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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 76

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DAY PLANNER
SEE PAGE 2

THE ONE-MAN SHOW ISSUE



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

GONE: **Neighborhood Resource Officers Richard Carranza and Art Williams toss old couches and mattresses into the back of a trash truck on Tuesday while working an alley north of the Third Street Promenade. NROs are working with sanitation to clean up the streets.**

A different kind of patrol

Neighborhood Resource Officers literally clean up streets

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

THIRD COURT Neighborhood Resource Officers Richard Carranza and Art Williams were out in force Tuesday, but instead of looking for criminals, they were looking for couches.

The two NROs, who are akin to sheriffs with nearly total control over their own beats, joined garbage collectors with City Hall's Solid Waste Management Division as they worked to rid the streets and alleys of bulky items that were illegally dumped or tossed by residents who paid to have them picked up.

"We're cleaning up the streets, literally," Carranza said.

NROs plan to take turns every week, a move they hope will help them better patrol their neighborhoods by making stronger connections with residents. The partnership with Solid Waste is a good way to keep neighborhoods safe by focusing on nuisances that can lead to bigger problems, said Sgt. Jaime Hernandez, who oversees the NROs.

"These guys are chiefs of their beats and we want to make sure they have true ownership of their beats," Hernandez said. "This is in keeping with the broken window theory that if you take care of the little things, the big things take care of themselves. Getting rid of couches in the alleys discourages people from loitering there."

Kim Braun, the resource recovery and recycling manager, said the officers provide a few extra hands at a time when illegal dumping is on the rise. Solid Waste in November launched a new program to deal with the demand, sending out a special crew three times a week to work specifically on removing bulky items like couches, mattresses, even an occasional sauna.

"On our customer service line at least 70 to 75 percent of our calls are for

SEE **PATROL** PAGE 10

de la Torre demands review of investigator

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN School board member Oscar de la Torre is calling on the Santa Monica Police Department to conduct a thorough evaluation of cases handled by an investigator whose tactics were called into question by an independent review board.

de la Torre is also demanding an apology from the SMPD and would like to see personnel changes "to restore the public trust

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 9

BBB runs out of senior passes

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Seniors who have become accustomed to purchasing 13-ride passes for the Big Blue Bus will have to wait a few weeks to buy more due to a shortage created by high demand, transit officials said.

The bus company ran out of the passes "a couple of days ago" and is in the process of ordering more, said Dan Dawson, customer relations manager for BBB.

"The passes have been hugely successful, beyond our wildest dreams," Dawson said. "We're very excited that people have found the passes so user-friendly and customer-oriented, which was the goal. We're working hard to get new ones as quick as possible."

Dawson said transit officials ordered enough 13-ride senior passes to satisfy demand based on ridership figures from before the passes were introduced. Demand has been much higher, leading to the shortage.

BBB and other city departments must fol-

SEE **BBB** PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011

Art by the bay
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk. 7 p.m.
Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium invites artists to find their inspiration at the aquarium during Artist Night. Participants are invited to sketch, paint, and take photos of any of the marine center's more than 100 local species on exhibit. This two-hour photography/art session will be available to 25 participants only on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP by calling (310) 393-6149 ext. 106.

Understanding COPD
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 11:30 a.m.
Learn more about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) from experts during this free event. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg live
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg has had a brilliant career as a soloist, teacher and recording artist. But once she experienced the vitality, passion and magic of the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Nadja simply couldn't resist becoming its music director. In this program of Bartok, Piazolla and Tchaikovsky, you'll see why. For information, call (310) 434-3200.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011

Art for Hearts
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 6 p.m.
Benefiting Pico Youth & Family Center, Art for Hearts will include a silent auction of original works of art, live jazz, food and wine and guest appearances by "Machete" star Danny Trejo and "La Mission" star Jesse Borrego. For more information, contact Yolanda de Cordova, yolandita@picoyouth.org.

Take control of your food supply
Main Library, 601 Main St., 7 p.m.
Urban dwellers are going beyond gardens and edible landscape to produce even more of what they eat. Hear how urban gardeners and farmers on the edge of urban development have increased their personal "food security" by taking control of their food supply. This presentation will be moderated by KCRW's Evan Kleiman, host of "Good Food." This event is free and open to the public.

Ice time
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue
12 p.m. — 10 p.m.
ICE at Santa Monica offers the unique opportunity to ice skate in the sunshine. The rink will close on Feb. 15. Admission is $10. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

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



Brown pitches budget plan

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO California lawmakers can't avoid making tough choices after the recent mortgage meltdown and credit crisis unmasked the state's structural deficit, said Gov. Jerry Brown in launching a new round of legislative visits Tuesday to sell his budget-balancing plan.

The governor said Democratic leaders are as reluctant to cut services as Republicans are opposed to temporary tax extensions, but rebuffing his budget plan would leave the state in deeper financial straits. Instead, he urged members of both parties to "face the music and put California on a balanced footing."

"We've been living a certain fantasy based on cheap mortgages, cheap money, and a very deregulated environment that allowed the bubble to grow. And now the bubble has burst . and we got to deal with it," Brown told reporters after visiting Senate Democrats in the Capitol. "Also I think another important point; this is the first

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 8

Lohan to be charged with grand theft

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to charge Lindsay Lohan with felony grand theft of a $2,500 necklace reported stolen from a Venice jewelry store last month — the most serious count the actress has faced in more than three years of trouble with the law.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison said the charge will be filed Wednesday. Lohan, 24, is due in court for an arraignment on Wednesday afternoon.

Los Angeles police said Feb. 2 that Lohan was under investigation for taking a necklace from a store later identified as Kamofie and Co. Detectives obtained a search warrant to try to retrieve the item from Lohan's home, but it was turned in to a police station before any search was made.

SEE **LOHAN** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAMOHI

Theatre department raising funds

Santa Monica high school's theatre department is currently seeking the community's help to raise funds for a program they say gives students a unique opportunity to express themselves.

School officials and parents are looking for people to help coordinate events and create awareness for the vital program.

They are looking for people with contacts in the entertainment and media industries, event planning, marketing and grant writing.

Contact samodrama@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

DAILY PRESS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

JAMS wind ensemble gets nod

The John Adams Middle School Wind Ensemble, conducted by Angela Woo, has been selected to perform at the 2011 California All-State Music Educators Conference on Feb. 18, 2011, at the Fresno Convention Center.

As the only middle school band in the state to receive this honor, the JAMS Wind Ensemble will participate in the inaugural conference that will bring together the four statewide music educators associations in an unprecedented convention: the California Band Directors Association (CBDA), the California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA), the California Alliance for Jazz (CAJ), and the California Music Education Association (CMEA).

On Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the John Adams Auditorium, the ensemble will be presenting an All-State Send-Off concert. The performance is open to the public, and there is no admission cost.

For more information, please contact Angela Woo at awoo@smmusd.org or (310) 452-2326 ext. 72-226.

DP



TIGHT 'D'

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Jack Matsunaga attempts a shot over St. Paul's Ruben Alire Monday on campus. St. Monica lost the Camino Real League game, 50-44. The loss sends St. Monica to 17-8 overall and 6-3 in league with one regular season game remaining. Despite the loss, St. Monica is assured a spot in the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section playoffs.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Proud of a brave mother

Editor:

I was crushed to learn of the Santa Monica High School student's passing, truly a nightmare, but exhilarated to read the touching letter by his mother ("Thanks are in order," Letter to the Editor, Feb. 8, 2011). In her letter, she embodied the principle of community in humanity. Individuals might stray, but ... tactility is our drive. Mankind, to continue to survive on this unique pebble earth, must draw together and not separate. Thanks for the enlightenment by the grieving mother who made her loss a loss for Santa Monica.

