside a simple, tranquil architectural space in beautiful earth tones with a view of greenery through a skylight.

In reality this is a massive multi-panel photograph shot looking down into the inside of a rice box, and the skylight is the place where the box's see-through plastic would be.

It is hard to describe the complete feeling of calm and comfort this work invoked; but the idea is just brilliant. I will be first in line for the gallery show in May, which will also feature a site-specific work by the artist.

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for National Public Radio and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



LIFE OF PI

Life's a journey, so enjoy the ride

IF YOU LIVE IN A CITY LIKE SANTA Monica that showcases art films, independent productions and documentaries, you are very fortunate indeed.

If you do, I would encourage you to find a feature film called "56 Up" (playing at the Laemmle Theaters). It is a fascinating documentary that follows the lives of 14 diverse children from all over England, beginning in 1964, when they were 7 years old, and revisiting them every seven years.

Now 56, the "children" can look back on their lives and their accomplishments and, surprisingly, their disappointments with an equanimity which appears to come with age.

But it wasn't always so. In the beginning they were a bouncy lot, filled with opinions, judgments, and childhood dreams. At 14 they were beginning to question their convictions and revising their plans for the future. By 21 their lives had begun to fall into place, and by 28 most of them were married and many had children of their own.

By 35 several of them were divorced.

At 42 and 49 they had resigned themselves to their lives and, ironically, the more successful of them had some regrets and unfulfilled dreams, while the less affluent and successful appeared more accepting of their lot.

Contentment seemed to be the prevailing mood at 56, although by this time, having been filmed over nearly half a century, and having become minor "celebrities" in England, they were aware of the limits of their portrayals and their roles as "representative Brits."

Michael Apted, who created the series for television in Britain and released it as a series of films in the U.S., has done a brilliant job of reprising each of their life stories with warmth and generosity, giving us a glimpse of the changes, physical as well as emotional, that they underwent over the years and reminding us once again who they were at each phase of their lives.

It's a moving documentary that touches everyone who watches it, inviting us to take stock of our own lives, and reminding us, inevitably, that there but for the grace of God.

GET A PIECE OF PI

I couldn't get through the book, so now I feel the need to express my apologies to its author, Yann Martel. The film made of his novel, "Life of Pi," is one of the most exquisite films I have ever seen. It has received rave reviews from everyone (Newsweek called it "stunning"), but I had to add my overwhelming reactions to this extraordinary film.

Each frame is visually gorgeous and emotionally provocative. India looks like India — swarming with color. The ocean, even at its most fiendish, is extravagantly blue. When the sun comes out, it blinds you. And the nighttime sky, filled with stars, is as you remember it from your childhood.

Not that director Ang Lee needs to have his genius reconfirmed, but this fantastical picture is bound to be remembered as one of his major masterpieces.

I sat enthralled as we journeyed through Pi's childhood and his engagement with the tiger in his father's zoo. I admired the way he earned his fellow students' respect by filling up a room full of blackboards with the endless numbers that make up pi. (Does anyone know those numbers any further than 3.1415?)

And when he becomes the sole survivor of a catastrophic shipwreck and sails for harrowing months across the Pacific with only a tiger for company, you become as parched and debilitated as he.

The glistening scenes underwater. The variety of quirky animals. The flying fish and the flying birds. And the virtuoso performance of Suraj Sharma as he lives this story.

I usually have mixed feelings about 3-D movies because the directors can't resist the gimmickry and it's often distracting. But "Life of Pi" is 3-D at its very best and delightfully integrated into the story.

It's so hard to believe that the tiger, Richard Parker, is only real some of the time. But I'll bet you won't be able to tell when he's real and when he's computer-generated! The computer work alone took a year, and 14,000 people were engaged in the final production.

This is a film not to be missed. And to all the people who worked on it, one can only say "Namaste," or, "I bow to the divine in you."

The "Life of Pi" is playing now at the AMC Santa Monica 7 and will be screened at the Aero Theatre on Friday, Feb. 1. It was a nominee for Best Picture at the Golden Globe Awards and is currently a nominee in that same category for an Oscar.

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



PATH
FROM PAGE 1

Pictoral signs will point the way for pedestrians and cyclists when the path transitions from one configuration to another.

It's important to use those kinds of signs to communicate the idea to tourists and other users who may not speak English, Meister said.

"People get really confused by the changing conditions," Meister said. "The purpose is to guide the users to be where they ought to be."

That's a source of frustration on the bike path, which attracts walkers because it crosses through the sand in some sections where the pedestrian path is further east, and not as convenient for those looking for a respite from walking in the sand.

It can be a dangerous situation that pits quickly-moving bicyclists against pedestrians in a confrontation where nobody wins.

While the bicycle versus pedestrian dynamic on Santa Monica's portion of the bicycle path isn't quite as bad as in Venice, it's still annoying, said Jeff Feazell, 31, of West L.A.

Feazell works at the Santa Monica Bike Center located in the parking structure at Colorado Avenue and Second Street. He bikes there every day.

"I've had to swerve around people. If the city can afford to put in a walking lane for pedestrians, that's great. I think it's better to address this problem now than to wait for a serious incident to occur," Feazell said.

