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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 76



Santa Monica Daily Press

BILLUPS TEARS TENDON
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE JUNK THAT MAIL ISSUE

Service promises to end junk mail in Santa Monica

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE —19,500 tons.

That's how much mixed paper waste Santa Monica homes sent in 2010 to the Allan Co., City Hall's contracted recycling company.

City officials hope they've found a way to make it easy for Santa Monica residents to reduce that number through a service that puts an end to unwanted mail that clogs both mailboxes and recycling bins.

Santa Monica is one of four Southern California cities contracting with Catalog Choice, a nonprofit group based in Berkeley, Calif. that works with residents to opt out of unwanted junk mail. City Hall is paying under $2,000 for the service.

Through the website www.santamonica.catalogchoice.org/, residents can get an account with Catalog Choice that lets them choose companies from which they no longer wish to receive mail.

The organization then removes users from two kinds of mailing lists called "house" and "prospect."

Other companies that help consumers

SEE MAIL PAGE 8



LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Paul Alvarez Jr. photo courtesy

Samohi's Brenda Matos gets taken out by a slide tackle by the goalie of the Morningside Monarchs during a league game Tuesday in Santa Monica. The Vikings would go on to win the game handily.

SM Courthouse facing backlog of evictions cases

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE Commissioner Jay Ford will join the Santa Monica Superior Court on Mondays to help clear a backlog of eviction cases from within the West district, which legal services say increased during the winter months.

According to court staff, Ford, who normally works out of the Malibu Courthouse, will be assigned to Santa Monica one day a week to keep two courts open all day Monday for the cases.

A court will be open for half of Wednesday to hear unlawful detainer cases — the other word for evictions — as well, wrote supervising Judge Joseph Biderman in an e-mail.

The court has seen an increase in eviction case filings in recent months, even as the California court system has been on the receiving end of deep cuts at the state level.

Centers like the Santa Monica Self Help Legal Access Center, located at the courthouse, saw a continuous flow of clients through December and January.

Those months are usually pretty light, said Cesar Bertaud, a staff attorney at the legal access center.

"December is a month we lose most of our volunteers," Bertaud said. "We count on a dip in (unlawful detainers) or else we'd be going crazy."

They did.

The staff had so much eviction traffic — for both tenants and landlords — that they had to cut off family law services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays because they

SEE EVICTION PAGE 8

Appeals court throws out same-sex marriage ban

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Same-sex marriage moved one step closer to the Supreme Court on Tuesday when a federal appeals court ruled California's ban unconstitutional, saying it serves no purpose other than to "lessen the status and human dignity" of gays.

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals gave opponents of gay marriage time to appeal the 2-1 decision before ordering the state to allow same-sex weddings to resume.

"I'm ecstatic. I recognize that we have a ways to go yet. We may have one or two more legal steps," said Jane Leyland, who was gathered with a small crowd outside

SEE GAY MARRIAGE PAGE 6

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012

Bring your own bird
Main Library Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
In preparation for this year's Raymond Chandler Citywide Read, join in on a discussion of Dashiell Hammett's own addition to California hard boiled fiction, "The Maltese Falcon." This presentation and discussion of the book should provide background information on a classic of the genre. Cost: Free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Done in an hour
Shoshana Wayne Gallery
Bergamot Station, 6 p.m.
"One Hour/One Painting" is a meditation on art — literally. Author Peter Clothier, art historian, biographer and Buddhist practitioner/writer specializing in creativity ("Mind Work"), invites 20 people to apply the principles of meditation and contemplation for slow-viewing and deep insights into one painting for one hour. The inaugural focus will be on Izhar Patkin's 2011 work "The Dead Are Here." $25; if seats are still open, RSVP to mail@shoshanawayne.com or call (310) 453-7535.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012

Ask the staff
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St., 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
In connection with the Be Excited! Be Prepared campaign, City Hall is hosting this open house meeting where Santa Monica residents, employees, business owners and other community members can talk with staff and project managers about topics like the pending Expo light rail and Parking Structure 6 construction. For more information, call (310) 458-8301 or visit www.smconstructs.org.

Farm in the backyard
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Join experts in a lively discussion about how gardens grow. Moderated by Darra Henigan from the Santa Monica Farmers' Market. Stay afterward for market treats prepared by chef Sal Marino. Part of the Santa Monica Farmers' Market 2012 quarterly library panel series. Free and open to the public.

Starting off young
Morgan Wixson Theater
2627 Pico Blvd., 3:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Award-winning, fun-filled musical theater and creative dramatics classes for ages 4-17, beginner to advanced. Work with a theater professional and work towards a final performance in Kids On Stage's Spring Play Festival in May and June 2012. Act, sing, dance, choreography, scene study, theater techniques, collaboration, brainstorming, team and confidence building, performance direction and final show. Classes vary. Class days: Monday through Saturday. To register, call (310) 314-0035.

Friday, Feb. 10, 2012

For the kids
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) presents its third annual "Art for Hearts," a silent auction of uniquely-crafted hearts and other art by youth artists and established artists whose proceeds will benefit programs for at-risk youth. This event will also feature music by the Santa Monica High School jazz band, food, wine, and guest appearances. Tickets are $35 per person or $50 per couples. For more information, visit www.picoyouth.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



'Youth of the Year' honored

BY LAUREN CAMP
Special to the Daily Press

LINCOLN BLVD A true tale of perseverance came to life this past weekend as David Ramirez was named the 2011 "Youth of the Year" by the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club at the 44th Annual Youth of the Year Awards Celebration and Banquet.

The 17-year-old senior proves to be a role model for his fellow teens who struggle with finding themselves as he recently overcame a number of challenges such as obesity, self-esteem issues and an absence of academic focus.

