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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 72

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

READING THE STARS
SEE PAGE 13

THE HIGHER POWER ISSUE

State of Our Schools shows positives, negatives in district

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK School officials praised hard-working teachers, dedicated parents and a "unique" relationship with City Hall for the continued success of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District despite budgetary pressures from the state and other outside forces.

A record number of parents and community notables turned out for the third annual State of Our Schools event, which highlighted improvements in test scores and student preparedness alongside a general uncertainty about the district's financial future.

According to numbers provided by Superintendent Sandra Lyon, overall student achievement in the district continues to outpace the state average, with scores consistently on the rise since 2007.

The district also can boast far higher percentages of students passing the high school exit exams and Advanced Placement tests, which are exams given at the end of college-level courses offered in the local high schools.

Last year, 478 attended four-year universities, and 338 graduating seniors went onto

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 7



IN CHARACTER

Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

Performers from Cirque du Soleil's 'OVO' took part in an event announcing a partnership between the troupe and the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium on Wednesday at the pier. The educational program offers free admission to the aquarium every Sunday in February.

Yoga mat maker pulls design featuring deity

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

COLORADO AVE A Santa Monica-based company that sells custom yoga mats has decided to pull a design which features the Hindu deity Lord Ganesha after receiving a complaint from the president of the Universal Society of Hinduism.

Rajan Zed, a self-proclaimed Hindu statesman based in Nevada, has made it his mission to stop companies from printing images of Hindu gods and goddesses on items like G-strings, flip-flops, and T-shirts for dogs, which he says trivializes the religion.

Zed sent a letter to YogaMatic on Jan. 27 demanding the company, located on Colorado Avenue, to pull the mats featuring Lord Ganesha, a human body with the head of an elephant who represents the power of the supreme being that removes obstacles and ensures success in human endeavors.

Zed recently sent a similar letter to a company in San Mateo, Calif. — CafePress — to stop using the images of Vishnu, Kali, Shiva and other gods on their wares, according to a report in The Daily Journal.

"Lord Ganesha is one of the most highly revered deities," Zed told the Daily Press Tuesday. "We worship our deities and show respect. So to have a yoga mat, what you are doing is you are standing on it, you are putting your feet on it and that is very inappropriate."

Zed further said that such trivialization of Lord Ganesha was disturbing and offensive

SEE YOGA PAGE 9

Settlement talks break down in parking ticket suit

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN A lawsuit claiming that City Hall failed to properly notify people as to why their parking tickets were found to be valid will most likely head to court after settlement negotiations broke down last week.

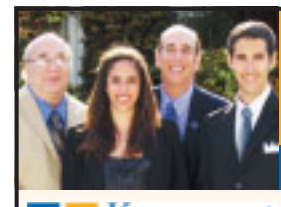
Residents Harriet and Stanley Epstein filed suit against City Hall in June of 2011 claiming that Santa Monica officials violated the California Vehicle Code by sending motorists form letters that essentially consisted of one sentence, providing no substantive answers to arguments made by those fighting a parking ticket.

Now instead of settling the case, the Epsteins want to take it to court, and in turn force City Hall to give refunds to all those

SEE SUIT PAGE 8


Andrew Thurm
COLDWELL BANKER
310.442.1651
AndrewThurm@aol.com

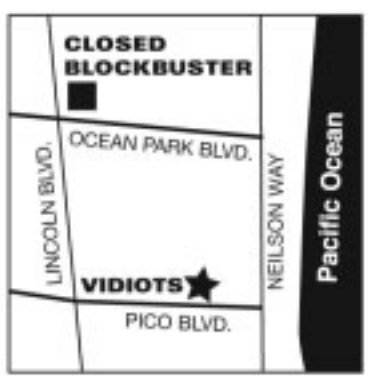
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012

All grown up
Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Actor Barry Livingston started in show business as Ernie on "My Three Sons;" today, he plays a role on "Mad Men." Join him at the Main Library Branch where he discusses his autobiography, "The Importance of Being Ernie," and how he avoided child-star burnout. Cost: Free. For more information, call (310) 458-8635.

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

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

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012

Life's a cabaret
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Café Samo is a cabaret-style show produced annually by the Samohi Choir Program, featuring dozens of student performers who create and produce their own musical acts. There will also be two shows on Saturday, at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively. For information, call (310) 395-3204.

A night of arias
Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., Call for times
A night of popular opera arias and scenes with highlights from the Pacific Opera Project's 2012 season. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

A rose by any other name ...
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., Call for times
Throw away everything you think you know about Shakespeare — and for that matter, about theatre. Join two storytellers, spinning the tale of "Romeo and Juliet." The story's about, well, frankly, teenagers. You know the species. Friday is the production's debut. It will run through Feb. 19. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Donation to support firefighter training

Santa Monica's firefighters will begin making their own training videos thanks to a roughly $5,000 donation from Kessler, a division of HUB International, and the Fireman's Fun Insurance Co.

The grant will help cover the cost of purchasing a new video camera, tripod, wireless microphones, a computer and video editing software, city officials said.

"Firefighters put themselves in danger to protect the city every day," said Santa Monica Fire Deputy Chief Bruce Davis. "It's critical they have the proper training to do their jobs safely. The result is a community whose residents and property are better protected."

The grant is part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments and burn prevention organizations.

Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to more than 1,800 different organizations totaling more than $29 million, city officials said. Independent insurance agencies and brokers that sell Fireman's Fund products, like HUB International, are able to direct these grants to support the fire service.

Through this program, HUB International has directed over $600,000 in grants to fire departments nationwide. This is Kessler's second grant to the Santa Monica Fire Department.

KEVIN HERRERA

DOWNTOWN

CVB offering ambassador program

Having already trained over 2,000 local employees to serve as ambassadors of the city by the sea, the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau is ready to expand the program to other tourist destinations.

Launched in May of 2008, the "I am Santa Monica" program is a partnership with City Hall, Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The free, interactive program consists of a one-hour guided bus tour and a two-hour class focusing on what makes Santa Monica unique while also providing answers to common questions asked by visitors.

Those who go through the program can provide history on some of Santa Monica's landmarks while also informing guests about local laws that may impact their stay, such as the bans on smoking in public spaces.

Now the CVB wants to offer this program to other cities, calling it "I Am Your Destination." The "turnkey" program would focus on promoting knowledge of the particular destination, as well as customer service.

The program's introductory rate was $10,000 for tourism agencies that signed on before than end of 2011, said Kim Baker, vice president of marketing at the CVB.

Newport Beach's tourism arm is the first client to sign on, Baker said. The first effort will be to create a new visitor service training program for the Newport Beach Police Department and the city's lifeguards.

"It's imperative that we provide a program for our hospitality industry that arms our employees with knowledge of their destination so that visitors keep coming back and we are able to provide jobs in our community," said CVB President and CEO Misti Kerns.

Local employees and those who want to gain employment can sign up for the free "I am Santa Monica" program at www.santamonica.com/iam.

KH



GETTING INKED

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Members of the Samohi football team put pen to paper Wednesday on National Signing Day. (R-L) Dylan Muscat (Wyoming), Chad Wheeler (USC), Kori Garcia (Cal Poly), Matthew Schultz (Florida Tech) and Chris Collins (Boise State). The event cementing their college choices was held in the school's College and Career Center.

Bank robberies drop in SoCal

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Bank robberies in Southern California dropped significantly over the past 20 years thanks to better security measures, closer interaction between law enforcement agencies, and more media exposure, authorities said Wednesday.

In addition, bank robberies across the United States steadily declined since 2002, when there were more than 7,700, compared to 4,699 last year.

