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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 83

Santa Monica Daily Press

SAMOHI PLAYS WITH 'HEART'
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE HOOP MANIA ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WORKING IT OUT: **Students in Rebecca Johnson's third grade class work in the computer lab at Grant Elementary School on Wednesday.**

School district enrollment holding steady — for now

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQRTS Conservative estimates of future enrollment at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District project declines in elementary and high school students by 2015, according to a study commissioned by the district.

The study, completed by private company DecisionInsite, puts forth both moderate and conservative estimates detailing trends in enrollment for the elementary, middle and high schools in the district.

Declines in the student population affect the amount of money received from the state in average daily attendance, which, in turn, can lead to reductions in staffing.

According to state figures, SMMUSD received $6,815 per student from the state in the 2008-09 school year, the most recent for which data is available.

Moderate projections showed a slow, upward shift in the number of students enrolled, with the district gaining an additional 4 percent to its current student population by 2015.

On the other hand, the district could end 2015 with only 93 percent of its current population, or 10,344 students, according to the study.

The district will be able to make better predictions on final enrollment numbers by May or June, said Debra Moore Washington, the assistant superintendent for human resources.

"These numbers and projections for staffing are all preliminary, first blush," Washington said. "The research company was looking at our trends, attrition, growth patterns and community altogether. We feel pretty good about the projections, and know they will be modified as we get closer

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 8

Personnel cuts considered by school board

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Board of Education at tonight's meeting will consider eliminating six elementary school teachers and nearly as many nursing jobs in an effort to hedge against potential revenue reductions.

Deborah Moore Washington, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District assistant superintendent of human resources, said the board must vote to approve the potential layoffs now so that staff can determine which teachers will receive notice before March 15.

California Code of Education dictates that all affected teachers must be informed of potential layoffs by the March 15 deadline, whether or not the board decides, in the end, to fire those employees, Washington said.

"We have until May to make final decisions in our district," Washington said.

The district faces major uncertainty in its budget despite aggressive fundraising efforts in 2010, with threats coming from both the state and local levels.

Funding for schools in Gov. Jerry Brown's budget rests heavily on the extension of a half-cent sales tax and vehicle licensing fee.

Two-thirds of the state legislature must vote to put the extensions on the June ballot, and two-thirds of voters must then approve the extensions.

If those two taxes do not pass, SMMUSD stands to lose up to $3.6 million the state gives for average daily attendance, according to the district.

The school may lose approximately $1.25 million due to state cuts in mental health services funding approved by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in October 2010.

Schwarzenegger eliminated the mandate and funding for a 1984 law which provided money to schools for individualized education programs, or IEPs for selected students with mental health needs.

At the meeting, the board will discuss contracting with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to continue providing the services at a cost of approxi-

SEE CUTS PAGE 9

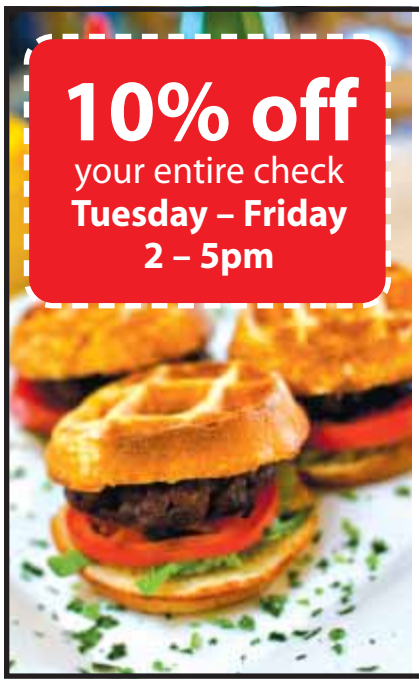
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011

Film focus
Lincoln Middle School
1501 California Ave., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Check out the eye-opening documentary "Race to Nowhere," which focuses on the needs of America's youth and how to best prepare them for the future. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at www.rtnlincolnmiddleca.eventbrite.com. This event is open to the public. If the screening does not sell out online then tickets will be sold at the door for $15. There will be dessert and a short time for discussion after the screening.

In the eye of the beholder
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 7 p.m.
Like training for a marathon, cultivating your eye to understand contemporary art takes guidance and practice. SMMoA's "Trust Your Instincts" seminars will help you hone your collecting skills and stay apprised of evolving trends in the art world. This seminar is the second in an annual series of three. Access to this series is an exclusive benefit of members at the SMMoA fellows ($500) level or higher. To RSVP or upgrade your membership, please contact kim.newstadt@smmoa.org or call (310) 586-6488 x 116.

Opening reception of 'Sheila Pinkel: Photographs'
SMC Emeritus College
1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Sheila Pinkel's exhibit will pull from three bodies of work" "Site Unseen: Museum Guards," "Journey to Tovangar, the World of the Tongva," and "X-Ray Photograms." Pinkel says her work has always been about making visible the invisible in nature and culture. She has worked in light-sensitive emulsions and technologies, has photographed in five Cambodian and Hmong refugee camps in Thailand, and done numerous documentary projects including museum guards, tribal peoples in Pakistan, and the garment industry in Los Angeles. This exhibit runs through March 25. For information, call (310) 434-4306.

Friday, Feb. 18, 2011

Classical music by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
Local classical music impresario and violinist Philip Vaiman and his label Talia Records present the first in a number of unique music and cultural events, called the Los Angeles Seasons Concert Series. The debut event will feature The Red Quartet, a unique ensemble of guitar, violin, cello and vocals whose music ranges from early classical to decidedly futuristic. For more information, visit www.theredquartet.com.

Career Day 2011
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Library staff and professional recruiters will be on hand to help job seekers polish their interview skills and tidy up their resumes. For more information, call the Reference Services Department at (310) 434-2608.

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



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Vikings head into playoffs with 'heart'

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI As Santa Monica High School's heralded girls' basketball team suffered through a mid-season slump, they couldn't help but think something was missing.

The team began the year 9-0, but losses against some of the top teams in the nation seemed to knock the wind out of the defending California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 1A champs.

Sure, the team is loaded with a trio of NCAA Division 1 recruits, led by UCLA-bound Moriah Faulk, but they seemed to be lacking something during surprising losses to Ocean League opponents.

But, something happened that both players and coaches said brought them out of their funk — they began to play together.

"We're playing with more heart," Head Coach Marty Verdugo said as his team prepared for a first-round CIF-SS Division 1AA playoff matchup tonight at home against Moreno Valley Rancho Verde. "Heart can mean a lot of different things. We have to be connected at the heart in order to be great. We're late bloomers in that category."

Proof was in the putting as Samohi romped over its final four league opponents. With wins by as many as 36 points, it appears that the Vikings are peaking at the right time.

Despite the strong finish, Samohi, the No. 7 seed in the division, finished second in league to Inglewood, giving them added motivation as they return to defend their crown.

Verdugo said that assimilating new players into his system also played a part in bringing his team together. While two of those so-called new players were Faulk and Bianka Balthazar, a pair of transfers who were not granted eligibility until late last season, Verdugo said that they still faced a steep learning curve heading into this season as they assumed leadership roles.

"Sometimes it takes a little bit longer to form a bond," he said. "But, we made a decision that we wanted to be better than we were playing. We ultimately have competitors on the team that want to win."

It appears that notion has taken root with Verdugo's players.

"We just got tired of losing," the Long Beach

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 8



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

UP, UP, UP: **Samohi's Bianka Balthazar goes up for a shot against Hawthorne on Friday.**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MID-CITY

State fines convalescent home for death of resident

The California Department of Public Health fined a Santa Monica nursing home $100,000 after an investigation concluded that inadequate care led to the death of a patient in 2009.

According to a report by the CDPH, a 60-year-old male residing at the Goldstar Rehabilitation and Nursing Center choked to death in April 2009 when an employee at the center violated a doctor-prescribed meal program.

The patient, who had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, had difficulty chewing his food. His physician ordered a therapeutic, soft diet in December 2008 to avoid choking hazards.

On April 16, 2009, the center's activities director involved the patient in a candlelight dinner, at which she served pork chops that she had prepared at her home and brought to the facility.

According to the report, the activities director was unaware that the man had a special dietary plan.

He choked on a poorly-chewed piece of pork chop, and was admitted to a nearby hospital. He died on April 23.

At the end of the investigation, the CDPH charged that the facility failed to provide the patient with a prescribed therapeutic diet and implement his plan of care.

