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FEBRUARY 19-20, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 85



Santa Monica Daily Press

BROKEN WINDOW THEORY
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE HANDLING THINGS ISSUE

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Samohi begins title defense with victory

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Santa Monica High School's girls' basketball team's quest for back-to-back championships began with a 52-39 win over Moreno Valley Rancho Verde Thursday on campus.

The Vikings overcame 20 turnovers to win the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 1AA game to advance to face Laguna Hills on Saturday at home. That game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Vikings were led by Long Beach State-bound Bianka Balthazar's 18 points. Moriah Faulk, who has signed to play for UCLA, added 9 points.

"I'm a harsh grader," said point guard Kristina "KJ" Johnson, who will play for the University of the Pacific next year. "So I give our effort a C. We committed too many turnovers."

Despite the spotty play with the ball, Johnson said that the team came through when it mattered during a second half surge that put the game away.

But, before Samohi could take control of the game, Rancho Verde did its best to upset the No. 7 seeded Vikings. Despite being down from the early moments of the game, Rancho Verde was able to cut Samohi's lead to just 3 points mid-way through the second quarter. Behind the shooting of sophomore guard Brandi Carter, who would finish the night with a

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 12



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

DAY AT THE OFFICE: **Samohi's Kristina "KJ" Johnson goes up for a lay-up against Rancho Verde Thursday on campus. The Vikings won the CIF-SS Division 1AA game, 52-39.**

Community weighs in on massive development

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

BERGAMOT STATION Planning commissioners praised the consensus and thoughtful ideas elicited from over 100 citizens eager to put in their two cents concerning the future development surrounding the light rail hub at Bergamot Station.

Santa Monica residents chimed in on a variety of topics, including density levels of housing and retail, how to promote and maintain the arts and the kinds of architec-

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 10

Police seek passenger in deadly car wreck

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Santa Monica police are attempting to find the passenger in the Camaro that was involved in the Feb. 12 accident that killed a 23-year-old motorist.

Sgt. Jay Trisler said the driver of the Camaro told investigators that there was a male passenger in the car with him at the time of the accident.

"We are attempting to obtain information on that person and find him," Trisler said.

The accident occurred at 3 a.m. last Saturday.

The driver of the Camaro and the driver of a 2004 Honda Accord were racing west down Wilshire Boulevard near 20th Street when the two cars sideswiped each other.

The Accord slammed through news racks and collided with a palm tree on the side of the road, killing the driver.

Police are asking anyone who witnessed the racing or the crash to call (310) 458-8495.

ashley@smdp.com

Board approves potential teacher layoffs

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Board of Education approved a resolution Wednesday giving it the ability to eliminate nearly 12 positions before the next school year.

The cuts depend on the state of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's financial health, which has been threatened by lower enrollment figures, loss of state funds for special education programs and the potential loss of the Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School to charter school status.

"We had to start making interesting

SEE LAYOFFS PAGE 9

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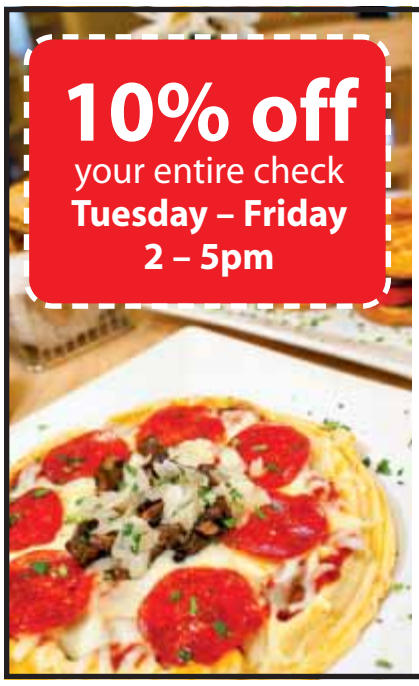


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011

Whale of a Weekend
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
This two-day event celebrates the wondrous whale. Visitors can feel the heft of a whale rib, check out bristly baleen and try on a layer of (simulated) whale blubber for warmth. Kids of all ages can have their faces painted and make a whale visor to take home. Learn more interesting facts about these gentle giants at the aquarium through story time, film screenings and staff presentations on the impact of climate change on local marine life. For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

All about legacy
18th Street Art Center
1639 18th St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
18th Street Art Center kicks-off its 2011 Legacy theme with the debut of the exhibitions, "Have You Seen My Privacy," by Richard Newton and "Outsider Art: Others From Elsewhere Doing Something Altogether Different — Sort of," by Vincent Ramos. In the spirit of the Getty Foundation's sponsored project, "*Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980," 18th Street has declared 2011 its "legacy" year. Artists chosen to activate the galleries will create projects to commemorate or pay tribute to California's influential Contemporary Art Movement. For more information, visit 18thstreet.org.