In Southern California, long considered the nation's bank robbery capital, there were more than 2,600 bank robberies in 1992 compared with just 287 in 2011, according to FBI statistics.

Authorities said the turning point came after an infamous North Hollywood shootout in 1997, when two heavily armed bank robbers fired thousands of shots during a gun battle with police before being killed by officers using service revolvers.

"Its chilling effect created a climate for improved cooperation among law enforcement agencies," said FBI agent Timothy Delaney. "Since that time bank robberies all across the region have decreased every year with very few exceptions."

The decline can also be attributed to better technology involving digital surveillance photos that provide clearer descriptions of thieves.

California led all states in bank robberies last year with 677, followed by New York with 339 and Texas

SEE **ROBBERIES** PAGE 9

Argument turns into shoot-out in Venice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Police say an argument between two men at a Los Angeles barbershop escalated into gunfire, leaving both men wounded.

Shots were heard at about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday inside or outside the Lincoln Boulevard shop in Venice.

Police spokesman Richard French says the men who were arguing were wounded. They were taken to a hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

The nature of the argument isn't known and it's unclear if both men were armed.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dining out is a privilege

Editor:

Three cheers for Lori Emerson's letter ("Leave the kids at home, Letters to the Editor, page 4, Jan. 31). Never have I ever read a letter that hit the nail on the head. I too raised three children, and a meal at a restaurant was a privilege, not a right. If you could not control yourself you didn't get to go out with mom and dad. I have on an occasion talked to the parents of some ill-behaved brats as described in Lori's letter. Most have left the restaurant with some ill will toward me. But to get my peace and quiet, I'll bear it!

Brian Gray
Venice

Show some respect

Editor:

Ms. Emerson,

You are raising a valid issue, no doubt about it ("Leave the kids at home, Letters to the Editor, page 4, Jan. 31).

However, in your quest to demand others to be "respectful" of your dining experience, you have shown how disrespectful you are to others by calling children "brats" multiple times in your statement, talking about "just shutting up," and assuming all parents are "ignorant" and "arrogant" if their children don't behave exactly to your expectations in a public place.

What a shame, as you raise an issue that parents should be more cognizant of. But then again, given your caustic and disrespectful – dare I say "arrogant" statement – your message will probably be lost on others. After all, respect is a two-way street.

R. Lewicki
Santa Monica

Hypocrite in chief

Editor:

Matt Barber's argument in favor of Newt Gingrich ("Fearing Newt Gingrich," Your Column Here, page 5, Jan. 31) ignores many facts (and invents a few others), but most tellingly overlooks the simple fact that Newt and his Republican cronies nearly brought the federal government to a standstill in the late 1990s in an effort to impeach a president for marital infidelity, while Newt himself turns out to have been having a similar affair at the same time. So Matt, we need a grand champion hypocrite as president. Really?

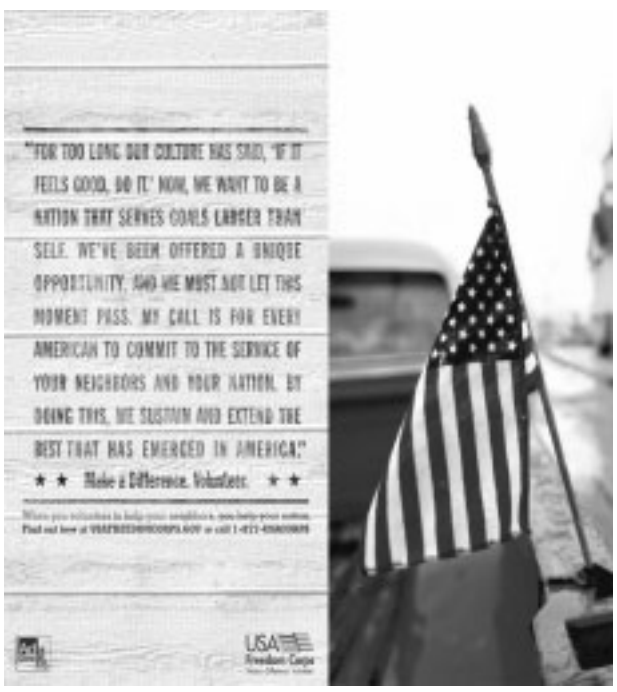
Marc J. Sanschagrin
Santa Monica

It's about time

Editor:

As far as I'm concerned, it's about time for that rusting piece of junk next to the Civic Auditorium to come down ("Chain Reaction faces retirement," page 1, Jan. 31) .

Andy Berman
Santa Monica



Three Innocents Abroad



Charles Andrews — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Life away from home

Editor's note: Longtime Santa Monican Charles Andrews is traveling across Europe in a camper van for one year, with his family.

I'M NO EXPERT ON EUROPE EVEN though I'm midway through my second yearlong trip here, nor on Spain even though our family unexpectedly stayed a little more than two months there. But Spain has become the country I got to know the best, not just from observation but from meeting and spending a lot of time with ex-pats from all over the world who decided to not just visit, but to stay.

(Note: someone pointed out to me "ex-pat" comes from the Latin "patria" for "fatherland," so, someone who lives temporarily or permanently away from the land of their birth and/or culture. Nothing more, and no judgment on the why.)

But why would a person leave family, friends and homeland to live quite differently in Europe? To most Americans that seems like a radical decision and very hard to understand. Isn't America the greatest country in the world? Everywhere we've gone in Europe (23 countries) we find almost everyone has either been to the US of A (and loved it) or would very much like to, and many would sacrifice much for the impossible dream to live there.

So how to explain an American who moves, quits the States for good for some place where they don't speak English and you can't vote for the government that rules your life and they don't know or care who the Dodgers or the Lakers are (well, they do know Pau Gasol of Barcelona) and you don't own a car because the parking is impossible (but public transport is outstanding and cheap). Oh yeah, and eat your last taco before you get to LAX because forget about finding Mexican food in Spain. Or Thai. Or a decent burger for less than 10 bucks.

We spent a lot of time in Valencia on Spain's Mediterranean east coast — more than six weeks — because we loved that city and the weather was unseasonably warm and generous people (six) who barely knew us kept offering their homes for us to stay in. After months with the three of us in a tiny VW camper van the lure of separate bedrooms, spacious bathrooms with hot showers, large kitchens with stoves and ovens, microwaves and refrigerators, and Wi-Fi and warmth was hard to turn down.

I had an old friend from my L.A. club days, Don Snowden, a music journalist living in Valencia for 14 years, who not only offered us his great home (four bedroom/three bath) in the El Carmen barrio, but introduced us to his circle of friends, who became our friends. It's a fascinating group of bright, creative, happy people I'd hang with anywhere, hailing from Austin and New Zealand, Egypt and Poland, Scotland, Australia, Germany, England.

What brought them to Spain and Valencia, what motivated them to leave it all behind for life there? The answers I heard were varied but no one put down their homeland. And no one seemed to second-guess their choices. No regrets.

One American came because she had always wanted to visit Europe and after decades of not acting on it, found she absolutely loved it in Valencia and dropped plans to return to her job. That was 10 years ago. Another Yank is here because he fell in love with her, followed her and married her. They love the easy lifestyle of Valencia, the defined neighborhoods with absolutely everything available within a 10 minute walk and the chance to travel abroad easily and cheaply from their central location. They pay about $700 a month for their three bedroom, five balcony, sun-filled flat with 12-foot ceilings and great views of the city, $100 per month each for private full medical and dental insurance.