The agency fined the facility the maximum amount possible under California State law.

It would not confirm if the case was referred for possible criminal charges.

DAILY PRESS

Three rescued from river as storm hits

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The first wave in a series of storms moved into Southern California early Wednesday, triggering a rash of traffic accidents and forcing firefighters to rescue three homeless men from an encampment in the suddenly rising Los Angeles River.

Long Beach Fire Department spokesman Mike Robideaux told the Los Angeles Times that the men awakened Wednesday at their campsite on a sandbar to find themselves surrounded by 3 feet of swiftly moving water. The typically dry or trickling

SEE **STORM** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What happened to civil rights?

RE: "Flogging a dead horse," My Write, Feb. 14, 2011.

When the police hear of someone posing a potential threat, they come in groups, armed to the teeth and weapons pointed to the victim. When Mr. Oscar de la Torre takes a moment to access a fight in order to protect himself, he is apprehended as a great scheming offender. How is that? And the fact is, there were inconsistencies with the reporting of the incident, and insufficient evidence with no follow up with the witnesses and under-handed reporting that led to the case being dragged out, not only at great expense to the tax payer but to the defamation of Mr. Oscar de la Torre.

I happened to stop by his youth center on Pico, out of curiosity and a yen for chocolate when the kids had a cake sale. I expected loud music and chaos but found over a dozen kids, working intently on various projects and a very courteous reception that speaks of community pride. It was something the community can be proud of. This man keeps these kids occupied and off the streets where they are bound to get in trouble. I am grateful to have a man of his caliber giving his time for our kids and our community.

By all means, the police owe him a public apology. The taxpayers should know what kind of tab this disgrace cost them. And there should be a follow up as to how, in the future, the department will handle a similar matter and what changes they have made to do so.

That's called basic civil rights; that's protecting and serving the community, for real!

Jayne Pitchford
Santa Monica





Life Matters

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

Breaking into Tinseltown

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I am a college student who will be graduating with a degree in English this May. I would like to work in the entertainment industry but have no idea how to get started. Do you have any advice on what I can do now to get my foot in the door?

Signed,
Industry Wannabe

DEAR WANNABE,

Breaking into the industry will take time and dedication. The industry is quite competitive so you will need to be proactive in your search and go the extra mile to get your foot in the door and your resume on the desk of the right person.

Start by determining which aspect of the industry you're most interested in. What is your work-style like? If you like hands-on work you may enjoy working in set design or physical production. If you prefer an office environment you might explore creative development or talent management. Take time to investigate the various aspects of the industry and tailor your search in that direction. A few areas to explore might include: feature film, TV, animation, music, video games, casting, talent, development, physical production, and theatre. You may also choose to investigate the connected roles like marketing, management, business affairs, publicity, public relations, or new media.

While you may have a long-term career goal in mind, you should know the title of the position you're interested in applying for today so that you can focus your job search on that particular area. Review job postings and descriptions in entertainment career books. Some of the more typical entry-level positions have titles such as: production assistant, marketing assistant, runner/mail-room clerk (messengers), receptionist/client service representative, etc.

To figure out what fits you best, start by conducting informational interviews. As a student you'll have a much better chance of securing an informational interview with an industry professional. Check with your career center or alumni association to see if they maintain a list of alumni contacts. You can reach out to those individuals and ask them if it is possible to set up a time to talk further about what they do and how they attained their current role. Some professionals may even be willing to let you shadow them for a day to see the ins and outs of what they do. Learning from people who have been successful in the industry can be just what you need to break in.

Networking is also key to success in the industry, but you don't need to wait until you are working full-time to start this process. An internship can be the perfect way to get your foot in the door and to learn the key terms, responsibilities, and actions of the industry. Consider contacting the companies you are most interested in to see if they have an internship program. If you know anyone who works in the industry, ask if they know of any openings or if they get the UTA job list which lists a number of full-time and internship opportunities across the field.

Next, be open to any role available to you. Although you may have a college degree, with such stiff competition you may need to start as a runner, mailroom assistant, or personal assistant. Choose an opportunity that will allow you to meet a number of people and do your best in that role. Similarly, do not dismiss a company simply because you haven't heard of it. There are many highly successful and reputable companies in this business which may be unfamiliar to newcomers.

If you're looking for another way in, find out which staffing agencies the major studios and talent agencies use to fill temporary vacancies. Call their human resources office and ask if they use a temporary or staffing agency. Then go ahead and register with that staffing agency and note your preference to fill roles with entertainment companies. Proving your abilities on the job will help show you have what it takes to work in that role full-time.

Finally, in order to get the job of your dreams, it is important for you to know what the company is looking for. Review job descriptions and highlight the desired skills to target your resume. Relate what they want to what you have. Highlight the specific qualities listed in the job description and make a list of all the ways you have demonstrated these abilities. Then write the entries on your resume; the goal of your resume is to market yourself and show hiring managers you have what it takes to succeed.

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

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Former lawmakers win special Senate elections

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

Two former Los Angeles-area lawmakers claimed seats in the state Senate in special elections Tuesday that were the first campaigns under California's open primary law.

Republican Sharon Runner defeated her lone rival to win the seat held by her husband until last year, while Democrat Ted Lieu defeated seven opponents. Both are former members of the state Assembly.

Runner, from Lancaster, had 68 percent of the vote with more than half of precincts reporting. She won the Senate District 17 seat over Democrat Darren Parker, a small-business owner from Lancaster, who had 32 percent support.

With half of precincts reporting, Lieu, of Torrance, had 57 percent support in his bid to represent Los Angeles County's 28th Senate District. He needed more than 50 percent to avoid a runoff.

"I'm thrilled that the voters elected me as the senator from the 28th Senate District," Lieu said.

Runner and Parker were the only two candidates vying to represent a district that includes parts of Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

"I'm excited to go back and work for the people in Sacramento and do what I can to help families and businesses get back on track and the state not spending all their hard-earned money," Runner said in a telephone interview after her victory. "We're looking at a lot of regulations that are out there on businesses. There are all these regulations that no one even knows how to implement.

Runner, 56, expects to be sworn in Friday, giving Republicans 15 seats in the 40-member Senate. She previously followed her husband into the Assembly, winning his seat in 2002 after he was termed out. She served six years before she was termed out in 2008.

In 2009, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which oversees farmworker relations. The Republican governor rescinded the appointment after labor advocates objected, appointing her instead to the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. Both positions are considered soft landing spots for legislators and paid $128,109 a year.

Lieu, 41, served in the Assembly from 2005 until he was termed out last year. He lost a Democratic primary bid for state attorney general last year.

Republican challenger Bob Valentine had 25 percent of the vote. His campaign manager, Ashley Hemkin, did not return telephone messages late Tuesday.

Under the new primary system, candidates from all recognized political parties are on the same ballot. Voters opted for the new system last year as a way to promote less partisan candidates. Political strategists say the open primary system will require candidates to appeal to a wider array of voters.

The Los Angeles County seat was vacated when former Democratic Sen. Jenny Oropeza died in office last year of complications from a blood clot. Former Sen. George Runner, a Republican, was elected to the state Board of Equalization in November, creating the opening in the 17th district that was claimed by his wife.

In the contest to succeed Oropeza, of Long Beach, Gov. Jerry Brown and other leading Democrats campaigned for Lieu.

Democrats are seeking support for the governor's proposal to close the state's $26.6 billion budget deficit. Brown has proposed about $12.5 billion in spending cuts and borrowing, but also wants lawmakers to ask voters in a June special election to extend temporary income, sales and vehicle tax increases for five years.

"The first priority — and it's not just mine, it should be every elected officials' priority — is to get California's economy moving again, and to create and retain jobs," Lieu said in a telephone interview. "I look forward to working with Gov. Brown to getting our fiscal house in order and to crafting a budget that moves California forward."

Democrats will hold a 25-15 majority in the Senate after Tuesday's elections but need 27 votes for the two-thirds majority required to pass tax or fee increases.

Lieu faced a fellow Democrat, Kevin McGurk of Venice, along with four Republicans: Valentine, of Manhattan Beach; Jeffrey Fortini of El Segundo; Martha Flores Gibson of Long Beach; and James Thompson of Lomita. Only Valentine spent significant money on the race, according to filings with the secretary of state.

Two candidates ran with no party preference: Michael Chamness of Venice and Mark Lipman of Los Angeles.