Talking opera
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 p.m.
This week's installment of Saturdays with LA Opera will feature a multimedia talk on "The Turn of the Screw." For more information about this free event, visit www.smpl.org or contact the library at (310) 458-8600.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011

The tale of Belmar Triangle
Santa Monica History Museum
1350 Seventh St., 2 p.m.
In celebration of Black History Month, the museum will host a talk by Frank Gruber about the Belmar Triangle, an African-American neighborhood razed in the 1950s to build the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Gruber will trace the history of the commercial and residential district that arose on both sides of Pico Boulevard, around Third and Fourth streets, beginning early in the 20th century. For more information on this free event, call (310) 395-2290.

Meanwhile, Back At Café Du Monde
Sonoma Wine Garden
Santa Monica Place, 6 p.m.
Food pros and celebs dish on food at this event. History Channel's Chef William Annersley, among others, will discuss how our lives revolve around food. A fine meal will also be on tap. For more information, call (424) 214-4560.

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

St. Monica's season comes to an end

BY SLAV KANDYBA
Special to the Daily Press

ST. MONICA Following a 84-67 home California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division 5AA playoff defeat to Workman School from the City of Industry Thursday night, the St. Monica girls' basketball season has come to an end.

In her final game in a St. Monica uniform, the school's all-time leading scorer Cory LaGuardia led the way for the Mariners with a 26-point, 10-rebound performance.

Workman had eight three-pointers in the first quarter alone to push the lead to 28-8 and never looked back. LaGuardia's scoring kept the Mariners afloat but the sharp-shooting Workman Lobos simply dominated from the tip-off, running an up-tempo offense that resulted in lay-ups or free throws. The Mariners' frustration was evident in the second quarter and at times, only freshman Katrina Balatico's steady play kept them in the game.

The Lobos were a tough-nosed team that St. Monica coach John Skinner compared to a "buzz saw" — no pun intended because, he added, it was a "tough night." Workman was "definitely better than the CIF thought they should have been seeded ... We knew early on they could flat out shoot."

St. Monica rallied in the fourth behind its spirited fans, who chanted "Mariners! Mariners! Mariners!" but their cheers couldn't bring their team back. Balatico scored 13 points in the losing effort and her ball-handling and composure saved the Mariners from what looked like would be a complete blow-out. The freshman impressed Skinner, who himself just completed his first year as head coach.

"We lose a lot of talent and experience but our young players have great attitudes and we will not have a problem with getting them to work hard," Skinner said. "As coaches we are excited to see how much we can get these kids to improve and enjoy the team game. The pace that Workman played at last night provided a strong example of the pace of play we want to play at in a few seasons."

Echoing her coach, a visibly disappointed Balatico added "we knew we could have done better in the first half."

news@smdp.com



HEAD GAMES

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Samohi's Daniel Hulbert uses his head against El Segundo at John Adams Middle School on Friday. No. 1 seeded Samohi won the CIF-SS Division 4 game, 4-3, in the rain.

Report: RDA cash used for other purposes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Much of the $5 billion a year in property taxes that cash-strapped California sends to cities across the state to promote redevelopment isn't used for that purpose but to fund government employee salaries and pay for other day-to-day operations, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday.

With California struggling to balance its budget, Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed eliminating the state's redevelopment program as a luxury the state can no longer afford. He wants to rechannel that money instead to schools, counties and the state itself.

Mayors of cities across the state have

SEE **RDA** PAGE 5

Incoming L.A. schools superintendent Deasy announces foundation

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press Writer

SANTA MONICA The incoming superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District said Thursday he is forming a new foundation to attract philanthropic donations to help fund the ailing school district.

The Los Angeles Fund for Public Education, based on a similar foundation in New York City, will allow donors to choose exactly what they wish their money to benefit, John Deasy announced during a speech at the RAND Institute in Santa Monica. The interest on investments in the fund will be used for various educational projects of the donors' choice and donors will receive an annual report card on the social return of their investment, Deasy said.

The school district is facing a $400 million shortfall in its $6 billion operating budget for the next school year.

