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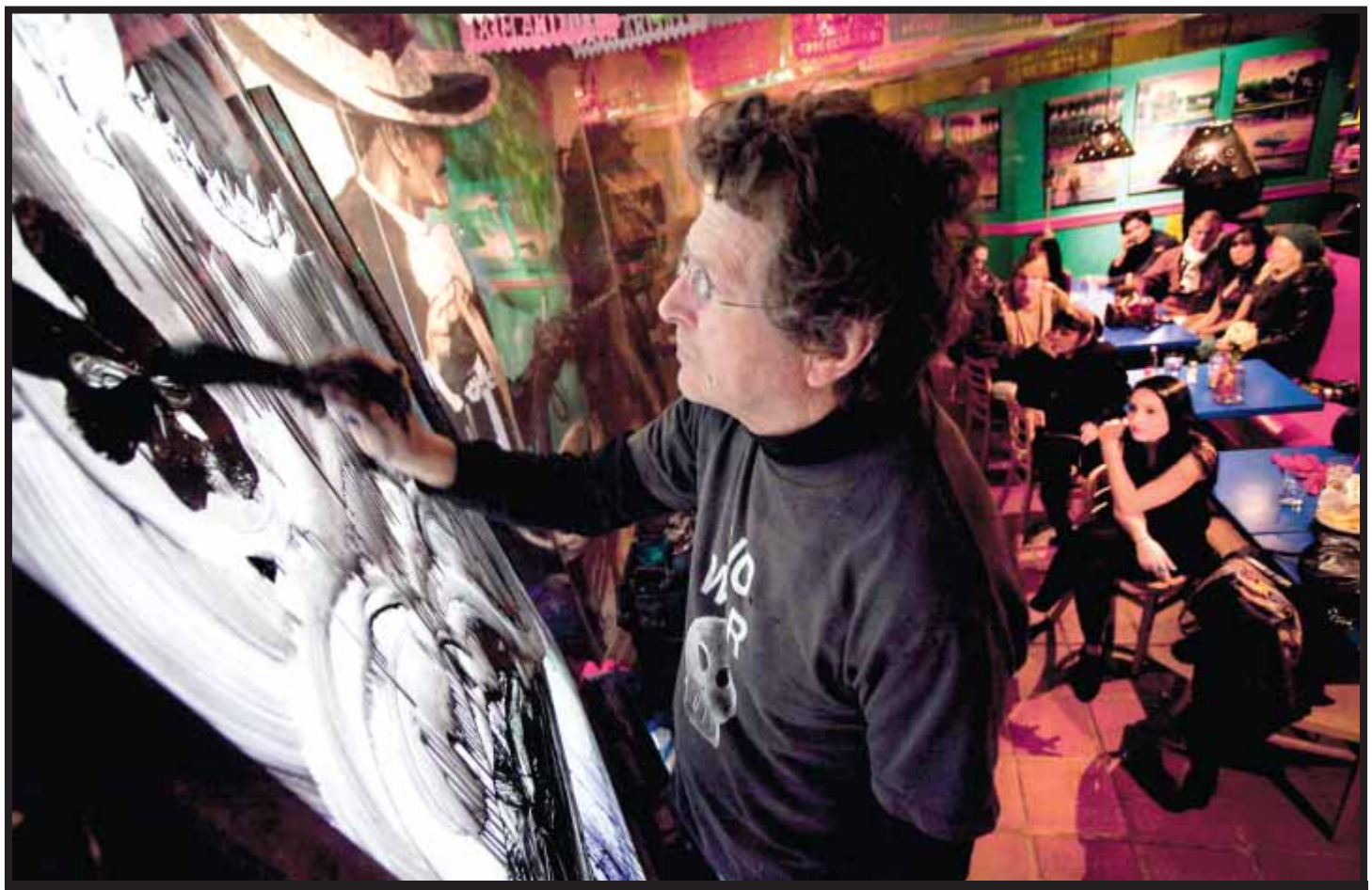


Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

BLAKE THE GREAT
SEE PAGE 12

THE WE HEART RON RON ISSUE



SOUND OF ART

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Improvisational/performance artist Norton Wisdom paints non-permanent abstract images upon a glowing glass canvas while mariachi music plays in the background at Lula's mexican restaurant on Main Street on Tuesday night. Wisdom will be performing for the public once a month.

Shop owners renew push for sidewalk signs

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY Placing a sidewalk sign in front of a business to advertise sale items or a restaurant's daily specials can be a great way to draw in customers. It's also illegal in Santa Monica.

Now, a group of merchants that has been pushing to overturn City Hall's ban on the A-frame or sandwich board signs for more than a year is hoping that the lagging retail economy will help gather momentum for their cause.

Gary Gordon, head of the Main Street Business Improvement Association is leading the charge. During a meeting with City Hall planners at the Main Library on Tuesday to discuss possible revisions to Santa Monica's sign code, he said a more permissive ordinance could make a big difference, especially for mom-and-pop shops that need low-cost ways to advertise and are struggling to stay in business.

"The A-frames are a tool — they are a tool that is overwhelmingly desired by the merchant community," he said.

So far, City Hall planners aren't ready to go there, though they said they're still mulling whether to recommend allowing sidewalk signs.

Laura Beck, an associate planner, on Tuesday led a presentation of City Hall's initial thinking, indicating a willingness to allow shops slightly more signage, for instance by reducing restrictions on "blade signs" — or signs that project from a storefront perpendicular to the sidewalk.

That idea got a luke-warm reception from the 30 or so business people who showed up on Tuesday. Several attendees said blade signs are costly and don't serve the same purpose as sidewalk signs, which are easy to update with new information.

City planners have yet to analyze whether it's advisable to allow sidewalk signs.

"We are looking at it. We have internal meetings set up to discuss it more fully, but we have to look at issues of the right-of-way

SEE SIGNS PAGE 9

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

Crossroads end three-game skid

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

XRDS Looks like Crossroads' boys' basketball team is finding its chemistry.

Coming off the Roadrunners' first three-gaming losing streak of the season, Crossroads was able to get back on the winning track with a 71-60 victory over California Academy of Math & Science Wednesday on campus.

"This works for me," Head Coach Kevin Jackson said of ending the losing streak. "Always better to end a skid before the end [of the season]."

The Roadrunners were again led by senior guard Luke Shmuger, who scored 20 points. Forward Gyasi Williams added 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. He also threw down "a monster dunk" that Jackson said helped sway momentum Crossroads'

SEE XRDS PAGE 8

LAPD gang officers leave posts over new disclosure rule

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Many of the city's most violent, gang-infested neighborhoods are no longer being policed by special gang officers, after members of entire units quit their assignments over rules requiring the disclosure of their personal financial information.

Los Angeles Police Department officials said they were confident the drain of officers would have little effect on gang crime, even though re-staffing of the units could take several months.

Some rank-and-file officers said they were already seeing signs of rising gang activity.

"More gang members are being seen walking around in public, crossing out each other's graffiti and going into each other's area a lot more," said Senior Lead Officer

SEE COPS PAGE 9

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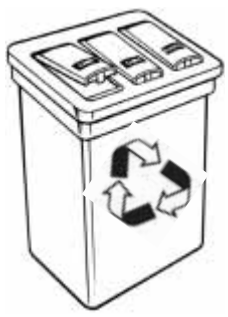
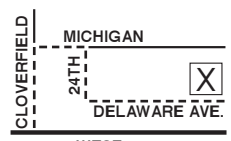
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011

'Can Religion Bring Peace?'
Santa Monica Baha'i Center
3102 Colorado Ave., 7 p.m.
Representatives of the major world religions will gather for this special event asking if organized religion can bring peace. The Santa Monica Baha'i Community and the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council are co-hosting this free public event. For more information, visit www.santamonicabahai.org.

Dance the night away
CENTRAL
1348 14th St., 9 p.m.
DANCEiSM/GottaDanceDirty presents the VS Party featuring special guest DJs. No cover. For more information, call (310) 451-5040.

Stories for preschoolers
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 a.m.
Kids 3-5 are invited to this weekly story time. For information, call (310) 829-7081.

Friday, Feb. 4, 2011

Cafe Samo
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Samohi's choir program presents this cabaret-style show featuring dozens of performers who create and produce their own musical acts. For more information, call (310) 828-4884. This event also takes place on Saturday.

What about the Colorado River?
Patagonia
2936 Main St., 8 p.m.
Famed author and adventurer Jonathan Waters will be on hand sharing his take on the slow but sure decline of the Colorado River. He will also be signing a number of his works.

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011

'Bikes in the City'
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m.
Learn some of the steps you can take to be safe on city streets. Experts from Cyclists Inciting Change thru Live Exchange (C.I.C.L.E.) will share their knowledge of bike handling skills. There will be a mini-ride after the workshop. This event is free, but pre-registration is required. To sign up, e-mail contact@CICLE.org.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC

Greenbacks for going green

Santa Monica College on Tuesday received two rebate checks totaling more than $217,000, the result of a 10-month pilot project intended to cut down on electricity usage.

College officials said the pilot project involved retrofitting the control system for 54 fume hoods in the Science Building, a move that is estimated to save the college approximately $1.5 million over the next 10 years.