A woman from Scotland has been there 30 years, raised her son, and earns a good living as a translator and English instructor. Her modern apartment steps from the Mediterranean is five minutes north of Valencia with a view from her large balcony to the marina below that made me think I was in a prime Venice canal location back home. She offered to let us stay there while she was off to the Canary Islands, a trip she makes annually at very little expense.

A woman from New Zealand teaches pilates and English and with her Aussie husband has a home in the city and one in the country. They came for the unbeatable rock climbing and the hiking trails that cover the entire country and stayed for many reasons, much to do with the freedom they experience, the history and tradition, the beautiful small towns everywhere and the relaxed Spanish attitude.

A German-Polish photographer found Spain to be a great place to raise his daughter and has explored every region with her. A British writer and Egyptian language tutor also have property in the country, a luxury they wouldn't have in their native lands for anywhere near the price.

I wouldn't live anywhere but in the USA, specifically Santa Monica. But it's a big world, and Spain offers a lot for your buck. It's a great place to visit, and for many we met from all over the world, a great place to call home.

You can follow the **ANDREWS** family's daily blog at: anandrewsadventure.blogspot.com.





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Life Matters

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

Building a better resume

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I need your help! Like many others my industry has been hit hard by the current economic crisis. Two years ago my position was eliminated and since then I have maintained several jobs in order to pay the bills. I have secured employment through temporary agencies, referrals, and odd jobs posted on Craigslist. While I have been able to make ends meet I really want to focus on securing a full-time job that meets my personal and professional goals.

However, when I look at my work history I can't help but think that an employer is going to turn me away because of all the short-term jobs I have held over the past few years. How do I share my diverse experiences with an employer without coming off as unfocused?

Signed,

Available for Hire

DEAR AVAILABLE,

Thank you for your question. Given the current job climate a number of talented professionals are turning to part-time and project based work while they search for full-time employment. However, this can sometimes lead to challenges as one tries to document his or her experience on the resume. I have a few suggestions that will help you ensure that you are putting your best foot forward.

The goal of your resume is to tell the employer that you have the skills and qualifications necessary to do the job. Review the job descriptions for positions you are planning to apply to and highlight the skills they are looking for. Common terms might be leadership, teamwork, analytical and project management. Now that you know what they are looking for you can start to think about how your background and experiences connect to their hiring objectives.

Start with your current position and think about the skills required to accomplish the tasks of your current role. As you brainstorm think about a concise, action-oriented way that you can describe that responsibility; write down bullet points not sentences. Then pick a keyword or skill category that best describes each bullet-point. You may see that each project you've completed requires five or six different skill areas. Continue on with the other positions you've held and select a skill category for each bullet.

Once you've gone through all of your positions and projects, look for themes. Go back to the desired skills in the job description and use this information to determine the labels you use to sort your bullet points. Categorize the bullets by theme rather than by position or date.

Listing qualifications by skill-type rather than employer or date can be a great way to show an employer that you have the skills necessary to do the job without focusing too much on when and where each of the accomplishments came from. This type of resume is considered a "functional" resume and allows you to highlight the skillsets you bring to a new employer. For a visual of what this might look like, search for "functional resume samples" online.

As you bring together all this information, focus on sharing your information in a clear and concise way. At the top of your resume continue to include your name and contact information. If your education is the top qualification needed to secure the job, put this section first. If not, it is common to move your education section to the bottom of a functional resume. The sections following will depend on your personal background and might include: a summary of qualifications, work history, and professional affiliations.

Some professionals decide to provide a "Summary of Qualifications" at the top of the resume to give an overview of their qualifications, while others will go right into their top skill category (i.e. "Leadership"). Most employers prefer to read bullet-points instead of sentences or paragraphs so aim to have each of your statements fit onto one line. List skill areas by importance to the position and bullets within each category by level of responsibility required. After you list your skill areas and bullet points include a section on "Employment History" where you list your roles, companies, and dates on separate lines followed by your "Education" section which includes degree, institution and dates each listed on a separate line.

Depending on your years of experience your final document should be one to two pages in length and no smaller than a 10-point font.

I would also encourage you to look at the positive aspects of your current situation. Managing several part-time positions or simultaneous projects takes great organizational and time management skills. Furthermore, it is a great sign that the temporary agency you've been working with has continued to find new projects for you. This shows a potential employer that you are trustworthy, hardworking and dependable —qualities that employers, regardless of industry, are always looking for. Good luck with your search!

KATRINA DAVY, M.A., ED.M, is a professional career counselor who has worked in university and private settings. She 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!

The Q Line

Downtown impressions

A recent study found that visitors to Downtown are spending at consistent levels and that overall the mix of businesses and services makes the area attractive to shoppers. But, parking and traffic were cited as being some of the areas of concern.

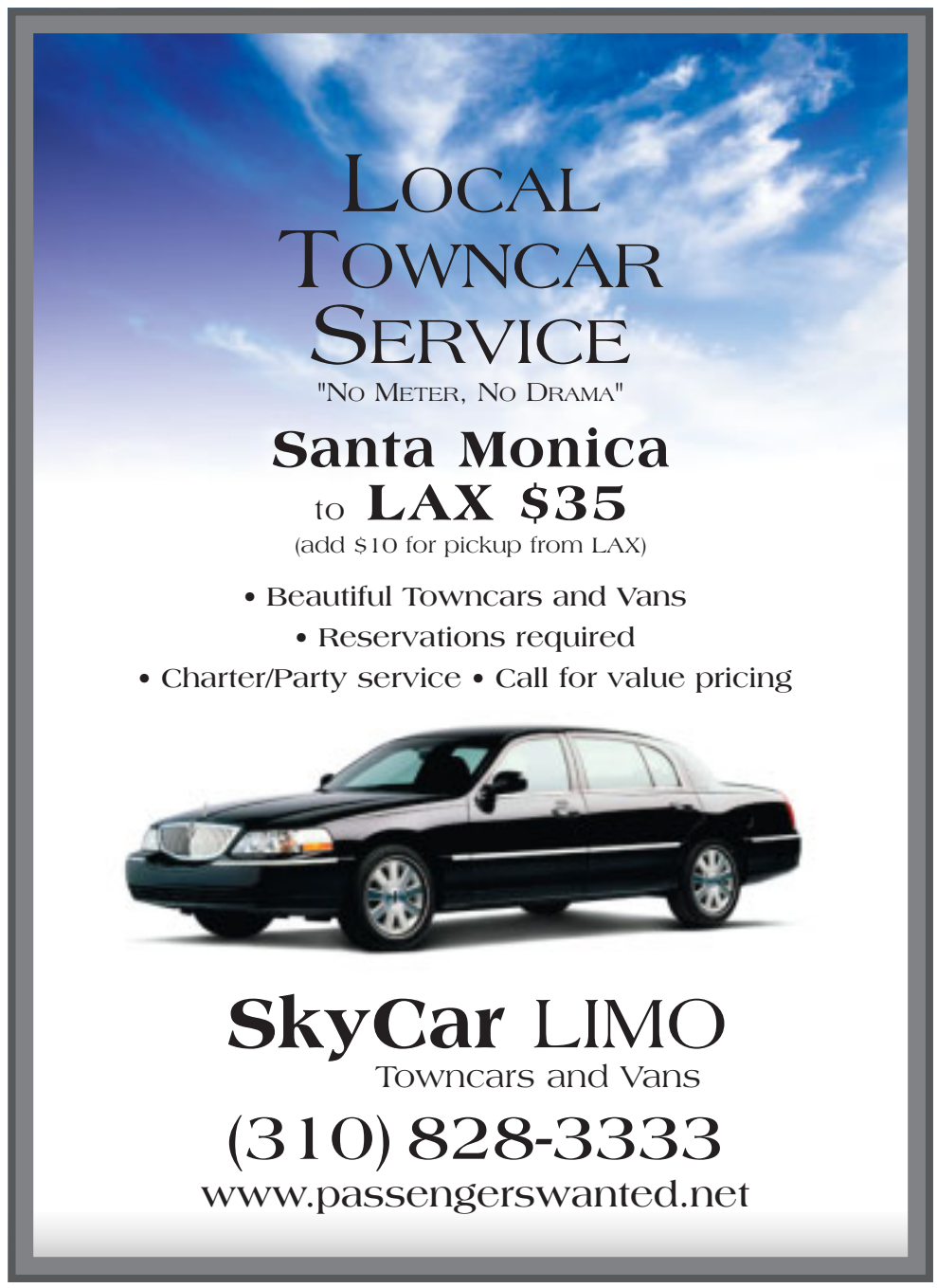
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think are the positives in Downtown, and what do you think needs a little work?