Henry Baylis
Santa Monica

Thanks, GOP

Editor:

Please report how the GOP is fighting to save the American public from affordable health care. Out of the goodness of their hearts, Republicans are ready to add a trillion dollars to the deficit to protect us from this plague on a free market economy. They are fighting so the law allows insurance companies to once again deny coverage to children with existing conditions, cancel coverage when people get sick, and limit the amount of care you can get – especially when you need it. Please make sure they get the credit for all their efforts to repeal affordable health care.

Les Jones
Santa Monica



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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Overcoming the haircut struggle

MOST BALD PEOPLE PROBABLY FANTASIZE that getting a haircut would change how the world sees them and they see it.

That's why I'm probably the kind of haired person they curse the most. I have a head full of thick, long hair, yet it takes me forever to get around to making an appointment to get it cut. Like cleaning a messy closet or getting an oil change, it's always a relief afterward, but I put it off endlessly nonetheless. Hair elastics and turbans were clearly invented with people like me in mind.

Last week, for the second time in 15 months, I got my hair cut.

"Are you going to get a Mom Cut?" my husband Rick asked as I walked out the door to go to the salon. He's asked the same question every time I've gotten my hair cut for the past five or six years.

I always call him on the way home to say not only did I get a Mom Cut, but I got The Carol Brady Special — helmet-shaped on top with an upside down, paper-hand fan shape along the back of the neck. He always says he'll love me anyway. One day I just might actually get a Mom Cut and then we'll see if he's really a man of his word. (Of course, this is coming from the same person who also believed I was a natural blonde. After I ceased getting highlights about three years ago, Rick looked at me several months later and asked if I had dyed my hair brown. Bless his heart.)

When I was in sixth grade I ripped out an ad from Seventeen Magazine with an angry-looking model hawking gum.

"This is how I want my hair cut," I announced to my mom, showing her the picture.

"Hmmm, OK," she said. "Just bring the picture when we go to the salon. I'm not sure if your hair type can do that, but we'll ask them."

"No, I want to go alone," I told her for no memorable reason.

After the haircut I went up the block to browse at the bookstore, feeling especially sleek and mature with my new hairstyle.

"Can I help you, young man?" the salesperson asked. I burst into tears. To this day, if I had my way, I'd still bring my mom with me every time I get my hair cut. Just to be safe.

Before and since, I've never been a big risk taker when it comes to haircuts. When I got 3 or 4 inches chopped off last week, I told the stylist that I wanted longer layers in the front. I didn't realize I needed to specify that I still wanted my hair all one length. Now the pieces in front are a little longer than the back and I've been feeling self-conscious, like I might be trying to appear hipper than I am, or I'm a very religious Jewish man.

No matter how short I cut my hair, though, my dad's always telling me to get it shorter. But he's bald, and, I think, jealous. Clearly, misery loves company.

My daughter hasn't had a haircut yet even though she has a lot of hair for her age. I'd be proud of it if it was something she or I accomplished, but I don't think either one of us can take credit. I actually knew she had a lot of hair when I was pregnant with her. Once during a sonogram they told me she had hair on her neck.

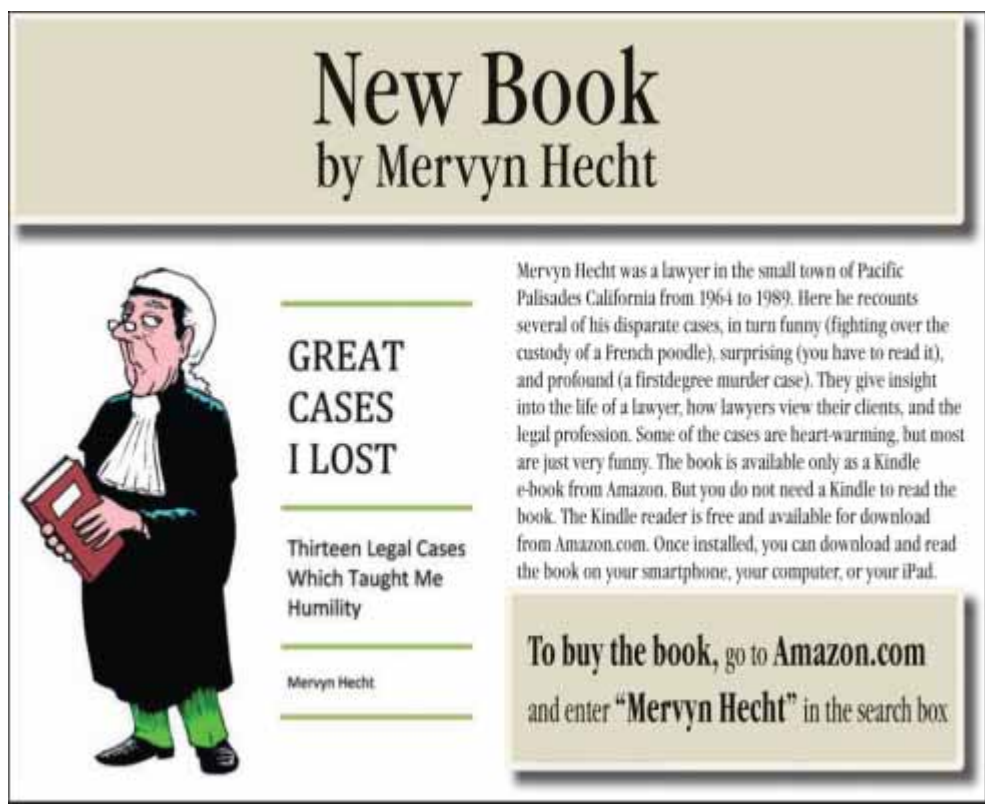
"Do you mean her hair is so long it's grown down to her neck, or she has a hairy neck?" I asked the nurse, panicked, realizing that having a bad hair day in utero does not bode well for hair life outside the womb. To be on the safe side, I stocked up on Aqua Net and tracked down Vidal Sassoon, who's agreed to be permanently on call.

Like me, getting Rick to get his hair cut is always a struggle. He starts talking about the need to get one 10 to 12 weeks before it actually happens. He creates dramatic excuses for each time why he has to put it off another week. He's the finest method actor I know who's never actually taken a drama class. Lee Strasberg would be proud.

I've actually cut Rick's hair the last few times. Even though I'm the furthest thing from a beautician, the results haven't been too bad. Plus, I've found I really enjoy standing over him with a pair of scissors and a razor. I assume he thinks it's what death row feels like after all appeals have been exhausted.

Each time I just tell him what I always tell myself — even if it's a bad cut, it'll grow back. Except for the bald people. (Sorry, again.)

More at MeredithCarroll.com.



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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let the voters have a say on taxes

GOVERNOR BROWN AND THE DEMOCRATS in the Legislature have "called out" the Republicans, demanding that they support Brown's plan to put massive increases in the state's income, sales and car taxes on the ballot as a way to balance the budget. The Governor's challenge to "let the voters decide" was so shrill he even suggested that the Republicans, by "denying" voters of the ability to vote in June, were no better than the Mubarak regime as if, somehow, protesters demanding government change in the streets of Cairo are really rioting for higher taxes.

Despite Brown's histrionics, Republicans have, up to now, declined the invitation. They should continue to do so. But the Republicans can also take this opportunity to expose the hypocrisy of the majority party and, in so doing, they can help burnish their arguments for a better economic climate in California that will help balance the budget and create real jobs.

After Brown's challenge, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association issued its own challenge — a modest proposal, really, for the Governor and the majority party in the California Legislature. Our challenge is based on our trust of California voters to see through all the hyperbole and make reasonable choices when it comes to taxes. After all, voters agreed with us in passing Proposition 13 in 1978 and, more recently, by rejecting the last eight statewide tax increases, including the very same taxes Brown is now claiming we need.