Deasy, who for a time was the superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said when he's asked philanthropists to consider donating to the LAUSD they tend to look at the public school district as a "black hole" in which their money will disap-

SEE **DEASY** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Release the records

Editor:

In December 2008, Samohi teacher Mr. Ari Marken was found by the SMMUSD to have sexually harassed a 13-year-old girl in one of his geometry classes, in violation of its policy 5145.7. The SMMUSD has never released any information to Samohi parents about Mr. Marken's violation.

As the Daily Press reported on Feb. 15, 2011 ("Judge blocks access to Samohi teacher's personnel records"), on Dec. 14, 2010, I requested the SMMUSD, under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), to release public documents concerning Mr. Marken's December 2008 violation and also about his being placed on leave for a second time, for six months, during the 2009-10 school year for improper communications with a student over Facebook.

I want to make clear that my CPRA request, (available at chwe.net/safety/marken) asked only for the records relating to Mr. Marken's violation. Personnel records in general do not have to be disclosed under the CPRA, and of course it would not make sense for all personnel records to be released to the public. However, when a public employee has been disciplined for violating a policy, it is well established that documents relating to the violation must be disclosed. For example, in AFSCME Employees v. Regents of University of California (1978), the California First District Court of Appeal wrote: "where the charges are found true, or discipline is imposed, the strong public policy against disclosure vanishes; this is true even where the sanction is a private reproval. In such cases a member of the public is entitled to information about the complaint, the discipline, and the 'information upon which it was based.'"

Michael Chwe
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Joseph Cortez — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fixing broken windows

Q: I ENJOYED READING THE "A DIFFERENT kind of patrol" article (SMDP, Feb. 9, page 1) last week. What is the "broken windows theory?"

A: Great question. The broken windows theory was originally published by Dr. James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982. In this theory, Wilson and Kelling suggest that a society, or neighborhood, that appears to be lawless will itself breed lawlessness.

Wilson and Kelling use the example of a broken window in this theory. They suggest that a neighborhood that appears broken down, disordered, and generally unfriendly, will serve as a magnet for delinquent behavior and crime. So if that broken window goes unrepaired, it displays an image of disorder and in turn encourages further incivility, showing residents and others that no one cares.

You can substitute the broken window example for several other "small" crimes like littering or graffiti. If the city of Santa Monica targets and deals with the "smaller" crimes, or quality of life issues, we feel it will prevent the "larger" crimes from being committed.

Q: I am excited for the Los Angeles Marathon coming back to Santa Monica and I want to volunteer. Do you know how I can lend a hand?

A: Although the marathon is ending in Santa Monica, we do not organize the event, but our City Council and city government do have some input in the overall planning of the event within our city limits. There are hundreds of ways to volunteer and I encourage everyone to get involved. This is a great event that brings hundreds of thousands of people to our great city.

If you would like to volunteer you can do anything from hand out water to register runners. If this interests you, log on to the Los Angeles Marathon website (www.lamarathon.com) and sign up. I hope to see everyone out on March 20 for the event.

Q: I was looking on Facebook this weekend and found a Santa Monica Police Department page. Is this really run by the department?

A: Yes, the page is really run by our department. The Santa Monica Police Department has joined Facebook and we are encouraging the community to "like" us. Just as many other police departments across the country, the Santa Monica Police Department has incorporated Facebook into their policing efforts, using the social network to provide members with regularly updated information and bulletins.

The department's goal is to communicate more effectively with members of the community through a proven method that the public has already embraced. Social media attracts members of all ages from all corners of our community, thus we are able to keep our community informed easier with Facebook.

Our website, www.santamonicad.org will remain the official form of communications for the department. Bulletins and other information posted to the website will continue to be linked to our Facebook page. To see some of the behind the scenes photographs of the department in action, please visit www.facebook.com/SantaMonicaPD and be sure to "like" us.

If you have questions, please call the Santa Monica Police Department's Community Relations Unit at (310) 458-8474.

CRIME PREVENTION TIP

Chances are that we are still holding strong to our New Year's resolution to hit the gym daily. The gym is a great place to lose some unwanted weight, gain more muscle and relieve stress, but this is also a place where thieves go to fulfill their need to steal items from unsuspecting victims.

We have written several times about vehicle, home and business burglary prevention, but here are a few tips to help prevent getting your most valuable items stolen while working out at the gym:

• Only bring necessary items to the gym. It you do not like wearing jewelry while working out, leave it at home or leave it locked in your vehicle. Make sure you do not leave any valuable in plain sight in your vehicle.

• Use a locker and bring your own lock to the gym. Although many locker rooms provide a lock for your locker, consider bringing your own heavier duty lock. This will ensure that the lock you use on the locker is sufficient to secure your items. Also, a thief may see your lock and move on because they do not want to hassle with a heavy duty lock.