Fume hoods are box-like devices widely used by high-tech industries, hospitals and universities to help keep workers safe by capturing, containing and carefully dispersing hazardous fumes. They use a considerable amount of energy since they are usually running 24 hours a day.

A typical fume hood, with a sash opening 6 feet wide and 2 to 3 feet high, circulates air through this sash at 100 feet per minute. The energy to filter, move, cool or heat, and in some cases scrub (clean) this air is one of the largest loads in most lab facilities, according to researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which in 2001 developed new technology to reduce energy usage by at least 50 percent.

The checks were issued by Southern California Edison and Sempra Energy (The Gas Co.).

The fume hood project cost the college approximately $175,000 and is expected to pay for itself in about 1.5 years in utility cost savings, college officials said.

DAILY PRESS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Enrolling next year's kindergartners

Public school officials will host several tours of elementary schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for parents of incoming kindergartners so they can learn more about enrolling their children for the 2011-12 school year.

The "Kindergarten Round-Up" starts Feb. 23 and goes through March 9. Most of the tours start at 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. For a schedule, go to www.smmusd.org or call (310) 450-8338.

Parents will have the chance to meet with the principals, visit classrooms and register their children for kindergarten. Parents will need to bring with them the following: their child's birth certificate, health records, and verification of residence in Santa Monica or Malibu (gas, water, or electricity bill will suffice).

DP

CITYWIDE

Safe waste

Residents with old motor oil, prescription drugs, computers, batteries and other hazardous waste can now call City Hall and have those items picked up for free.

City Hall has launched Santa Monica's first door-to-door household hazardous waste collection program, a pilot effort that is intended to cut costs while cutting down on carbon emissions, said James Conway, senior environmental analyst for City Hall.

The first pick-ups will take place Feb. 21. Residents can sign up for the service by calling (800) HHW-PKUP (449-7587) or e-mailing hotline@curbside.com. Residents who register will receive a collection kit in the mail, which includes detailed instructions with a collection day reminder. Residents then prepare the collection kit and leave it on their doorstep or another predetermined location on collection day.

So far 90 people have signed up, Conway said.

The idea is to save residents the time and hassle of transporting potentially dangerous materials to the City Yards. Conway said approximately 5,000 trips were made to the City Yards last year.

The pilot program is expected to cost roughly $76,000 for five months. The City Yards will still collect hazardous waste if residents bring it in, but only on Saturdays, a move that is expected to save City Hall roughly $100,000, Conway said.

Cutting costs was a major factor in creating the pilot, Conway said.

"We're really encouraging people to take advantage of this program and share their experience with us and let us know what they think," he added. "We want to keep this program going."

City Hall has contracted with WM Curbside, LLC for the service.

DP



SIGN 'EM UP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Soccer players Julia Glanz (left) and Elizabeth Lyons sign their letters of intent at Santa Monica High School's Student Office on National Signing Day for the NCAA on Wednesday afternoon. Glanz will be attending the University of Arizona and Lyons Fresno State next year.

LAUSD OKs boy's use of religious song

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A fifth-grader will be allowed to perform to a Christian-themed song at his school talent show after a lawsuit accused the Los Angeles Unified School District of violating his free-speech rights, it was announced Wednesday.

The nation's second-largest school district, the PTA and the student's lawyers reached an agreement permitting the 10-year-old to appear in Friday night's talent show at Superior Street Elementary School, Superintendent Ramon Cortines said in a statement.

The district is "very pleased" that the situation was resolved, Cortines said.

The boy, a San Fernando Valley resident who is identified in court documents only as "B.H.," planned to perform "interpretive movement" to the song "We Shine," according to a lawsuit filed last week.

The song proclaims that "Jesus is alive and he's coming again" and has the chorus: "We are the redeemed, we are the ones who are free, and we belong to Jesus."

The boy auditioned for the talent show last month and a few days later, the school principal told his mother, Adriana Hickman, that the song was offensive and violated the separation of church and state, the suit contended.

The mother was asked, "Can he pick a song that doesn't say Jesus so many times,'" said David Cortman, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian-based legal organization that represents the mother.

The mother noted that the talent show had not listed any restrictions on the content of performances and was offended when she was told that several other students were told to change their songs because they contained profanity, Cortman said.

"The mother was troubled that (the principal) had just compared Christian speech to vulgarity," he said.

The lawsuit filed Friday in federal court accused the school district, school board, superintendent and the school principal of violating the boy's constitutional rights of free speech and exercise of religion.

"Students do not shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gates," the suit argued.

Cortman argued that the boy's use of the song on school property does not violate the constitutional separation of church and state

SEE **SONG** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Filth in the media

Editor:

I heartily agree with your editorial on Jan. 28 about the decline of decency, or rather the increase of indecency, on TV. But isn't this just the continuation of the degeneration of movie, TV and popular culture in general which has been going on for the last two generations? While I agree completely with your opinion, I wonder why you finally give it all of a sudden?

Is it any worse than "Sex and the City" for example, which seemed to delight in gratuitous grossness?

There has been a steady increase, since the mid-1960s, of horror, violence, repulsiveness, sexuality and toilet humor. The main problem is the concern of most parents that their children be allowed to have a childhood and be raised to their parents' standard of decency. Once upon a time, before the '60s, that was relatively easy to do. Now, with the multiplicity of media and relatively lax supervision, children can see things which their parents or grandparents had never even heard of and would have been horrified to see. There is a limit to what a child's mind can cope with. We are going to see what the effect is of overloading a generation of children with horror and unhealthy sexuality.

It is often asserted that parents should ensure that their child is never exposed to inappropriate material. Anyone who says that either isn't a parent or doesn't have to work for a living. Thanks to the wonderful evolution of our society, most parents have to get up, go to work, work under stress all day, commute home, do various chores at home then try to get maybe an hour of relaxation before bed. Once they come out of school (and do their homework?) children have nothing else to do but pursue whatever interests them. They have seven or eight hours to entertain themselves. Parents are tired at night. They don't have the time to police all their children's free time and they don't want to. They had children in order to be able to enjoy their time together not to have to play the heavy and create enmity between parent and child by watching and restricting everything their child does.

With the avalanche of unsuitable material from all media, do we any longer have a society in which it is fit to raise children?

It is indeed, as you say, time for the creators of trash to act responsibly but they consider their responsibility is to their shareholders, to make money, not to society to make decent shows and movies.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica



Your column here



Linda Tarr-Whelan

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Meeting Obama's challenge for girls

THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF us to create the country that 9-year old Christina Taylor Green thought we had when she made the fateful trip to hear her elected representative rings true to me. Christina had an ambition to be the first girl to play in the major leagues. Tragically it's a chance she won't have. It made me think about what are the chances for all those bright girls across our country to become the leaders we need?

There is an "off-the-radar" issue we must address to provide girls with a meaningful roadmap to meet Obama's challenge by opening up the doors to women becoming leaders. Our complacency that "we are the best" and that "women's equality is a done deal" masks a murky picture of reality.

While both parties fielded women candidates for high office in 2008, the political ladder remains a pretty closed shop. Despite fine women like Rep. Giffords, our progress report is dismal; we are backtracking rather than moving ahead on women's representation. Congressional representation of women has slipped downward, leaving the U.S. as an unenviable 72nd in the world. Numbers are important, but the big picture is we are missing the benefits of new thinking and consensus-building skills that women bring to the table.

It isn't just politics and government where our promises of "you can be whatever you want to be" are overblown. In a series of informal focus groups with women of all races, ages and economic status from coast-to coast, women told me we are only half-way to achieving full equality because "our talent is untapped." They are right -- half of the good ideas are not heard when decisions are made.

Other countries are taking a different approach. Recently, the French Assembly passed legislation to reach a 40 percent target of women on France's corporate boards in six years. France joined Norway, Netherlands, Spain, Finland, Australia, Israel and Iceland in dramatically shoring up the leadership of their corporate sectors by tapping the value of women's talent.

The business pattern of having overwhelmingly male boards who appoint more men certainly diminishes the chances for women to succeed. The conservative male sponsor of Norway's legislation held that if they kept appointing the hunting and fishing buddies of the current board members, their corporations would not be competitive. In 2010, the only large U.S. firm to have 40 percent women on their board was General Motors. Across the Fortune 500, the gender make-up of corporate boards has been stagnant for five years.

Why is it imperative to open up the power tables? Companies are more profitable when there's a critical mass of 30 percent or more women on their boards. Women add 21st century management skills around team building and partnerships, make decisions in a more "risk-aware" fashion, prioritize family and work solutions which increase productivity, and decrease turn-over. More women at the table can open up organizations to maximize their competitive advantage in the search for talent.

Surely, quotas are unlikely here, but that's no excuse for inaction. Forward-thinking countries and companies realize and act on two big ideas — economic viability takes talent and the value-added talent is "women-power." That is certainly true here. Ask yourself a few questions: Who is starting businesses in this jobless recovery? Women. Who is getting the education needed for a knowledge-based economy? At every level from high school to PhD programs women are graduating in equal or greater numbers than men (and have been in most cases for over a decade). Who are the consumers? Overwhelmingly, women.