We suggested that the Republicans agree to put the tax increases that Brown wants on the ballot in June if, and only if, voters are given the opportunity to vote for tax reductions in an equal amount. Want voters to consider doubling the car tax, adding a penny to the sales tax and adding a .25 percent income tax surcharge? Go ahead. But only if the Legislature is also willing to give voters the option of approving a 50 percent reduction in the car tax, a one cent reduction in the sales tax and a .25 percent cut in the income tax.

The reaction to our challenge was predictable. Speaker Perez called it "laughable." Brown said it wasn't serious. What Brown and company ignore about the Jarvis challenge is that, even if the tax reductions we propose were approved by the voters, California would still be one of the most heavily taxed states in America. So how is this unreasonable or unrealistic?

As businesses continue to leave California at a record clip, we need to act now to reform California's hostile tax and regulatory climate. The Republicans have, in prior years, brought forth innumerable reform ideas in education, corrections, government efficiency and welfare. These reforms — which are critical if California is to regain its competitiveness — are shot down by the Democrats as soon as they are proposed.

Instead of giving voters a single choice – tax increases – what is wrong with giving them another option? The problem for Brown, of course, is that by giving voters the opportunity to actually reduce their taxes, they might actually take it. As noted, voters rejected these same tax increases less than two years ago because they didn't trust the political establishment in Sacramento that warned of dire cuts to essential services. By failing to adopt even the most modest reforms, the majority in Sacramento has done nothing to repair its negative image.

Moreover, there is no small degree of hypocrisy in Governor Brown casting himself as the defender of democracy. After all, isn't this the same Jerry Brown who, as Attorney General, refused to enforce Proposition 8 which was approved by over 6.8 million Californians at the ballot box? However one feels about the issue of traditional marriage, Brown's refusal to "let the voters decide" on that issue is grossly inconsistent with his current calls for voter input.

The same holds true with the Democrats in the Legislature. Last year, Senator Tony Strickland introduced Senate Constitutional Amendment 29, which would have given California voters the opportunity to vote on implementing key provisions of Obamacare. Not surprisingly, the Democrats refused to take that issue to the voters fearing overwhelming support for the opt out.

Now, of course, the Governor and his high spending allies are saying we must trust the voters. While we appreciate their new found religion, we suggest that they give the voters real choices.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

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Help the SMDP out

The Daily Press is experiencing a few staffing changes in the newsroom. This got us thinking about what we're doing and why we're doing it.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Is there something that the community thinks we're not covering? Be honest, we can take it.

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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NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 9, 2011– 3:00 PM
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting and Study Session of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 3:00 PM

No other business will be conducted at the Meeting.

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St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
SOCCER				
Feb 9	JV/Var	St. Bernard	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 9	F/JV/V	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	4/5:30/7pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 10	JV/Var	La Salle	SMCHS	5:30/7pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 10	F/S/J/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	3/3/6:00pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 10	F/S/JV/V	Culver City	Culver City	3/4:30/6pm
GIRLS SOCCER				
Feb 10	F/S	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	3:00pm
Feb 10	Var	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	4:30pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Feb 10	F/S/JV/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	3/4:30/6pm
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Feb 9	JV	El Dorado Tournament		TBA
Feb 10	JV	El Dorado Tournament		TBA
Feb 11	JV	El Dorado Tournament		TBA
Feb 12	Boys All	Co-Ed Four Person Parent Meeting		9am

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Venue planner linked to AEG

BY JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The seasoned local business leaders picked by the mayor to analyze plans for a downtown NFL stadium on the public's behalf seem to have one thing in common: deep financial, political and civic ties with the company promoting the venue.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa' s panel includes a former governor who received generous donations from entities connected to the owner of Anschutz Entertainment Group; entertainment executives that have partnered with the firm or its affiliates; and business owners who have served alongside company president and CEO Tim Leiweke on local civic boards and commissions.

That makeup could cast doubt on its ability to objectively evaluate the stadium project that may involve financial risk for the cash-strapped city, said Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles.

AEG's plan calls for the city to issue $350 million in bonds to relocate a huge convention center structure where the 64,000-seat stadium would be built, although the company has promised to service that debt and pay anticipated shortfalls.

City officials must also approve AEG's lease for space on the city-owned convention center property. AEG has also sworn it will pick up the entire $1 billion tab for the stadium itself.

"The question is: Is this commission designed to watch out for taxpayers, or is it designed to make sure the stadium gets built?" Stern said.

The plan is one of two competing proposals that aim to bring football back to Los Angeles some 15 years after the Rams and Raiders left the nation's second-largest market. Warehouse magnate Ed Roski has permits in place to build a separate 75,000-seat stadium about 15 miles east of Los Angeles, in the city of Industry.

Both camps have said they hope to recruit a team — and possibly two — from among those in the league that need a new stadium to maximize revenue but are unable to get one built in their current locations.

Villaraigosa announced his unpaid Blue Ribbon Commission on the planned venue last week at a lavish promotional event timed to the disclosure of a naming-rights deal with Farmers Insurance Exchange worth at least $700 million — if a team can be lured to the city.

The mayor, an enthusiastic supporter of the downtown proposal, promised that the commission would help ensure that the plan puts taxpayers' interests first.

But a look at the commission members' backgrounds could raise concerns over its independence. The members include:

— Gray Davis, former governor of California. AEG owner Philip Anschutz and his affiliated companies contributed more than $93,000 leading up to Davis' successful re-election campaign in 2002, according to a tally of campaign filings by Berkeley-based MAPLight.org, which tracks political donations. The entities also contributed $50,000 in opposition to the 2003 gubernatorial recall that cost Davis the governorship and resulted in the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

— Michael Lynton, chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment, who serves as the panel's co-chairman. Sony Pictures paid $60 million to AEG's concert promotion business, AEG Live, and the Michael Jackson estate for footage of the late pop star's rehearsals that were later released as the $252-million-grossing documentary "This Is It." Sony and AEG collaborated on the production of the film, which premiered during a heavily promoted October 2009 event at the AEG-owned LA Live hotel and entertainment complex near the site of the planned NFL stadium.

— Richard Nanula, principal at Colony Capital LLC. Colony, who helped pair Jackson with AEG for the pop star's planned comeback tour as part of a deal that involved the fund's purchase of a $24 million mortgage on Neverland Ranch just before a foreclosure auction was scheduled. Colony is also the former owner of New Jersey's Meadowlands retail and entertainment complex, where AEG plans to build a new concert venue.

— Sherry Lansing, former chairwoman and CEO of Paramount Pictures. Lansing ran Paramount in 2001, when Anschutz's production company, Crusader Entertainment, signed a three-year financing and distribution deal with her studio. The collaboration produced the film "Sahara."

— Bert Boeckman, president and owner of the North Hills-based Galpin Motors auto dealership. Boeckman sat alongside Leiweke on former Mayor James Hahn's Council of Economic Advisers.

— Andrew J.C. Cherng, founder and chairman of Panda Restaurant Group Inc. Cherng served with Leiweke on Villaraigosa' s delegation to the U.S. Olympic Committee in 2006, when the city was seeking to host the 2016 games.

The remaining members — panel co-chair Austen Beutner, who is the city's deputy mayor and economic policy chief, and Mark Attanasio, managing partner of the investment firm Crescent Capital Group LP — have no clear ties to the company.

Davis said he was approaching the stadium project with skepticism — especially over whether it could be built without public money — and that the cynicism won't be eroded by the donations he received from AEG.

"The fact that people who may have an interest in this contributed to me six or seven years ago is not going to influence my decision on whether or not this is a good deal for the people of Los Angeles," he said.