The Q Line

Paying to play

The City Council recently approved fee increases for a number of recreation programs.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks: Will the new fee rates dissuade you from participating in recreation programs?

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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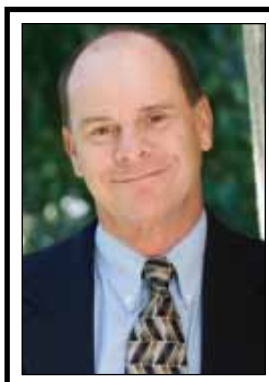
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My Personnel File: Why Do I Want it and How Do I Get a Copy?

The permanent record from our youth may have been a ruse cooked up to keep children in line, but these days, we are close to having permanent records due to our rapidly all encompassing digital world. Thankfully, personnel files are not yet in digital format. While we still can, we should at least always be prepared to have access to these records to check and to fix any wrong information. We may also want access when we think we should get a raise and want to use former evaluations, client letters, or training records to get it.

The Why:

More often than not, employees do not even know how to access this information until they talk to a lawyer. And if you are talking to a lawyer about work, something's already gone wrong. Lawyers want to see what your performance record is, any personnel actions and the basis, or any other records that could help determine whether, say, a termination was legally wrongful or justifiable in light of the bigger history. Most of these employment cases turn on performance, the reason the employer gives for the termination, versus whatever you as a plaintiff will show. For example, one good way to maintain better records in your file is to put in writing what you disagree with, such as in a negative evaluation. Later when these are reviewed, and the employee has these notes, it will be more difficult for a bad employer to justify their wrongful behavior through performance issues.

Another reason to keep track is that personnel records can be subpoenaed by a third party, which is something that could happen in any type of legal action where you are involved. The law does require that you are given a notice and opportunity to object to the subpoena. If any of it is relevant to whatever legal action is happening, not necessarily even an employment case, then usually the subpoena is allowed.

The How:

There are no federal laws about these records, but California has very clear laws. Still, some employers do not know them or follow them properly so it is better to know your rights and educate your employer if needed. Here are the types of records that you are legally entitled to get: Pay Records: Employers have to keep for at least three years of your pay records and give their employees a copy within 21 days of request or face civil penalties (Labor Code 226). Personnel Files: Employers have to keep records and give you access to them within a reasonable time (Labor Code 1198.5). All documents you signed: These are the ones signed at hire or as continuing term and condition of employment (not documents signed in the course of conducting business). (Labor Code 432).

Tips: Though these requests do not have to be in writing, it is usually better so that you can keep track of the response time. Employers may have part of your personnel file in different offices. Be sure to know where yours is kept so when the time comes you know how to find it without being given the run around.
Ask for or make copies of all personnel documents as they come up and hold on to the hiring paperwork so that you have your own set for comparison later.

Unemployment Benefits: Do I Qualify?

The news is not getting better about the economy and the unemployment office has to be really picky when it comes to claims. You were not laid off, but instead quit or were terminated. How can you file for unemployment and be approved? This is one of the most often asked questions from my clients. Some who are still working want to know if they should quit or wait to be terminated. The decision will vary from person to person to situation. The decision can also be personal or health related or that you just want to be out of there. Here are some legalities to consider in your decision.

The Quit:

In a situation with a quit, there is generally just one type of circumstance that will get you these benefits. If you can show that you quit because the work conditions were such that no reasonable person could be expected to work there, then you can still qualify for the benefits. This is a high standard limited to what the law requires of the workplace, such as safe conditions, free from harassment, being paid, and free from retaliation. This is not an easy showing to make and so arguments based on personality, rudeness, bad bosses, etc, will not fly.

The Termination:

Most people think that if you have been terminated, there is no unemployment for you. However, there are exceptions to this. Of course, if you have been terminated based on policy violations, gross misconduct, and other severe actions, then you are disqualified. One way to overcome that, if the facts are there, is the exception that the conduct may not have been appropriate but it was an isolated instance of poor judgment, or something excusable that happened the one time for a good reason. Criminal activity at work or assault or harassment is never excusable.

The Wrongful Termination:

If you have been "wrongfully terminated" in the legal sense, you may still qualify for unemployment. Most employees who file lawsuits have been terminated. If the facts are there for a lawsuit, then they should be there to qualify you for unemployment. You need to show that the termination was not based on whatever the employer is claiming, but because of some legal violation they have committed. For example, if you complain of sexual harassment, then a week later, you are terminated for some work issue that happened two months ago, then the termination was retaliation. When an employer retaliates for your report of a prohibited workplace activity, that employer just violated anti-retaliation laws.

Tip: If you are unemployed but develop a disability and you can't work, then you no longer qualify for unemployment. At this point, apply for State Disability Benefits. Again, these is not easy to get and you will need medical proof, but it is one safety we are lucky to have here in California.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY SARA ELIOT, AN EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEY. SHE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-1860 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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

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No more human remains believed at drug house

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Investigators concluded Wednesday that there were no more human remains at a shabby drug house where a body was unearthed in the backyard a day earlier.

About a dozen coroner's investigators used shovels and a cadaver-sniffing dog to probe the ground but found nothing, Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide Detective Marcelo Quintero said.

"They're pretty much saying there are no more remains," Quintero said.

A sheriff's crime lab investigator took away what appeared to be a weight-lifting bar and other items from the home but Quintero said it was not immediately clear whether they would shed any light on the investigation.

Homeowner James Stein, 53, and his wife, Gabriela Stein, were last seen in December and are considered missing. A man's corpse, wrapped in cloth and plastic, was dug up from the backyard on Tuesday but coroner's officials said Wednesday that they were still trying to identify it.

The house is a run-down green wooden bungalow in the unincorporated Lennox area near freeways and Los Angeles International Airport.

The front yard was full of disturbed earth. Neighbors said people at the home dug up the yard and had plans to build a fence.

The house was known as a hangout for addicts.

"It's got a long history of drug abuse ... we're talking decades," Quintero said.

Detectives were led to the backyard by Jenny Salazar, a woman who also had once lived at the home and was arrested Monday following an altercation at the home Saturday, Quintero said.

Sheriff's Lt. Don Slawson told the Daily Breeze of Torrance that Salazar and her ex-boyfriend, Marcos Lomeli, went to the home on Jan. 12 and asked a resident in the home if they could borrow a truck.

When the resident asked why, Lomeli said he needed to move a couple of bodies, Slawson said.

When the resident refused, they tied him up and took off in his truck, authorities said. The man eventually freed himself and told authorities.

Lomeli was still being sought in the case.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

ACLU wants probe into use of veterans property

The American Civil Liberties Union says the federal government isn't doing enough to help Los Angeles military veterans.

The ACLU wrote Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, the U.S. Department of Justice and California Attorney General Kamala Harris asking for an investigation into the VA's stewardship of its sprawling West Los Angeles property.

The ACLU says the VA is failing to abide by the terms of the 1888 deed specifying that hundreds of acres must be used in perpetuity as a home for disabled soldiers.

In a statement Tuesday, the ACLU says portions of the property have been leased for private school tennis courts as well as theaters instead of housing homeless veterans.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Forecasters say Hollywood should boost local economy

Experts say Hollywood motion picture and television production should help the Los Angeles County economy by adding jobs this year.

Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. chief economist Nancy Sidhu says the Los Angeles economy is poised for growth. The county is expected to add 24,100 total jobs this year.

Film and TV production added 16,500 jobs last year, becoming one of the fastest-growing employment sectors, and Sidhu says it will continue to add jobs this year.

The group's forecast released Wednesday also shows international trade and tourism will add jobs.

The Los Angeles Times says residential building will remain slow because there's still an oversupply of apartments and condos. The forecast predicts that the county will issue 8,490 residential building permits this year compared to 26,300 permits in 2006.

AP

LOS ANGELES

British con man gets 13 years for swindles

An international con man once hauled to court by Bruce Springsteen has been sentenced by a Los Angeles judge to 13 years in federal prison for swindling investors in property schemes, bogus music ventures and other financial deals.

Judge S. James Otero on Tuesday also ordered 65-year-old Robert Tringham of Knebworth, England, to pay $8 million restitution and recommended deportation after his release. Tringham was convicted on 10 fraud and tax counts.

The Los Angeles Daily News says Tringham told investors he was be the chief executive officer of First National Bancorp and persuaded him to part with millions.

Among his victims was Springsteen, who traveled to London in 1998 to fight the scam artist for illegally releasing CDs of his music. The court ruled Tringham owed Springsteen $3 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

$50,000 reward for info on street killing

A $50,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of a killer who shot a Los Angeles man in the back as he crossed a street.