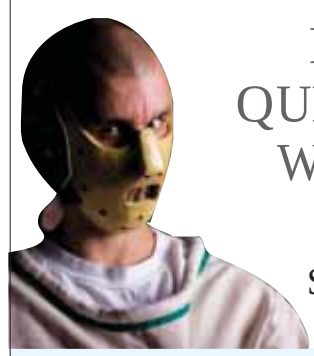
We need a White House Roundtable to bring attention to the potential of balanced leadership. The Joint Economic Committee should hold hearings to explore what we are missing. Investors should withhold their proxy from all-male slates and tell management why. Search committees should refuse to accept "final" pools of candidates that don't include women. Political parties should lead — along with dynamic women's organizations — to recruit and support women candidates.

Concentrating on the future for girls to be leaders can create the climate to remove barriers and benefit society. If we really want the promise of "you can be whatever you want to be" to be realistic, sensible actions are needed. Our talented girls want a future where their families have both economic security and the good care they need to thrive.

We have an unfinished agenda to meet President Obama's challenge for the girls of the United States. Complacency has its price, even in a great nation.

TARR-WHELAN is a Demos Distinguished Senior Fellow on Women's Leadership and a former ambassador to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

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Life Matters

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

How to make the most of online job search

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I am interested in finding a new job but am not sure how to get started. A few of my friends have suggested using online websites to find out about local job openings. Do these sites really work?

Signed,
Online Jobseeker

DEAR ONLINE JOBSEEKER,

Online job search websites can be helpful, however, they should not be your only source of job leads. Limit your use of job search websites to 10-15 percent of your total job search. Keep in mind, if it's easy for you, it's easy for everyone else too.

If you do use job search websites to begin your search, start with broad keywords. Terms like "entry-level," "assistant," "analyst" will generate key results for new professionals and words like "manager," "executive," and "vice president" may help you to identify opportunities for more experienced workers.

Use the job search websites as a starting place to test the marketplace. The meta-search sites like indeed.com, simplyhired.com, and jobcentral.com, can be helpful in identifying key companies or organizations. Adjusting the advanced search features can provide you with more streamlined results.

For instance, indeed.com allows you to select a salary range for your search which can help eliminate the positions that are below your ideal pay scale. Simplyhired.com has the option to sort results based on special filters like "new graduate," 'socially responsible," or "mom friendly" workplaces. Signing up is generally free and it will help you keep track of postings that were added since your last visit. Many of the major job search engines also provide a free service to e-mail you postings that fit your job interests. Using search aggregators can be useful in getting you motivated; the e-mail may provide the spark you need to get going on your job search.

Beyond the meta search sites, you may also look to industry-specific sites. Idealist.org provides postings specific to the non-profit and volunteer industries. Dice.com has a good reputation for hosting job postings for technically-focused careers and usajobs.gov is the job posting clearinghouse for most federal government agencies. These sites can be useful in giving you a sense of who's hiring.

Craigslist can be a decent source for local opportunities with smaller employers as well. However, when applying online to job postings, be cautious of the information you are sharing. In many cases your resume has your personal address and phone number. While many corporate employers have systems in place to protect your information, sending your resume to a randomly-created e-mail account may not afford the same privacy. As a reminder, your resume should not contain personal information like your Social Security number or date of birth. Follow basic common sense; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Use the job search websites to get ideas about key job titles, responsibilities, and desired qualifications. You will do far better in your job search if you have a good sense of what employers are looking for. Use the online job search websites as a career research mechanism. Identify the types of positions that are appealing to you and categorize the skills they are looking for. For instance, if you are interested in a business role you may find that a large majority of employers are looking for critical thinking, analytical and communication skills. Knowing what the employer is looking for will help you showcase your skills on your application, resume, and in personal interactions. Use the keywords and phrases included in the job description to craft your cover letter and ensure that your resume is using the industry buzz words.

Bottom line, job search website can be helpful but you should use them sparingly. Relying too much on the search sites will lead you to disappointing results. The best advice is to get out there, meet people, and make yourself relevant to the company's hiring needs. Best of luck with your job search.

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

The Q Line

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Disclosing donors

Councilman Kevin McKeown last week was again unsuccessful in his push to increase disclosure of campaign contributors.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Why do you think his fellow council members voted down his proposal to give the public greater access to campaign finance records?

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


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People often ask me what to do if a landlord does not make repairs to a rental unit. Let me start with something a tenant should not do.

DO NOT WITHHOLD RENT

Under certain limited circumstances, a tenant may withhold rent. But, it is never a good idea to withhold rent. If a tenant does not pay the full rent, when due, the landlord would most likely serve the tenant with a three day notice to pay or quit. Once a three day notice to pay or quit expires, the landlord does not have to accept the money even if the tenant offers the full amount. The landlord can refuse the payment and proceed with an unlawful detainer action (eviction case).

An unlawful detainer action is very stressful. Also, the tenant would have the expense of litigation costs and probably attorney fees. A tenant does not have to retain an attorney to defend an unlawful detainer action, but it would be very wise to do so.

If a tenant loses an unlawful detainer case, the tenant would be evicted and owe all of the back rent and possibly the landlord's attorney fees and litigation costs. Further, the unlawful detainer judgment would probably appear on the tenant's credit reports as well as reports kept by landlord agencies which could make it difficult to rent a new home in the future.

For all of the above reasons, a tenant should never withhold any rent.

GIVE LANDLORD A LIST IN WRITING

The first thing a tenant should do is give the landlord a list in writing of items which need to be repaired. The list should be hand-delivered or mailed to the landlord. The tenant must keep a copy of that list and keep track of when and how the list was delivered to the landlord (the specific date when the list was mailed or hand-delivered).

A tenant must give the landlord a reasonable period to make repairs. What is a "reasonable period" is defined on a case by case basis. Usually, a tenant should give the landlord 30 days to make repairs. But, if the condition is serious (i.e.: no electricity, no hot water, hole in the roof), a reasonable time would be much shorter.

A tenant should list all items which need repair, in detail. Failure to notify the landlord of a specific problem may prevent a tenant from being compensated later for the defective condition.

CONTACT GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS

If the landlord does not make the repairs within a reasonable period, the tenant should contact appropriate government inspectors.

In Santa Monica, the first office to be contacted should be the Santa Monica Code Compliance Department: (310) 458-4984. The Code Compliance Department will not come to a rental unit to perform a general inspection. The tenant must have a specific list of items which need repair.

In addition to the Code Compliance Department, a tenant should call the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services. To arrange for an inspection, a Santa Monica tenant would call: (310) 665-8484.

The advantage of government inspectors is that the government agency may order the landlord to make repairs. Also, if the tenant is in trial with the landlord (or a hearing with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board), the government inspectors' reports may be admissible as evidence.

PETITION FOR RENT DECREASE

If the landlord does not make the required repairs, a tenant may file a petition for rent decrease. The petition is filed with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, located in Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401; (310) 458-8751. The petition for rent decrease may be filed 30 to 180 days after service of the written notice to the landlord of items which need repair.

If the petition is granted, the rent will be reduced. But, the rent reduction is prospective (from that point forward). The Rent Control Board does not have the authority to award any money to compensate the tenant for past conditions or reduced services.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

If a tenant wishes to be compensated for the defective conditions or reduced services in the past, the tenant would have to file a lawsuit. A suit could be filed in superior court. Although an attorney is not required for superior court, it is likely that the landlord would retain an attorney. When one party has an attorney and the other does not, it is a big advantage. If the tenant retains an attorney, the expenses might make such a suit in superior court impractical.

Usually, the most economical way to proceed is to file a lawsuit in small claims court. A person can sue in small claims court for up to $7,500.00. And, there are no attorneys in small claims court. Thus, the expenses are greatly reduced.

CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY

Even if the tenant is not going to retain an attorney on a fulltime basis, it is usually a good idea to at least have a consultation with a tenants' rights attorney, especially before filing suit in small claims court or filing a petition for rent decrease.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY MARK PALMER, A SANTA MONICA TENANTS' RIGHTS ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-1860 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling
5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
5:00–6:00pm	(2nd & 4th Monday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
WEDNESDAY	
5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields
THURSDAY	
12:00-2:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2st & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Archdiocese backing off longer school year

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles is backing away from a plan to add 20 days to the calendar for its elementary schools.

Cardinal Roger Mahony announced last week that the archdiocese would become the first school system in California to move to a 200-day academic year. Mahoney said the idea was to improve student performance.

The change would have affected some 52,000 students in three counties.

But some parents complained that would disrupt family schedules.

On Tuesday, Chancellor Mary Elizabeth Galt said the decision on whether to add instructional days will be left up to the 210 elementary schools.

The Los Angeles Times says 15 schools already have the longer school year and 70 percent of the schools have said they will adopt it.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELL

Scandal-tainted city looks at electing new leaders

Residents of the scandal-plagued city of Bell, which authorities say has been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy by members of a City Council expected to be booted out of office next month, will hear from nearly a dozen people vying to replace those councilmembers.

The 10 candidates are scheduled to speak at a campaign forum scheduled Wednesday in the small, working class suburb of Los Angeles.

They are among 17 people running to replace three councilmembers targeted in next month's recall election and a fourth councilmember who has resigned. The other candidates will speak at a similar forum on Thursday.