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









Bookkeeping by the Numbers



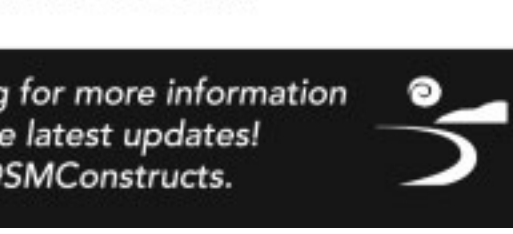
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BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Jury deadlocks in murder trial for Malibu teen

A mistrial has been declared in the trial of a man charged with murder in a crash that killed a Malibu teenager as she walked along Pacific Coast Highway last year.

City News Service says the jury deadlocked 7-5, with the majority voting in favor of guilt, in the trial of Sina Khankhanian.

Prosecutors plan to retry him, saying he was suicidal over losing his job and drove recklessly along the road before eventually crashing and killing 13-year-old Emily Rose Shane.

The defendant's attorney Bradley Brunon says the charge should be reduced to vehicular manslaughter.

Brunon says his client suffers from autism so he does not fully understand what happened.

Shane's parents say she was murdered and manslaughter charges won't serve justice.

Khankhanian is due for a pretrial hearing Feb. 22.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Report faults utility on windstorm response

A preliminary report by the safety division of the California Public Utilities Commission criticizes a utility for its response to the windstorm that hit Southern California last year.

The report Wednesday says Southern California Edison's electrical service restoration time was inadequate and that the utility did not ask for help. The report says power would have been restored faster had Edison asked for assistance from other utilities.

The report also says at least 21 poles jointly owned by Edison and others did not meet safety requirements.

Hurricane-force winds downed power lines and thousands of trees and branches late Nov. 30 and early Dec. 1, leaving more than 440,000 customers in the dark, some for up to a week.

The report is a step in determining whether fines will be levied.

AP

INGLEWOOD

First lady promotes healthy food

First lady Michelle Obama on Wednesday said the campaign to bring healthy food to all Americans is happening neighborhood by neighborhood.

Standing in a vacant Southern California store set to be refurbished and reopened this summer, Obama lauded efforts to bring large grocery retailers to inner-city areas that traditional supermarket chains spurn.

"That's how we solve this problem — one community, one household at a time," Obama said, speaking in front of a display depicting an old-fashioned grocery store with crates stocked with fresh fruit and vegetables. "We're not just making this generation healthy. We're making the next, and the next and the next."

Obama, who is on the second day of her two-day visit to the Los Angeles area, made the stop in the blue-collar, largely Hispanic neighborhood as part of her "Let's Move!" campaign to boost healthy food and fitness.

Part of the campaign includes promoting initiatives such as the $264 million California FreshWorks Fund, which finances grocery businesses willing to open in urban areas.

AP

LOS ANGELES

School officials chided for molest case silence

Angry parents have confronted Los Angeles school officials, demanding to know why they weren't told for a year that a teacher was alleged to have photographed children in class for sexual thrills.

A forum was held Wednesday at Miramonte Elementary School to discuss the investigation of Mark Berndt, a third-grade teacher who was arrested this week on charges that he photographed 23 students as young as 6 in his classroom. Authorities said he blindfolded students and fed them his semen.

Investigators found hundreds of photos.

Cheremoya Dupree, who has two youngsters in the school, said about 100 parents were at the meeting and shouted angrily when school and sheriff's officials said the case was handled according to procedure.

Principal Mark Sandoval and other officials say Berndt was removed from class in January 2011 but parents weren't told anything because authorities didn't want to compromise their investigation.

The investigation of Berndt began when a film processor in Redondo Beach found photos more than a year ago, according to the Sheriff's Department, which was given the case by Redondo Beach police on Dec. 2, 2010.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Coliseum officials paid $1M cash to union

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum officials reportedly gave $1 million in cash to a labor union to pay its members for concerts and other productions.

A Los Angeles Times investigation says there were no controls on disbursement of the money, which was sometimes delivered to the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees union in suitcases filled with $100 bills.

The newspapers says records and interviews show there's no detailed accounting of what happened to the cash.

The publicly-owned stadium could be on the hook for hundreds of thousands of dollars in back payroll and withholding taxes.

Councilman Bernard Parks, who sits on the Coliseum Commission, says the U.S. Labor Department is investigating the cash payments.

The newspaper began reporting Coliseum executive financial irregularities a year ago, leading to the departure of top executives.

AP

SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

two-year community colleges.

That success comes with the lowest revenue limits the district has seen since the 2005-06 school year, staff reductions, class size increases and promises of more on the way.

"We do more with less," Lyon said. "It's not hyperbole. It's fact."

California lags behind almost every other state in per-pupil spending. The state contributes $8,908 per student compared to the average $11,764 across the rest of the nation.

Devastating cuts from the state level resulting from brutal budgets and a down economy have slashed at core services, ending in growing class sizes and fewer programs.

Local funding sources shielded SMMUSD from the worst of the cuts weathered by other local districts.

Community for Excellent Public Schools, a local group of school advocates, rallied support for a number of successful funding efforts, including parcel taxes that raise $10.7 million annually and Proposition Y, a 2010 ballot measure which will raise at least $5.5 million for the district this year.

Overall, the district receives $32.7 million from local sources, or approximately 29 percent of its funding.

"The relationship between (City Hall) and the district is unheard of in other communities," Lyon said.

More cuts loom on the horizon if Gov. Jerry Brown fails to convince Californians to pass a sales tax increase and income tax hike for those making over $250,000 on the November ballot. The uncertainty makes it difficult, if not impossible, to adequately plan, Lyon said.

"We plan for the future and hope for the best, and everyone knows that hope is not a strategy," she said.

The district is looking at a $5 million deficit for the current year, rising to over $6 million in 2012-13.

If the tax doesn't pass in November, that jumps to $10.7 million.

The Board of Education and administration have made deep cuts at the district office to keep reductions as far from the classrooms as possible, said Board President Ben Allen.

More will be necessary to close the existing deficit, a hard thing to balance when over 80 percent of costs come from staff.

The district faces many challenges other than cash flow moving forward.

Although there's been improvement, the gap in test scores and achievement between students of color and their white and Asian counterparts remains vast.

Schools receiving Title 1 funds from the federal government have been pushed to the brink of "program improvement" requirements, which restrict local controls.

An acrimonious debate over a new fundraising model which aims to end parent-funding of school programs soured relations between residents in the city of Malibu and the district, and a movement to secede from the district was backed by the Malibu City Council.

County officials will provide an update on the progress of that petition at the beginning of March, said Jan Maez, the district's chief financial officer.

ashley@smdp.com





SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

who were not properly notified, something which the Epsteins believe will cost taxpayers anywhere from $1 million to $1.5 million, not including attorney fees.