Lansing, now a philanthropist whose nonprofit organization focuses on cancer research and public education, said there was no reason for anyone to be concerned about her independence because she's never had a relationship with Anschutz or his companies that would make her biased.

"I had very limited contact with Mr. Anschutz during the time that Paramount made 'Sahara' and have not had any contact with him since that I remember," she said.

Boeckman said he has no ongoing relationship with Leiweke. But if he did, he added, it would not influence his thinking on the stadium.

"To me it's important to do the right thing," he said.

A message left for Cherng was not returned. AEG spokesman Michael Roth declined to comment, as did Nanula. Sony Pictures spokesman Jim Kennedy referred questions to the mayor's office, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Political science professor Raphael Sonenshein, of the California State University, Fullerton, said AEG has become such a dominant force over the 13 years since it developed downtown's Staples Center that it might be impossible to find any business leaders who haven't worked with the company or its executives.

"AEG is so enmeshed now in Los Angeles and Sacramento that it would be really difficult to find any people that don't have a conflict of interest," he said.

But Arnold Steinberg, a political strategist who previously advised former Mayor Richard Riordan, said the panel seemed to be an attempt by Villaraigosa' s administration to give itself political cover if the deal turns out to be a bad one for taxpayers.

Voters say child obesity a serious issue

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Child obesity is considered a very serious problem by nearly 60 percent of the registered California voters surveyed as part of a Field Poll released Tuesday, marking an increase from 46 percent eight years ago.

Seventy percent of those surveyed strongly support high school students being enrolled in gym for four years, and 61 percent strongly support keeping school athletic facilities open outside school hours.

The study was sponsored by The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation that focuses on underserved communities.

"Voters are saying that all California families deserve access to healthy, affordable foods and opportunities for physical activity, and they're 100 percent right," said Dr. Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of the endowment.

The telephone survey of 1,005 Californians was conducted in October and funded by endowment. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percent.

Nearly one in three voters surveyed said unhealthy eating habits are the single greatest health risk facing California's children, while another 15 percent identified a lack of physical activity as the greatest risk.

About half of those surveyed, 47 percent, said the average child is eating less healthy foods now than they were five years ago, while 18 percent said kids are eating healthier foods and 28 percent said there's no change. The remainder had no opinion.

Only 9 percent of respondents said the average child is more active than five years ago, with 60 percent saying kids are less active and 24 percent seeing no change in activity level.

Parents in low-income communities consistently asked for more government intervention to create healthier environments, when compared to voters statewide.

— Asked if current laws should be expanded to ban the sales of all drinks with added sugar in schools, 34 percent of statewide respondents strongly support the action compared to 53 percent of low-income parents.

— Sixty-one percent of low-income parents strongly support banning all forms of junk food advertising in schools, compared with 44 percent of statewide respondents.

— Sixty-two percent of low-income parents strongly support government aid to supermarkets in low-income neighborhoods, compared to 32 percent statewide.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Hawthorne man gets life in child's beating death

A Southern California man has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for beating his 2-year-old stepdaughter to death in September of 2007.

Thirty-year-old James Vernon Ward IV of Hawthorne was sentenced Monday after the girl's father, Robert Smoot Jr., said the child's death left him broken.

City News Service says Smoot told Ward he hoped the girl would haunt him every night.

Prosecutors said Kayla Smoot suffered a lacerated liver, kidney and pancreas, rib fractures and bruising to the spinal cord when she was killed in an act of rage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Man charged in SoCal body-in-freezer killing

Los Angeles County prosecutors have charged an 18-year-old man with murdering his mother, whose dismembered body was found in a freezer.

The district attorney's office alleges that Moises Meraz-Espinosa killed 42-year-old Amelia Espinoza on Feb. 2 at their residence in suburban Maywood.

AP





BUDGET
FROM PAGE 3

decade in American history where we have fewer jobs than we had 10 years before. And that's a sign of a wrenching adjustment. And this is part of it."

The state faces a $25.4 billion, or 30 percent, shortfall through mid-2012 despite a series of budget cutbacks and temporary taxes negotiated by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Brown is calling for an "honest budget" that mixes an extension of those temporary taxes, impose billions more in cuts, and shift or eliminate a host of local government services.

Specifically, Brown's budget proposal includes about $12.5 billion in spending cuts and borrowing. He wants to ask voters in a June special election to extend the income, sales and vehicle tax increases for an additional five years as part of a plan to raise $12 billion.

Lawmakers have begun a series of committee hearings to review Brown's plan and they are hearing from interest groups opposed to the expected loss of money.

Mayors and other local elected officials have been vocal opponents of Brown's plan to eliminate redevelopment agencies that divert local tax revenue to developers for fighting blight. Park advocates fear his plan for closing or reducing hours at some state parks. And the California Fairs Alliance warns that Brown's plan would put 29 fairs out at risk of closure.

Brown is scheduled to hear concerns from business leaders later this week.

"Everybody would like this not to be," Brown said. "I think it's fair to say people are hoping against hope that there's another way besides cuts or tax extensions."

LOHAN
FROM PAGE 3

Police said they had no update on the case Tuesday and did not say whether the actress had made arrangements to turn herself in at court or at a police station.

Robison said bail would be decided by a judge.

A phone message to Lohan's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, was not immediately returned. Holley has previously denied any wrongdoing by Lohan.

"We vehemently deny these allegations and, if charges are filed, we will fight them in court, not in the press," Holley said in a statement released Saturday.

Arrested twice in 2007, Lohan was charged with drunken driving and drug possession, but both were misdemeanors.

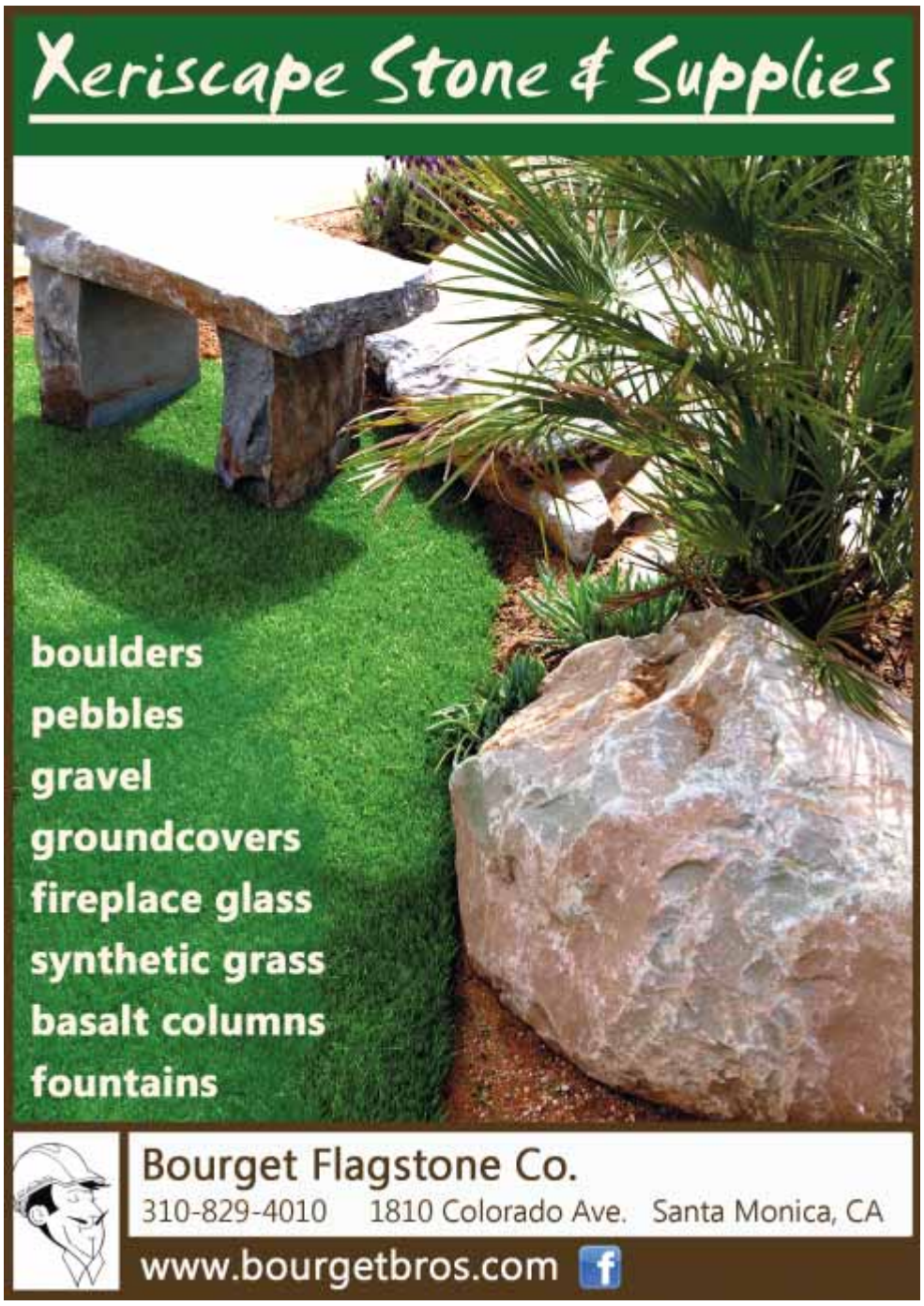
The "Mean Girls" star has been jailed three times in that case, but has been granted a quick release due to jail overcrowding and a requirement that bail be set on misdemeanor cases.