Even irregular users of the path have taken notice.

Chris Lee, 44, of Rhode Island, is in Santa Monica on a business trip. He rented a bicycle rather than getting a car, and has taken it out on the beach bike path.

"Although I haven't had any problems with pedestrians getting in my way, I have noticed many signs asking for pedestrians to not be on the bike path, and I've also noticed that many of them still walk on it," Lee said.

The City Council approved $362,481 for the project in a consent agenda item in November. The contract for the project went to Sterndahl Enterprises, Inc. after a different company already doing work on the nearby beach parking lot turned in a more expensive bid.

The work is supposed to take 30 days, Meister said.

"Hopefully, it will go fast enough that people will see the differences pretty soon," Meister said.

City Hall is also working on a map that shows where bicyclists and pedestrians are allowed along the length of Santa Monica's section of the beach bike path.



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

LOOK BOTH WAYS: **A cyclist rides past a recently painted intersection on the Beach Bike Path.**

ashley@smdp.com

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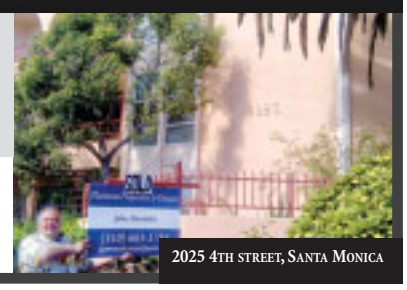
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REALLY CLEANING UP

Photo courtesy of Max Bautista

Students from Littlerock High School in the Antelope Valley area display two sections of a $100 bill found Wednesday afternoon at a Heal the Bay-sponsored beach cleanup north of the Santa Monica Pier. After discovering the first half, the teens quickly worked together to comb the sand and find the second half with matching serial numbers. The students got to keep the $100 bill, which marks the largest amount of currency found at a Heal the Bay cleanup.

COURT
FROM PAGE 3

perform morgue cleanup duty in another case.

Sautner warned Lohan on Wednesday that she could face jail time for a possible probation violation, even if she is acquitted of the counts filed after her sports car crashed into a dump truck.

Lohan was on probation at the time of the wreck and could be sentenced to 245 days in jail if a judge determines her actions in the crash were a violation of her sentence in a theft case.

Sautner, however, won't be handling Lohan's upcoming case. The judge said she is retiring before the next court hearing on March 1. Lohan will not be required to attend that hearing.

Lohan's new trial date is March 18.

Lohan was accompanied to court by her new attorney, Mark Heller, who said he wanted to get the case resolved as quickly as possible.

The judge quipped that it would only solve her legal trouble "on this coast" — a reference to her two arrests in New York since being released from supervised probation in Los Angeles in March. No charges have been filed in those cases.

Heller, a New York attorney, was granted permission to handle Lohan's California cases. He said he was meeting with prosecutors to determine how to proceed.



LOHAN

Sautner gave him more time by delaying the trial but said, "This is not the most complex case we've ever seen."

Lohan appeared in court in a black dress. She spoke only briefly to confirm that she was switching attorneys and no longer wanted her longtime lawyer, Shawn Holley, to represent her.

editor@smdp.com

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

THE CREW: **Friends enjoy crossword puzzles and bagels with Glyn Judson (right) and his golden retriever guide dog Fred at New York Bagel and Deli on Wilshire Boulevard on Monday morning.**

DONATE
FROM PAGE 1

"As a mom-and-pop you really grow close to your customers," said Gruntz, who took over the bagel shop in 1998. "When I got married all the customers had a catered event for us. When one got sick with cancer, others took care of them because they had no family in town. It's really just a great community, and we want to give something back."

Judson, 69, a retired photographer for Hughes Aircraft Co., where he first heard about Guide Dogs of America, is touched by the offer to donate.

"It was so sweet of Brian and his wife to do this. They're very good folks," said the jovial Judson, who has been raising guide dogs for the last decade. "I'm very touched by his generous offer."

Judson said he and his group of friends, whom he affectionately calls "a bunch of gray-haired old farts," meet practically every morning at the bagel shop for breakfast and to talk about current events, lament losses and share stories. Of course Fred is never far behind. As a guide-dog caregiver, it is Judson's job to introduce the pooches to the world around them. That means taking them to restaurants, doctor appointments or grocery stores.

"If I get a root canal, he goes with me," Judson said. He has helped train nine dogs. He said it can be difficult to see them go, but he knows they'll be serving a purpose. It's not long before he welcomes another pup into his home.

"You prepare them as best you can, and then it starts all over again with pee on the kitchen floor," he said with a laugh.

Donating money to Guide Dogs of America is important, officials with the nonprofit said, because it receives no funding from the federal, state or local governments. It's all about individuals and businesses. That's how Judson found out about the organization. As an employee of Hughes, every year he and others would opt into the company's Give Once (GO) Club, a philanthropic arm.

"I thought, I like dogs, I'll donate to them."

And he's been giving ever since.

Judson encourages people to stop by New York Bagel in the first week of February, grab some breakfast and say hello to Fred and the rest of Judson's pals.