They estimate that more than 10,000 motorists were not properly notified.

As of January 2009, under the California Vehicle Code, city officials and hearing examiners hired to deal with those fighting a ticket are required to provide a written explanation for the validity of the citation.

A settlement was "90 percent" complete when city officials refused to publish a joint press release in Seascape, a City Hall publication that informs residents about city programs and services, the Epsteins said.

City officials would not comment on the settlement negotiations. It is policy to not comment on active litigation, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said.

When the Seascape idea was shot down, the couple asked City Hall to instead take out advertisements in local newspapers or send out a citywide mailing. The Epsteins said city officials refused.

"There's no reason why the city can't [publish a notice of the settlement in Seascape]," said Harriet Epstein, who was issued a citation in February 2011 for parking at a local park and then leaving to run errands. Parking is for park patrons only and she was fined $64.

"If they want to notify the residents without any additional costs, [Seascape] is an excellent vehicle," she said. "We want the widest amount of people to be notified and they want the smallest amount. They are protecting staff's misdeeds at the expense of the public knowing."

Stanley Epstein, an active class action lawyer, said that his wife's guilt is not the issue. Rather it is exposing City Hall's alleged failure to abide by state law.

"It's a matter of principle," he said. "We tried to settle it in a manner that's reasonable."

As part of the settlement negotiations, the Epsteins asked City Hall and ACS, its independent contractor that processes parking tickets, to provide those issued tickets from Jan. 1 2009 through May 2011, and had them upheld, a notice and an opportunity to seek further explanation of their initial review or hearing results.

These individuals would have also been able to request an administrative hearing or appeal to the court, the Epsteins said. If the citation was canceled, City Hall would have been required to refund any parking fine previously paid.

In a statement released in May of 2011, city officials said they were abiding by the law, but would begin including additional details in the letters sent to motorists as a means to improve customer service. The move was part of a year-long review of how parking permits and citations are issued.

"They get a second letter that has an entire paragraph by the citation hearing officer that has very specific information regarding their particular case," said Don Patterson with City Hall's Finance Department.

For example, the new letters may state that a hearing officer went to the location where the parking ticket was issued, say for street cleaning or parking in a residential area without a permit, and confirmed that signs notifying motorists about parking restrictions were properly posted.

The Epsteins have asked city officials to turn over to their attorney documents pertaining to the handling of parking tickets. A future court date has not yet been set.

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YOGA
FROM PAGE 1

to Hindus the world over. Hindus are for free artistic expression and speech as much as anybody else, if not more, but faith is something sacred and attempts at trivializing it hurt followers, Zed added.

He said a yoga mat featuring Jesus Christ would be equally offensive.

William Cawley, CEO and founder of YogaMatic, said the company responded to Zed's letter as soon as he received it and chose to remove the design in question. The design was submitted by an independent artist "in good faith." Cawley said it was not a popular design.

"Rather than go into a debate with someone who is clearly trouble, it was easier to take it down," Cawley said. "I certainly didn't want to argue about it. Apologies to anyone who was upset. That certainly was not the idea."

Cawley said most of the designs featured on YogaMatic come from individuals and feature photos they've taken and submitted. The designs include photos of landscapes, animals, ocean scenes — even Buddha and the Dalai Lama.

"Ninety percent of sales are by people making their own mats. That's what we're all about," he said. "That said, we don't want anyone to be unhappy."

Zed drew attention in 2007 when he was the first Hindu to open the U.S. Senate in prayer, which drew protests from the gallery.

In 2009, Zed demanded that director James Cameron issue a disclaimer before and after his blockbuster "Avatar" saying it has nothing to do with the Hindu religion and its concepts and that the title was just a coincidence. The concept of avatar — commonly known as incarnation — is a central theme in Hinduism.

Zed was also upset when pop sensation Katy Perry and comedian Russell Brand announced their decision to end their marriage. The celebs were married in India and reportedly incorporated some Hindu customs.

When the divorce filing was announced, Zed issued a statement in which he said, "If celebrities opt for a Hindu wedding, they should be prepared to adhere to the commitment, devotion, responsibility, sanctity and morals, which are attached to it."

Since then he has been the subject of blogs questioning his motives. Is it for fame and fortune or for the love of Hinduism and the desire to spread its teachings? Some believe Zed is only about self promotion.

"From what it looks like, there is a self-proclaimed pope-in-the-making for Hindus in America," wrote blogger and composer Joseph Thomas, who is based in India. "Watch out for more publicity stunts from Mr. Rajan Zed in the coming days."

Zed said he sent the letter to YogaMatic after receiving a complaint from a fellow Hindu.

"Hinduism was the oldest and third largest religion of the world with about 1 billion adherents and a rich philosophical thought and it should not be taken lightly," he said. "Symbols of any faith, larger or smaller, should not be mishandled."

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ROBBERIES
FROM PAGE 3

with 274. There has been a spike in bank heists this year — about 40 — primarily in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Robberies in January are typically higher than other months, Delaney said.

A gun is shown in a quarter of all bank robberies in Southern California, authorities said. While violence is rare in bank heists, the potential is always there.

"The idea of a gun pointed at a teller is violent in itself," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. "You don't know what they are going to do."

One of Southern California's more notorious robbers is the "Geezer Bandit," who authorities say has struck 16 banks over the past two years. Authorities initially believed the thief was an elderly man, but now suspect he could be wearing a mask to hide his identity.

Other colorfully named thieves include the "Cheekbone Bandit," "Gone Plaid Bandit" and "Make It Quick Bandit."

Several bank robbery suspects have been arrested in the past month, including Steven Paulson, 46, of Pomona. The parolee is suspected of being the "Puffy Coat Bandit" by the FBI and is believed to be responsible for seven bank robberies.







Automakers expect 2012 to be strong year for sales

DEE-ANN DURBIN & TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT 2012 is already looking like a winner for automakers — just one month into the year.

U.S. sales of new cars and trucks rose 11 percent to 913,287 in January. New models, low interest rates and better loan availability helped buyers overcome lingering worries about the economy and pushed the sales pace to its highest level since the Cash for Clunkers program in August 2009.

Chrysler had its best January in four years. Toyota and Honda were back in the game, getting boosts from important new vehicles. Volkswagen, which wants to aggressively expand in the U.S., reported big increases. The only loser among the major automakers was General Motors Co., whose sales fell 6 percent from a strong January last year.

"For the first time in several years, we are starting the year off with a warm and fuzzy feeling," said Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends for TrueCar.com,

January's sales pace was even faster than December's, a relief for the industry after a bumpy 2011. Sales started at a healthy pace last year but plummeted after the Japanese earthquake in March caused car shortages and didn't recover until the final four months of 2011.

If sales stay at the same pace as this January, they would reach 14.2 million, up from 12.8 million in 2011, according to Autodata Corp. While that's below the 2000 peak of 17.3 million, it's better than the 10.4 million trough in 2009.

One reason car sales are improving is that buyers need to replace aging vehicles. The average age of a vehicle in the U.S. is a record 10.8 years, nearly two years older than a decade ago.

Coverage of the glitzy Detroit auto show at the start of the month may have piqued buyers' interest. Unseasonably warm weather may also have drawn some to dealerships, but Ford's U.S. sales chief Ken Czubay said the weather effect was probably a wash. Frigid temperatures can also boost sales because older cars may not start during a cold snap, he said.