• Use a lanyard to hang your locker key around your neck. Don't leave your keys on the ground. You may forget to pick them up and a thief can grab them.

BE ALERT AND PAY ATTENTION! Report any suspicious activity to the gym staff or the Santa Monica Police Department.

Today's questions were answered by: **NRO JOSEPH CORTEZ,** Beat 4: Montana Avenue to I-10 Frwy, 20th Street to Ocean Avenue (excludes downtown area) For information, call (424) 200-0684.





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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

Paying to play

This past week, Q-line asked:

The City Council recently approved fee increase for a number of recreation programs. Will the new fee rates dissuade you from participating in recreation programs?

Here are your responses:

"WHAT'S THE OLD SAYING, ADDING insult to injury? It's been for over 30 years very abusive financially to live in this town. The many kinds of taxes decrease the quality of our lives. Now comes more insult to the good people of this town. What does the council spend with a budget of over a half a billion dollars a year on? Raising fees on public recreation programs just shows that City Hall has an offensive spending problem. I like some of the recreation programs for Santa Monica citizens, but I will not advocate punitive increases to support irresponsible spending by entrenched bureaucrats."

"INCREASING RECREATION FEES FOR USES of things like the swim center, by 25 percent to over 80 percent is outrageous, and may reduce the frequency with which I use the pool there when those increase go into effect in July. Though I may be able to afford the increase there is no financial assistance for adults who can't afford the fees. I read about some of the outrageous uncontrolled expenses, and how expenses will likely rise if managers know they can always ask the City Council to raise fees to cover them. I think there might even be annual automatic Consumer Price Index increases too, so watch out for more increases to come. These increases, especially when viewed in light of various excesses spent elsewhere with little oversight or control, makes Santa Monica a less attractive, friendly, well rounded and healthy city to live in. Raising fees is a bad precedent."

"IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES CITY HALL should be ashamed to consider raising resident fees for recreational programs while amount, and continuing to partly subsidize programs like Glow and the Twilight Dance Series, both of which increase traffic and are attended mainly by non-residents. Raising other programs and after school program fees alone could cause considerable impact and is unconscionable."

"THEY WILL NOT DISSUADE ME. RESIDENTS using special programs should be willing to pay for them. If they aren't willing to pay for them, then they shouldn't be offered. This should be extended to other services. As an example, if SMC students truly value their education, then they should pay tuition more in line with other public colleges and stop relying on local residents to foot their bill (have you ever looked at how much of your property taxes goes directly to SMC?)."

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RDA

FROM PAGE 3

strongly opposed the proposal, saying redevelopment money is something their municipalities can't survive without.

The city of Grand Terrace, for example, uses a portion of its redevelopment money to pay part of the salaries of 14 of its 20 employees, the Times reported.

Without it, the city of 12,000 that is situated between Riverside and San Bernardino might have to disincorporate, said Mayor Walt Stanckiewitz.

"That's how serious this is," he said.

The Los Angeles suburb of Montebello authorized borrowing as much as $19 million from its redevelopment agency last year to balance its general fund budget. It also uses redevelopment money to pay its city manager and other employees.

Huron, in central California, uses the money to pay police, code enforcement and animal control officers.

Other cities that the Times said use redevelopment money to pay salaries include Long Beach, Oakland and San Jose.

In Oakland, the money pays the salaries of 171 full-time employees, including 17 police officers.

Grand Terrace, which was accused of misusing its redevelopment money, is struggling to pay back $4 million.

But other cities justify using the funds to pay police officers and others who work in run-down areas.

The 17 officers paid with redevelopment funds in Oakland, for example, provide safety to that city's most blighted communities, said Mayor Jean Quan.

"People think, oh, you're not supposed to use (redevelopment money) for core service, but (what) if economic development is a big part of your core service?" Quan said.

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Mardi Gras inspires burrito makeover

JIM ROMANOFF
For The Associated Press

One of the many appealing things about a burrito is that an often surprising range of ingredients can be rolled up into a complete meal in a single package.

But other less desirable surprises also can lurk inside burritos, especially extra fat and calories you may not have bargained for.

These Creole-style burritos are inspired by the flavors of the Gulf coast, take only about 35 minutes to make, and are built with ingredients that will make your Fat Tuesday celebration a little less fattening.

First off, they're vegetarian, eliminating one of the chief culprits behind gut-busting burritos — fatty meat fillings like ground beef or pork.