"David is a shining example of a young person who has made outstanding contribu-

SEE **YOUTH** PAGE 9



Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz.com

WELL DESERVED: **The Daily Press' Rob Schwenker, president of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica; David Ramirez, Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award recipient; and Aaron Young, CEO of the club.**



BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK

Photo courtesy St. Monica Catholic High School

Members of the St. Monica Catholic High School Academic Decathlon Team were all smiles Tuesday as their classmates celebrated their third division championship in three years. The team resurfaced in 2009 after several years of inactivity. The team secured 64 individual medals.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM BEACH

Best beaches for romance

The beach is an ideal destination to take your sweetheart this Valentine's Day. Whether it is a seaside picnic or a walk along the shoreline during the shimmering sunset, simply slip your hand into theirs and you will be sure to win them over.

Santa Monica-based environmental watchdog Heal The Bay is here to help with their top picks for the most romantic and healthy beaches across the West Coast.

Heal the Bay's most romantic beaches:

1. Encinal Canyon, El Matador in Malibu: The "Ocean Lover's Choice," this secluded rocky cove won Heal the Bay's online poll, which asked supporters to share their favorite romantic beach.

2. Abalone Cove in Rancho Palos Verdes: The perfect picnic spot and another popular pick from their ocean-loving supporters features tide-pool exploration and whale watching.

3. Laguna Beach in Orange County: From Blue Lagoon to Victoria Beach, these beaches consistently rack up perfect scores and are renowned for their soft sand, perfect for a sunset stroll.

4. Stinson Beach in Marin County (North and South): One of the cleanest beaches in the state, Stinson Beach also boasts proximity to the majestic Muir Woods.

5. Morro Strand Beach along the Central Coast: A coastal frontage park with spectacular views of Morro Rock. A prime spot for forging romantic memories.

6. Sunset Beach in Santa Cruz County: This rugged beach south of Santa Cruz features pine trees, sand dunes and a serene spot to watch the sun set.

Want to view the full list of the West Coast's top contenders? Visit http://brc.healthebay.org/ for more information or download the free mobile app for iPhone and Android.

– LAUREN CAMP

SM HISTORY MUSEUM

Read all about it

The Friends of the Santa Monica Library has donated 14 bound volumes of the Santa Monica Topics newspaper to the Santa Monica History Museum. Thirteen volumes date back from 1935 to 1939 and the other volume contains papers published from July 4 to Dec. 30, 1940.

The collection marks the first and only material from the Santa Monica Topics newspaper ever to be held within the museum's archive and are on display in the muse-

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Motorists are just as bad

Editor:

I am amazed at how some people are so narrow minded that they actually believe bicyclists violate more traffic laws than pedestrians and motorists!

I'm referring to hyperbolic complainers like Jim Lewis ("Enforce the laws," Letters to the Editor, Feb. 4-5, page 4) who claims that "99 percent of bicyclists do not observe traffic laws."

If that were so then the same statistic should be applied to "99 percent of motorists, and pedestrians who jaywalk." Many a time I have seen a pedestrian casually walk across a street, taking their time (sometimes while texting) and forcing vehicles to slow down or stop, to yield the right of way.

One woman in the south was responsible recently for her son's death, rather than crossing at the crosswalk. If Mr. Lewis is so concerned about cyclists talking on cell phones, I ask him, why it is so much more common to see pedestrians and motorists texting and talking?

I wonder if Mr. Lewis is one of those "scofflaws" that likes to walk on the bike path near the Santa Monica Pier, where it sometimes gets so congested cyclists have to walk their bikes to avoid crashing into pedestrians. I never see those pedestrians getting tickets!

Perhaps he's never tried to ride a bicycle down a narrow street when cyclists are forced on to the sidewalk. In a contest between a motor vehicle and a cyclist, the cyclist is way out classed.

While Mr. Lewis whines about the lack of enforcement of existing traffic laws, I don't see him complaining about motorists who cut off cyclists without signaling, or dooring them when exiting their vehicle without looking.

He further complains about how City Hall seems to be patting itself on the back spending millions for better bike lanes. I guess he doesn't realize that if every street had a painted bike path, cyclists would not be forced onto side walks. Perhaps he would prefer if City Hall discouraged bike usage, which would encourage even more traffic and parking congestion?

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

This is a hold up

Editor:

Let's balance the school budget by luring kids from other cash-strapped school districts ("School board considering adding permit students," Feb. 4-5, page 1).

Really?

This is not right. The Los Angeles Unified School District stopped the mass exodus of students by halting such permits. Culver City is now 50 percent permitted students. What is the future plan of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District – robbing smaller school districts? No thanks.

Lisette Gold
Santa Monica

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Becoming the mom you swore you wouldn't be

THERE COMES A TIME IN MANY women's lives when they make a startling realization. For me, that time came last week. I haven't become my mom (I should be so lucky). No, it dawned on me that I've become *that* mom.

You know that one I'm talking about.

I took my older daughter, 3-year-old Petunia, to get skis (because I'm that mom who waited until two days before ski school started to think about getting her equipment and then reacted with shock — shock! — when there were no more bargains to be had), at which time she had a nuclear tantrum in the store because I stubbornly insisted she not bang my younger daughter, 5-month-old Peony, on the head with the force of an Iron Chef in a race against time to remove the shells from a pod of crustaceans using a mallet.

"But I want to touch her!" she hollered in the crowded shop.

"Leave her alone!" I hollered back.

"No!" she screeched.

"Then we're leaving," I growled and grabbed her arm just tightly enough for all of the eyes already glued on us to wonder if they should scramble and make an emergency call to Child Protective Services.

That's when she pulled away from me, threw herself on the floor and rolled up into a little ball.

"OK, see you later," I said, swiftly wheeling Peony in her stroller out the door, which an employee kindly held for me. He kept the door open, assuming I'd wait for Petunia. I didn't. He looked at me with great alarm. I looked at him with great indifference.