If you go

New York Bagel & Deli
2216 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, Calif.
90403
(310) 828-3228

kevinh@smdp.com



SMO
FROM PAGE 1

Although the tests have won praise from neighbors who are notoriously difficult to please when it comes to the Santa Monica Airport, actually getting aircraft owners to use the mufflers may present a challenge.

The devices cost roughly $5,000 to install, a prohibitive cost for some airplane owners and flight schools, which often keep Cessna 172s in their arsenal of practice planes.

In an effort to sweeten the deal for aircraft owners, commissioners got the ball rolling Monday on a recommendation to the City Council to pair the mufflers with an ongoing effort to raise landing fees at the airport.

Right now, only aircraft that fly into SMO, and are not based there, have to pay a fee of $2.07 per 1,000 pounds of weight that hits the tarmac. Officials initiated a process in July 2011 to study those fees and likely raise them in order to cover costs in the airport budget that historically has required a subsidy from the general fund, which pays for public safety, roads, libraries and other essential city services.

If that fee study reveals a need to raise rates and start charging pilots with planes based at SMO for their landings, something commissioners and the public have referenced often, City Hall may have leverage to encourage airplane owners to purchase the mufflers by providing breaks on landing fees.

Owners could then recoup their costs in mere months depending how many times they land aircraft, said John Fairweather, founder of Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic, or CASMAT.

The addition of the after-market muffler could also increase the overall value of the airplane, he suggested.

"This is an historic moment that we have here," Fairweather said.

European airports have had similar programs in place for years, said Stelios Makrides, operations manager at SMO.

If a few decibels doesn't sound like much to make a fuss about, think again.

Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale, meaning that an increase of 10 decibels equates to a doubling in the level of noise. That means the muffler is, in some cases, cutting noise emitted by airplanes almost in half, as well as reducing the length of time that people hear it.

The results intrigued commissioners, who have seen other measures to reduce impacts of the airport on the community shot out of the sky by the very people they were meant to help.

The most recent example, a staff proposal to subsidize flight schools to fly to other airports to do training exercises that offend residents of Santa Monica and West L.A., met resistance from those who opposed the idea of lining aircraft owners' pockets with tax dollars.

Deputy City Attorney Ivan Campbell was unable to give a full legal opinion without the say-so of the City Attorney's Office, but said that the concept of a break in fees to encourage the use of the mufflers didn't seem to violate federal or local policies.

"The city has wide latitude in constructing its fees," he said.

Still, there is some concern that the proposal would discriminate against other kinds of planes for which no such muffler exists and would have no other option but to pay the landing fee.

Furthermore, the fees would have to see a fairly hefty increase and be applied to those who call Santa Monica home base or the "incentive" would be nearly meaningless — many of the small planes weigh roughly 2,000 pounds, meaning they would pay just over $4 to land at the current rates.

Officials will bring proposed landing fees back to the commission in February before they go to the City Council in April, said Martin Pastucha, director of Public Works.

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GAME
FROM PAGE 3

by securing the tip off. In a brilliant display of defense, Katrina Balatico grabbed a steal and drained a three-pointer, recording the first score of the game.

Following Balatico's shot, Briana Harris made a trip to the free throw line, converting one of her two shots. These would be the only points the Mariners would score in the first quarter, and the only time St. Monica would hold the lead.

Harris had a standout performance, recording 28 points, more than half of the team's total. She was the only Mariner to reach double figures.

"We just fought back, we should have fought harder," Harris said.

After weathering the initial burst, St. Paul would make a 7-0 run to take the lead, with the score 4-7 ending the first quarter. St. Monica would trail the majority of the first half, with a half-time score of 13-24.

Feeling a sense of urgency, the Mariners ramped up their intensity in the fourth quarter making an 11-2 run in an effort to snatch a victory.

Harris put St. Monica in striking distance with a clutch three-pointer to tie the game at 44-44, with approximately three minutes remaining.

The perimeter shooting of St. Paul would prove too much for St. Monica, as Priscilla Hidalgo made a crucial three-pointer. This shot would prove to be the dagger for the Mariners. Hidalgo had 14 points on the night.

With the clock winding down, St. Monica struggled at the free throw line. The Mariners missed 13 free throws throughout the game. "We gotta do a better job at making free throws," said John Skinner, St. Monica's head coach.

"This was a big game and a learning experience," said Skinner. "She [Harris] fought through some tough calls. I'm proud of her and her leadership."

"My offense wasn't there so I had to step up my defense," said Balatico, who had 9 points.

"She's been one of our most consistent players and we'll need her if we're gonna make the playoffs," Skinner said.

St. Monica's next game is scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. at Mary Star of the Sea.

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Economy shifted into reverse in late '12

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The U.S. economy shrank unexpectedly late last year, a reminder of the biggest threat it faces in 2013: sharp government spending cuts and prolonged political budget fights.

A plunge in defense spending helped push the economy into negative territory for the first time since mid-2009. The contraction in the October-December quarter came in at an annual rate of 0.1 percent, according to a government estimate released Wednesday.