Here, red beans and rice, a Louisiana favorite, bring the heft and some protein to the party. The recipe calls for a convenient boxed rice and beans mix, but you can use homemade, especially if you're looking to cut down on the sodium (though you may want to use a bit more Cajun seasoning to keep the flavors popping).

Vegetables make up the rest of this Mardi Gras-inspired wrap. Again, for convenience we call for a packaged frozen pepper and onion stir-fry mix, but if you have the time, you can fry up your own.

A handful of baby spinach adds more color and nutrients and is a healthy switch from the typical iceberg lettuce that's often found in this kind of dish.

And of course, no burrito would be complete without some cheese. We've kept things light by blending full-flavored, full-fat pepper jack cheese with some lower calorie reduced-fat cheddar. Last, but not least, we wrap everything up in a whole-wheat tortilla.

When it comes to wraps you need to choose carefully because tortillas vary widely in nutrition. A flour tortilla can have as few as 100 calories and about 1 gram of fat, or as many as 400 calories and 12 grams of fat.

CREOLE-STYLE BURRITOS

An 8-ounce box of red beans and rice mix will make about double the amount needed to fill these burritos. You can either make half the box (you will need to adjust the package cooking times and reduce the amount of broth used) or serve the excess on the side.

Start to finish: 35 minutes (15 minutes active)

Servings: 6

8-ounce package red beans and rice mix

3 cups low-sodium chicken broth

1 cup grated pepper jack cheese

1 cup grated reduced-fat cheddar cheese

16-ounce package frozen pepper and onion stir-fry mix, thawed

1/2 teaspoon Cajun seasoning

6 burrito-size whole-grain tortillas

2 cups fresh baby spinach

3/4 cup salsa

Heat the oven to 350 F.

Cook beans and rice according to package directions, substituting the broth for the water called for. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, toss together both cheeses. Set aside.

In a large skillet over medium-high, combine the pepper and onion mix with the Cajun seasoning. Cook, stirring often, until the vegetables are dry, about 5 minutes. Set aside.

Sprinkle 1/4 cup of the cheese blend over each tortilla; there will be about 1/2 cup remaining.

Spoon about 1/3 cup of the rice and beans over the bottom two thirds of each tortilla. Spread about 1/3 cup of the pepper-onion mix over the rice. Pile some of the baby spinach on top of the peppers. Fold in 2 sides of each tortilla and roll-up. Arrange the burritos, seam-side down, in a baking dish. Top each with salsa and some of the remaining cheese.

Bake the burritos for about 15 to 20 minutes, or until heated through and the cheese is melted.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 313 calories; 98 calories from fat (31 percent of total calories); 11 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 21 mg cholesterol; 36 g carbohydrate; 16 g protein; 4 g fiber; 721 mg sodium.



Shuttered cannery goes from sardines to lobster

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine Shuttered since April, the nation's last full-time sardine cannery is getting a new lease on life with its purchase by a Massachusetts company that intends to process lobster at the factory, officials said Friday.

Live Lobster Co. on Friday completed the deal to buy the Stinson Seafood plant in Gouldsboro, which was closed 10 months ago by Bumble Bee Foods LLC, costing nearly 130 jobs, said Live Lobster President Antonio Bussone. The purchase price was not disclosed.

"We are humbled to assume control of such an historic property," Bussone said in an e-mail statement. "We understand the facility has long been entrenched with ties to the fishing industry and the community, and it has instilled the values of hard work and passion upon all who work and reside nearby. We promise to continue in this tradition."

Live Lobster originally wanted to close the deal in October, then January. While late, the deal is welcome news for local officials.

The company has said it hopes to hire 30 to 40 people and to start buying lobster and selling bait at the former cannery this spring. Eventually, Bussone says, the company plans to establish a lobster-processing operation at the site.

Gouldsboro Town Manager Eve Wilkinson said there will be additional hurdles, but establishing ownership is a key to moving forward.

"If in fact Mr. Bussone can pull off a state-of-the-art lobster processing plant, it would be wonderful," Wilkinson said. "It would be a great opportunity for people in our community and the surrounding area to have jobs."

It was the end of an era when the Stinson plant shut down.

There once were scores of sardine canneries along Maine's rocky coast, but production peaked six decades ago. Since then, sardine production declined to the point that the Stinson sardine plant was the last one standing.

San Diego-based Bumble Bee said it was forced to close the facility because of sharp cuts in the amount of herring that fishermen are allowed to catch in New England waters.

Even without supply problems, the plant had been under pressure from shrinking consumer demand, along with increased foreign competition.