Lohan remains on probation for drunken driving, and a judge has threatened to throw her in jail if she runs into trouble again.

Prosecutors in Riverside County have been considering whether to press charges against Lohan for a December altercation with a worker from the Betty Ford Center, where she was being treated.

The treatment, her fifth rehab session, came after she admitted failing a drug test shortly after being granted early release from another treatment program.

Lohan's court struggles and treatment have taken a serious toll on the former Disney star's career.





REVIEW
FROM PAGE 1

that has been lost due to police misconduct."

The investigator, Sgt. Dave Thomas, was a key figure in a 22-page report issued Monday by the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review (OIR), which was hired by City Hall to evaluate an investigation into de la Torre and a fist fight between two Santa Monica High School students.

In the report, a panel of attorneys called into question Thomas' tactics, saying he included too much of his own opinion during the investigation, possibly influenced witnesses and gave the impression to some that he had already determined a crime had been committed before concluding the evidence gathering process.

The report stated that the SMPD was justified in moving forward with an investigation even though the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office ultimately declined to file charges against de la Torre.

"As Americans, we need to protect our freedom and ourselves from the abuse of public officials," de la Torre told the Daily Press Tuesday. "The OIR report confirms that there was malicious intent and bias that fueled a sham investigation funded by taxpayer dollars to deprive me of my freedom, to assassinate my character, to ruin my career and to take me away from my children."

The SMPD investigation into allegations of child endangerment by de la Torre was sparked by grainy cell-phone videos of a fight between two 17-year-olds on March 16, 2010 near the Pico Youth & Family Center, a nonprofit run by de la Torre that offers after-school programs and gang intervention counseling.

After learning a fight was breaking out, de la Torre left the center and rushed to the scene, where he said a crowd of about 40 students was gathering around two boys engaged in a fist fight. He said he waited to intervene until he could gauge whether it was safe to step in. Police, though, said he "failed [in] his duty to take some action, verbal or otherwise, to prevent the physical endangerment as well as prevent the juvenile delinquency."

Police Chief Tim Jackman would not comment on de la Torre's requests. In a prepared statement issued Monday, Jackman said he would be "moving swiftly to ensure implementation" of recommendations made by the OIR.

City Manager Rod Gould said he was "very comfortable" with the report's findings and recommendations and there are no plans to issue an apology.

"I am reassured that the SMPD was justified in conducting the investigation and referring the results to the District Attorney," Gould said. "That said, the city of Santa Monica is a learning organization and will certainly improve our investigative techniques and report writing as a result."

Some of the recommendations made include developing a detective manual to train investigators to comply with best practices, and more instruction on report writing. The SMPD does not have a detective manual or other written guidelines for investigators, according to the OIR report.

Gould said OIR investigators told him that most police departments do not have detective manuals, "but it is a good practice that we will adopt."

de la Torre said the report raises questions about Thomas' character and said other investigations could have been compromised, leading to false charges being issued.

"It's highly likely there are individuals whose freedom was taken away based on improper police investigations," he said. "The residents of this city deserve good government."

de la Torre was especially concerned about the police chief's decision to not further investigate claims that the school board member tried to dissuade witnesses from cooperating with the investigation. de la Torre denies speaking with students about the incident saying that if there was something to those allegations it should have been investigated further. He points to this as further evidence that the investigation was bogus.

The chief decided not to pursue the allegation because of concern for what it could do to the students involved and the high school community. What was troubling was that the allegation remained in Thomas' report.

The OIR report stated, "the problem is that the allegation remained in the report and the subject of the allegation [de la Torre] … was not afforded a full investigation through which to 'disprove the allegation.'"

de la Torre said the investigation into the fight forced him to abandon a run for City Council. Instead, he ran for a third term on the school board and won. He believes the SMPD investigation was politically motivated.

"The message that this sends to people is don't get involved," he said. "Look at what happened to me."

Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager, said the total cost of the OIR report should be under $30,000, however, a final invoice has not been received. Work through the end of November totaled just over $12,000.

A copy of the OIR report is available on City Hall's website at www.smgov.net.

kevinh@smdp.com







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PATROL
FROM PAGE 1

illegal dumps," Braun said. "Since we started this part-time alley crew, we have collected over 700 stops."

Those who witnesses someone dumping something illegally are urged to contact the SMPD and provide a description and license plate number of the vehicle used, Braun said.

If something just shows up, residents should call customer service at (310) 458-2223. Items should be removed within 48 hours, Braun said.

Those who are cleaning out a garage or are moving can call Solid Waste and request a bin and pickup for large items. There is a fee associated with the service.

"The cops are a big help for us," she said. " It's a hard job. It gives us more bodies out there and allows them to get out even further into the community and meet more individuals."

Carranza said he and Williams were approached by residents who questioned why cops were wearing orange vests and work gloves instead of their regular uniforms. Once they explained what they were up to, the residents seemed pleased and appreciative, Carranza said.

"It's funny, when I was out driving around today, I said to myself that I never thought I would be doing this when I signed up [for the force]. But it was good," Carranza said.

kevinh@smdp.com

BBB
FROM PAGE 1

low a strict ordering process, first submitting bids, evaluating offers from companies and then creating a purchase order. Dawson said BBB has a company that it knows it can order from, however, the process must be followed.

"We actually have bids out as we speak and hopefully we will get them back in the next couple of days and send out the order," Dawson said.

Dawson said the 13-ride passes are new, recently created as part of a fare overhaul that included increases for all riders. The 13-ride passes were developed after transit officials listened to riders, some of whom said a monthly pass wouldn't work for them because they didn't ride BBB that often but were still looking for a discount. BBB officials came up with the 13-ride pass, which gives regular riders and students one ride for free. The regular/student fare is $1 per ride. The 13-ride passes for regular riders and students cost $12. Seniors pay $6.