The likelihood of another recession appears remote. The economy is forecast to grow around 2 percent this year as strength in areas like housing and auto sales could partly offset government cutbacks. Investors appear unfazed, too: The stock market has surged more than 6 percent this year and is nearing an all-time high.

But economists warn that further spending cuts would weaken a still-precarious recovery.

"One way or the other, government is going to be a constraint on growth," said James Marple, senior economist at TD Bank.

Deep spending cuts in defense and domestic programs are set to kick in March 1. Most of the federal government could shut down March 27 if Congress doesn't extend a temporary measure authorizing funding. And the nation's borrowing limit must be raised by May 18 or the government could default on its debts.

A sputtering economy could weaken President Barack Obama's hand in dealing with Congress and complicate his efforts to push forward on other domestic priorities, such as immigration reform and gun control.

The Commerce Department said the economy shrank last quarter mainly because companies restocked at a slower rate and the government slashed defense spending. Exports also fell.

Economists say some of those factors could prove temporary. Still, the slowdown from the 3.1 percent annual growth rate in the July-September quarter was unexpectedly sharp.

For all of 2012, the economy expanded 2.2 percent, better than 2011's growth of 1.8 percent.

The Federal Reserve referred to the fourth-quarter slowdown Wednesday in a statement after a policy meeting. The U.S. economy appears to have "paused in recent months," the Fed said, mainly because of temporary factors. The central bank said growth would likely resume this year. But it reaffirmed its commitment to stimulating the economy by keeping borrowing costs low for the foreseeable future.

Looming government cutbacks may already have hindered the economy: Concern over the year-end fiscal cliff could be one reason businesses slowed their restocking. And defense spending may have fallen as agencies prepared for automatic spending cuts. Congress managed to avert the fiscal cliff but only postponed the start of automatic spending cuts until March 1.

The drag from the government comes as private-sector growth is picking up. Consumers and businesses spent more in the October-December quarter compared with the July-September quarter.

Consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of the economy, added 1.5 percentage points to growth last quarter. Business investment and home construction contributed, too.

But government spending cuts and slower company restocking, which can fluctuate sharply, subtracted a combined 2.6 percentage points from GDP. And a drop in exports subtracted an additional quarter-point.

Defense spending plummeted more than 22 percent, the steepest drop in more than 40 years. Nearly all those cuts were in services, such as weapons maintenance and personnel support. The Defense Department said spending fell in part because of the drawdown in forces from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The deal Congress reached with the White House to avoid the fiscal cliff delayed spending cuts of about $85 billion. Yet those cuts appear likely to take place eventually. Congressional Republicans see them as a way to force Democrats to make budget concessions.

At the same time, Americans are coming to grips with an increase in Social Security taxes that is leaving them with less take-home pay. The lower pay could cut roughly a half-point off growth this year, economists say. The automatic spending cuts, if they take place, could subtract an additional 0.3 percentage point, Marple estimates.

Everything from the National Park Service to federal law enforcement to health research would be affected. Social Security and veterans' benefits, along with other entitlement programs, would be exempt.

Federal employees would face temporary layoffs, likely causing contracts to be delayed or canceled. Medicare providers like doctors and hospitals would have to absorb a cut in their payments. Job losses at some hospitals might follow.

And if the two parties don't agree on an extension of government funding by March 27, a shutdown could follow. Each week of a shutdown would slice a quarter-point from growth, Marple said.

Weaker growth could discourage companies from hiring, potentially raising the unemployment rate. The rate has been a painfully high 7.8 percent for two months. On Friday, the government will release the January jobs report.

Some trends, however, will offset the drag from reduced government spending. Exports, which dropped in the last quarter by the most in nearly four years, should rebound this year. China's economy is picking up after a brief slowdown and could help spur U.S. exports.

And home builders are stepping up construction to meet rising demand. That should create more construction jobs.

Home prices are rising steadily. That tends to make Americans feel wealthier and more likely to spend. Housing could add as much as 1 percentage point to economic growth this year.

In addition, auto sales reached their highest level in five years in 2012. That's boosting production and hiring at U.S. automakers and their suppliers.

The approach of the fiscal cliff last year had one benefit: Incomes jumped in the fourth quarter as companies paid out nearly $40 billion in special dividends and bonuses ahead of expected tax increases.

After-tax income, adjusted for inflation, rose 6.8 percent, the most in nearly four years. But incomes may fall in the current quarter because of the end of the Social Security tax cut.

Superstorm Sandy also probably dragged down growth by closing factories, disrupting shipping and shutting down retail stores. While the department did not specify Sandy's effect on GDP, it estimated that Sandy destroyed about $36 billion in private property and $8.6 billion in government property.





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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **55.4°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal WNW swell eases. Mostly shows for standout spots with 1-3' surf there

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small WNW swell leftovers; possible long period NW swell forerunners late

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high occ. 4ft
Long period WNW builds in; larger sets possible for standout spots

WIND / WEATHER

High pressure will migrate over the western US during the next couple days. This will set up favorable local wind, as well as a warming trend over the next few days. For Wednesday through the end of the work week we will see light and variable to light NE/offshore flow in the morning, shift light to moderate onshore WNW in the afternoon. Similar conditions look likely as we head into the weekend at this time.