He appeared relieved when I allowed her to catch up with me on the sidewalk as she ran out of the store all panicked and crying. I rolled my eyes. It was the same thing a few days earlier when Petunia refused to stand anywhere but squarely on my feet while I attempted to get me, her, Peony, a stroller, a car seat, three carry-ons, one pair of shoes, two bottles of liquid, a computer and three jackets through security at the airport. I'm that mom who has given up caring how I appear to strangers when I scream bloody murder at my kid after she has done something that would warrant me actually murdering her in bloody fashion. That's how moms like me roll, apparently.

I'm that mom who has stopped bickering about why Goldfish crackers are not appropriate at 7:45 in the morning and just silently hands them over instead. I'm also that mom who has sent her kid to preschool with a cough louder than a chorus of barking Dobermans. I mean, clearly my kid got the cough from other kids whose moms likewise sent them to school with runny noses. Their moms are those moms, too, so I'm sure we can all just nod our heads in tacit solidarity, buy some Robitussin (because only moms like us would allow a kid younger than 5 to ingest that stuff) and move on.

Mind you, I'm not just that mom when it comes to my older daughter. My younger daughter is also the victim of my that-momness. You know how you hear the stories of people forgetting their babies and you think, "Who does that?"

Um, me, actually. That'd be me. I've never actually left Peony somewhere, per se, but there have been some close calls. Like when she was 2 weeks old and my parents flew out for a visit. I drove them to their hotel and got out of the car.

"I'll come inside with you to check in," I said to my dad.

"I'll stay in the car with the baby," my mom volunteered.

Oh, right. The baby. The baby is in the car.

Last month I asked my husband if we should take advantage of him having a rare weekday off and take Petunia to see an afternoon showing of the "Alvin and the Chipmunks" movie.

"You can take her if you want," he said. "I'll stay home with Peony."

Ah, yes. The baby. I forgot about the baby. She's just so damn quiet, which is a new kind of problem in our family.

And I'm now that mom who stares at the clock in the afternoon and decides confidently that 4:15 isn't too early for a glass of wine. And if the neighbors give one another knowing looks when they see me refill my glass for the second (OK, third) time by 5:30? Well, then I'm also that mom whose revenge fantasies help lull her to sleep at night with a practically imperceptible but unmistakably evil smile on her face.

I'm OK with being that mom, although for my daughters' sake I hope I some day can evolve into that other kind of mom who is all Zen-like and hears and sees nothing but birds chirping and flowers blooming when she gazes at her offspring. But that probably will require one of them to be a bit quieter and the other one to be a bit louder. So apparently I'm also that mom who is in dire need of a reality check.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

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Your column here

Robert Schwarzwalder

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The mythology of class

IN 1920, A TALENTED AMERICAN ROWER named Jack Kelly applied to race in the British Henley Royal Regatta. The most prestigious rowing event in the world, the Henley seemed a natural fit for Kelly, who had already been the U.S. national rowing champion.

Yet he never got to row: Kelly, a bricklayer, was told that his background in manual work disqualified him. According to the then-rules of the Henley, no one "who is or ever has been … by trade or employment for wages a mechanic, artisan or labourer" would be allowed to compete.

This effete classism is contrary to America's founding charter and its fundamental presupposition: that God has made all men equal, and endowed all of us with certain rights that should be protected by government.

Terms like "middle class" are, in a sense, un-American. Although often used to describe people whose income falls within the median range, the use of the term "class" infers social stratification and various levels of rank.

"Class" is a European concept, one grounded in the belief that some people are born inferior, their temporal value more limited than others who merit special consideration with respect to economic station, education, perceived social ranking, etc.

This notion is repulsive to the founding principles of our republic. Our belief in our equality before our Creator has given us men and women whose modest or even impoverished backgrounds have not thwarted their rise to leadership, wealth or esteem.

Recently presidential candidate and former Sen. Rick Santorum made the same point. In his words, "There are no classes in America. We are a country that (does not) allow for titles. We don't put people in classes. There may be middle-income people, but the idea that somehow or another we're going to buy into the class-warfare arguments ... is something that should not be part of the Republican lexicon." I would alter one word in the senator's wise comments: "Class" should not be part of the American lexicon.

Isolating people into "class" groups (whether they are professional, occupational, ethnic, etc.) is a convenient way of simplifying the complexities, and enormous potential, that characterize each person. How neat, how easy to dismiss someone by saying, "Oh, he comes from the country," or, "Did you see that he's wearing Dockers?" Or, worse yet, "Don't bother with his opinion — he doesn't have a degree."

The concept of class invites stereotyping, arrogance, discrimination, a socially acceptable form of bigotry. Understood properly, it is intrinsically in opposition to Judeo-Christian moral teaching.

None of this is to suggest that some people are not more capable, virtuous or prudent than others, or that the prosperous should not enjoy prosperity's fruits. It is to suggest that because one's father was a merchant does not mean his son cannot become an attorney. Nor does it mean that someone's occupation defines his whole being: A cabdriver can love and understand Dostoevsky as well or better than a professor of literature. A grocer can appreciate opera. And a Ph.D. can be a fool.

Abraham Lincoln called the equality of men the "central idea" of American politics. Like few before or since, the 16th president grasped that persons possessing value before the God of the universe deserve just and equal treatment under law and adequate opportunities to compete in society.

This idea is not uniquely American, but it is none too common in our world. In 2006, I spent extensive time in India. While there, the horribly stark contrasts between the destitute and the rich were raw. When I asked one of my Indian colleagues how more well-off Indians could pass by people whose needs were so great, he said that in Hindu theology, those in the lower castes were getting what they deserve — reincarnational justice, or "karma," at work.

Thus, the moral sense of duty to help the poor was vitiated. As a result, Indian society remains broken, its layers determined by nothing but accident of birth.

In an 1826 letter to Roger Weightman — the last note he ever penned — Thomas Jefferson quoted the British rebel Richard Rumbold, one of Cromwell's men, when he wrote: "The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has 'not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them' legitimately, by the grace of God."

Jack Kelly might never have rowed in the Henley, but he won three Olympic gold medals for rowing thereafter. Reportedly, he mailed his 1920 Olympic racing cap to King George V with the note, "Greetings from a bricklayer."