In the humble sardine's heyday, there were as many as 75 sardine canneries in Maine alone in 1900, when workers packed sardines in their lunch pails before heading to work. Production in Maine peaked at 384 million cans in 1950.

bigbluebus



21 FEBRUARY

President's Day Service Changes Monday, February 21

- Line 6, 11, Super 12 and Sunset Ride will not operate this day.
- Rapid 3, Rapid 7, Line 13 and Crosstown Ride will each have minor service changes.
- Lines 3, 7 and 10 will operate regular Saturday schedules and each will have one earlier morning trip.
- Lines 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 14 will operate regular Saturday schedules.
- UCLA's Hilgard Terminal will be closed this day; use Ackerman Terminal.

February Service Change

For Line 10 Express only: A few time-points affected by only 1 to 3 minutes earlier or later (go to: bigbluebus.com Line 10 Express for specifics).

The NEW feature is the 6:32am trip out of downtown Los Angeles which is an SMC Express. This trip will exit the 10 Fwy at Bundy and travels westbound on Pico Blvd. (NOT Santa Monica Blvd.) dropping off **only**/no pick-ups: at 33rd, at 30th, at 28th, at 26th, at Cloverfield, at 23rd, at 20th, and arrives at SMC (Pico at 18th) at 7:45 AM, subject to traffic conditions. Only operates when SMC is in session.

For more information call 310.451.5444 or visit BigBlueBus.com.

City of Santa Monica



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USC hospital under investigation

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California health officials and a federal oversight agency are investigating a hospital run by the University of Southern California after its transplant program put the wrong kidney into a patient who, luckily, survived the error.

The United Network for Organ Sharing, commonly referred to as UNOS, is investigating the misplaced transplant at USC University Hospital, according to OneLegacy spokeswoman Elena de la Cruz.

OneLegacy coordinated the organ's transfer to the hospital, and is not to blame for the error, said de la Cruz.

The mix-up apparently occurred after two kidneys, from separate donors, arrived at the transplant center around the same time on Jan. 29.

A mismatched kidney could be fatal, but the patient who received the wrong kidney was not harmed because the organ was a close enough match and the donor's blood type was O, which is universally accepted.

The intended recipient of the misplaced kidney received another organ days later.

USC has not confirmed or denied the investigation. USC spokeswoman Leslie Ridgeway said the hospital was preparing a statement.

UNOS spokesman Joel Newman said he could not confirm whether USC is under investigation because when hospitals come under the private agency's scrutiny, they are "under confidential medical peer review." UNOS is a federally contracted private agency that oversees transplant medicine in the United States.

The hospital has been conducting a review of clinical procedures and safeguards since shutting down its kidney transplant program. It will consider resuming transplants after the review, which was expected to end Friday.

Following a UNOS investigation, outcomes may never be known to the public if the agency deems adequate the resolution and corrective actions of the hospital.

California Department of Public Health spokesman Al Lundeen said the state is also investigating the hospital.

The hospital voluntarily shut down its kidney transplant program last month after discovering the error. It did not initially detail the nature of the error, but it was revealed by reporting in The Los Angeles Times.

Dr. Andrew S. Klein, director of transplants at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said he can't comment on what went wrong at USC because he was not directly familiar with the incident.

BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Police seek help solving 2002 double killing

Almost a decade after the bodies of two men were found in a burned Mercedes SUV, police detectives said Friday they need the public's help in cracking the case, which has ties to designer jewelry, a Wall Street Ponzi scheme and a former Playboy cover girl.

The case dates back to the early morning of Sept. 2, 2002, when firefighters doused a vehicle that was ablaze in the Studio City neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley. In the SUV, they found the bodies of nightclub doorman Michael Tardio, 35, and his close friend Christopher Monson, 31.

Both had been shot to death.

The men were well-known in the Hollywood club scene. Detectives said Friday they hoped former customers of the Garden of Eden nightclub, where Tardio worked, would come forward with information. A $75,000 reward was being offered in the case.

"We believe the nucleus of this case is around the Garden of Eden," Detective Dennis English said.

Officials remained tight-lipped about why the investigation had stalled for so long, but English said the men were likely killed by someone to whom they were trying to sell jewelry.

The jewelry had been in the possession of Sandy Bentley, Tardio's girlfriend at the time, who became a minor celebrity after appearing on the cover of the May 2000 Playboy with her twin sister.

Bentley previously dated Mark Yagalla, a Wall Street wonder kid who in 2002 pleaded guilty to securities fraud and was sentenced to more than five years in federal prison for stealing $50 million from clients.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Sister: Keep police badge out of council race

The sister of a slain police officer is calling on Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar to keep her brother's police badge out of the bitter race for the 14th council district.