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 23, 2013**

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- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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 Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	A
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	F
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	C
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point conc).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 18948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	B
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	B
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+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	B	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	C
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	D
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	C
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	A
North Winchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CSEW jetty).	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
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'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.

Crabtree caps career year with Super Bowl berth

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS Michael Crabtree refused to remove the black 49ers beanie and reveal his hair. Nope, not going to do it.

Crabtree is trying to maintain every possible element of surprise he might still have left heading into his first Super Bowl — and will certainly take any advantage he can get this week.

Not that his 'do has much to do with it. But this is Crabtree, quirky and superstitious, a guy still trying to shed that diva label he picked up as a college star at Texas Tech. It's something his San Francisco teammates are quick to dismiss, insisting that's not the case.

The dynamic, play-making wide receiver will be a primary focus for the Baltimore Ravens' secondary come Sunday at the Superdome. Crabtree is as dangerous after the catch as he is dodging defensive backs to make acrobatic catches or finding ways to keep both feet inbounds while tiptoeing the sideline.

"A lot of coaches can coach a route and how you catch the ball, but after the catch it's really all you," he said. "That's what makes you special."

No matter his catches or number of chances this weekend, Crabtree cares about only one thing: capping his career season with a championship ring. The fanfare and media frenzy, he'll take it or leave it (his voice was hoarse Wednesday from all the talking). He is still coming to terms with being a public figure, and the constant scrutiny that goes along with it.

Just last week, Crabtree learned he wouldn't face charges for an alleged sexual assault in a hotel after the 49ers beat Green Bay in the NFC divisional playoffs on Jan. 12. The San Francisco district attorney announced Friday there would be no charges "at this time." The wideout was never arrested or detained, and police said he cooperated with the investigation.

"I was disappointed in the allegations," Crabtree said Wednesday morning, before heading off to practice at Saints headquarters. "It's over now."

Crabtree still carries a chip on his shoulder and is out to prove he should have been drafted higher. He held out for 71 days as a rookie before signing in October 2009 and becoming a starter less than three weeks later. He wouldn't change much about how things have gone so early in his NFL career.

After all, had he gone to the Oakland Raiders with the seventh overall pick that year — they selected Darrius Heyward-Bey instead — Crabtree would be watching after yet another losing season in the East Bay. The Niners grabbed him three spots later at No. 10.

"I watched him as a youngster, I watched him in college," Baltimore receiver Jacoby Jones said. "When he came out and he held out, I was interested to see what he was going to do. He came in and I was like, 'This kid can play.' I like his game. He's got great hands, great route runner."

Colin Kaepernick sure thinks so. Crabtree quickly became the second-year quarterback's top target after he took over the starting job under center midseason.

Kaepernick's passes come so fast they require extra concentration and "you've just got to focus at all times on his ball."

"He does a lot of things well and he's a very physical receiver," Kaepernick said. "He wants to get in the end zone every time he touches the ball. As a quarterback, that's something you love."

Crabtree receives guidance from a couple of other characters who have dazzled at his position — teammate Randy Moss and former 49ers star Terrell Owens. Moss tells Crabtree like it is, on the field and off, while T.O. offers advice from time to time via text messages.

They've got a few things in common, too.

In the season finale against Arizona on Dec. 30, Crabtree caught two touchdowns and finished with a career-high 172 yards on eight receptions. It was the best outing by a 49ers receiver since Owens' 166-yard performance in November 2002. Crabtree, finally healthy for a full season after a series of injuries in his first three seasons, also became San Francisco's first 1,000-yard receiver since T.O. in '03.

If he and Kaepernick can keep their good thing going, Crabtree certainly has a chance at a championship.

"He's a great runner and he has great ability to make people miss," Ravens cornerback Cary Williams said. "He's elusive. He's a guy that can put his foot in the ground and move and get to a different direction. He's having a great year and he's done some great things for that team. We look forward to the challenge out there of going against him."

Crabtree keeps defenders guessing on every down with his big-play potential all over the field.

He finished with career highs of nine touchdowns, 85 catches and 1,105 yards this season. That included five TDs and 30 catches on third-down plays — both stats among the top five in the NFL.

Teammate Frank Gore describes his recent play as the "Texas Tech Crabtree."

Crabtree took it personally when the 49ers failed to reach last year's Super Bowl after a 20-17 overtime loss to the eventual champion New York Giants. San Francisco's receiving corps managed one catch for 3 yards that game. It was his reception, but hardly enough.

"I can't really pinpoint the things that Crabtree has picked up," Moss said. "I just told him when I first came I really wanted to work, I just wanted to be out there with him to make plays for him. Michael Crabtree hasn't let me down, he really hasn't. Everybody has little stumbles in the road. It's great to see a person to overcome so many things. His whole 49ers career he's had some stumbles and hasn't been able to complete a whole season, but to go out there and make the plays he's made this year, my hat's off to him."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Invisible War (NR) 1hr 33min
7:30pm
Discussion following with director Kirby Dick and producer Amy Ziering.