Kelly's daughter Grace became an actress and later the Princess of Monaco. I hope that, as royalty, her husband was willing to shake her father's hand. Personally, I'd have been proud to.

ROBERT SCHWARZWALDER is senior vice president at the Family Research Council.

The Q Line

Permit plan

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is considering increasing the number of permits it offers to students from outside of the district.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you support the district's permit proposal or do you think that they should back off the idea?

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.**

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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.

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GAY MARRIAGE

FROM PAGE 1

the federal courthouse in downtown San Francisco, cheering as they learned of the ruling.

She married her longtime partner, Terry Gilb, during the five-month window when same-sex marriage was legal in California.

"But when we first got together, I would have never dreamed in a million years that we would be allowed to be legally married, and here we are."

The ban known as Proposition 8 was approved by voters in 2008, with 52 percent of the vote. The court said it was unconstitutional because it singled out a minority group for disparate treatment for no compelling reason.

The justices concluded that the law had no purpose other than to deny gay couples marriage, since California already grants them all the rights and benefits of marriage if they register as domestic partners.

The appeals court focused its decision exclusively on California's ban, even though the court has jurisdiction in nine Western states.

Whether same-sex couples may ever be denied the right to marry "is an important and highly controversial question," the court said. "We need not and do not answer the broader question in this case."

Six states allow gay couples to wed — Connecticut, New Hampshire, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia. California, as the nation's most populous state and home to more than 98,000 gay couples, would be the gay rights movement's biggest prize of them all.

The 9th Circuit panel concluded that a trial-court judge had correctly interpreted the Constitution and Supreme Court precedents when he threw out Proposition 8.

The measure "serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples," Judge Stephen Reinhardt, one of the court's most liberal judges, wrote in the 2-1 opinion.

Opponents of gay marriage planned to ask the Supreme Court to overturn the ruling, which came more than a year after the appeals court panel heard arguments in the case.

"We are not surprised that this Hollywood-orchestrated attack on marriage — tried in San Francisco — turned out this way. But we are confident that the expressed will of the American people in favor of marriage will be upheld at the Supreme Court," said Brian Raum, senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal aid group based in Arizona that helped defend Proposition 8.

Legal analysts questioned whether the Supreme Court would agree to take the case because of the narrow scope of the ruling. California is the only state to grant gays the right to marry and rescind it.

Douglas NeJaime, an associate professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said the Ninth Circuit's narrow decision would allow the Supreme Court to uphold the measure without ruling "on marriage for same-sex couples on a national scale."

"In effect, the Ninth Circuit's decision allows the Supreme Court to continue the incremental, case-by-case trajectory of marriage for same-sex couples in the United States," NeJaime said in an email.

Weddings appeared unlikely to resume anytime soon. The ruling will not take effect until the deadline passes in two weeks for Proposition 8's backers to appeal to a larger panel of the 9th Circuit. Lawyers for the coalition of conservative religious groups that sponsored the measure said they have not decided if they will seek a 9th Circuit rehearing or file an appeal directly to the Supreme Court.

The panel also said there was no evidence that former Chief U.S. Judge Vaughn Walker was biased and should have disclosed that he was gay and in a long-term relationship with another man.

Proposition 8 backers had asked the 9th Circuit to set aside Walker's ruling on constitutional grounds and because of the judge's personal life. It was the first instance of an American jurist's sexual orientation being cited as grounds for overturning a court decision.

Walker publicly revealed he was gay after he retired. Supporters of the gay marriage ban argued that he had been obliged to previously reveal if he wanted to marry his partner. The 9th Circuit held a hearing on the conflict-of-interest question in December.

In its ruling Tuesday, the panel majority said it was unreasonable to presume a judge cannot apply the law impartially just because he is a member of the minority group at issue in a case.

"To hold otherwise would demonstrate a lack of respect for the integrity of our federal courts," the opinion said.

Reihardt, who was appointed to the appeals court by President Jimmy Carter, was joined in the majority opinion by Judge Michael Hawkins, an appointee of President Bill Clinton.

Judge Randy Smith, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, dissented, saying he disagreed that Proposition 8 served no purpose other than to treat gays and lesbians as second-class citizens.

Smith said Proposition 8 could serve to promote responsible child-rearing among opposite-sex couples and to ensure that children are raised in an environment with married, biological parents.

Voters passed Proposition 8 five months after the state Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage by striking down a pair of laws that had limited marriage to a man and a woman.

The ballot measure added the one man-one woman provision into the California Constitution, thereby overruling the court's decision. It was the first such ban to take away marriage rights from same-sex couples after they had already secured them, and its passage followed the most expensive campaign on a social issue in the nation's history.

An estimated 18,000 couples tied the knot during the four-month window before Proposition 8 took effect. The California Supreme Court upheld those marriages but ruled that voters had properly enacted the law.

Gov. Jerry Brown, in his previous role as attorney general, and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger refused to defend Proposition 8 in court and left it to the ballot measure's sponsors to appeal Walker's decision to the 9th Circuit.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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Report: Silicon Valley sees growth in jobs, wealth

BY MARCUS WOHLSEN
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Silicon Valley is creating jobs and wealth for highly skilled workers but may be leaving some residents behind as employment closes in on pre-Great Recession levels, according to a report released Tuesday.

The 2012 Silicon Valley Index found job growth in the high-tech hub far outpaced the country as a whole last year. The region added 42,000 jobs, a jump of nearly 4 percent, compared with a nationwide increase of little more than 1 percent.

The current unemployment rate in the region stands at 8.3 percent, the same as the national average but well below the overall state rate of 10.9 percent.

Job growth occurred in all major sectors of the Silicon Valley economy except manufacturing. Key industries adding jobs included cloud computing, mobile devices, mobile apps, Internet companies and social media.