At least one rider is upset about the shortage. Dorian Nguyen e-mailed the Daily Press on Tuesday, submitting a poem to express her displeasure:

"Today I learned the hard lesson of our service economy.
There are no pre-board Big Blue Bus ride passes available.
Maybe in six weeks.
Welcome to the Big Blue on Broadway.
We sell T-shirts, towels, mugs.
We don't sell Big Blue Bus bus passes.
We did not anticipate the demand.
Don't forget
Ride the Big Blue Bus
But remember to bring 20th century coins."

Another rider, Louise Steiner, called the Daily Press and said she was not pleased. She plans to ride Metro instead.

"It just seems like a little bit of incompetence," Steiner said. "The buses are rolling and I think some heads should too."

Until the 13-ride passes are available, Dawson said seniors can purchase day passes or a monthly pass, depending on how often they ride BBB. A day pass for seniors and the disabled is $1.50 and allows for unlimited rides. A 30-day pass is $24.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Ty Cobb's namesake hoops it up

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES This Ty Cobb prefers a big orange ball to a small white one.

The great-grandson of the Hall of Fame player chose basketball over baseball at Occidental College, a Division III school whose nickname would surely have the approval of The Georgia Peach — the Tigers.

The 19-year-old reserve freshman forward is averaging 3.4 points and 3.5 rebounds. His coach, Brian Newhall, found his name through an East Coast scouting service, and was intrigued.

Cobb was 6-foot-5, a good student from Menlo Park, Calif., and his father graduated from Occidental. The kid's name didn't register with the 50-year-old coach, who is clearly cornering the market on descendants of sports legends — John Wooden's great-grandson was on his team four years ago.

"I had no idea who Ty Cobb was," Newhall said. "My baseball career ended when I was 7 years old. Everyone else in the world other than me was aware who Ty Cobb was."

Tyrus Raymond Cobb was simply one of the toughest and greatest players in baseball history, his spikes high and his will to win unrivaled. The outfielder spent 22 seasons with the Detroit Tigers, including the last six as their player-manager, and played for the Philadelphia Athletics.

The great-grandson — Tyrus Charles Brogan Cobb — said the name has opened a window on baseball that he wouldn't have looked into otherwise, including a visit to the Hall of Fame.

"I did a lot of reading about old baseball players that were contemporaries of Ty Cobb," he said. "Just being connected to a part of history got me interested in research."

At times, the name has been a burden, usually with older adults who recognize it more than a lot of kids do.

"Every once in a while I'll get people who think they know more about Ty Cobb than I do and say, 'Oh, he was a terrible guy, he was a jerk,'" the younger Cobb said. "Ty Cobb does have kind of a tough reputation, but people who say that just aren't informed or just want to start an argument."

The elder Cobb was born in Narrows, Ga., in 1886 when the South was strictly segregated. Along with a reputation for a surly temperament and an aggressive playing style, he was widely regarded as a racist, with history noting his run-ins and scrapes with blacks on and off the field.

"I've got no qualms with how Ty Cobb led his life," his great-grandson said. "From what I've heard from my dad who knew him really well as a grandpa, he was a very generous, loving man. He was always fair to everyone and was just a pleasure to be around."

The younger Cobb plays on an Occidental team that includes three black and three Latino players.

"He was born in Jim Crow (era) Georgia," Cobb said. "It was a completely different world than living in California these days, which is such a diverse area and people are just comfortable being around people that aren't the same skin color or from the same background."

His namesake retired a wealthy man, having invested heavily in Coca-Cola and General Electric stock. He died in 1961 at 74.

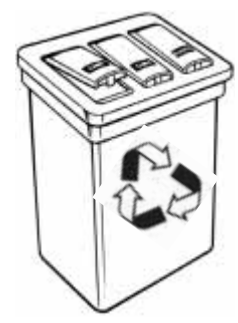


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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

Swell Forecast

Should see the NW swell peak with the NW ground swell. West facing breaks are looking at head high sets.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see the NW back down, with size just waist to chest high at west facing breaks in the AM. We may see some pluses later in the day from Friday's westerly swell.

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 2, 2011**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 23
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12 / 12

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	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	F	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	C	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	C	A+
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	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
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 Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	C	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	C	D
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	B	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	C	B
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+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	D	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	B	F

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Comes to Your Door



On February 1, 2011, the City of Santa Monica will launch the **Household Hazardous Waste Door-to-Door Collection Pilot Program**, a pick-up system where the "Haz Mat" technicians come to you. The goal is to expand levels of service for residents while reducing costs. The service will be provided on a free and unlimited basis to home owners and renters alike.

Also, beginning February 1, 2011, the **Household Hazardous Waste Center** will be available for drop-off service on **SATURDAYS ONLY**. If the pilot program is successful, the city will transition to a permanent pick-up system in June 2011.

The new service is provided in a few easy steps:

1. Reserve collection service: call **1 (800) HHW-PKUP** (1.800.449.7587), Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; or e-mail **hotline@curbsideinc.com**;
2. Receive collection kit in the mail (includes detailed instructions with collection day reminder);
3. Prepare collection kit at your doorstep or at a predetermined location on collection day;
4. Leave prepared materials and we'll do the rest.

For additional information or feedback please visit www.sustainablesm.org/hhw or call (310) 458-2213.

The door-to-door collection program is managed by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and WM Curbside, LLC

City of Santa Monica
sustainablesm.org

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Gypsy
7:30pm

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

Blue Valentine (NC-17) 1hr 54min
1:05pm, 3:55pm, 6:45pm, 9:35pm

Company Men (R) 1hr 53min
1:40pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
12:50pm, 3:40pm, 6:30pm, 9:15pm

Dilemma (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

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

Sanctum 3D (R) 1hr 43min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:10pm

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

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

Biutiful (R) 2hrs 27min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

127 Hours (R) 1hr 35min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:45pm

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

Roommate (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:20pm

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

Waiting for Forever (PG-13) 1hr 34min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

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

Treat yourself well, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Rushing around as you have, take advantage of a slowing down. Realize what you have to offer, especially to a boss or supervisor. Your sense of self comes through. Sometimes it isn't necessary to always be proactive. Demonstrate your self-confidence. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are forthright and all smiles. Others receive your message clearly -- finally. Where previously you have been confused or overwhelmed by events and people, now you are right on target. Stay on top of your work. Don't test your boundaries with a boss. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Consider calming down and centering yourself. Your strength comes from integrating information and getting a sense of the appropriate direction. You might not want to share everything that is on your mind, though you will listen to another person expressing his or her desires. Tonight: Share with a partner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating -- no matter which realm of your life you are dealing with -- serves you well. You might feel as if another person is making demands. Initiate a conversation in order to clear the air. You could be surprised by how responsive another person might be. Tonight: Hang where there are people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You deal with others well and enjoy the intensity and the openness that follows. Caring grows with others, especially with those with whom you have daily contact. Know your limits and honor them. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for others. You could be frustrated by what occurs with a child, but a discussion with someone who has a totally different perspective helps you gain a better understanding. Stay grounded, but explore new ideas and let go of rigidity. Tonight: Where there is music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with a partner hands-on. You might find that, in general, others become more responsive if you deal with them directly. A new approach draws a family member in. Suddenly you note less flack and far more cooperation. Tonight: Dinner with a special friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others come forward and finally reveal what they previously have been hesitant to. Suddenly you see and feel your choices. You might wonder about a new direction. Recognize what has influenced you when you make a choice. Tonight: Open up to potential.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Focus on one project at a time. You might not have the juggling skills of recent days, and a project demands your immediate attention. Finances play a major role in your thoughts, if not actions. Tonight: Buy a token of affection on the way home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might feel as if a situation is more complicated than you would like. If you apply your ingenuity, you could see the things in easier terms. Creativity comes from you. A new mental outlook is instrumental too. Tonight: Take the night off!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Often you do your best thinking at home by yourself. If you have a project that needs alone time, what better place than home? Make sure you aren't exaggerating the importance of another person's comment. Don't make mountains out of molehills. Tonight: Maintain your distance from the world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others finally listen, and their words ring like magic. You finally appear to have cleared away a boulder. You ask yourself why are you pushing so hard. Let others pitch in more often. Know what you want. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

Happy birthday

This year, you have much going on that you might not choose to reveal. Holding your feelings back could prove to be a problem, especially as you could get hurt easily. You might enjoy a home-based business, where you can alternate activities. If you are single, you could become involved with someone who is emotionally unavailable but represents him- or herself differently. Use time as an ally. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from frequent getaways together. TAURUS grounds you.