Los Angeles officials announced the reward on Tuesday.

Police say 31-year-old Herbert Eugene Seymour Jr. was walking home from a liquor store on Western Avenue Monday night when a man came up behind him and shot him several times for no apparent reason.

Seymour collapsed and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The man who ran off is described as being in his late teens to early 20s.

Lawyer says Bell officials are caught in witch hunt

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Six current and former officials charged with ripping off millions of dollars from a modest Los Angeles suburb were innocent victims who were wrongly ensnared in what has become an infamous municipal corruption scandal, a defense lawyer told a judge Wednesday.

The officials, including Bell's mayor and vice mayor, were hard-working, honest individuals who had no idea city employees were being paid enormous salaries through contracts prosecutors said were illegal, lawyer Ronald Kaye said.

Kaye was the first of six defense attorneys set to make a closing argument at a preliminary hearing to determine if there is enough evidence to send the officials to trial on fraud charges in the looting of $5.5 million from the city where one in six people live in poverty.

Superior Court Judge Henry Hall was expected to rule after hearing from the other attorneys and a prosecutor.

Kaye indicated that if anyone was responsible for the scandal, it was the city's disgraced former city manager Robert Rizzo.

Authorities say Rizzo paid himself an annual compensation package of $1.5 million through a series of illegal salary contracts. He and his former assistant, Angela Spaccia, who was paid $376,288, face a preliminary hearing next week. Both have pleaded not guilty.

The six current and former officials, meanwhile, each made about $100,000 a year for service on a City Council that meets once a month and other agencies.

Prosecutors claim the agencies did no work and existed only to pay the officials.

Kaye said the outrageous salaries of Rizzo and other Bell employees brought so much media attention to the city that prosecutors felt compelled to bring charges.

"This is an unfair, politically motivated and unjust prosecution and it should stop today," he said.

The six officials had no idea what Rizzo was paying himself or some of the other employees, Kaye told the judge.

Meanwhile, the defendants earned their salaries and could have been voted out of office if voters disagreed with the payments, he said.

The six public officials who are the subject of the preliminary hearing are Mayor Oscar Hernandez, Vice Mayor Teresa Jacobo, Councilman George Mirabal, former Mayor George Cole, and former Councilmen Luis Artiga and Victor Bello.

Armenian gang targeted in federal indictment

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

GLENDALE Authorities arrested dozens of suspected members of a multi-generational Armenian street gang Wednesday believed to be working with other organized crime groups to commit white-collar crimes such as identity theft and credit card scams.

More than 70 people were taken into custody during raids across Southern California, and another 25 or so remained at large, officials said.

In all, 99 defendants faced charges in federal and state courts, capping a two-year probe into the Armenian Power gang that was formed in East Hollywood in the 1980s as young men sought to protect themselves from Hispanic street gangs.

Authorities say the gang is violent but has coupled its aggression with a willingness to work with other crime groups to become more tech savvy.

"Armenian Power members are considered to be exceedingly resourceful and have seized opportunities to collaborate," said Steven Martinez, assistant director in charge of the FBI in Los Angeles.

The gang has grown to include more than 200 members and is now based in Glendale and surrounding areas in the San Fernando Valley. Officials said the number of arrests Wednesday suggests the gang, for now, will have difficulty operating.

"We've made an important first step in really disrupting this gang," U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. said.

Authorities said one of the groups the gang allegedly collaborates with is the prison-based Mexican Mafia, which controls much of the Hispanic gang activity in Southern California. The gang also maintains ties to Armenia and Russia and works with high-level crime figures from those countries, authorities said.

Martinez said those arrested ranged from their early 20s to much older, indicating the gang is a multi-generational enterprise.

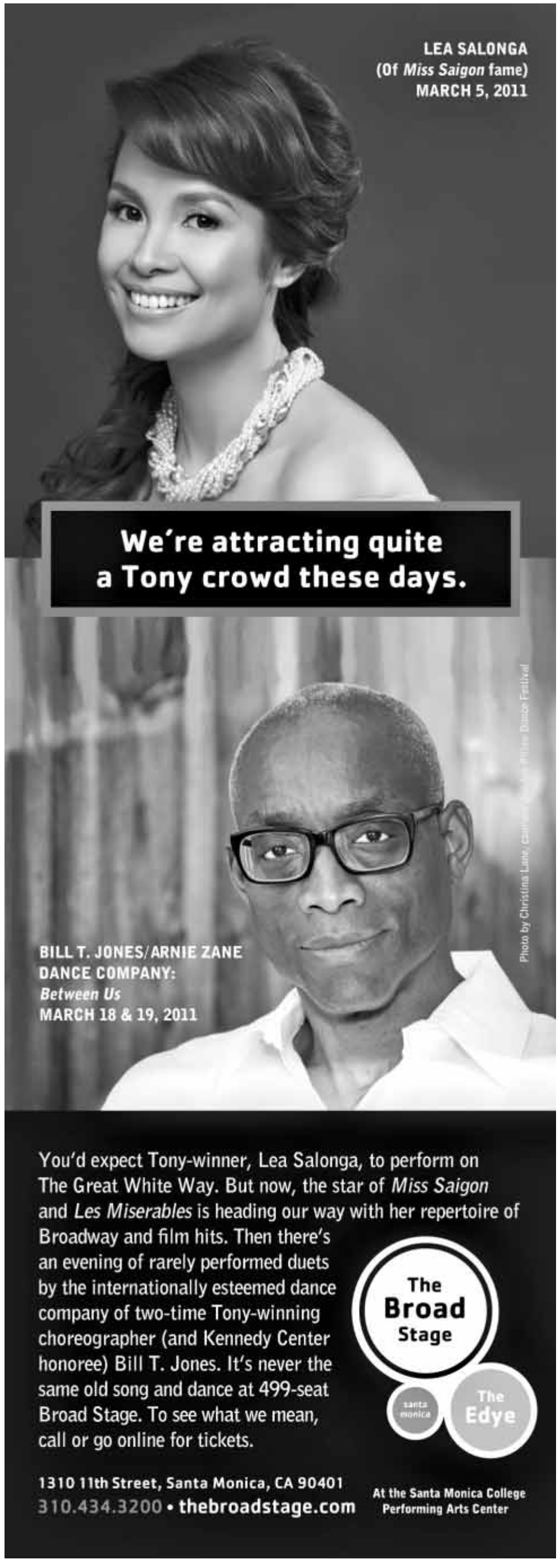
In a federal racketeering indictment, authorities said 29 Armenian Power members and affiliates secretly installed credit card "skimming" machines at discount stores across Southern California then used the information to create bogus credit and debit cards.

Another federal indictment unsealed in Santa Ana alleged that 20 defendants had engaged in a bank fraud scheme that targeted elderly victims. Investigators in that case say Armenian Power members worked with other street gang members to bribe bank insiders for information then stole at least $10 million from victims' accounts.