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
2:15pm, 6:00pm, 9:45pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:05pm

Haunted House (R) 1hr 20min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:45pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (PG-13) 1hr 28min
11:25am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:50pm, 9:30pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:15am, 2:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:35pm

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:35pm

Gangster Squad (R) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Broken City (R) 1hr 49min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

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

Argo (R) 2hrs
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Impossible (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Rust & Bone (De rouille et d'os) (R) 1hr 55min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Quartet (PG-13) 1hr 37min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Last Stand (R) 1hr 47min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

Movie 43 (R) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:20pm

Parker (R) 1hr 58min
11:10am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:10am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Mama (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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

Join friends tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The unexpected occurs, and you seem to be the source of the energy. A surprise or change of plans is likely. You will be unusually fortunate through communication. Be careful when spending, as you tend to justify the most extravagant choice. Tonight: Hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Allow greater creativity and more fun into your life. You could be upset by an event or an unexpected situation. For some of you, relief might come in the form of a walk; for others, it could be snacking that soothes you. Tonight: Do something just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Add more lightness to the moment, especially in difficult or uncomfortable situations. Initially, others might react strangely. Know that humor brings a new perspective. Use care with money and a partner. Tonight: Live in the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay direct when dealing with a loved one. A situation might cause a conflict between two important areas of your life. If you follow your sixth sense, an innate resourcefulness will emerge. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Make it to an important meeting, even if it means canceling or rescheduling other plans. The right words work wonders. Share more of your thoughts, especially with a group that has goals similar to yours. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Make an extra effort to let someone know your boundaries and what you will and will not do. Creating greater clarity between the two of you will allow more easiness. Accept a compliment in the vein in which it was given. Tonight: Meet up with friends for dinner or a movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ What was hard, now is easy. Even if you are dealing with someone who has a combustible personality, do not let his or her reaction throw you. Tonight: Your wish is someone's command!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You will want to take some time to sort through what is going on with you, whether it is behind the scenes or with a key person. You have not slowed down enough to assess where your reactions are coming from. Tonight: Not to be found.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. The unexpected occurs when dealing with a child or loved one. Someone in your immediate circle has good news that could make you smile. Tonight: Join friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have what it takes, though often you are your own biggest challenge. How you handle a personal matter could change dramatically and cause unexpected developments. You want control, but so does everyone else. Honor your limits. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Life presents many options, and you see them clearly. The question remains: Which path is the best one for you? As you evaluate the possibilities, share them with a friend or an associate who will challenge you if he or she thinks you are off base. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

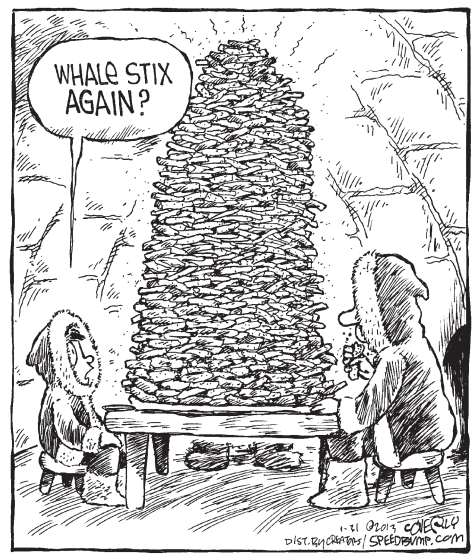
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your efforts have paid off in the past. Once more, your ability to work long and hard hours emerges, which makes you endearing to a special group. A meeting could inform you that there are changes in the works. Use your antennae to zero in on them. Tonight: In the game of life.

Happy birthday

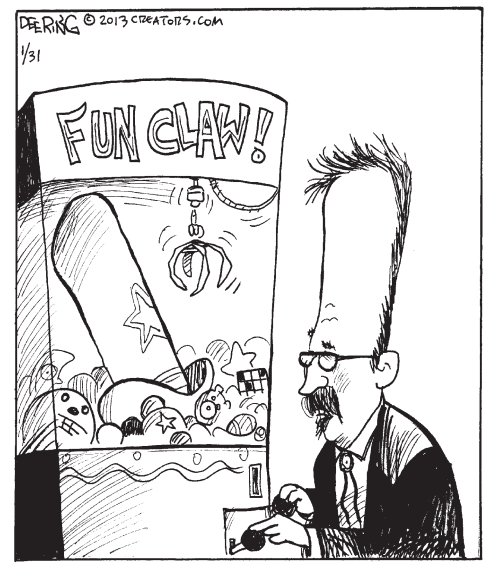
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you will want to detach, especially when you are triggered. You also will make more of an effort to look at the big picture. Once you master this skill, you'll feel as though you're more in control of your life. Travel, education and/or a foreigner might play a role in the next 12 months. If you are single, you could become involved with someone very different and creative. This person could be instrumental in your opening up to new ideas and different lifestyles. If you are attached, develop a new hobby together, or plan that long-desired trip. LIBRA knows how to draw you in.