Chrysler's January sales jumped 44 percent, led by surge in demand for its revamped 200 and 300 sedans. Chrysler sold 7,007 of the 200s last month, more than eight times the number a year earlier. Sales of the 300 almost quadrupled. Chrysler also reported its first full-year net income since 1997, helped by its revamped lineup.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s sales rose 7.5 percent on strong demand for the new Camry, which went on sale in October. Camry sales rose 56 percent in January and the sedan remained America's best-selling car, a distinction it has held for nearly 15 years. Sales of the Prius hybrid rose 9 percent.

Toyota's U.S. sales chief Bob Carter said earthquake-related inventory problems are still affecting the company's small SUVs, like the RAV4 and Highlander.

But Toyota and Honda Motor Co. are getting closer to a full recovery from the problems.

David Whiston, auto equity analyst for Morningstar, said inventories should be back to normal by this summer, when sales should be robust.

Honda sales were up 9 percent on the strength of the new Civic small car.

"It's gratifying to see how many Civics we can sell when we actually have Civics to sell," American Honda sales chief John Mandel said.

GM car sales rose 13 percent thanks to the new Chevrolet Sonic subcompact. But demand for its trucks and crossovers fell. One problem: GM is no longer making the HHR crossover, which contributed more than 7,300 sales last January.

GM also compared unfavorably to last January because its 2011 sales were inflated by rebates and other deals. TrueCar estimated that GM's incentives fell 16 percent to $3,095 per vehicle this January.

GM's sales will likely be down in February, too, because of the incentives it offered last year, warned Don Johnson, GM's vice president of U.S. sales.

GM could see slow sales through the first half of the year, until new models go on sale this summer, Whiston said. The company will offer two Cadillacs, a Chevrolet Malibu and the Spark mini-car.

Sales of the Chevrolet Volt electric car totaled 603. That was less than half the number sold in December and sales fell short of its rival, the Nissan Leaf.

Johnson said sales were affected by government hearings into Volt battery fires and GM's announcement that it will retrofit existing Volts so they are less prone to fires after a severe crash. The company expects sales to pick up now that GM is producing a Volt that's eligible to drive in California's high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

Ford Motor Co.'s sales rose 7 percent. Demand for the Ford Focus small car rose 60 percent, while sales of the Escape small SUV rose 24 percent. Ford is replacing the Escape with a new version later this year, and sales have been strong as dealers offer big discounts to clear out the old models.

Whiston said buyers will have plenty of options this year as Toyota and Honda recover and automakers launch major new products like the Dodge Dart and new versions of the Honda Accord and Ford Fusion.

"It will be a great time to be a consumer going into 2012," Whiston said.

But he cautions that buyers shouldn't expect big price breaks, since there are so many new products and companies are closely guarding their profits.

Buyers paid an average of $31,312 for a new car in January, including an average incentive of $2,206, according to Edmunds.com. Five years ago, buyers were getting about the same amount in incentives, but the average vehicle price was $27,966.





Stocks rise on manufacturing data

JOSHUA FREED,
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks had a big January, and they're starting February strong, too.

Stocks climbed Wednesday after strong manufacturing data and encouraging reports about the Greek debt crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average closed within 100 points of its post-2008 financial crisis peak.

Factories raised output in January by the most in seven months, according to the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index. And the Commerce Department said construction spending rose 1.5 percent in December, the fifth straight monthly gain.

"This is a market that is hungry for good news, and when it gets it, it responds very positively," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 83.55 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 12,716.46. Earlier in the day, the Dow was up 151 points. But it moved less than 100 points for the day for the 20th consecutive trading session.

The Dow's highest close since 2008 is 12,810, in April 2011.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.68 points, or 0.9 percent, to close at 1,324.09. All 10 categories in the S&P 500 rose. The biggest gainer was financial stocks, up 1.6 percent.

The Nasdaq rose 34.43 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,848.27.

On Tuesday, stocks wrapped up their best January in 15 years. The Dow gained 4.1 percent. Investors are less worried about the European debt crisis, and earnings at American companies are generally meeting expectations.

"It doesn't take good news" to make stock prices rise, said Randy Warren, chief investment officer for Warren Financial Service. "It just takes an absence of bad news."

For U.S. and European companies, the price-to-earnings ratio, one measure of how expensive stocks are compared with profits, had been at low levels that assumed the worst about Europe.

"These are Depression-era valuations, and something has to give," Warren said.

Plenty can still go wrong. Greece faces a 14.5 billion bond payment March 20 that it can't pay without additional help. Greece and the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday that negotiations to reduce Greece's debt should wrap up within days, raising hopes that it can avoid a default.

In the United States, monthly hiring figures from private payroll agency ADP were so-so. ADP said private-sector employment rose by 170,000 in January from the previous month. That was 10,000 fewer jobs than expected by analysts surveyed by FactSet.

ADP also said December job growth was smaller than it previously reported — 292,000 instead 325,000. The government releases its report on January job creation Friday.

Investors also looked past a cautious outlook from temporary employee provider ManpowerGroup. Its stock jumped 14 percent after fourth-quarter profits came in much higher than expected.

But the company said that while hiring may increase this spring, the European debt crisis could slow job creation. It predicted lower profits in the current quarter than Wall Street had expected.

In other corporate news:

• Amazon.com fell 7.7 percent after its quarterly net income fell and revenue growth was slower than Wall Street had expected.

• Whirlpool rose 13.5 percent after higher appliance prices raised its quarterly profit, and it said it expects shipments to increase as much as 3 percent in North America this year.

• Health insurer Aetna rose 3.1 percent after reporting a 73 percent jump in fourth-quarter profit on smaller expenses and lower usage of health care.

• Carmakers reported strong U.S. auto sales for January, with gains at all the big companies except General Motors. Privately held Chrysler's U.S. sales surged 44 percent, and it reported its first annual profit since 1997.

In Europe, British stocks rose 1.9 percent, German stocks 2.4 percent and French stocks 2.1 percent. Earlier in Asia, stocks didn't have the same momentum. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 edged up less than 0.1 percent, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.3 percent.

The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes rose 0.029 percentage points to 1.832. The euro rose slightly to almost 1.32 against the dollar.

Oil prices fell after reports that U.S. crude supplies rose last week and energy demand remains weak. West Texas Intermediate crude fell 87 cents to end at $97.61 a barrel in New York. Brent crude rose by 58 cents to finish at $111.56 a barrel in London.





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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED VACATION OF A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON OLYMPIC PLACE SOUTH AND 1ST COURT ALLEY and DEDICATION OF NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENSION ON 1ST COURT ALLEY

The City of Santa Monica proposes to develop a park project that includes the rights of way areas known as Olympic Place South and a portion of 1st Court Alley. The project requires the vacation of Olympic Place South and a segment of the existing 1st Court Alley and incorporation into the project of a new public right of way extension of the remaining segment of 1st Court Alley running east and west at 1665 Ocean Avenue.

On January 10, 2012, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 10651 (CCS) declaring its intention to order vacation of Olympic Place South and a portion of public right of way on 1st Court Alley and dedication of a new public right of way at 1665 Ocean Avenue, to allow for this development and set a public hearing for February 14, 2012 at 5:45 PM. The Drawing No. 4745 of the alleys proposed to be vacated and dedicated is on file and is available for review in the office of Architecture Services/City of Santa Monica located at 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Pursuant to Part 3, Chapter 3, "General Vacation Procedure", of the California Streets and Highways Code, the City Council directed the City Clerk to set a public hearing on the proposed vacation and dedication proceedings as follows:

DATE & TIME:
5:45 PM on February 14, 2012, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: **City Council Chambers**
1685 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Monica, CA 90401

All persons interested in or objecting to the proposed right-of-way vacation and dedication may appear before the City Council at the public hearing to offer evidence in relation thereto.