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

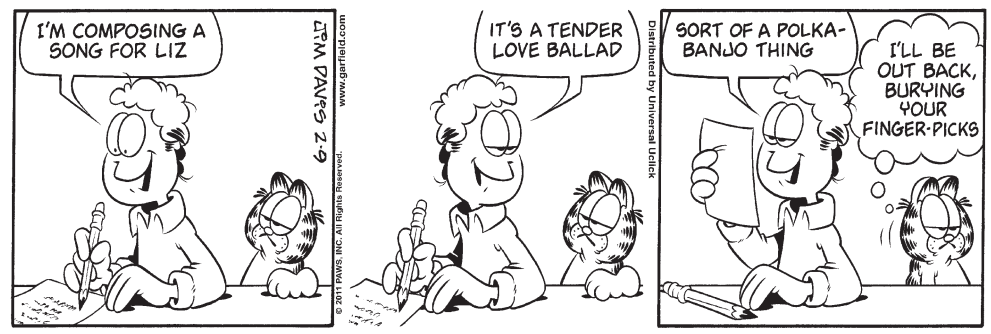


MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

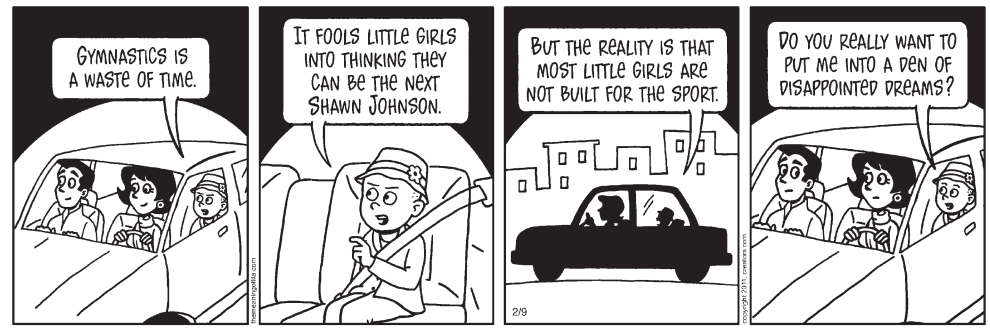
Garfield

By Jim Davis



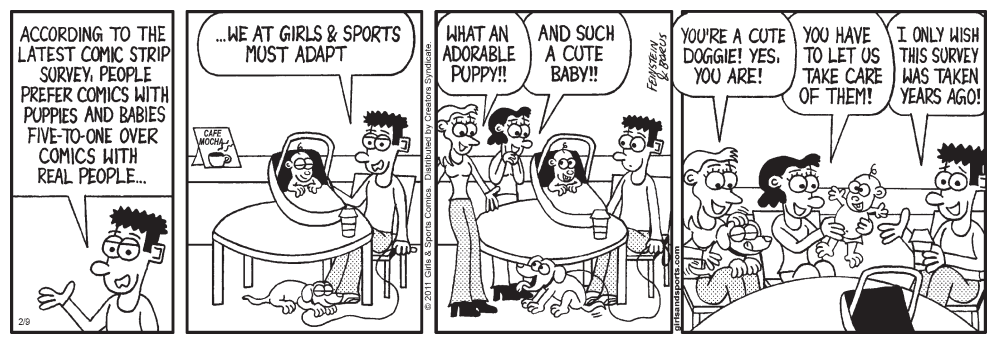
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



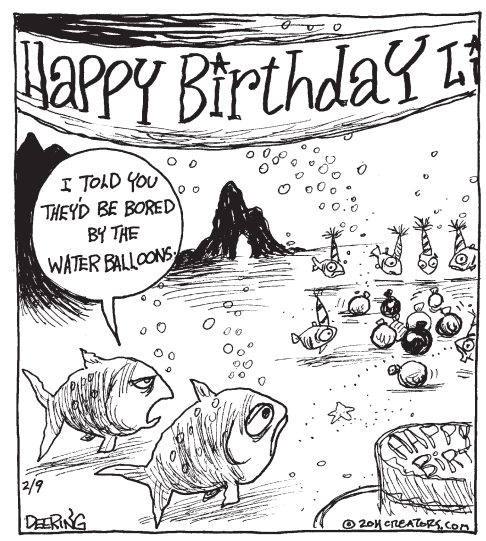
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



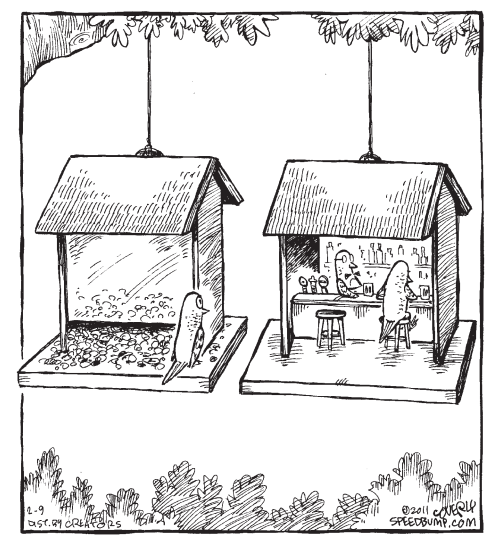
Strange Brew

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 ★★★

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

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

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

"Do You Know The Jealously Guarded Secrets Banks Hide From You That Could Cost You Thousands?"

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fancy neckwear
6 Aladdin's find
10 Form
11 Principled
12 Temptress
13 Follow as a result
14 Smooth
15 Asian temple
16 Game official
17 Feel poorly
18 Tennis divider
19 Fanfare producers
22 Open-handed hit
23 Charged atoms
26 Teatime treats
29 Touch lightly
32 Presidential nickname
33 Kilmer of "The Doors"
34 Relaxed
36 Alliance since 1949
37 Time being
38 Disgusted
39 Brought to a close
40 Seething
41 Reduced amount
42 Emily Deschanel series