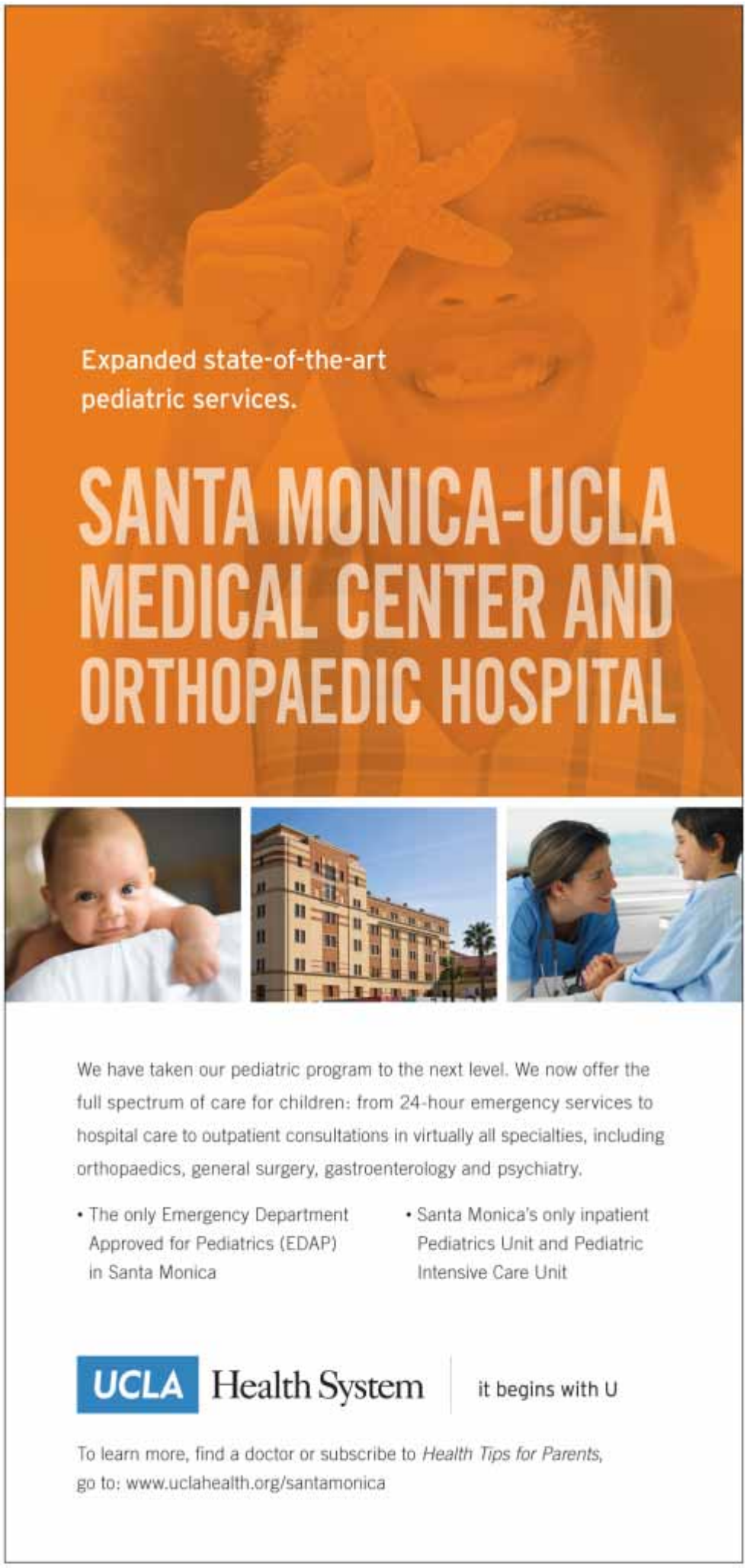
Other indictments were unsealed in Denver and Miami as part of the same operation. The Denver indictment charges a woman with conspiring to lie on credit card and loan applications, and two Miami indictments allege health care fraud schemes dating back to 2007.

Wednesday's sweep, called "Operation Power Outage," follows an October action that saw the arrests of dozens of men alleged to be members of Armenian organized crime groups who had devised complex ways of scamming Medicare.

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DISTRICT
FROM PAGE 1

to the actual numbers."

DecisionInsite noted that the district's kindergarten population, in particular, could experience losses over the coming five years. That reverses the slow but steady pattern of increase seen both locally and statewide over the past several years, according to Department of Education statistics.

Washington cited the decline as one of several reasons that the school board will vote to approve possible cuts to six elementary school teaching positions at its meeting tonight.

The kindergarten population may take an additional hit in the 2012-13 school year when a law goes into effect that changes the age of kindergarten enrollment statewide.

The law, signed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2010, prevents younger children from entering kindergarten early by requiring that enrolled children have their fifth birthday on or before Nov. 1 of the school year instead of Dec. 2.

In 2013, the birth month will be bumped back to October, and in 2014, only children who have their fifth birthday on or before Sept. 1 of the given year will be allowed to enter kindergarten that school year.

In an effort to enroll as many kindergartners as possible, students are being recruited for the 2011-12 class this month and next in an effort called "kindergarten roundup."

Parents will have an opportunity to tour the schools, meet principals and register their children. They will need to bring the child's birth certificate, health records and verification of residence in Santa Monica or Malibu.

Dates and times specific to each school are available at www.smmusd.org.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TEACHING AWAY: **Rebecca Johnson instructs her third grade class on proper grammar and word usage at Grant Elementary School.**

The conservative estimates also show high school enrollment trending downward.

Mary Heim, the chief of the demographic research unit for the California Department of Finance, said high schools across the state are also predicted to face decreasing enrollment as a result of decreased birthrates in 2000 and 2001.

"Births absolutely bottomed out in 2000, but they began rising again. In 2008-09, births began to decline again," Heim said. "School enrollment is very dependent on birthrates."

The district will move forward based on the anticipated student numbers, Washington said.

"We know we will adjust as we go forward, and we will be staffed appropriately to offer optimum education to our students," she said.

ashley@smdp.com

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 3

State-bound Balthazar said with a laugh. "We were really bummed about losing league. That was motivation in itself. We realized we needed to come together to make this work."

The Vikings' resolve will be tested tonight against a Rancho Verde team that finished the year with an impressive 22-4 record.

Verdugo said that his team should be prepared for a Rancho Verde squad that is fast and athletic. Despite playing a number of freshman and sophomores, he said that they run a stifling full-court press that betrays their youth.

"With a successful press, they can go on big runs if you don't take care of the ball," Verdugo said.

To that end, Verdugo and his staff have run seven-on-five drills that forces the starting offense to cope with more defenders on the court. He figures that if they can beat that type of pressure, they should be fine tonight.

That work has resonated with senior point guard Kristina "KJ" Johnson, who has signed to play for the University of the Pacific next year.

"We have to play how we know we can play," Johnson said. "We have to start putting together all four quarters."

daniela@smdp.com

STORM
FROM PAGE 3

Los Angeles River funnels runoff from the San Fernando Valley south to the ocean.

The National Weather Service said warm frontal rain generated heavier precipitation than was expected overnight across Los Angeles and Ventura counties, and before midday many areas had already received more than was predicted for the entire storm.

Snow levels remained high, generally above 7,000 feet, but were expected to lower through the day under the influence of an arriving cold front, the NWS said.

The storm arrived with blustery winds in and along the region's mountains. The NWS said one of the strongest gusts hit 56 mph at Chilao in the San Gabriel Mountains.

After a pause Thursday, the weather system is expected to fuel up Friday as a strong southwest-to-northeast jetstream sets up over the region with a cold, upper-level low over Oregon, the NWS said.

A band of rain will move from north to south through the area and forecasts call for "a broad swath of 50-plus mph south winds," the NWS said, greatly enhancing rainfall on south slopes of the mountains.

Preliminary forecasts call for rainfall amounts of 1 inch to 3 inches in coastal and valley areas and 3 inches to 6 inches in the foothills and mountains, with "significant" snowfall on higher mountain elevations.

There were no reports of any immediate problems in the many areas across the region that lie near wildfire-scarred terrain, including Los Angeles' suburbs on the foothills of the steep San Gabriels, where the infamous Station Fire burned fiercely through the Angeles National Forest for weeks in 2009. The burn area — more than 160,500 acres — is expected to pose a risk of debris flows and mudslides to adjacent communities for years.

Southern California has enjoyed many days of dry, summerlike weather this year. Before rain moved in early Wednesday downtown Los Angeles had recorded only 0.79 inch of precipitation since Jan. 1. That was 4.51 inches below normal for the period. Twelve-month rainfall, however, is tallied from July 1 to June 30 and the region is above normal by that counting due to a rainy end to 2010. Downtown has recorded more than 12 inches since July 1, more than 3 inches above average to date.

CUTS
FROM PAGE 1

mately $250,000 per month from Feb. 1 through the end of the school year.

According to the discussion item, the district has 15 students in residential treatment centers and another 59 receiving outpatient IEP-based mental health services.

Additional state funding could also be lost if the number of students in the district declines.

Reductions in the number of enrolled students would mean losing out on Average Daily Attendance funding from the state, which equated to $6,815 per student in this district in the 2008-09 school year, the last year for which statistics are available.

Washington cited a study by the DecisionInsite firm which showed decreasing enrollment figures in the district between now and 2015.

The district is also unsure whether or not an application to convert the Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School into a charter school will pass at the state level.

The Board of Education denied the application in December 2010, but the matter can be brought to the state for consideration.

"All of those factors drove us to look at putting this forward," Washington said.

The cuts may come despite the passage of Measure Y in November 2010 and the successful Save Our Schools campaign which helped retain approximately 26 teachers in the 2010-11 school year.

The SOS campaign brought in $1.2 million, and Measure YY, which pledges schools half of the revenues raised by a half-cent sales tax, is hoped to bring in approximately $6 million.