All four of the disgraced councilmembers face criminal fraud charges for allegedly diverting millions of dollars in city funds to pay themselves and other former Bell officials huge salaries.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge: Michael Jackson's family can sue promoter

A judge has ruled that Michael Jackson's mother can sue entertainment giant AEG on behalf of the singer's family, allowing her to claim that the concert promoter was responsible for medical decisions that led to Jackson's death.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Yvette M. Palazuelos on Wednesday denied AEG's motion to dismiss the suit on grounds that Jackson was responsible for his own medical care and hired Dr. Conrad Murray, who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the pop star's death.

City News Service says the judge ruled that Jackson family lawyers will have to show evidence of fraud, negligent infliction of emotional distress and civil conspiracy.

The judge gave Jackson family lawyers 20 days to amend the complaint.

AP

VENTURA

1,000 roosters euthanized after cockfighting bust

About 1,000 roosters confiscated during the weekend bust of a Ventura County cockfighting ring have been euthanized.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department says 16 men were arrested and cockfighting paraphernalia, including blades, were seized during the Saturday raid in an unincorporated area near Oxnard. A tip from an anonymous caller led to the bust.

Investigators say about 1,000 roosters had to be euthanized because of their aggressive nature.

The Ventura County Star says 43-year-old Michael Lim of Los Angeles and 29-year-old Luis Manzana of Oxnard were booked for investigation of felony animal cruelty. The other 14 men were booked for misdemeanors for being spectators at a cockfight.

AP

LOS ANGELES

DA: DNA evidence links killer to four more murders

A former pizza deliveryman already on California's death row after being convicted of murdering 10 women and an unborn child was charged with four more slayings dating back to the mid-1980s.

DNA evidence linked Chester Turner to the four additional murders, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Turner, 44, will be returned from state prison to face the new charges, but an arraignment date hasn't been set.

Turner was sentenced to death in 2007 for murders committed over an 11-year period in Los Angeles.

The four killings detailed in the new charges occurred between 1987 and 1997, and included the 1992 slaying of Mary Edwards and the 1997 death of Cynthia Johnson. All four victims were strangled.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Charlie Sheen thanks CBS bosses, fans for support

Charlie Sheen thanked his bosses, co-stars and fans for their support Wednesday, hours after authorities released a 911 call in which a doctor described the actor as "very, very intoxicated" and in pain.

Sheen's thanks come as his off-camera antics, which led to a trip to the hospital last week and a return to rehab, caused a halt of production on television's highest-rated comedy, "Two and a Half Men."

In a four-paragraph statement, Sheen thanked his bosses, CBS chief Les Moonves and Warner Bros.' TV division President Bruce Rosenblum, for "their concern and support."

He did not offer any new details on his treatment. "I have a lot of work to do to be able to return the support I have received from so many people," Sheen's statement said.

It was issued hours after the Los Angeles Fire Department released a 5-minute recording in which Dr. Paul Nassif said he received a call from Sheen's residence and spoke with a secretary who sounded worried about the 45-year-old actor.

AP

Muslims want a Hollywood makeover

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES After years of watching Muslims portrayed as terrorists in mainstream TV and movies, an advocacy group hopes to change that image by grooming a crop of aspiring Muslim screenwriters who can bring their stories — and perspective — to Hollywood.

The Muslim Public Affairs Council is hosting a series of workshops taught by Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated veterans over the next month, an initiative that builds on the group's outreach for a more representative picture of Muslim-Americans on the screen.

The workshops are the natural evolution of MPAC's efforts to lobby TV networks and movie studios from the outside, and they fit into a small, but growing, movement to get more Muslim-Americans behind the cameras.

MPAC dubbed its effort the Hollywood Bureau, while Unity Productions Foundation recently started a similar project called Muslims on Screen and Television. Other nonprofit arts foundations, such as the Levantine Cultural Center and Film Independent, have joined forces by planning networking events for Muslim actors and training and mentoring young filmmakers.

"The idea is to really give Muslims an avenue to tell our stories. It's as simple as that. There's a curiosity about Islam and a curiosity about who Muslims are — and a lot of the fear that we're seeing comes from only hearing one story or these constant negative stories," said Deana Nassar, MPAC's Hollywood liaison.

At the council's first screenwriting workshop last Saturday, three dozen attendees packed into a classroom in downtown Los Angeles to hear Emmy-winning comedy writer Ed Driscoll give tips of the trade, from knowing the audience to making a script outline.

The students reflected a diversity not often seen in Hollywood's portrayal of Muslim-Americans, from a black woman who grew up in Mississippi to a stay-at-home mom to a defense attorney who dabbles in screenwriting on the side.

Khadijah Rashid, 33, said before class that her Hollywood experience included working behind the scenes on everything from reality TV to the award-winning biopic "Ray."

But Rashid said she had always felt her own story — growing up Muslim in the Deep South — was the tale she most wanted to tell. She recalled being teased as a child for her unusual last name and choking down chunks of dry cheese for lunch when the school cafeteria served pork, a forbidden food in Islam.

"I don't think it's much drama, but it's my own personal drama," said Rashid, now a single mother living in Pasadena. "I definitely want to tell my story, but I need to learn how. If I get the tools, I'll just pour it out."

With any luck, Hollywood will listen. The industry has taken more interest in telling authentic Muslim stories in recent years, said Ahmos Hassan, a Muslim-American talent manager who has been in the business for more than two decades.

"There's a demand for Muslim stories, but whether it's Muslim writers or not depends on the talent they bring to the table," Hassan, who owns Chariot Management, said during a break in the class. "They need to bring that to the industry ... and I think the industry is open to it now, more so than any time before."

MPAC has had some success working with writers and producers from the outside.

Its Hollywood Bureau was founded after Sept. 11, 2001, with a simple strategy: to make sure the portrayal of Islam on TV screens was accurate, even if it was negative. Since then, the organization has consulted on a parade of hit TV shows, including "24," "Bones," "Lie to Me," "7th Heaven," "Saving Grace" and "Aliens in America."

The group also has held meetings with top network executives from ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC, and throws a Muslim-inspired version of a Hollywood awards show each year for productions, both mainstream and independent, that advance understanding of Islam. In 2009, winners included "Slumdog Millionaire" and "The Simpsons," for an episode that featured Bart befriending a Muslim boy named Bashir.

The goal is not to spoon-feed Hollywood Muslim-friendly story lines, but to increase awareness of the diversity of American Muslims and to be a resource for writers and producers, Nassar said.

"There's only a small, small number of people who are trying to drive a negative agenda. Most of the time it's innocent oversight, and they're very happy to get our take on what they're doing, to get our feedback," said Nassar, who also attended the workshop and is an entertainment lawyer by training.

That feedback has been an eye-opener and a challenge for some in the industry, where the Muslim-as-terrorist plot line has been an accepted story for years.

"When you're sitting in the writer's room, and you've got to come up with a plot line and you've got to come up with a bad guy, it's really easy to pull that out and say, 'OK, Muslim terrorist,'" said T.S. Cook, an Oscar-nominated screenwriter who will teach two of the four sessions. "It's a lazy man's way to villainy — and it's pretty ingrained."

Writer Roger Wolfson, who worked on the TNT drama "Saving Grace," said MPAC consultants were invaluable when he was assigned to write a script for an episode that featured a black death-row inmate who was converting to Islam.

In the plot, the inmate Leon had a personal angel, Earl, who had been guiding him. Wolfson's challenge was to show Leon's conversion and decide if his angel would change in appearance — or if he would continue to exist for Leon at all.

MPAC's consultants urged Wolfson to resist making Leon's character a militant, angry black man and instead suggested that he focus on the beauty and mystery of the moment of conversion. The collaboration paid off, he said.

"Everything was my idea, but I didn't know a single detail. I didn't know how you convert; I didn't know what it means; I didn't know what an Islamic angel would say, how an Islamic angel would behave," Wolfson recalled in a phone interview.

In the end, Wolfson showed Leon reciting the Islamic declaration of faith in his prison cell as his angel watches.

When Leon opens his eyes, the angel is still there and greets him with a simple "Us salaamu alaykum," or "Peace be upon you" in Arabic.

The episode was one of the high points of Wolfson's career.

"With every writer, you're always looking for new ways to provide freshness to your characters in abbreviated fashion," Wolfson said. "You can do that, sometimes, by making somebody a believable Muslim."

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TROPHY TIME

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Los Angeles Laker Ron Artest (top center) joins in a group photograph with Mayor Richard Bloom, members of Comerica Bank and Santa Monica business leaders during the check presentation and ribbon cutting at the new Comerica Bank on Fifth Street on Wednesday afternoon.





SONG

FROM PAGE 3

because it was the youngster's personal choice and the school did not select it.

The suit, which is pending, contends that the district created a policy for the talent show that bars performances with a religious message. It asks a judge to strike down the policy.

On Tuesday, the boy's lawyers also sought a court injunction to permit the student to perform but withdrew it the same day after learning that the district had agreed to let the show go on, Cortman said.

District spokeswoman Monica Carazo said the district determined that the boy's performance won't violate church-and-state-separation rules because the talent show was not a required school event.

XRDS

FROM PAGE 1

way.

The win improves Crossroads, ranked No. 8 in the latest California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 5AA poll, to 13-7 overall and 4-3 in Delphic League play. Crossroads is currently tied with Calvary Chapel for third place in league. Three teams from the Delphic will receive automatic berths in the playoffs.