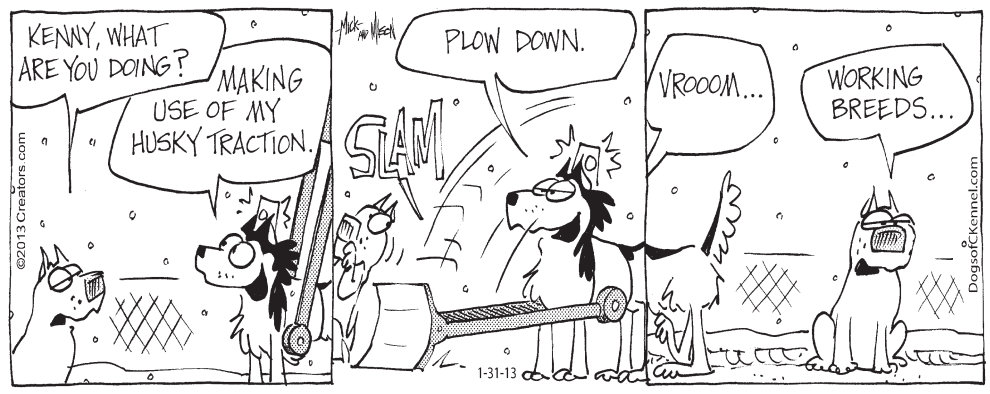
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



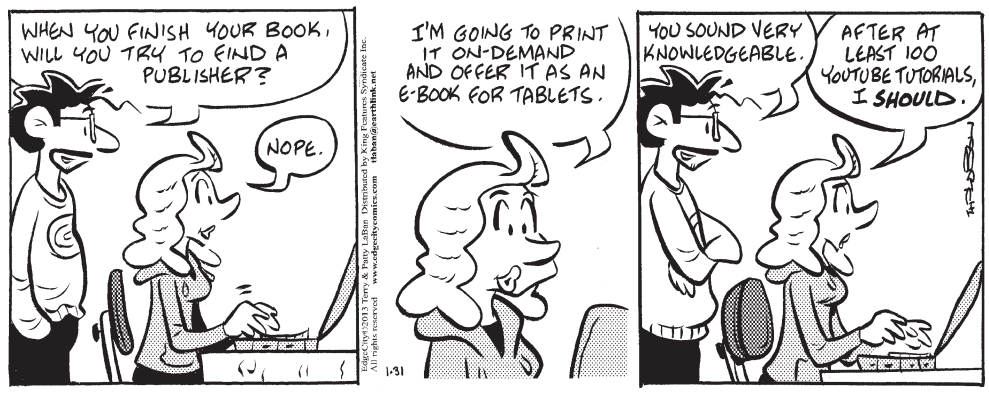
Strange Brew
By John Deering



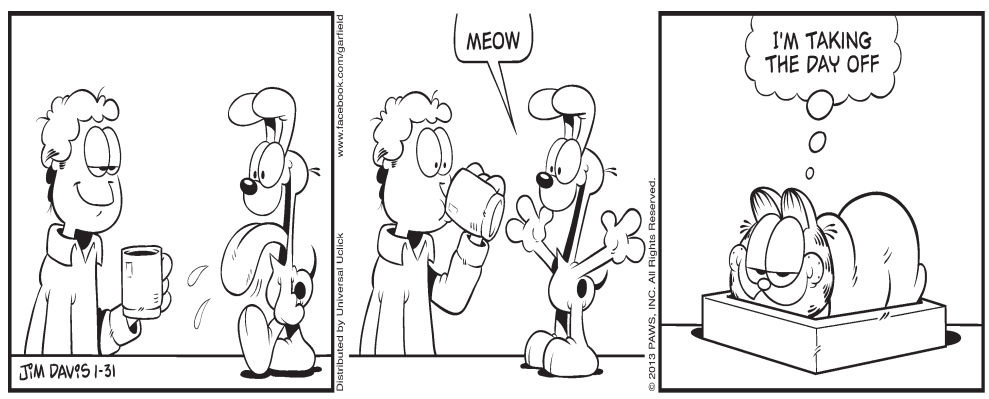
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