"Silicon Valley does seem to be mounting a fairly impressive recovery," said Russell Hancock, president and chief executive of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, a nonprofit that compiles the index annually along with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. "We were the last to succumb to the national recession, and we appear to be the first emerging out of it."

Hancock said the improving economy hasn't resulted in the same widespread benefits as previous periods of growth. In the past, he said, advances in the high-tech industry would also create many mid-level jobs that served as the "spine" of Silicon Valley.

This time around, what Hancock called a "bonanza" for highly educated workers hasn't trickled down.

Per capita income for the four-county region covered by the index rose to $66,000 last year due to rising wealth among high earners.

The report does not provide a median income figure for 2011, but the number dropped by 3 percent between 2009 and 2010, and the percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches rose.

"Technology used to be this tide that would rise and lift all the boats," Hancock said. "That doesn't seem to be the case anymore."

Optimism among investors has helped drive the region's return to prosperity for those with the right science, engineering and business skills. Venture capital investments rose by 17 percent last year, the third increase in as many years following a sharp drop after the 2008 economic downturn.

Investments in software jumped in 2011, but the biggest leap was a doubling in backing for so-called clean technology. Most of the $3 billion poured into the industry went toward efforts to develop alternative energy sources.

Other signs that Silicon Valley was retaining its reputation as the country's innovation engine included a 30 percent surge in patent registrations in 2010 compared with the year before.



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MAIL
FROM PAGE 1

stop mail only remove them from prospect lists, or lists that companies receive with information on people who have not done business with them in the past.

House lists are those that companies maintain from business they've already done with a client.

Catalog Choice is the only service that removes people from both, easily, said President and Executive Director Charles Teller.

"No one was willing to let you opt out. You, as an individual, had no idea who you have a relationship with," Teller said. "The fact of the matter is if you don't want their direct mail, you don't have to get it."

The average American receives 900 pieces of mail a year, Teller said, and Santa Monicans likely receive considerably more because companies tend to mail to affluent areas.

To stop a piece of mail, the user sends in a "suppression notice" through the website, a MailStop envelope or a smartphone application.

If it's through the website, they log in for free and register the opt outs by searching for the company and filling out the form. For phone books, the user enters a zip code and the website helps find the correct directory.

Both the mail option and the phone app cost money.

Catalog Choice has relationships with 4,200 direct marketers, and over 1.5 million consumers use the service. It's processed over 20 million opt outs since the organization began in 2007.

The majority of companies abide by the suppression lists that they find every month on the website. For those that don't, Catalog Choice pursues the company, usually through the terms in their privacy policy.

If the company persists, Catalog Choice staff goes to the Federal Trade Commission with the complaint. That doesn't happen often.

"I can count on one hand the number of companies we think are problematic," Teller said.

Political mailers, a critical campaign tool in Santa Monica, can be challenging because they're not mandated by law to abide by no-mail lists.

"If they choose not to stop, we do our best and it comes back to the privacy policy," Teller said. "At the end of the day, there may not be a legal obligation for them, but there is a moral obligation."

Getting rid of junk mail cuts down on annoyance, and it also saves resources.

According to www.41pounds.org/, another group that helps stop junk mail, more than 100 million trees are destroyed each year to produce junk mail. Creating and shipping junk mail produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 9 million cars.

City Hall committed to diverting 90 percent of Santa Monica's waste by 2030, which will be a whole lot easier with this service, said Kim Braun, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager for City Hall.

Catalog Choice tracks each opt out submitted through the Santa Monica-specific website, information City Hall can then use to document its waste diversion.

ashley@smdp.com

EVICTION
FROM PAGE 1

couldn't keep up with demand.

The access center sees people from all over the West District, which includes much of the Westside and an area near the Los Angeles International Airport.

"Almost all cases exclusive of West Hollywood are in the Santa Monica Courthouse," Bertaud said.

The center also gets references from the metro area because of its reputation for dealing with eviction cases.

Why the increase is happening is purely anecdotal. Tenants' rights groups and landlords' rights organizations both point to the down economy and what they think is an increase of "failure to pay" cases, and illegal subletters.

An illegal subletter could include anything from the main tenant of a rent-controlled apartment renting at above the maximum allowable rate to a subletter or an elderly person taking their adult child in as a "health care provider."

As far as inconveniences go, said Wes Wellman, former president of the Action Apartment Association, waiting for a case to go before a judge or commissioner is the least of them.

"It's a reality that we've come to accept," Wellman said. "They take what they take, so people are more focused on problems with the eviction process itself."

Although the addition of Commissioner Ford is meant to help clear the backlog and waiting time on cases, that's not always what clients want, said Denise McGranahan, senior attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles' Santa Monica office.

"For the tenants that face eviction, more time is a good thing," McGranahan said. "You have more time to live in your apartment."

That works up to 60 days into the proceedings, at which point the case can be unsealed, whether or not the tenant wins. Information in that filing can hurt the tenant's credit record, McGranahan said.

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Photo courtesy Santa Monica History Museum

OLD SCHOOL: **Santa Monica History Museum volunteer Stacey Nembhard-Taylor and guest Luca DeLorenzo, 7, comb through old issues of Santa Monica Topics, a weekly newspaper that published in the 1930s.**

BRIEFS
FROM PAGE 3

um's Morley Builders Reference Library.

The set includes blips from the pre-war era, with information about earthquakes, opera, business and social news. It also reveals grocery store ads that tell us that 2 pounds of bananas were priced at 5 cents and showcases the classic Sunday funnies.

In world news, the volumes cover an array of historical happenings including headlines titled, "Famed Dogs Banished from the Alps" and "Hitler in Rome."

Recently, a 7-year-old visitor found great interest in the museum's newest addition and was sure to take notes on the intriguing facts to show to his schoolmates.

– LC

YOUTH
FROM PAGE 3

tions to the club and his community and has overcome many obstacles," Aaron Young, president and CEO of Santa Monica club.

With this title under his belt, Ramirez now is competing for the "Youth of the Year" title for Los Angeles County and the sky is the limit from there.