Crossroads was playing without starting center Leo Abbe-Schneider, who is studying abroad for the remainder of the season. Tommy Nowels was efficient at backup, scoring 9 points.

Despite being smaller than the 6-foot-5 Abbe-Schneider, Jackson likes the dynamic Nowels brings to the team. Jackson said that his superior ball-handling skills give the Roadrunners another player who can bring the ball up the court allowing Shmuger more room to roam looking for his shot.

Next for Crossroads is a Delphic League matchup with Kilpatrick on Friday at home. That game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

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SIGNS
FROM PAGE 1

and impeding the-right-of-way," Beck said. "When you're putting things on the city sidewalk, there's a lot of issues."

The City Council in November of 2009 directed planners to look into changing the sign ordinance in response to complaints from merchants who said the status quo was overly restrictive.

Tuesday's meeting was the first opportunity for merchants to provide input on planners' deliberations.

While Gordon said shop owners' main demand is for the right to display sidewalk signs, he also said City Hall should drop some restrictions on sidewalk sales.

"If a store can stay in business and can continue to contribute to the community by putting a rack of clothes outside with a 50 percent off [sign], then you need to allow that," he said

> **"THE A-FRAMES ARE A TOOL – THEY ARE A TOOL THAT IS OVERWHELMINGLY DESIRED BY THE MERCHANT COMMUNITY."**
>
> **Gary Gordon,**
> President, Main Street
> Business Improvement Association

The City Council will have the final say on whether to alter the sign ordinance. Beck said she expects the issue to come before the council within the next several months.

nickt@smdp.com

COPS
FROM PAGE 1

Bobby Hill, who works in the Northeast Division. "There's less pressure on them, they become more brazen."

Assistant Chief Earl Paysinger said Wednesday that all but one gang officer in the Northeast, Hollenbeck, 77th Street and Southeast divisions had quit their assignments over the financial rules.

The officers have not left the Police Department but instead have been returned to regular patrol duties.

"The last thing we want to do is create fear and trepidation in the hearts and minds of the community," Paysinger said. "I am very strong in my belief that the community is going to be OK."

Many of the officers will be patrolling the same neighborhoods they did while in the gang units. But they can't photograph gang members or access a statewide gang database. They will also be required to answer radio calls instead of focusing purely on gangs.

The officers quit ahead of a March deadline requiring narcotics and gang officers to reveal bank and other personal financial information as administrators try to snare corrupt officers in units frequently handling cash or drugs.

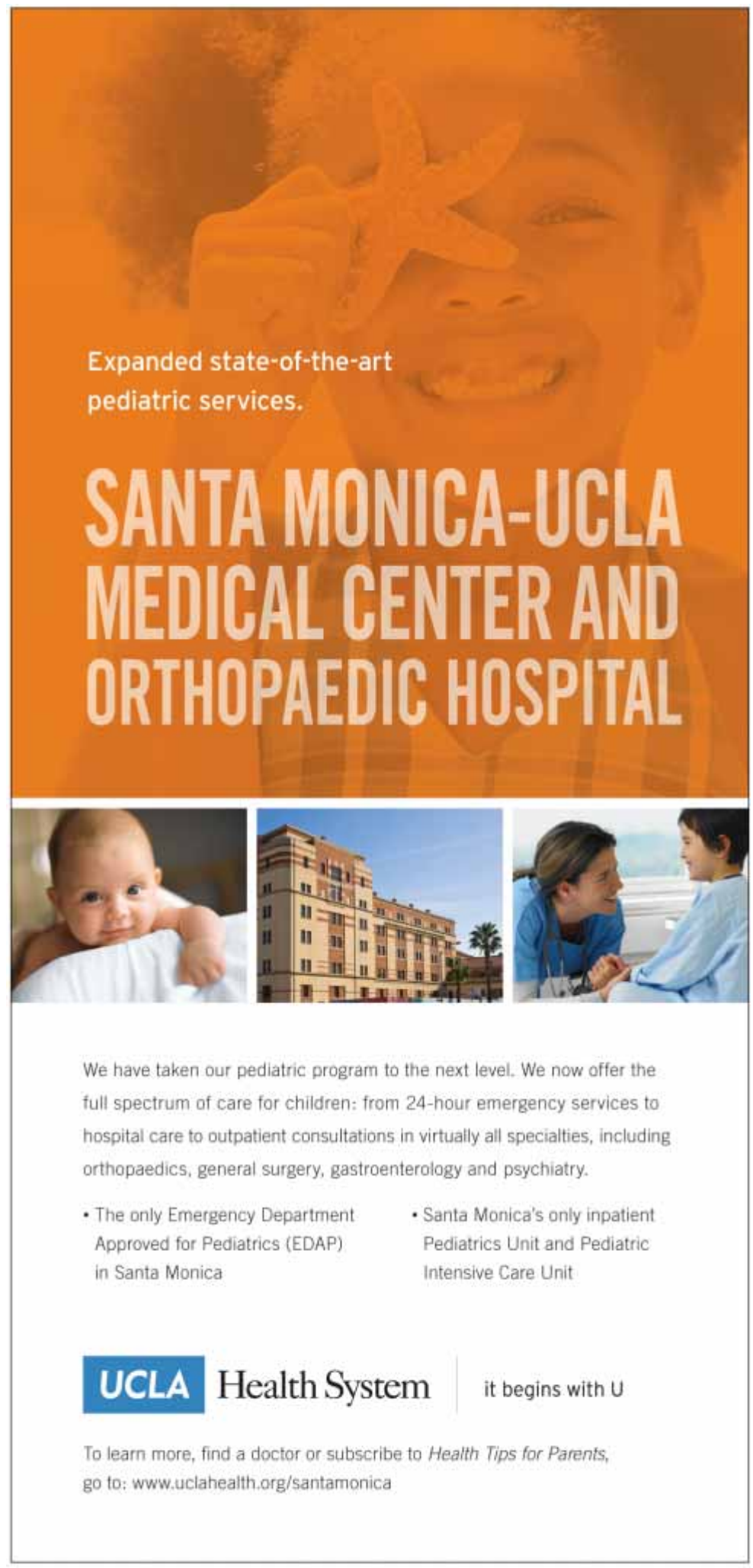
The rules were mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice after a scandal in the late 1990s involving corruption alleged against anti-gang officers in the LAPD Rampart division.

Gang officers are concerned the rules will jeopardize their safety if the information finds its way into the hands of gang members or their defense lawyers.

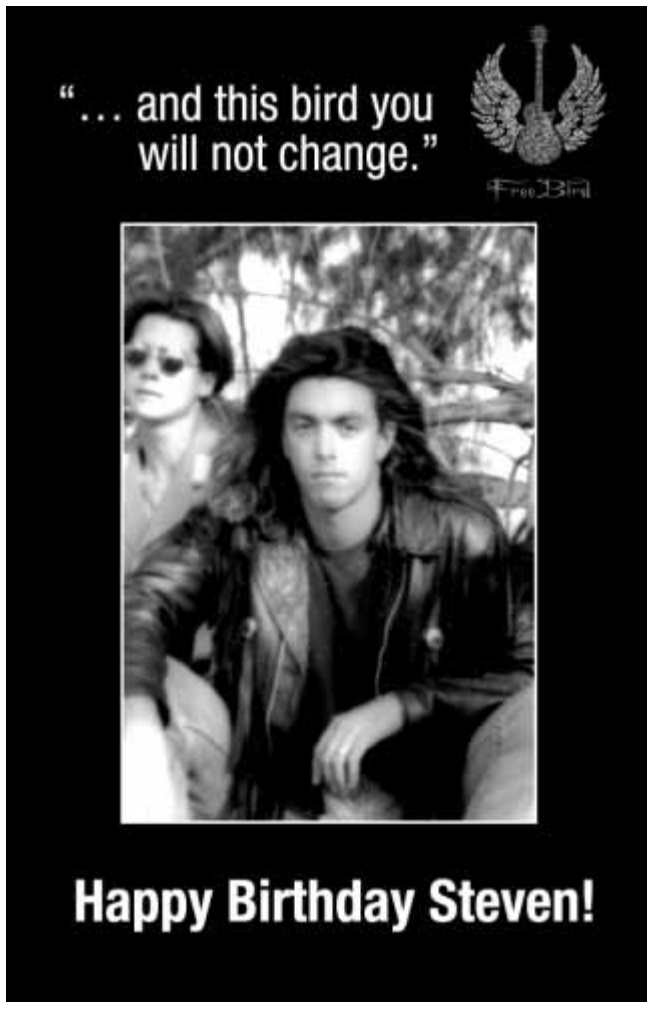
To ease gang officers' fears, several command staff members, including Paysinger and Chief Charlie Beck, signed the financial disclosure forms.

Paysinger said all LAPD gang units would be fully staffed with new officers by midsummer, when the weather heats up and gang activity typically increases.









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Study: School vocational training lacking across U.S.

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

The current U.S. education system is failing to prepare millions of young adults for successful careers by providing a one-size-fits-all approach, and it should take a cue from its European counterparts by offering greater emphasis on occupational instruction, a Harvard University study published Wednesday concludes.

The two-year study by the Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education notes that while much emphasis is placed in high school on going on to a four-year college, only 30 percent of young adults in the United States successfully complete a bachelor's degree.