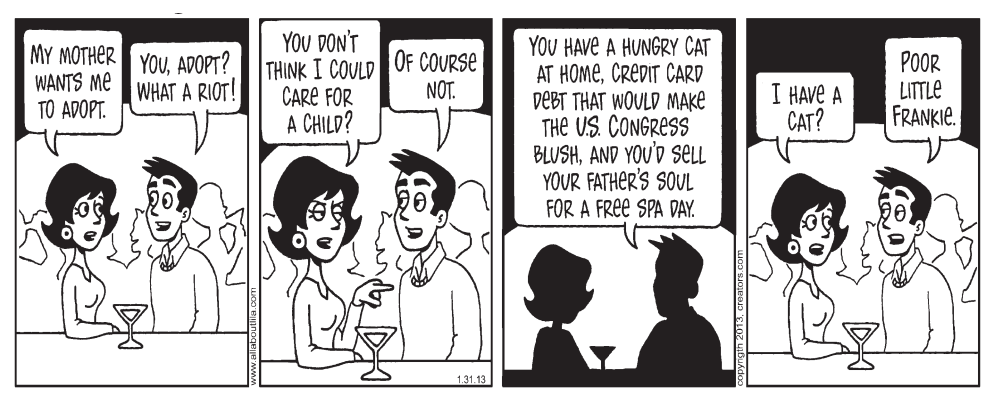
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Brenden McEneaney correctly identified this photo of the entrance to Whole Foods on Fifth Street and Wilshire Boulevard. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check out Friday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fight memento
5 URL part
10 High boot
12 Scout leader?
13 Start of a Caesar quote
14 Player
15 Track trip
16 They're up for discussion
18 Hand soother
20 Once called
21 Vicinity
23 Tax agcy.
24 A lot
26 They may clash
28 Harry's friend
29 The Emerald Isle
31 Memorable time
32 Idea
36 Professor Snape's class
39 Wish undone
40 Without break
41 Give addresses
43 Declare
44 Like ears and brains
45 Bullfight bulls
46 Chestnut coats

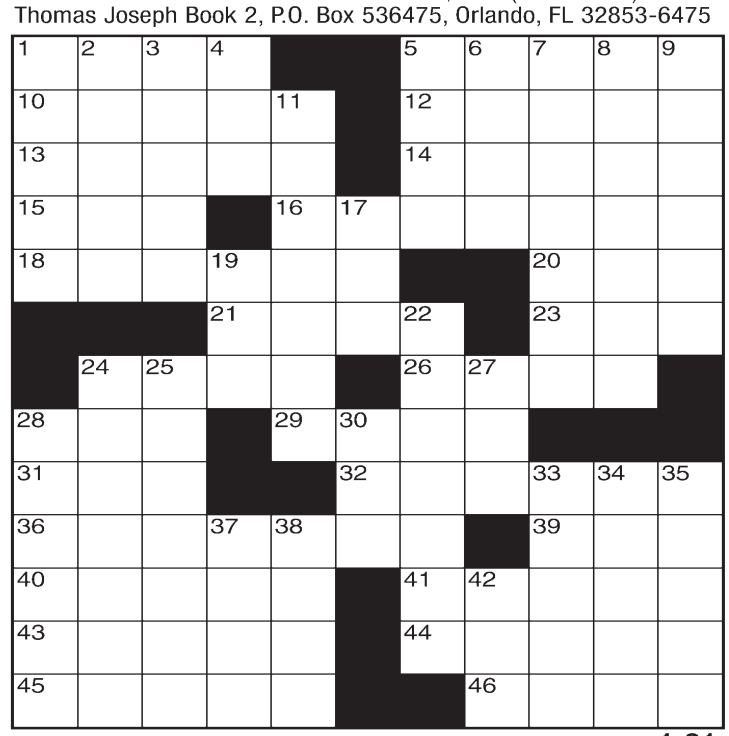
DOWN

1 Imbibe heavily
2 Bean-bearing tree
3 Modify
4 "Stand" band
5 Sports figure
6 Places
7 Shakespeare's merchant
8 High group
9 Race runners
11 Regret
17 Early hour
19 Writer Fleming
22 Can type
24 Raptors' home
25 Carousing
27 Understand
28 Correct an online comment
30 Roadhouse
33 Pitcher Hideki
34 External
35 Can't live without
37 Fond of
38 Jonson works
42 Hold up

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

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



1-31



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Women's love-hate affairs with their shoes is the stuff of legends, but a Memphis, Tenn., podiatrist told Fox News in November of a recent increase in women deciding on what might be called the nuclear option -- "stiletto surgery" -- for horribly uncomfortable, yet irresistible, shoes. Either the shoe must go or the foot, and more are choosing the latter (or at least the pinky), to be removed or reduced by surgery. The Memphis doctor said he sees as many as 30 patients a month interested in the procedure.

■ Once again, a familiar, vexing legal question was tackled in New York City in December when Dr. Diana Williamson was sentenced to three years in prison after a conviction for defrauding Medicaid of $300,000 by writing bogus prescriptions. She had vigorously asserted "her" innocence, in that, she said, only one of her multiple personalities (uncontrollable by the others) had committed the crime. (The most memorable News of the Weird "dissociative identity disorder" case happened in 2002, when a Montana judge favored a woman by ruling that her spontaneous murder confession as one identity was inadmissible because one of her other identities had already "lawyered up" after a "Miranda" warning.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1900 - Datu Muhammad Salleh is assassinated in Kampung Teboh, Tambunan, ending the Mat Salleh Rebellion

1915 - World War I: Germany is the first to make large-scale use of poison gas in warfare in the Battle of Bolimów against Russia.

1918 - A series of accidental collisions on a misty Scottish night leads to the loss of two Royal Navy submarines with over a hundred lives, and damage to another five British warships.

WORD UP!

wellaway
\ WEL-uh-WEY \ , interjection;
1.
(Used to express sorrow.)

Santa Monica Daily Press

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From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of late January 2013

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North of Montana	=	$ 5,455,222
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,508,000
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Sunset Park	=	$ 1,289,544
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