The five regional winners will then advance to Washington, D.C., with hopes of grasping the national title as well as a $50,000 scholarship and a visit to the Oval Office to shake hands with the president.

Aside from his achievements, Ramirez wants to set a good example for his younger sister and now looks to attend USC and one day become the CEO of his own Boys & Girls Club.

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Komen exec quits after Planned Parenthood flap

BY RAY HENRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA A vice president at the Susan G. Komen for the Cure resigned Tuesday, saying the breast cancer charity should have stood by its politically explosive decision to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood.

Karen Handel, a Republican who opposed abortion as a candidate for Georgia governor, said she was actively engaged in efforts to cut off the grants and said the charity's reversal hurt its core mission.

"I am deeply disappointed by the gross mischaracterizations of the strategy, its rationale, and my involvement in it," Handel said in her letter. "I openly acknowledge my role in the matter and continue to believe our decision was the best one for Komen's future and the women we serve."

The grants, totaling $680,000 last year, went to breast-screening services offered by Planned Parenthood, which provides a range of women's health care services including abortions. Under criteria developed by Komen during Handel's tenure, Planned Parenthood would have been disqualified from future grants because it was under a congressional investigation launched at the urging of anti-abortion activists.

Komen, the nation's largest breast-cancer charity, reversed course after its decision ignited a three-day firestorm of criticism. Members of Congress and Komen affiliates accused the group's national leadership of bending to pressure from anti-abortion activists.

"Neither the decision nor the changes themselves were based on anyone's political beliefs or ideology," Handel said in her resignation letter. "Rather, both were based on Komen's mission and how to better serve women, as well as a realization of the need to distance Komen from controversy."

Handel said the discussion had started before she arrived at the organization last year. She said the charity was concerned that some Roman Catholic Dioceses had encouraged believers not to give to Komen because it supported Planned Parenthood.

"I was tasked with identifying options that would allow us to move to neutral ground about this so we weren't on either side of you know, pro-life, pro-choice," Handel said.

Komen Founder and CEO Nancy G. Brinker said she accepted Handel's resignation and wished her well.

"We have made mistakes in how we have handled recent decisions and take full accountability for what has resulted, but we cannot take our eye off the ball when it comes to our mission," Brinker said in a statement. "To do this effectively, we must learn from what we've done right, what we've done wrong and achieve our goal for the millions of women who rely on us."

Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Andrea Hagelgans declined to comment.

Handel said the now-abandoned policy was fully vetted by the Komen organization. Its board did not raise any objections when it was presented with the proposed policy in November, Handel said.

The breast cancer charity cited a probe backed by anti-abortion groups and launched by Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., to determine if Planned Parenthood improperly spent public money on abortions. Planned Parenthood says taxpayer money is strictly separated.

Until Tuesday, Handel had publicly kept silent about her role in the dispute.

"What was a thoughtful and thoroughly reviewed decision - one that would have indeed enabled Komen to deliver even greater community impact - has unfortunately been turned into something about politics," Handel said. "This is entirely untrue. This development should sadden us all greatly."

A person with direct knowledge of decision-making at Komen's headquarters in Dallas said last week that the grant-making criteria were adopted with the deliberate intention of targeting Planned Parenthood. The criteria's impact on Planned Parenthood and its status as the focus of government investigations were highlighted in a memo distributed to Komen affiliates in December.

According to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions, a driving force behind the move was Handel, who was hired by Komen last year as vice president for public policy after losing a campaign for governor in Georgia.

Brinker, in an interview with MSNBC last week, said Handel "did not have anything to do with this decision."

Handel ran for governor in 2010. She received an endorsement from former vice presidential candidate and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, but lost a primary runoff to former Georgia Rep. Nathan Deal, who won the general election.

Throughout the campaign, Deal accused Handel of being soft on abortion.

Deal repeatedly attacked Handel over a 2005 vote she took while serving on a metro Atlanta county commission to give more than $400,000 to Planned Parenthood, though not for abortion services. The Georgia affiliate of Planned Parenthood said the money went to a downtown clinic for services such as cervical cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted diseases and birth controls.

A longstanding law bans using federal money to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to protect the health of the mother.





SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57-59°

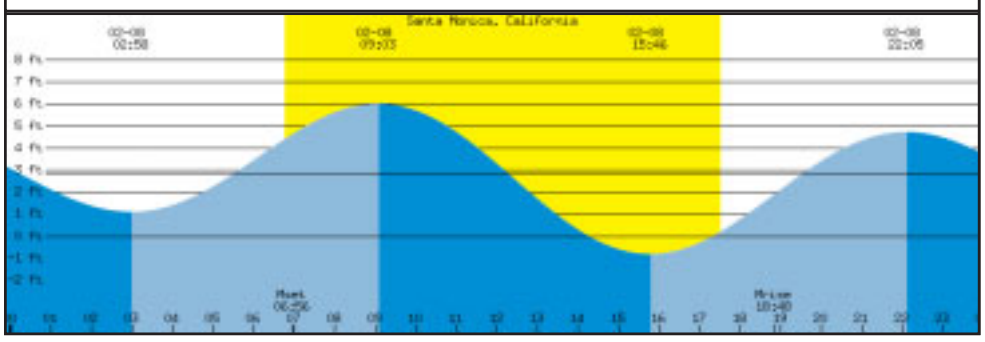
Swell Forecast

Today a mix of NW ground swell and SW wind swell are due. West facing breaks are looking at sloppy chest to head high sets. SW exposed breaks can expect similar conditions.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell should back off, and NW ground swell should increase west facing breaks into surf running a couple feet overhead, possibly DOH at times at standout spots, mostly in the early AM.

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 **February 1, 2012**

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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 -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 19
- 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, Grousbeck 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
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 Lechuza and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	D	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	D	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	B
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	B
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	B
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	B
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	B
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	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW 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

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

Bryant won't be charged in church fight

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO San Diego prosecutors won't file criminal charges against Kobe Bryant after reviewing allegations by a man who accused the Los Angeles Lakers star of injuring him during a scuffle at church.