Those two funding sources prevented more drastic measures, Washington said.

California Teachers Union representative Harry Keiley said that the proposed cuts are nothing to be alarmed about.

"It's early on in the process that staff does this," Keiley said. "We believe our district is well positioned, in great part due to the success of Measures Y and YY, and sacrifices employee groups have made in the past couple of years, and that the reduction will not be necessary going forward."

The union will keep an eye on the proceedings, Keiley said.

"We have expressed our opposition to the reductions, and feel confident that going forward, we will prevail," he said.

If approved tonight, the resolution would allow staff to determine which six kindergarten through fifth grade teachers and 5.6 nursing positions will receive notification of the layoffs.

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REGIONAL CONNECTOR TRANSIT CORRIDOR
WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION
EXPOSITION TRANSIT CORRIDOR PHASE 2
The Federal Transit Administration gave formal approval for preliminary engineering work to begin on the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector. Both projects are now a step closer to actual construction and federal funding could be included in next year's budget.

Regional Connector Transit Corridor
> A two-mile, fully underground light rail line has been approved for the route of the Regional Connector Transit Corridor connecting the Metro Gold Line, Metro Blue Line and future Expo Line through Downtown LA.
> The route connects with the Metro Blue and Expo lines at 7th Street/Metro Center Station and with the Metro Gold Line at Alameda Street.
> Under the 30/10 Initiative leveraging Measure R funding with federal dollars, construction could begin in 2014 and be completed by 2019.

Westside Subway Extension
> A subway extension running between the Metro Purple Line Wilshire/Western Station and the Westwood/VA Hospital has been approved as the route of the Westside Subway Extension.
> The $4.2 billion project will extend the subway a distance of approximately nine miles to Beverly Hills, Century City and Westwood.
> Under the 30/10 Initiative leveraging Measure R funding with federal dollars, construction could begin in 2013, with completion of the subway to the Westwood area by 2022.

Exposition Transit Corridor Phase 2
> Engineering and design work is currently underway to extend the Expo Line now under construction farther west to Santa Monica.
> The first segment of the Expo Line now under construction runs between 7th Street/Metro Center in Downtown LA and Venice/Robertson boulevards in Culver City.

For more information, visit *metro.net/3010*.
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #3018 PROVIDES DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on February 23, 2011 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time. Vendors are to meet Paul Casey & Kellee Mac Donald at the Main Library in the Community Meeting Room located at 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Floor 2 Santa Monica, CA. 90401

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm

Submission Deadline is March 14, 2011 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

Stocks rise after strong earnings and deal news

CHIP CUTTER
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Strong earnings results and another round of corporate deals pushed stocks higher Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has now doubled from the intraday low set in the 2008 financial crisis.

Family Dollar Stores Inc. rose 21 percent to $53.25 after investor Nelson Peltz's firm offered to pay up to $60 a share to take the discount retailer private. That was a 36 percent premium from Tuesday's closing price. Family Dollar rose the most of any stock in the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

Genzyme Corp. rose 1.1 percent after French drug maker Sanofi-Aventis agreed to buy the U.S. biotechnology firm for $20 billion in cash. The deal ended months of haggling between the two companies.

Dell Inc. rose 12 percent a day after the personal computer maker raised its full-year revenue forecast, a sign that businesses are spending more on technology.

Abercrombie & Fitch Co. rose 7.6 percent after the teen clothing maker said its fourth-quarter net income nearly doubled on strong sales overseas and better U.S. results.

Comcast Corp. also reported earnings that surpassed analysts' expectations. Its stock rose 4 percent after more customers signed up for a combination of TV, high-speed Internet access and digital phone services.

Deere & Co. rose 2.4 percent after the equipment maker said its net income more than doubled, thanks to growing sales of large farm machinery in the U.S. and Canada.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 61.53, or 0.5 percent, to close at 12,288.17, its highest close since June 13, 2008.

The S&P 500 rose 8.31, or 0.6 percent, to 1,336.32. That was double its intraday low of 666.79 reached on March 6, 2008 at the height of the financial crisis.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 21.21, or 0.8 percent, to 2,825.56

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.63 percent from 3.61 percent from late Tuesday.

The Commerce Department reported that new home construction rose in January by the largest amount in 20 months. The pace of construction is still way off from levels seen in a healthy economy, but analysts were optimistic about the report.

"Housing is slowly showing some signs of life here," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

The Labor Department also reported that wholesale prices rose sharply in January due to higher costs for gas and other goods.

Oil prices rose after Israel's foreign minister said Iran will send two warships through the Suez Canal on the way to Syria. Benchmark oil for March delivery rose 67 cents to settle at $84.99 per barrel.

The Federal Reserve reported separately that for the fifth straight month factories produced more goods in January, although overall industrial production fell.

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Hollywood


Scientists connect global warming to extreme rain

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON Extreme rainstorms and snowfalls have grown substantially stronger, two studies suggest, with scientists for the first time finding the telltale fingerprints of man-made global warming on downpours that often cause deadly flooding.

Two studies in Wednesday's issue of the journal Nature link heavy rains to increases in greenhouse gases more than ever before.

One group of researchers looked at the strongest rain and snow events of each year from 1951 to 1999 in the Northern Hemisphere and found that the more recent storms were 7 percent wetter. That may not sound like much, but it adds up to be a substantial increase, said the report from a team of researchers from Canada and Scotland.

The study didn't single out specific storms but examined worst-of-each-year events all over the Northern Hemisphere. While the study ended in 1999, the close of the decade when scientists say climate change kicked into a higher gear, the events examined were similar to more recent disasters: deluges that triggered last year's deadly floods in Pakistan and in Nashville, Tenn., and this winter's paralyzing blizzards in parts of the United States.

The change in severity was most apparent in North America, but that could be because that's where the most rain gauges are, scientists said.

Both studies should weaken the argument that climate change is a "victimless crime," said Myles Allen of the University of Oxford. He co-authored the second study, which connected flooding and climate change in the United Kingdom. "Extreme weather is what actually hurts people."

Jonathan Overpeck, a University of Arizona climate scientist, who didn't take part in either study, praised them as sensible and "particularly relevant given the array of extreme weather that we've seen this winter and stretching back over the last few years."

Not all the extreme rain and snow events the scientists studied cause flooding. But since 1950, flooding has killed more than 2.3 million people, according to the World Health Organization's disaster database.

The British study focused on flooding in England and Wales in the fall of 2000. The disaster cost more than $1.7 billion in insured damages and was the wettest autumn for the region in more than 230 years of record-keeping.

Researchers found that global warming more than doubled the likelihood of that flood occurring. Similar studies are now under way to examine whether last year's deadly Russian heat wave and Pakistan floods — which were part of the same weather event — can be scientifically attributed to global warming.

For years scientists, relying on basic physics and climate knowledge, have said global warming would likely cause extremes in temperatures and rainfall. But this is the first time researchers have been able to point to a demonstrable cause-and-effect by using the rigorous and scientifically accepted method of looking for the "fingerprints" of human-caused climate change.

The scientists took all the information that shows an increase in extreme rain and snow events from the 1950s through the 1990s and ran dozens of computer models numerous times. They put in the effects of greenhouse gases — which come from the burning of fossil fuels — and then ran numerous models without those factors. Only when the greenhouse gases are factored in do the models show a similar increase to what actually happened. All other natural effects alone don't produce the jump in extreme rainfall. Essentially, the computer runs show climate change is the only way to explain what's happening.

In fact, the computer models underestimated the increase in extreme rain and snow. That is puzzling and could be even more troubling for our future, said Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University, who wasn't part of the study.

Report: Apple leads the mobile computer market

DANA WOLLMAN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Apple is selling more portable computers than any other manufacturer.

Including the iPad, Apple Inc. sold 17.2 percent of mobile computers worldwide in the October-December quarter, according to a report published Wednesday by research group DisplaySearch. That's even more than Hewlett-Packard Co., the world's top PC maker.

Apple has sold nearly 15 million iPads in its first nine months on sale, including 7.3 million in the most recent quarter alone. Without the iPad, Apple is the world's eighth-ranking PC manufacturer.

HP ranks second when it comes to mobile computers, a category that includes laptops, tablet computers and netbooks. Acer Inc., Dell Inc. and Toshiba Corp round out the top five.