While the number of jobs that require no post-secondary education have declined, the researchers note that only one-third of the jobs created in the coming years are expected to need a bachelor's degree or higher. Roughly the same amount will need just an associate's degree or an occupational credential.

"What I fear is the continuing problem of too many kids dropping by the wayside and the other problem of kids going into debt, and going into college but not completing with a degree or certificate," said Robert Schwartz, who heads the project and is academic dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. "Almost everybody can cite some kid who marched off to college because it was the only socially legitimate thing to do but had no real interest."

The report highlights an issue that has been percolating among education circles: That school reform should include more emphasis on career-driven alternatives to a four-year education.

The study recommends a "comprehensive pathways network" that would include three elements: embracing multiple approaches to help youth make the transition to adulthood, involving the nation's employers in things like work-based learning, and creating a new social compact with young people.

Many of the ideas aren't new, and leaders, including President Barack Obama, have advocated for an increased role for community colleges so the country can once again lead the world in the proportion of college graduates.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan delivered opening remarks at the report's release in Washington on Wednesday, saying career and technical education has been "the neglected stepchild of education reform."

"That neglect has to stop," Duncan said.

But the idea of providing more alternatives, rather than emphasizing a four-year college education for all, hasn't been without controversy. Critics fear students who opt early for a vocational approach might limit their options later on, or that disadvantaged students at failing schools would be pushed into technical careers and away from the highly selective colleges where their numbers are already very slim.

"Nobody who spends much time in America's high schools could possibly argue that they are focused on college for all, or ever have been," said Kati Haycock, president of The Education Trust, a nonpartisan Washington, D.C.-based think tank. "Most schools still resist that idea, instead continuing long-standing, unfair practices of sorting and selecting like an educational caste system — directing countless young people, especially low-income students and students of color, away from college-prep courses and from seeing themselves as 'college material.'"

Schwartz said efforts should be intensified to get more low-income and minority students into selective institutions, while also strengthening the capacity of two-year colleges.

"You've got to work on both fronts at once," Schwartz said.

The study recommends that all major occupations be clearly outlined at the start of high school. Students would see directly how their course choices prepare them careers that interest them — but still be able to change their minds. Students should also be given more opportunities for work-based learning, such as job shadowing and internships.

Students, the researchers recommend, should get career counseling and work-related opportunities early on — no later than middle school. In high school, students would have access to educational programs designed with the help of industry leaders, and they'd be able to participate in paid internships.

The report notes that many European countries already have such an approach, and that their youth tend to have a smoother transition into adulthood. And not all separate children into different paths at an early age. Finland and Denmark, for example, provide all students with a comprehensive education through grades 9 or 10. Then they are allowed to decide what type of secondary education they'd like to pursue.

Barney Bishop, president and CEO of Associated Industries of Florida, said he would advocate for an approach that provides more alternatives and greater inclusion of the business community.

"The problem for the business community is where you have kids who don't have the rudimentary skills, and you have to take the time and effort to train them, get them some of the rudimentary skills, plus the special skills," he said.

Sandy Baum, an independent higher education policy analyst, said she think there needs to be more counseling in advising students about how to make the right choices.

"I don't think the problem is too many people going to four-year colleges," she said. "The problem is too many people making inappropriate choices.

"What we'd like is a system where people of all backgrounds could choose to be plumbers or to be philosophers," Baum added. "Those options are not open. But we certainly need plumbers so it's wrong to think we should be nervous about directing people in that route."



IPad newspaper debuts

ANDREW VANACORE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. launched the first iPad-only newspaper Wednesday. It is hoping the right combination of traditional reporting and technological wizardry will lure enough subscribers and advertisers to pay for a new way of delivering journalism.

News Corp. plans to charge 99 cents per week or $40 per year for the newspaper, called The Daily.

That's less than what many publishers charge per month for home delivery of newspapers, though The Daily won't be burdened with the cost of printing or delivering a physical newspaper.

The digital newspaper is produced by reporters in New York and Los Angeles and a network of freelancers. It will be broken out into sections including news, gossip and opinion and delivered to subscribers on their iPads each morning. Each edition will have as many as 100 pages the size of an iPad, which measures 9.7 inches diagonally. Content will be updated, though not as often as a website.

"There's a growing segment of the population here and around the world that is educated and sophisticated, and they're not reading national newspapers or watching much television news," Murdoch said during a launch event at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. "But they do consume media. And they expect content tethered to their specific interests delivered anytime, anywhere."

The Daily is the latest example of how media companies are trying to mine the iPad's popularity for new sources of revenue. Many publishers already have free or paid apps as an add-on to their print editions.

Newspapers have been eyeing digital opportunities because the print advertising revenue they have traditionally relied upon has been evaporating for the past four years. Advertising revenue from newspaper websites has been growing, but it's a fraction of what print brings in.

News Corp. hasn't been as hard hit as many publishers because of revenue coming from its Fox television network and the 20th Century Fox movie studio. News Corp. also owns The Wall Street Journal, one of the few newspapers able to sell a large number of digital subscriptions.

Still, Murdoch referred to the crisis facing the news business Wednesday, saying, "We can and we must make the business of news gathering and editing viable again."

Though it is too soon to predict how The Daily will fare financially, Murdoch said News Corp. spent about $30 million to start the project. Operating costs will run roughly a half million dollars per week.

So to break even on annual subscriptions alone would require a customer base of almost 1 million readers, assuming Apple Inc. takes its typical 30 percent cut. That would put The Daily among the top circulating newspapers in the country.

Advertising dollars will help support The Daily as well, though how much is not yet known.

News Corp. Chief Digital Officer Jon Miller said readers will be the main source of revenue for The Daily at first, but eventually the company would like to see a 50-50 split between subscription and advertising. It is counting on marketers to pay more to reach readers who are engaged enough to pay for a digital newspaper. Verizon Wireless is sponsoring the newspaper's launch, allowing News Corp. to give readers two weeks for free.

The iPad's rising popularity gives The Daily and potential advertisers a vast audience to target. Nearly 15 million iPads were sold in just nine months last year and research firm Gartner Inc. expects 55 million tablets to be shipped this year. Most of those tablets will likely be iPads.

On the other hand, The Daily will have competition. The New York Times has a free iPad app, though it plans to begin charging a yet-undetermined fee early this year. USA Today has a free app and is overhauling its newsroom toward putting news on the iPad and other mobile gadgets. It has no plans to charge readers.

The Daily is looking for an edge by offering an app that is more closely tailored for tablet computers.

It is giving prominent place to video and graphics that can be manipulated using the iPad's touch screen and photos that offer 360-degree, panoramic views at the swipe of a finger. Readers can navigate The Daily by swiping left to right to get to the next page, or zoom out to scroll through multiple pages at a time.

Jesse Angelo, managing editor at News Corp.'s New York Post, will serve as The Daily's editor-in-chief.

After his first look at The Daily, veteran newspaper analyst Ken Doctor said he was impressed at the way News Corp. has taken advantage of the iPad's touch screen in a way other publications haven't. "I think they've set a new standard," he said. "They've passed their first test."

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Dr. Deborah Wallen

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Things to do in 2011


New Year's Resolutions
1. Eat Healthier
2. Exercise More
3. Learn to Play Guitar

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New Book
by Mervyn Hecht

GREAT CASES I LOST
Thirteen Legal Cases Which Taught Me Humility
Mervyn Hecht
Mervyn Hecht was a lawyer in the small town of Pacific Palisades California from 1964 to 1989. Here he recounts several of his disparate cases, in turn funny (fighting over the custody of a French poodle), surprising (you have to read it), and profound (a firstdegree murder case). They give insight into the life of a lawyer, how lawyers view their clients, and the legal profession. Some of the cases are heart-warming, but most are just very funny. The book is available only as a Kindle e-book from Amazon. But you do not need a Kindle to read the book. The Kindle reader is free and available for download from Amazon.com. Once installed, you can download and read the book on your smartphone, your computer, or your iPad.
To buy the book, go to Amazon.com and enter "Mervyn Hecht" in the search box

City of Santa Monica
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM
Fiscal Years 2011-2015 Request for Proposals
The City of Santa Monica invites competitive proposals from eligible nonprofit organizations seeking funding for human services programs that respond to clearly-identified community needs in Santa Monica. For additional information, please visit www.smgov.net/hsd.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

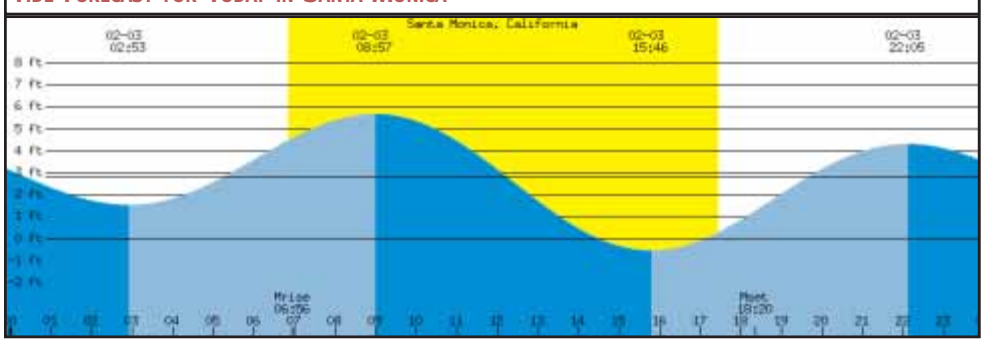
Swell Forecast

Swell should arrive around VC/SB before dawn, then mid to late morning farther south. When the swell does arrive, size should run 2-3' overhead at most west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

This swell should peak in the early morning hours with similar size.