The city attorney's office said Tuesday that there was insufficient evidence to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt. It says it did an exhaustive investigation that included interviews with independent witnesses.

Police have said Bryant took the man's cellphone in August, apparently thinking it was being used to take his picture during a Sunday service at the St. Therese of Carmel Church in San Diego. The man went to a hospital for treatment of an injured wrist.

Bryant has denied the allegations. The accuser's name has not been released.

NBA

Billups lost for season with torn Achilles tendon

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Clippers guard Chauncey Billups will miss the remainder of the season after tearing his left Achilles tendon during Los Angeles' 107-102 victory over the Magic in Orlando on Monday night.

The team says an MRI on Tuesday confirmed Billups' injury. Billups will return to Los Angeles on Thursday for further evaluation. The Clippers say a date for surgery hasn't been determined.

The five-time All-Star, whom the Clippers claimed off waivers in December, was averaging 14.9 points and 4.0 assists in 30.4 minutes per game this season.

Billups was having a huge night Monday, scoring 11 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter when he turned to run up the court and buckled to the ground with 5:48 left in the game. Billups, who was selected third overall in the 1997 draft by the Boston Celtics, is playing for his seventh NBA club.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

My Neighbors the Yamadas (PG) 1hr 44min
7:30pm

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

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

Albert Nobbs (R) 1hr 53min
5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Iron Lady (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

Big Miracle (PG) 2hrs 03min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:10pm

Man on a Ledge (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Metropolitan Opera: The Enchanted Island Encore (NR)
3hrs 40min
6:00pm

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
12:10pm, 3:10pm, 10:50pm

Chronicle (2012/ I) (PG-13) 1hr 23min
11:30am, 1:40pm, 3:55pm, 6:10pm, 8:30pm, 10:40pm

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

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

Norwegian Wood (Noruwei no mori) (NR) 2hrs 13min
1:10pm, 7:00pm

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, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Dangerous Method (R) 1hr 39min
4:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) 1hr 28min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:20pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Haywire (R) 1hr 33min
11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:25pm, 9:50pm

One for the Money (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:40am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Woman in Black (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:35pm, 5:20pm, 8:05pm, 10:40pm

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

Be yourself tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Of course effort counts, but having some charisma on your side can only help. Show your concern as well when dealing with an associate who might not be doing what you want. Listen to your sixth sense with a friend. You might not be completely right, but you have a strong sense of direction. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The only mistake you can make is holding yourself back. You know what works well for you. Let your imagination come forward. The ideas that follow -- yours and others' -- are quite unusual. Tonight: Some matters are best kept a secret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Understand what is happening within your immediate domestic circle. You hear news that doesn't feel quite complete. You don't need to comment --the less said the more that will come forward. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving, and realize where you want to go with a situation. Others might not be as grounded as you would like. You might have to go over certain points, not once, but several times. Stay centered, if possible. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Curb a need to be possessive or to overspend. You will be a lot happier if you use some self-discipline. Detach and try to understand where another person is coming from. Tonight: Relax with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ The way you perk up in another person's company makes this person feel great. Relating to another person as well takes you to a new level of mutuality. Discuss a long-term desire. You could be delighted by the end results. Tonight: Make sure a favorite piece of music is on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You might want to express a certain amount of consternation about a situation but then decide otherwise. Others don't appear to be receptive to a conversation of this nature, or of any nature, for that matter. Tonight: Be yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ A meeting helps you realize just what is needed to have a situation manifest as you might like. You have a lot of fun within this group or with a key person. Someone makes you an offer that you barely can say no to. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your softer side emerges with a child or loved one. You express your dynamic energy and upbeat manner in a conversation. When you hear a vague statement, try to build on it. Seize the moment. Tonight: Highly visible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for others. Share an unusually mellow mood. Some of you might opt to stay close to home. Use care with your finances, as a mistake can happen all too easily, especially in the next few weeks. Tonight: Touch base with a loved one at a distance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Remain sensitive to a partner or associate. Relate one-on-one with key people if you want to make an impact. Keep reaching out for someone at a distance who might be closed off. You cannot change this person, but you can encourage him or her to look at his or her behavior. Tonight: Visit over a meal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Let others show their hand. You might wonder which is the best way to handle a key issue. Listen to opinions. If you don't feel comfortable with what you hear, hold off on making a decision. Find a respected adviser first. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

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 unravel a long-term issue by remaining gentle and caring. Others feel safer with you, no matter what type of relationship you have. Openness nearly becomes a way of life. If you are single, you might see a change in a major relationship, waving on more of what you want. If you are attached, don't test your sweetie's patience. Let him or her have his or her way more often. VIRGO understands you perhaps far too well.