For more information contact City of Santa Monica's Architecture Services Division at (310) 458-8725.

SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

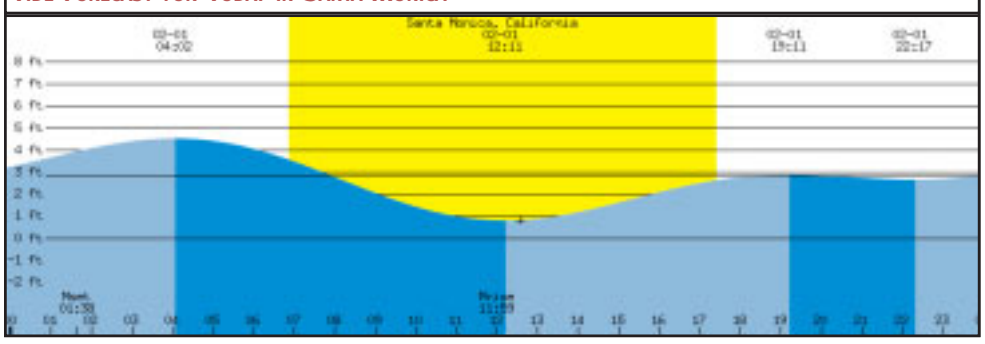
Swell Forecast

Should see head high sets at most west facing breaks. Pluses are possible at standouts later in the day when the new NW swell peaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking at head high sets at west facing breaks with pluses possible in the early morning.

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 25, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

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

LEGEND

DRY – each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns – no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

MLS

Buddle returing to Galaxy

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. Edson Buddle returned to the Los Angeles Galaxy on Wednesday after a year in the German second division, adding yet another scoring talent to the defending MLS champions' star-studded roster.

The 30-year-old American forward re-signed with the Galaxy one day after his contract was terminated by Ingolstadt.

A member of the 2010 World Cup team, Buddle rejoins the Galaxy after scoring 17 goals in 2010 and adding two more in the postseason. Buddle scored 42 goals in 87 games for Los Angeles from 2007-10.

Los Angeles already has fellow striker Robbie Keane and midfielders David Beckham and Landon Donovan. Buddle's return gives the Galaxy one of the most impressive collections of scoring talent in MLS history as they prepare to defend their title.

"I am thrilled to be able to return to MLS and a club that has meant so much to me in my career," Buddle said. "When I left for Germany last winter, I said that I hoped to be able to one day return to the Galaxy and help lead the club to an MLS Cup championship. That day is today, and I look forward to the challenges that now lie ahead."

Buddle turned down a raise from the Galaxy in January 2011 for a more lucrative deal with Ingolstadt, surprising many soccer observers and disappointing Los Angeles fans who had adopted him as a favorite. He scored 10 goals during his tenure with Ingolstadt, but was released with six months left on his contract with the struggling German club.

Buddle had trials at Everton, where Donovan is on loan, and West Ham in recent weeks.

"He has been an outstanding player for us in the past, and we look forward to him continuing that success for many years to come," said Bruce Arena, the Galaxy's general manager and head coach.

The Galaxy didn't disclose Buddle's contract terms, but he won't be a designated player who can be paid above the MLS salary cap because Los Angeles already has filled its allotment. Forward Chad Garrett likely will be pushed to the Galaxy's bench with Buddle's arrival, but Keane is expected to miss several MLS games this summer as captain of the Irish national team.

Buddle is the eighth-leading goal-scorer in MLS history with 90, and the only player in league history to score 40 goals with two clubs. He spent his first five MLS seasons with Columbus before brief stints with New York and Toronto.

He also has scored three goals in 10 appearances with the U.S. national team, including a dramatic strike against Slovenia in November.

Los Angeles opens the MLS regular season March 10 at home against Real Salt Lake.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Ocean Waves (NR) 1hr 12min
7:30pm

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

Beauty and the Beast 3D (G) 1hr 24min
1:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:50pm

War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
8:00pm

Iron Lady (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:25pm

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Man on a Ledge (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:05pm, 8:05pm, 11:00pm

Grey (R) 1hr 57min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Red Tails (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:55pm

Contraband (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:25pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1hr 41min
2:30pm, 5:05pm

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min
2:20pm, 7:45pm

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Haywire (R) 1hr 33min
11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

One for the Money (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:55am, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Albert Nobbs (R) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2hrs 07min
11:35am, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

Underworld: Awakening (R) 1hr 28min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

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

The world is your oyster, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Say what you will and do what you want, but be conscious of an aftermath or reaction. Some will smile and greet your thoughts positively. But don't be surprised if someone has a response that is less than desired. Tonight: Scurry out the door.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Curb a need to have things your way. You suddenly could become rigid over a matter as simple as shopping. Loosen up; try other styles. You'll discover that although different, they too have value. Use caution with overindulgence of any kind. Tonight: As you like.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your smiling ways warm the cockles of many people's hearts. When you become too intellectual or are selling your logic, determined to be right, only then can there be a backfire. When making certain alliances, tone down your style, or at least try to! Tonight: The world is your oyster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Take your time making a decision or verbalizing it. You might not think a project or concept is incomplete, but when new information floats through your door, you will be sure more thought is needed. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Listening to others -- and you have many "others" in your life -- is quite a skill. Sometimes one specific person nearly talks your ear off. Listen to what is being shared within a group of friends and how they foster their own ideas. Tonight: Whatever you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be very tired and drawn. You need to approach a situation with greater transparency. Others will like that they really know what you are doing. Tonight: Have a long-overdue conversation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your ability to get past a problem and see beyond the immediate interpersonal behavior points to the path of the winner. You will see that not everyone understands what you are up to. At this point, you don't need them to. Don't feel the need to explain. Tonight: Extend your boundaries.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be close to others, yet, as the saying goes, keep your enemies closer. A statement can strike you as off or askew. Conversations are vital and direct. Air out another person's opinions. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others seem to know what they are doing. You most certainly will know nothing until the results come in. You see life in an invigorated, dynamic manner. Think positively. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Focus on the task at hand. You easily could become distracted. Honor your sixth sense with an associate or acquaintance who punctuates your days. This sensitivity could be very important, financially and emotionally. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your sense of direction could make all the difference. You are able to make quite a difference by allowing your creativity to flow. Say what you are thinking to the right audience, and they will think you are a genius. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You have no choice but to deal with a domestic matter. For some of you, this issue revolves around real estate. Discussions become animated. Don't worry -- there simply is passion behind the talks. Tonight: Chill at home.

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 have the flexibility to adjust and the ability to come up with unusual yet excellent ideas. If you are single, you appear to attract many admirers. With your charisma, knowing what you want could be instrumental. Having similar goals increases the odds for success. If you are attached, the two of you start acting like newlyweds. Plan a special trip or long-desired event. Your creativity surges. Plug it into your work, and other areas of your life as well. GEMINI draws out the kid in you.