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 26, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 18
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 24

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groundwork Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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

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

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

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.

NBA

Rookie Griffin transforming Clippers into exciting squad

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Blake Griffin was supposed to get this started last season; instead he broke his left kneecap in the final preseason game.

He was worth the wait.

Griffin's got the Los Angeles Clippers — a punchline of a franchise for years — actually winning.

Griffin is doing it with a combination of brute athleticism, an array of flashy YouTube-worthy dunks and solid passing. He's averaging 22.8 points, 12.7 rebounds (fourth in the league) and 3.6 assists.

The No. 1 pick in the 2009 NBA draft also produces double-doubles almost nightly, with 39 so far, including a stretch of 27 in a row that ended last month. He'll find out today if he's the first rookie All-Star since Yao Ming of Houston in 2002-03.

"You hear how much looser everybody is and how much fun we're having," he said. "If you get double-doubles and you lose every day, that's not fun at all."

Griffin's numbers earned him Western Conference rookie of the month honors for the third straight month in January, when he led all rookies in scoring and rebounding.

"Early on, it looked like (Washington guard John) Wall was going to run away with all the attention and rookie of the year," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said, "then all of a sudden this guy exploded with all these great plays. And now the team is playing better."

Twice this season, Griffin has scored 40 or more points, making him the first rookie to do so since Allen Iverson in 1996-97.

"He definitely should be in the All-Star game, without a doubt," said Milwaukee's Corey Maggette, a former Clipper. "He's one of those special players, like LeBron."

Griffin is already committed to the All-Star dunk contest and was selected to play in the Rookie Challenge game.

Hindering his bid to add All-Star to his name is the fact that the Clippers are well below .500, but have knocked off some of the league's best, including Oklahoma City, West-leading San Antonio and Chicago. They dispatched Miami and the two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers within a five-day span last month.

"I'm confident with our team and our talent," he said. "The key for us is keep learning."

That's something Griffin is always doing. The 21-year-old forward is still figuring out when to assert himself and how to improve his shot selection, which isn't always high percentage. Griffin relishes getting physical with opposing defenses, a tactic he said makes him more comfortable.

"I know I have to work on defensive things, but it's not all going to come at one time," he said.

With every breathtaking vertical leap, Griffin is bringing hope to a beleaguered Clipper Nation that hasn't experienced a winning season since 2005-06, also the last time the team made the playoffs.

Comic Billy Crystal, a 20-year season ticketholder, voices the fear that torments every fan of the team known for its Clipper Curse involving a wretched mix of losing, injuries, coaching changes, tightwad ownership and unhappy players.

"I just hope they can keep this together and not screw it up," he said.

Griffin has already experienced the so-called curse as a result of his knee injury, which resulted in a year of grueling rehabilitation, practice and riding the bench.

Like most Clipper fans, Crystal watches Griffin with a mix of breathless anticipation and fear that the rookie's hard-charging style will cause another devastating injury.

"I'm just praying nothing happens to him," Crystal said. "I've never seen anyone play this hard with that kind of raw recklessness and skill since Larry Bird — all-out and passionate. He's made everybody better."

Yet he's not a one-man show.

Veteran point guard Baron Davis is having his best season in three years with the team and willingly defers to Griffin and Eric Gordon, a duo regarded as the cornerstones of the franchise.

Gordon, whose 24.1-point average ranks eighth in the league, was having a breakout season until he sprained his right wrist recently. Randy Foye has proven a worthy replacement, while DeAndre Jordan, like Gordon a third-year pro, has emerged as a shot-blocking powerhouse starting in place of injured center Chris Kaman.

"We have our game plan and for the most part we've done a good job executing our game plan," Griffin said. "The biggest part is different guys stepping up at different times and just hitting big shots, getting a steal, getting a block. Teams can't just key in on one or two guys."

The Clippers began the season with a 1-13 record, largely due to a rash of injuries and having three rookies in the starting lineup. But things began turning around in mid-December after they lost four in a row.

"We want to start establishing something new," Davis said. "We all believe in each other and you can see that when we're on the floor."





MOVIE TIMES

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

SOLD OUT!
The King's Speech (R) 1hr 51min
7:30 p.m.
Discussion following with Colin Firth and director Tom Hooper.

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

Somewhere (R) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 7:00pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
1:15pm, 4:10pm, 7:05pm, 9:55pm

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
12:50pm, 3:40pm, 6:30pm, 9:05pm

Country Strong (PG-13) 1hr 52min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

Way Back (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

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

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

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:25am, 1:15pm, 2:20pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:50pm, 9:40pm, 10:30pm

Dilemma (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Rite (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:20pm, 10:05pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:10pm

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

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

La Traviata (G) 1hr 49min
7:30pm

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

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

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

127 Hours (R) 1hr 35min
1:55pm, 4:30pm

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

Blue Valentine (NC-17) 1hr 54min
12:50pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Company Men (R) 1hr 53min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Mechanic (R) 1hr 40min
12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:05pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

From Prada to Nada (PG-13) 1hr 47min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:25pm, 10:00pm

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

Relax tonight, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. Everyone seems gung-ho, yet later another attitude could emerge. You feel odd dealing with a closed-off person who refuses to open up. You might ask what is going on here. Keep your focus. Tonight: Catch up on surprising news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Yes, you could be overly serious and perhaps tiresome to some people. Don't worry -- everyone likes how you get the job done. Don't postpone a doctor's or dentist's appointment. Keep yourself in tiptop shape. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A person you generally think of as playful could be a bit dour. You might try to cheer up him or her and wind up making this person even more closed down. Sometimes honoring another's feelings rather than negating them makes all the difference. Tonight: Use your imagination.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You are your own worst critic. A partner or close associate encourages you to relax. Being uptight can only add to a difficulty. Don't push yourself too hard. Take a day off as soon as you can, just for you. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ A serious talk does a lot to repair a relationship. You might wonder exactly what is going on behind another's cool demeanor. Conversations open up a different point of view. Watch another person become more animated. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ An easy exchange with an associate might not be possible. Give this person time to relax and flow. Throw yourself into your work. Others have a lot of questions about a project. Don't hesitate to get into a conversation about the matter at hand. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your normal playfulness seems to be gone. A sad quality or edge could mar an excellent relationship. Slow down and think about what has occurred. Perhaps you need to revise your thinking. Open up. Creativity will flow once more. Tonight: Go for fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Allow others to know of your disdain for an evolving situation. Perhaps you are taking someone too seriously. Know that you might need some downtime in order to recycle and take another look at what ails you. In a couple of days, your perspective will change. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A meeting could set the tone for the day. You could be exhausted and tired by everything that wings by today. You might choose to do something very differently from what others want. Keep talking in order to fully grasp others' concerns. Tonight: Visit with a neighbor. Catch up on news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding in a chosen direction. A boss or an authority figure might have strong opinions. Conversations need to involve different ideas, which might cause less total damage. Tonight: Be responsive to another's ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Though someone at a distance could be difficult, you can bypass his or her negativity. Try as you may, you cannot change this person's mood. Stay on top of your work; you might need to screen some calls. You wonder why so many people want you! Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Take your time making decisions. You could find a source to be somewhat closed down. Get feedback and ideas from others. In the end, it is you and only you who will be making the decisions. Sit down and reflect for as long as you need to. Tonight: Some solo time.

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 experience a lot more possibilities because of a willingness to bounce ideas off others. Aquarius is often a sign that has to be right, but the smart Aquarian opens up to many different thought systems and ideas. Your personality melts barriers and attracts many people. If you are single, opportunities to date abound. Choosing the right person for the type of bond you want will remain key. If you are attached, try to defer to your sweetie more often. Recognize how dominant you can be. AQUARIUS is far from a fair-weather friend.