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



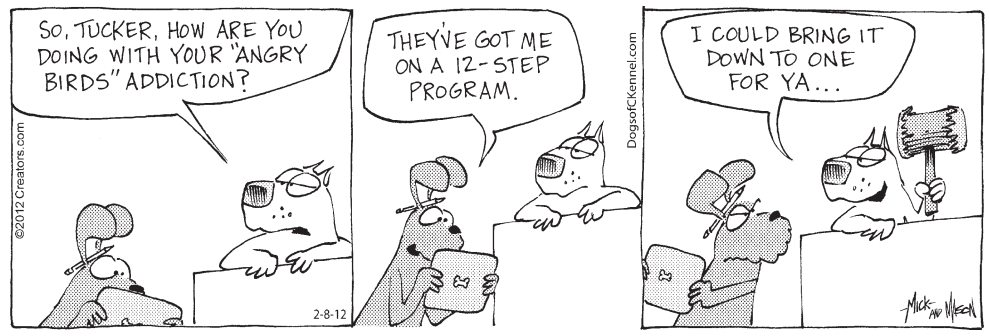
Strange Brew

By John Deering



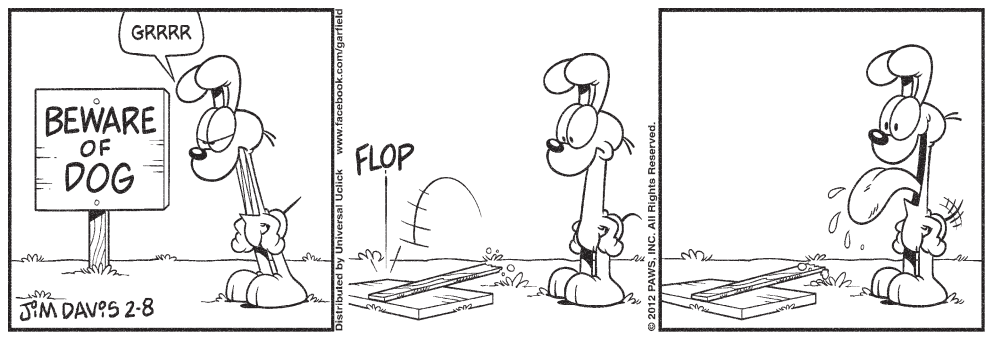
Dogs of C-Kennel

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 ★★★

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

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 1984 Matthew Modine film
6 First-rate
10 Love to pieces
11 Hum-dinger
12 Tibetan monks
13 Superflu-ous
14 Not this
15 Priest's title
16 Charged atom
17 Museum stuff
18 Harden
19 Sound from a witch
22 Singer Diamond
23 "Othello" villain
26 Gridiron activity
29 Lively dance
32 — Alamos
33 Goose formation
34 Brazil divider
36 Quail group
37 Running mate of 2008
38 Taboo acts
39 Visibly shocked
40 Upper crust
41 Lawman Eliot
42 Printer need

DOWN

1 Sea off Estonia
2 Boise native
3 Love story
4 "Dog-gone!"
5 "You bet!"
6 Speech copy
7 Solemn promises
8 Blender button
9 Kick off
11 Coffee-house poets
15 Cal. abbr.
17 Forsaken
20 Young fox
21 Lass
24 Surren-dered
25 Each citi-zen's right
27 Swindle
28 Yellow-stone sight
29 Osaka setting
30 Mirror sight
31 Big dos
35 Closes, in a way
36 String tie
38 Trawling need

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	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				

2-8

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Fantasy 5: 3 14 23 24 35

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 2 8 4 EVENING: 8 4 5

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:47.82

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The U.S. Air Force Academy last year installed an $80,000 rock garden/fire pit on its campus for use by several "Earth-based" religions (pagans, Wiccans, druids, witches and various Native American faiths). For the current year, only three of the 4,300 cadets have identified themselves in that group, but the academy is sensitive to the issue after a 2005 lawsuit accused administrators and cadets of allowing too-aggressive proselytizing on behalf of Christian religions. For the record, the academy currently has 11 Muslim cadets, 16 Buddhists, 10 Hindus and 43 self-described atheists.

■ In separate incidents during one week in December in Polk County, Fla., four church pastors were arrested and charged with sex-related crimes involving children, including Arnold Mathis, 40, at the time working for the Saint City Power and Praise Ministry in Winter Haven, but who has moved on to the Higher Praise Ministries in Lake Wales and who was allowed to work for the church despite a sex-crime rap sheet.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1807 – Battle of Eylau – Napoleon defeats Russians under General Benigssen.

1817 – Las Heras crosses the Andes with an army to join San Martín and liberate Chile from Spain.

1837 – Richard Johnson becomes the first Vice President of the United States chosen by the United States Senate.

1855 – The Devil's Footprints mysteriously appear in southern Devon.

1856 – Barbu Dimitrie fitirbei abolishes slavery in Wallachia.

1865 – In the United States, Delaware voters reject the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and vote to continue the practice of slavery. (Delaware finally ratifies the amendment on February 12, 1901.)

WORD UP!

crib \ krib \ , verb, noun;
1. To pilfer or steal, especially to plagiarize.
2. To confine in or as if in a crib.
3. To provide with a crib or cribs.
4. To line with timber or planking.
5. Informal. A. To use a crib

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12220 Dorothy Street



Custom Country Kitchen
Brentwood Flats Traditional
4 Bed + 4 Bath

$2,099,000
Open Sunday
February 12th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

1000 Granville #101



Luxurious Brentwood Condo
2 Bed + 1.75 Bath
$999,000

Open Sunday
February 12th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

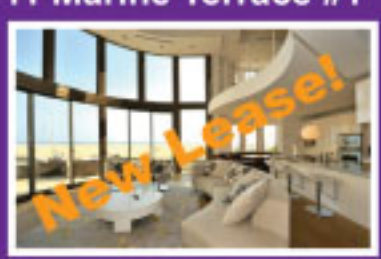
1320 Princeton #101



Front Unit with Balcony
2 Bed + 2 Bath
$499,000

Open Sunday
February 12th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

11 Marine Terrace #1



Gorgeous, Modern Townhome
3 Bed + 3.5 Bath
$28,000/ Month

Call Kate for a
Private Showing

Kate Bransfield
Proud Sponsor Of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Roosevelt Elementary School

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL
SANTA MONICA, CA

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE established 1950

Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties
From ALL agents in ALL companies
Listed for Sale As of Early - February 2012

	-	Single Family Homes	Condos & Town-homes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,900,000	$2,995,000
North of Montana	=	$3,195,999	$1,074,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,985,000	$799,500
South of Wilshire	=	$799,000	$499,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,150,000	$499,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,399,000	$1,149,000

Statistics updated every Monday

1053 17th Street



Renovate or Rebuild
2 Bed + 1 Bath
$989,000

Open Sunday, February 12th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

1751 Appian Way



Only ONE unit left!
Gorgeous Ocean Views

#101 1 + 1 $4,999 / Month

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.