Karen Kubly said Thursday that Huizar should have notified her before accusing opponent Rudy Martinez of improperly having the police badge that belonged to her brother. David Kubly was killed in the line of duty in 1979.

A Huizar campaign mailing accused Martinez of lying to investigators about the badge.

Martinez says he's being smeared and said he didn't know the badge belonged to a fallen officer.

Karen Kubly recorded a phone message accusing Huizar of using the badge for political gain. She later asked the Martinez campaign to stop the calls because Huizar apologized.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Canoers cited for boating on Los Angeles River

Members of a Canadian folk-rock band have been cited for canoeing down the Los Angeles River before an approaching storm.

Police Lt. Brian Wendling says six people in two canoes were cited for trespassing Friday after they left the concrete-lined channel in Studio City.

He says the Manitoba band took to the water in nearby Van Nuys with their instruments and a camcorder, apparently to make a music video.

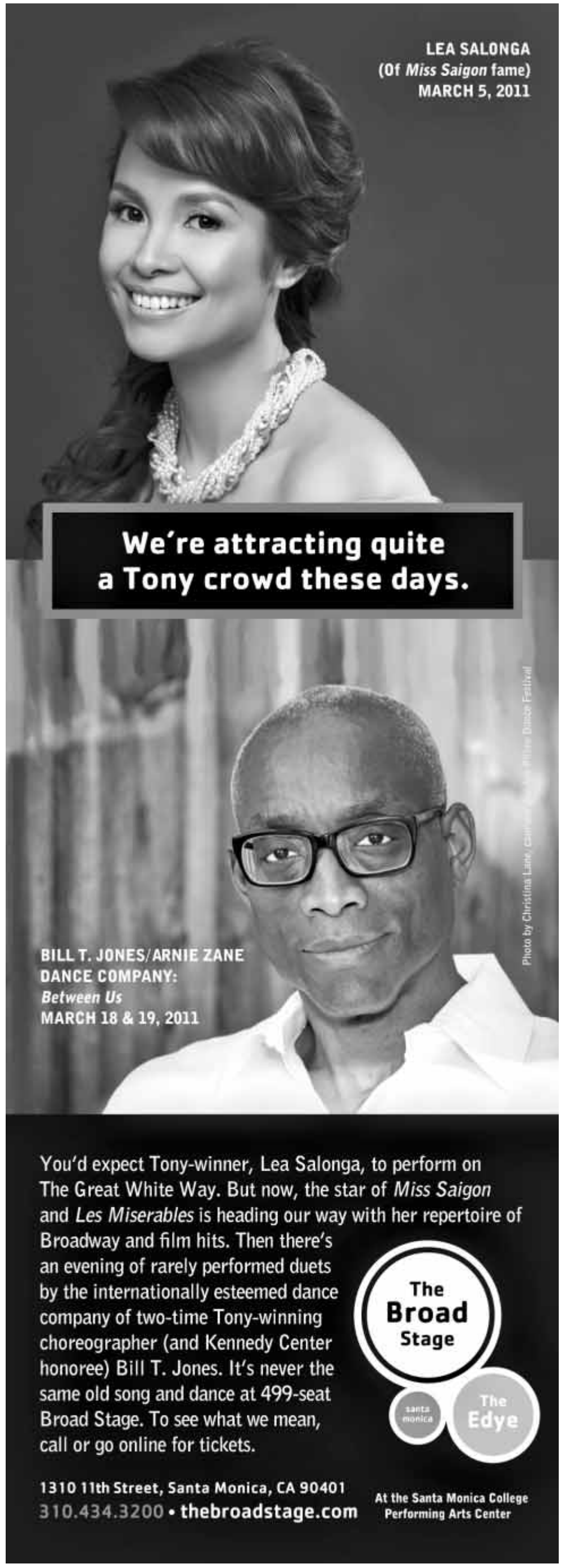
Wendling says they left the 3-foot-deep river after one rickety canoe began leaking, and firefighters and police helped them out.

They were cited for trespassing and could be charged for the emergency response.

A website for a Manitoba band called Twin says the group planned a journey down the river. A message left for the band wasn't immediately returned.

The river can become a death trap when it swells with runoff.

AP



Judge delays records release in Giffords shooting case

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO A federal judge decided Friday against a request by news organizations to unseal search warrant records listing the items seized from the home of the suspect in the Arizona shooting rampage that killed six people and wounded U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

U.S. District Judge Larry A. Burns cited the ongoing investigation and an expected superseding indictiment that is expected to hand down additional charges against 22-year-old Jared Loughner.