MYSTERY PHOTO

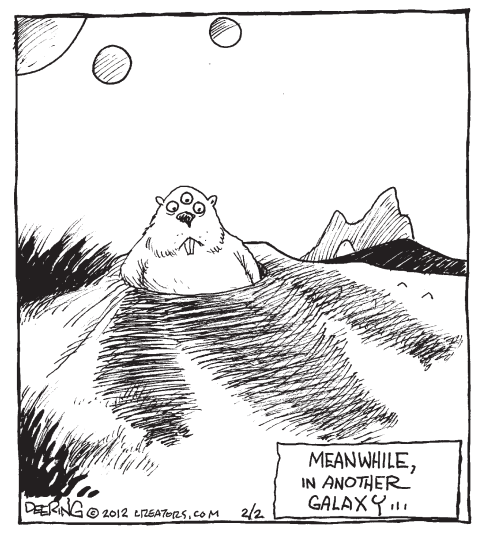
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



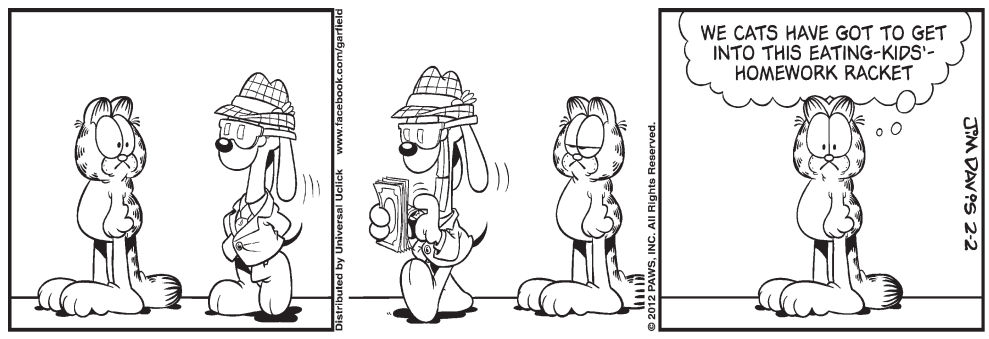
Strange Brew
By John Deering



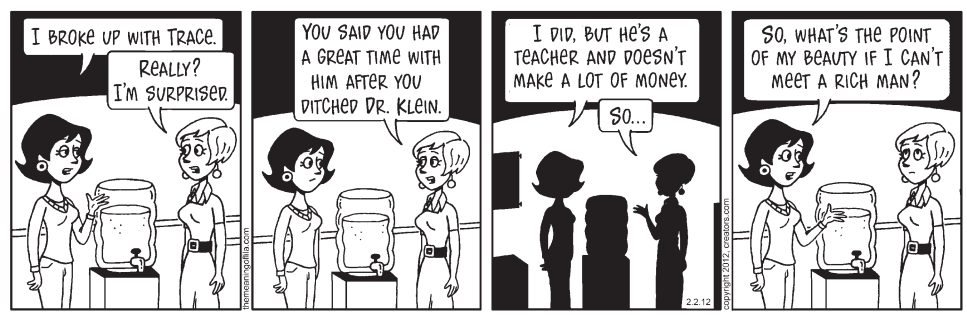
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dallas team, to fans
5 Be generous
10 Audibly
12 High boot
13 Cowboy contest
14 Kitchen come-on
15 Publicity
16 Tennis star Pete
18 Tennis star Andre
20 Mamie's mate
21 Artist's medium
23 Homer's neighbor
24 Act sullen
26 Cribbage needs
28 Oxford bigwig
29 Stagger
31 Patriotic letters
32 Tennis star Patrick
36 Tennis star Roger
39 Common verb
40 Distress signal
41 Radius end
43 Rocker John
44 Electronic device
45 Actress Witherspoon
46 — the line (obeyed)

DOWN

1 Opera's Callas
2 By the way
3 Martini base
4 Take to court
5 Did laps, maybe
6 Stringed instrument
7 Devoted
8 "Ocean's Eleven" and "Cape Fear"
9 Made blank
11 Secret file
17 Suffer
19 Bribe
22 Caught fish, in a way
24 White wine
25 Out, socially
27 Pole worker
28 Bad golfer
30 Before, to Byron
33 Forbidden
34 Eat away
35 Get hitched anew
37 Amorous archer
38 Painter Magritte
42 Set fire to

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

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	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	9
10				11	■	12				
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			19			■	■	20		
■	■	■	21			22	■	23		
	24	25			■	26	27			■
28			■	29	30			■	■	■
31			■	■	32			33	34	35
36			37	38			■	39		
40					■	41	42			
43					■	44				
45					■	■	46			

2-2

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 17 18 28 43 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $23M
SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 15 33 34 37 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $8M
FANTASY 5: 2 3 14 32 39
DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 1 1 EVENING: 6 2 3
DAILY DERBY: 1st: 10 Solid Gold 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1:44.86

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

■ Ratnagiri, India, businessman Murad Mulla, 48, filed a complaint recently with the Maharashtra Medical Council after his surgeon used an outdated procedure to cure his urine-retention disorder. Previously, skin from the scrotum was routinely used for urethral repair, but current science recommends using skin from the mouth to avoid the worst-case risk, which Mulla apparently experienced. Specifically, the scrotum contains both hair-bearing tissue and non-hair-bearing tissue, and only the latter is usable. Evidently, Mullas' surgeon used hair-bearing tissue, and as a result, Mulla's urethra itches constantly, and he expels specks of pubic hair with his urine.

■ Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme cost 16,500 investors a total of as much as $18 billion, according to the court-appointed trustee, but at least Madoff is not on death row. In Hangzhou, China, in November, Ji Wenhua and his brother and their father (who were managers of the Yintai Real Estate and Investment Group) were sentenced to death after their convictions for cheating 15,000 investors out of the equivalent of $1.1 billion. Prosecutors said the men had continued to collect money by claiming profits while losses mounted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1901 – Funeral of Queen Victoria.
1913 – Grand Central Terminal is opened in New York City.
1920 – The Tartu Peace Treaty is signed between Estonia and Russia.
1920 – France occupies Memel.
1922 – Ulysses by James Joyce is published.
1925 – Serum run to Nome: Dog sleds reach Nome, Alaska with diphtheria serum, inspiring the Iditarod race.
1925 – The Charlevoix-Kamouraska earthquake strikes northeastern North America.
1934 – The Export-Import Bank of the United States is incorporated.

WORD UP!

doyenne
\ doi-EN \ , noun;
1. A woman who is the senior member of a group, class, or profession.

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

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

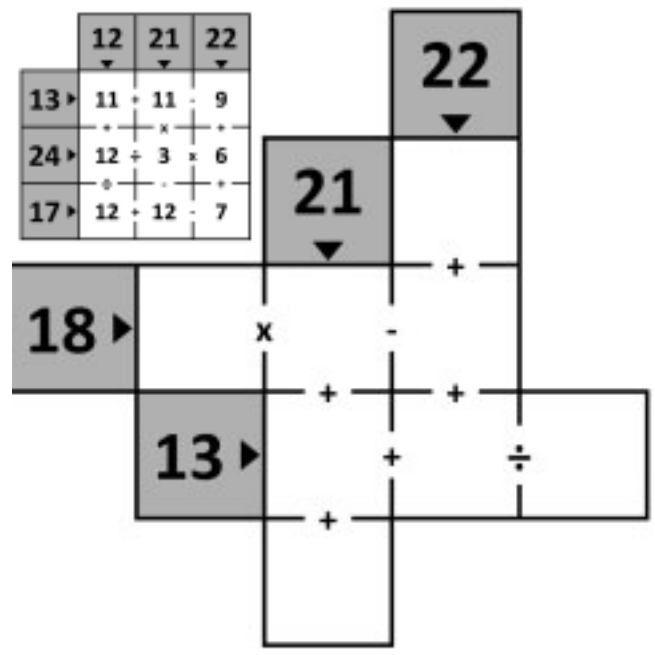
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

4, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 10, 11

Solution for Task 5080



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Miscellaneous

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Employment

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

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

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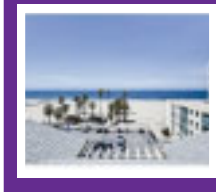
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