Apple's lead doesn't mean people are buying iPads instead of larger laptops and desktops, said DisplaySearch analyst Richard Shim. Rather, it's selling best in countries where most people already own computers. He said that even though the iPad is relatively inexpensive, with a starting price of $499, consumers in emerging markets can only afford one computer and are likely to buy one that's more powerful, and not necessarily more portable.

"In emerging markets, PCs are still aspirational," Shim said. "They're looking for the most computing capability they can get for their dollar. In those cases they're gravitating more towards a fully configured PC. In some cases toward desktops."

Shim added that Apple will continue to dominate the tablet market for at least a year or two, even though companies such as Motorola Mobility Inc. will begin selling tablets running Google Inc.'s popular Android software, commonly found on smart phones.

Meanwhile, PCs face competition from another kind of mobile gadget: smart phones. In the fourth quarter, smart phones outsold PCs for the first time ever, according to a report from research group IDC earlier this month.

In that case, too, it's not that people are buying phones instead of PCs. Sales of personal computers are slowing because many consumers already own them and only tend to replace them every three to five years, compared with every two years for phones.









SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

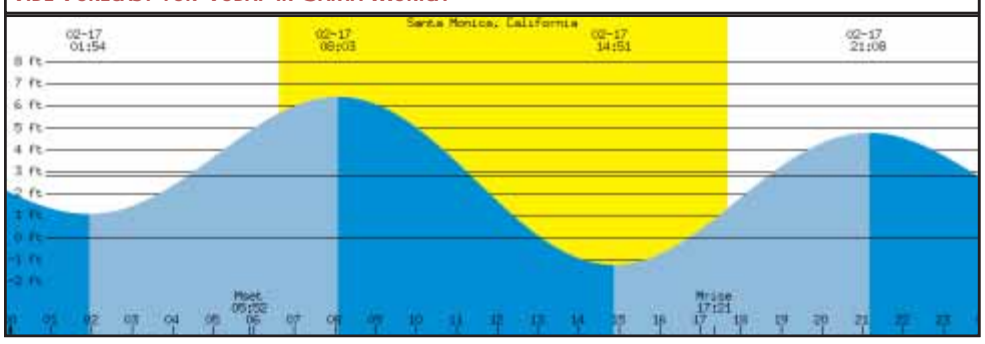
Swell Forecast

Surf running head high+ at most west facing breaks, with standouts seeing sets running 2-3' overhead. Conditions look poor once again, and there will be an elevated rip current risk as well.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see the NW back off, but head high around west facing breaks seems like a reasonable expectation at this point

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 8, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 27
- Number of (C.D.F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 10

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 Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	B	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	B
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.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	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 (branch location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	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	A+
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	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	C
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	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	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.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	A
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.	B	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.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB

Dodgers sign Lance Cormier to minor league deal

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Dodgers have signed pitcher Lance Cormier to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

The 30-year-old right-hander was 4-3 with a 3.92 ERA in 60 appearances with Tampa Bay last season.

The Dodgers open spring training in Glendale, Ariz., on Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Report: Raiders sign Seymour to 2-year deal

ALAMEDA – SI.com is reporting that the Oakland Raiders have agreed with defensive tackle Richard Seymour on a two-year, $30 million contract that includes $22.5 million in guaranteed money.

The deal reached Wednesday allows Oakland to avoid using a franchise tag on Seymour for a second straight season. He got about $12.4 million last season and would have been in line for a salary of about $14.9 million next season with the tag.

The Raiders gave New England a 2011 first-round pick for Seymour before the 2009 season and owner Al Davis made it a priority to keep Seymour.

The deal also frees the Raiders up to use the tag to keep another potential free agent, such as tight end Zach Miller.

AP

MLB

Angels ready for bullpen boost from Takahashi

TEMPE, Ariz. – The Los Angeles Angels are sure they'll get a boost in the bullpen from newcomer Hisanori Takahashi. They just not certain yet on how he'll be used.

The Japanese left-hander made 12 starts for the New York Mets last year and finished up as their closer. Angels manager Mike Scioscia says he envisions using Takahashi anywhere from the sixth to ninth inning, with possibility of a few spot starts.

Scioscia said Wednesday that Matt Palmer and Trevor Bell would more than likely be the top candidates for a spot starter role.

AP





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MOVIE TIMES

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

Truth in Numbers? Everything According to Wikipedia
7:30am

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

Blue Valentine (NC-17) 1hr 54min
4:40pm, 10:00pm

Company Men (R) 1hr 53min
2:05pm, 7:25pm

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Rite (PG-13) 1hr 52min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Green Hornet 3D (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

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

Gnomeo & Juliet 3D (PG) 1hr 24min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:10pm, 6:30pm, 8:50pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Sanctum 3D (R) 1hr 43min
1:05am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:05pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Justin Bieber Never Say Never 3D (G) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 12:45pm, 2:05pm, 3:30pm, 4:45pm, 6:15pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Dogtooth (Kynodontas) (NR) 1hr 34min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Carancho (Las heridas) (NR) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 7:20pm

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

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

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

Cavalleria Rustican / Pagliacci Encore (NR)
7:30pm

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

Roommate (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:25pm

Eagle (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Mechanic (R) 1hr 40min
2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
1:20pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

From Prada to Nada (PG-13) 1hr 47min
12:00pm

Gnomeo & Juliet (PG) 1hr 24min
12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:05pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm

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

A must appearance, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ A new sense of creativity and dynamic energy flows through your plans and any activity you take on. Don't feel pressured by others, causing you to challenge stances. The final product is important. Tonight: Let your hair down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Stay centered, despite another person's attempt to color your thinking. Perhaps if this statement refers to an authority figure, a little diplomacy might help grease the wheels. Tonight: Head home and relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your ability to move through a conversation, help others understand and be receptive is a unique skill set. A child might be challenging or withdrawn. You can't change this person, but you can accept him or her. Let your sparkly nature warm up the moment. Tonight: Hanging out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Know when you have crossed the line. How you share with someone that you've hit your limit could be very different from what your inner voice might be screaming. Use care when dealing with any money-related partnership. Tonight: You deserve a treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Open up to possibilities and question your direction, especially if you hit a brick wall over and over. Understanding will evolve quite quickly if you look at the signals and signposts. Tonight: Say "yes" to living in the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Understand another person's innate fragility and use care when choosing your words. You, too, could be very sensitive and interpret a comment not as it was meant. Let go and relax. Explaining the confusion could be futile. Tonight: Get plenty of R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A set of supporters helps you achieve a long-desired goal. Laughter opens up a whole new perspective. A child or loved one might be a little difficult or confusing. This person feels as if he or she isn't getting enough attention. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You know full well what needs to unfurl. Loosen up and enjoy what is happening around the workplace. You can throw your weight around, impacting the end result of a situation. Others admire your poise. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Continue to be spontaneous. You intuitively know which way to turn in order to achieve what you want. Detachment simply occurs because of an innate perspective. Don't worry about confusion or a misunderstanding. You will find the right words. Tonight: How about a movie or a new place to listen to music?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Understand what is happening with a partner or associate rather than try to judge him or her. Together you can sort through a monetary issue that is impacting both of you. Loosen up with a friend. Confirm what time you will get together. Tonight: Continue a key discussion if need be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be more challenging than you realize. An opportunity that comes out of left field might not be all that it's cracked up to be. Understand what is motivating key people who seem to be quite sure of themselves. Tonight: Decide with whom you want to be. Everything else will take care of itself!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Watch what is going on around you. Your ability to sleuth through a problem at work or an issue impacting your daily life emerges. You might wonder what is best for you, as opposed to what is best for the group. Determining your priorities remains critical. Tonight: Recognize your limits.

Happy birthday

This year, others present many options. Sometimes you will feel as if your ideas are being ignored. Actually, they are the stimulus leading to many suggestions. Your creativity comes out more when you are aggravated. Funnel this gift into problem-solving, creating success. If you are single, you are surrounded by a bevy of admirers. It is your choice! If you are attached, focus on your sweetie, not everyone else. Otherwise, you could generate some jealousy this year. LEO can be challenging.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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.