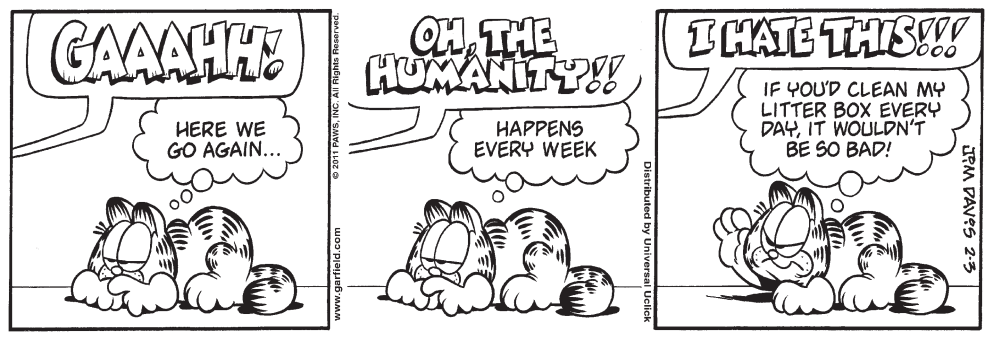


MYSTERY PHOTO

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

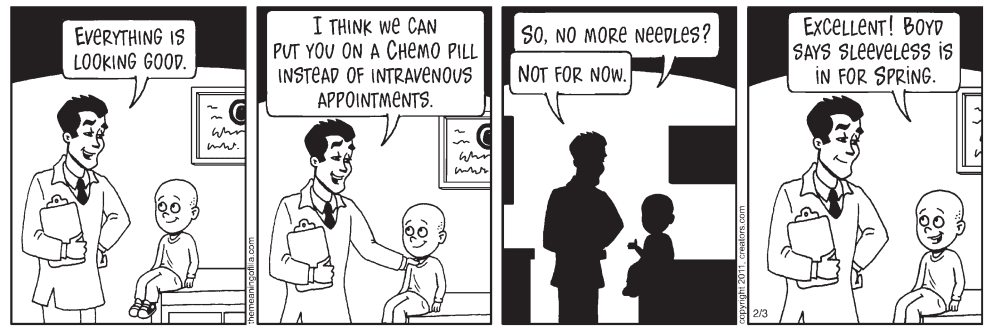
Garfield

By Jim Davis



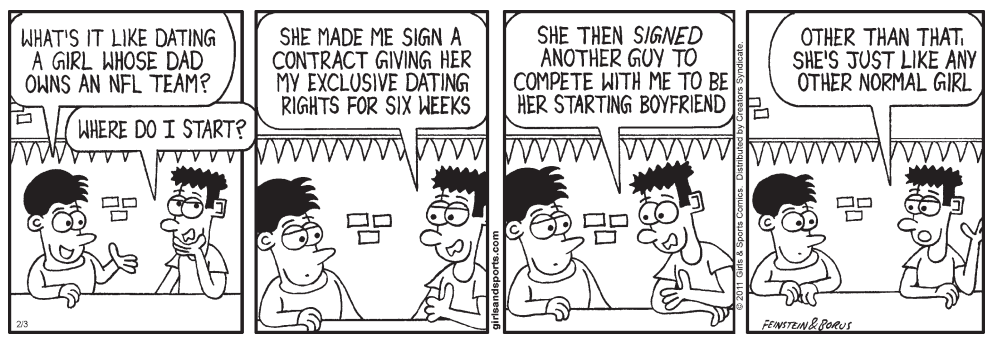
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



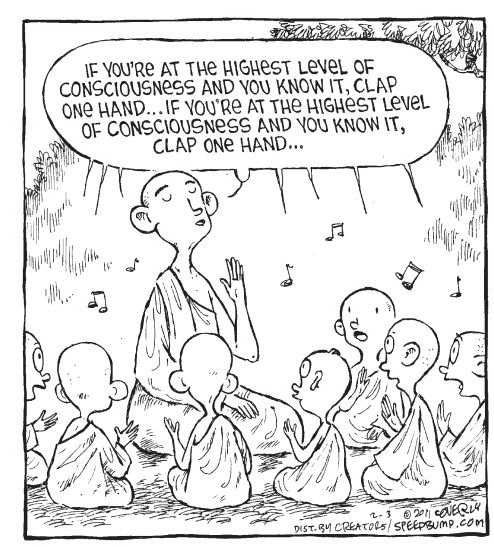
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Lord's wife
5 World-weary
10 German sub
12 Horse opera
13 Sri —
14 Permanent con
15 GI entertainers
16 1942 Abbott and Costello film
18 Got smaller
20 Baseballer Cey
21 Diner desserts
23 Rocker Vicious
24 Composer Waller
26 Finish a hole
28 Drill need
29 Injure
31 Bar topic
32 Ran out
36 Peculiar thing
39 "Xanadu" band
40 Tussle
41 Perimeters
43 Battery makeup
44 Wild card, at times
45 Brawl
46 Plays the ponies

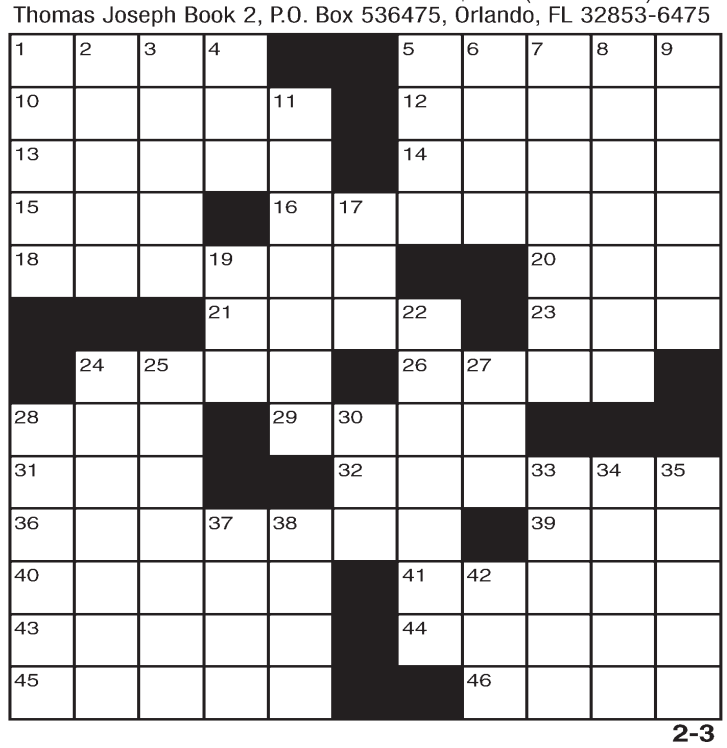
DOWN

1 Humdingers
2 Disconcert
3 Generous one
4 Shaggy beast
5 String tie
6 Den
7 Originally
8 Boss's command
9 Gofer's job
11 Lose luster
17 Mamie's mate
19 Gifted
22 Used an aerosol
24 Wedding planner
25 Minimally
27 Diamond judge
28 Big parties
30 Maximum amount
33 Musical transition
34 Pick
35 Rx amounts
37 Swimmer Biondi
38 Lhasa —
42 Ball girl

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

Yesterday's answer

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2-3

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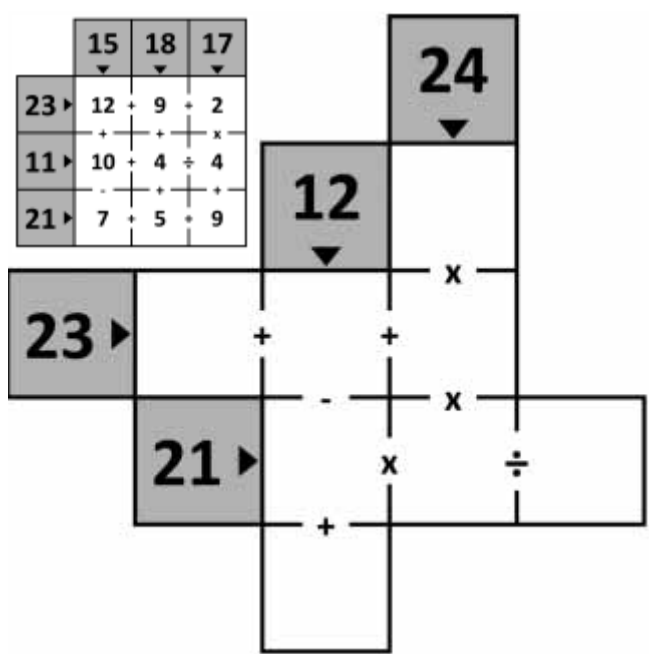
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1029



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Fantasy 5: 3 8 15 21 23

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 9 0 EVENING: 4 1 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 10 Solid Gold 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 11 Money Bags RACE TIME: 1:48.22

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

■ Flip a Coin: Among human procreation technologies soft-pedaled to tamp down controversy is surgeons' ability to selectively abort some, but not all, fetuses in a womb in cases where in vitro fertilization (IVF) has overproduced (usually involving mothers expecting triplets or greater, which pose serious health risks). More controversially, according to a December National Post report, a Toronto-area couple told their physician that IVF-created "twins" would be too much for them to care for and that the doctor should terminate one fetus (randomly chosen?) and leave the other.

■ British researchers, writing in the journal Evolution in November, described a species of birds in Africa's Kalahari Desert that appear to acquire food by running a "protection racket" for other birds. The biologists hypothesize that because drongo birds hang out at certain nests and squawk loudly when predators approach, the nest's residents grow more confident about security and thus can roam farther away when they search for food -- but with the hunters gone, the drongos scoop up any food left behind. (The researchers also found that drongos are not above staging false alarms to trick birds into leaving their food unguarded.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1690 The colony of Massachusetts issues the first paper money in America.

1706 During the Battle of Fraustadt Swedish forces defeat a superior Saxon-Polish-Russian force by deploying a double envelopment.

1783 American Revolutionary War: Spain recognizes United States independence.

1787 Shays' Rebellion is crushed.

1807 A British military force, under Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty captures the city of Montevideo, then part of the Spanish Empire now the capital of Uruguay.

1809 The Illinois Territory is created.

WORD UP!

elide \ ih-LAHYD \ , verb;
1. To suppress; omit; ignore; pass over. 2. To omit (a vowel, consonant, or syllable) in pronunciation.

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