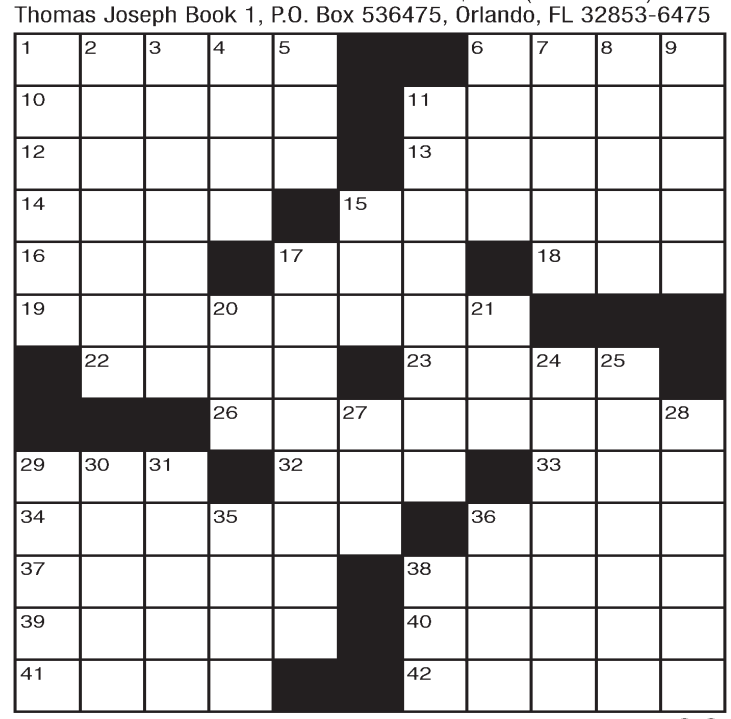
DOWN

1 Declare
2 Reacts to the cold
3 Meticulous
4 Ready for business
5 Sawbuck
6 Drawn out
7 Fiery crime
8 Bea Arthur series
9 Cloth fold
11 Grace period?
15 Slapstick weapon
17 Informed
20 Buddy
21 Soak up
24 Reno resident
25 Ordinance
27 Luau strings
28 Skiing spots
29 Gauge setting
30 Make amends
31 Cares for
35 High pair
36 Infamous emperor
38 Little lie

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



2-9

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

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

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

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

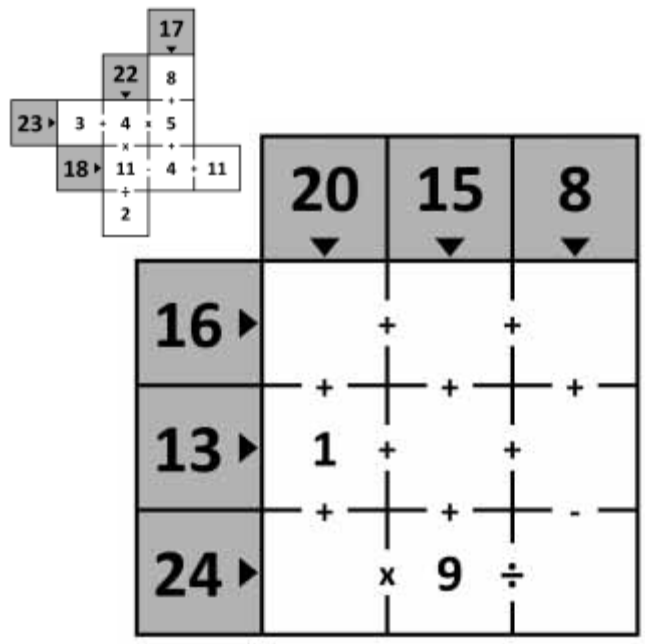
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11

Solution for Task 530



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 20 29 48 55 Meganumber: 6 Jackpot: $19M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 9 12 34 44 Meganumber: 2 Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 14 20 23 26 35

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 2 6 0 EVENING: 0 4 6

DAILY DERBY 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1:47.89

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

■ Every Dec. 24 in Sweden, at 3 p.m., a third to a half of all Swedes sit down to watch the same traditional television program that has marked Christmas for the last 50 years: a lineup of historic Donald Duck cartoons. According to a December report on Slate.com, the show is insinuated in the national psyche because it was the first big holiday program when Swedes began to acquire television sets in 1959. Entire families still watch together, repeating their favorite lines.

■ The General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) announced in December that it issued 350,000 "fatwas" in 2010 -- not the "death to" fatwas, but rather, Quranic interpretations governing everyday life. (The Authority ruled last year, for example, that car raffles are bad; that vuvuzelas are acceptable if kept under 100 decibels; that afternoon naps are prohibited because time should be better spent; and that half-sisters may shake hands with their brothers, even if their mother is Christian.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1900 The Davis Cup competition is established.

1904 Russo-Japanese War: Battle of Port Arthur

1920 Under the terms of the Spitsbergen Treaty, international diplomacy recognizes Norwegian sovereignty over Arctic archipelago Svalbard, and designates it as demilitarized.

1934 The Balkan Entente is formed.

1942 World War II: Top United States military leaders hold their first formal meeting to discuss American military strategy in the war.

1942 Year-round Daylight saving time is reinstated in the United States as a wartime measure to help conserve energy resources.

1943 World War II: Allied authorities declare Guadalcanal secure after Imperial Japan evacuates its remaining forces from the island, ending the Battle of Guadalcanal.

WORD UP!

philomath
\ FIL-uh-math \ , noun;
1. A lover of learning; a scholar.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1000668/033664
$15989

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Obituaries



In Loving Memory - Jo-Anne Sachse
Jo-Anne Sachse passed away at her Fox Hills home on Monday, January 31, 2011, after a 3-year battle with melanoma cancer at the young age of fifty-two.
Jo-Anne was born in Vancouver on November 20, 1958. Jo-Anne graduated at the top of her class and was a very avid softball player in her younger years, recognized as the MVP on several occasions. She moved from Vancouver in 1988 to the westside commencing her 17-year marriage to Marvin Sachse and becoming the devoted mother of their two sons Joshua and Jordan. She had a passion for sports, cooking and gardening. She loved being on the water, athletics, travel and spending time with friends and family.
After a successful insurance career she flew into the air travel industry on the SST, was a dedicated full time mom, and eventually found her passion in gardening and landscaping where she made numerous friends while working at a local garden center.
Jo will always be remembered for her beauty, grace, cheerful positive outlook, an amazing zest for life, and a smile that lit up a room.
Our blessings and prayers are with her as her spirit now soars free from earthly restraints. The memory of her smile's brilliance and warmth will remain in our hearts, forever.
She appreciated the love and support from everyone who lifted her spirits by visiting, calling, and sending cards.
Jo requested that donations in her memory be sent to: Cancer Support Community, 1990 S Bundy Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 310-314-2589, www.cancersupportcommunitybenjamincenter.org.
A celebration of her life will begin at 1:30, Saturday afternoon, February 12, at the Del Rey Yacht Club, 13900 Palawan Way, Marina Del Rey, and will never end in our hearts and minds.

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS!
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Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous

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The position currently available is for weekend hours only with the possibility of transitioning to full-time weekday hours at the end of April.
If you are interested in applying please go online and apply at: www.applyautojob.com/wisimonson.
Resumes may be submitted by fax to: (310)586-9342 to the attention of Chris Pass

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For Rent

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Mar Vista $995.00 Single w/ kitchen, 1 Bath, No pets, Stove, Refrig, Dshwshr, Parking, 4077 Inglewood Blvd., # 1, LA 90066 Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $975 and up $750 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20110060582 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/11/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NIDO DESIGN. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ALEKSEJS FLACUKS 1745 BELOIT AVE #216 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/23/2004 . /s/: ALEKSEJS FLACUKS; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/11/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/26/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/09/2011, 02/16/2011.



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Ocean View
Roof Top Deck
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Open Sunday
February 13th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Open Sunday!

Ocean View Condo on Ocean Avenue!





515 Ocean Avenue
507 South
3 Bed , 2.5 Bath
$1,629,000

1900 Sq. Ft +/-
Plus 102 Sq. Ft. Patio
North of Montana
Great Views from the Living Room & Master & Balcony
Call for Private Showing

Lovely, Large, Light & Bright Condo !





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2 Bed, 2.5 Bath + Loft
$899,000
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February 13th
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Open Sunday!

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North of Montana	$3,200,000	$1,272,500
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South of Wilshire	$799,000	$469,000
Sunset Park	$1,042,500	$557,000
Ocean Park	$1,295,000	$470,000
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2 Bed, 2 Bath
$1,399,000
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Ocean Views!
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More Pictures and Virtual Tour at www.SantaMonicaListings.com



2310 31st Street
2 Bed, 1 Bath
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Open House
Sunday, February 13th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Open Sunday!

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