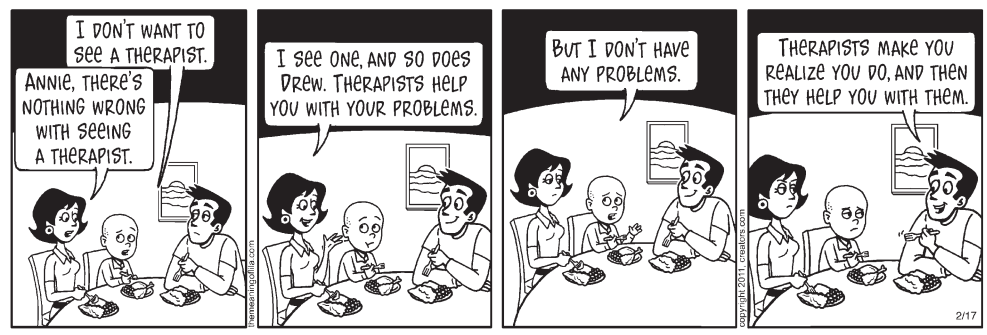
Garfield

By Jim Davis



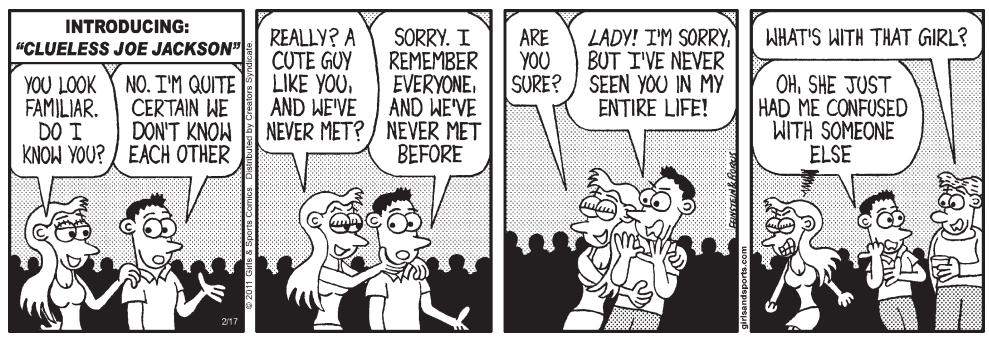
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



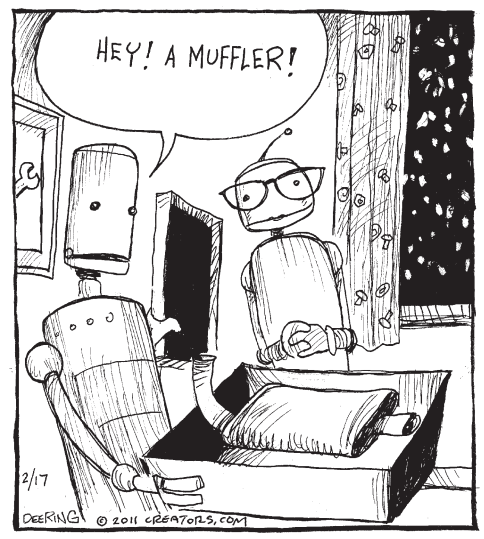
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



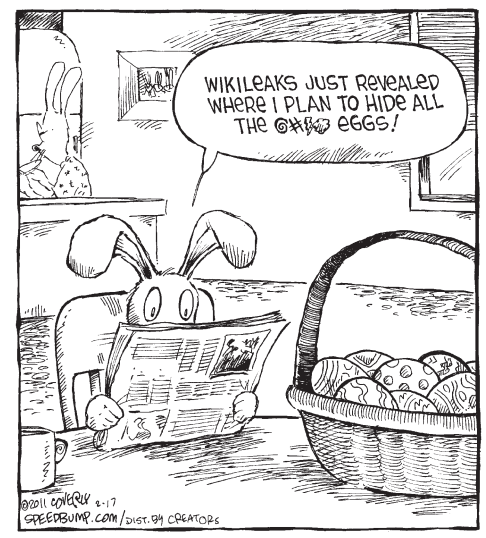
Strange Brew

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Rainbow maker
5 Opera legend
11 "— La Douce"
12 Company firer
13 Bounty
14 Buc-caneer
15 Board opening
17 Pigeon call
18 Rodeo rope
22 Nevada resort
24 Jingle creators
25 Boxing great
26 Feedbag bit
27 Hamlet extras
30 Painter Uccello
32 Insecure feeling
33 Play part
34 Agra landmark
38 Generic
41 Have a banquet
42 Speaks
43 Quite fond of
44 Mend one's ways
45 A long time

DOWN

1 Coconut fill
2 Wrinkle remover
3 Loving display
4 Arm art
5 Crime boss
6 Armpit
7 Peruse anew
8 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
9 Held a session
10 Low number
16 Weed whacker
19 Using sand-paper on
20 Barking beast
21 Aware of
22 Unveiler's cry
23 Shepard in space
28 Ritzy home
29 Flower part
30 "The Office" character
31 Maine park
35 Witty remark
36 Poker payment
37 Some July babies
38 Neither's partner
39 Valuable rock
40 Forty winks

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15				16				■	■	■
■	■	17			■	18		19	20	21
22	23				■	24				
25			■	■	■	■	■	26		
27			28	29	■	30	31			
32					■	33			■	■
■	■	■	34		35				36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

2-17

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 17 18 24 35 39 Meganumber: 18 Jackpot: $52M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 11 30 31 33 42 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 4 8 10 17 23

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 4 6 EVENING: 1 3 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1:48.97

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

■ (1) Johni Rice, 35, eating at a Waffle House restaurant in Spartanburg, S.C., was charged in January with beating up two diners at another table over the quality of their conversation -- a man and a woman who were discussing "women with hairy armpits." Rice was assisted in the pummeling by two other diners, and weaponized food was involved. (2) Among the annual events marking the New Year (similar to the ball-dropping at New York's Times Square), according to a CBS News report: a pickle dropped into a barrel in a North Carolina town, a dropped bologna in Pennsylvania, a dropped frozen carp in Wisconsin, and, in Brasstown, N.C., the dropping of the opossum. (However, according to Clay Logan, founder of the event, the opossum is merely lowered, not dropped.)

■ As of early November, 150 people had been killed by the 2-week-old, erupting Mount Merapi volcano in Central Java, Indonesia, and the government had created shelters in stadiums and public halls for 300,000 jammed-together evacuees. By that time, however, some had petitioned authorities to open up private shelter locations so that the displaced could attend to certain romantic, biological needs. Apparently some evacuees had become so frisky that they had left the shelter and returned to their homes in the danger zone just so they could have sex.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1933 Newsweek magazine is published for the first time.

1933 The Blaine Act ends Prohibition in the United States.

1944 World War II: The Battle of Eniwetok Atoll begins. The battle ends in an American victory on February 22.

1944 World War II: Operation Hailstone begins. U.S. naval air, surface, and submarine attack against Truk (Chuuk), Japan's main base in the central Pacific, in support of the Eniwetok invasion.

1959 Project Vanguard: Vanguard 2 – The first weather satellite is launched to measure cloud-cover distribution.

WORD UP!

factotum
\ fak-TOH-tuhm \ , noun;
1. A person employed to do all kinds of work or business.

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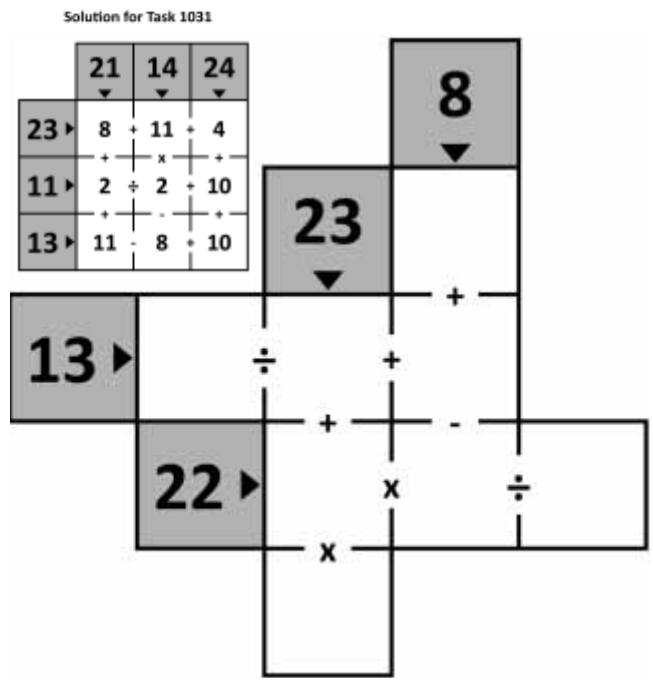
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

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

2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1031



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