Burns said he would take up the matter again after March 9, when hearing is scheduled. Burns said it would be clear then whether another indictment would come down with additional charges. He also opted Friday not to rule on a request to release a second mugshot of Loughner to the media, saying he was leaving the decision up to the U.S. Marshals Service.

Defense attorneys had argued the release of the documents and mugshot would hurt the chance of a fair trial for Loughner. Burns said he was unsure of that argument, indicating he may release the documents after March 9.

"It will likely be a different story as of March 9," Burns said. He also noted the investigation is ongoing.

The company that operates The Arizona Republic and the Phoenix TV station KPNX has been seeking records that show what items investigators took from Loughner's house after the Jan. 8 shooting.

Loughner has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of trying to assassinate Giffords and kill two of her aides. He was not at the hearing.

Federal prosecutors and lawyers for Loughner oppose requests by news organizations to hand over the photo.

The indictment specifying those charges superseded an earlier federal complaint that also charged him with murder for the killings of U.S. District Judge John Roll and Giffords aide Gabe Zimmerman.

An upcoming indictment is expected to restore those murder charges. Loughner also will likely face state charges in the attack.

U.S. District Judge Larry A. Burns of San Diego was appointed to hear the case after all the federal judges in Arizona recused themselves because of their connection to Roll, who was the chief federal judge in Arizona.

David Bodney, an attorney representing The Arizona Republic and KPNX-TV, argued in court papers that there's no basis for the records to continue to be sealed, that the public has a right to the records that have been under seal since Jan. 11, and that prosecutors haven't shown how making the document public would harm their case.

Judy Clarke, one of Loughner's attorneys, said in court records that her client's right to a fair trial might be harmed by the release of search warrant records.

She also said the documents contain potentially inflammatory statements by a law enforcement officer and that releasing the information could have a prejudicial effect on the prospective jury pool.

Loughner's attorneys also asked the court to bar the release of a mug shot taken in Phoenix of Loughner while in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The unreleased photo is a different image from a mug shot that was released by the Pima County Sheriff's Office two days after his arrest.

L.A. firefighter dies two days after ceiling collapse

ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES A firefighter who was inside a burning Hollywood Hills home when its ceiling collapsed died at a hospital Friday, two days after he was cut from the rubble with no heartbeat, authorities said.

Glenn Allen, 61, a veteran firefighter nearing retirement after 38 years on the job, died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center from injuries sustained when the ceiling of the 6,000-square-foot home fell in one piece on him and five other firefighters Wednesday, the Los Angeles Fire Department said in a statement.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa ordered city flags flown at half-staff and called Allen a "fearlessly committed firefighter."

"Glenn was a valiant hero whose selfless sacrifice will forever be honored," Villaraigosa said in a statement. "This tragedy serves as a somber, yet powerful reminder that the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe from harm."

Five other firefighters also were hurt, their injuries minor to moderate, authorities said.

The couple who lived in the three-story home smelled smoke and ran outside before city and county firefighters arrived, Capt. Tina Haro said.

The stubborn fire apparently started in a fireplace but spread to the walls and attic. Unknown to firefighters, the blaze had burned through sprinkler pipes in the attic and filled the space with water, collapsing a drop ceiling held in place by 2-by-4-inch wood struts and burying Allen, Haro said.

Allen had no pulse when firefighters used chain saws to cut him free, but paramedics revived him with CPR before he was taken to the hospital.

The department said it has begun a detailed investigation into the fire and Allen's death.

Three other city firefighters were hurt, one with a broken ankle and two with back pain.

Two county firefighters were treated for minor injuries.

More than 80 firefighters extinguished the fire in about 90 minutes.

MOVING FORWARD

BBB Community Meetings

The Big Blue Bus is MOVING FORWARD! Now is the time to hear about our plans and share your feedback at any of these upcoming dates.

For the meeting agenda and more info see BigBlueBus.com or call 310.451.5444

These venues are wheelchair accessible. Disability-related accommodation requests should be made at least 3 days prior to the hearing by calling Teri Plummer at (310) 458-1975 ext 5854 or TTY (310) 395-6024, or email: Bus-Info@BigBlueBus.com. Please consider using public transportation when attending these meetings.

Presentation of this event on the UCLA Campus does not imply or represent endorsement by UCLA or the Regents of UC regarding content, programming, materials or associated organizations.

Wednesday March 2 6–8 pm
Ken Edwards Center, Room 100
Take Route 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 or 9

Thursday March 3 6–8 pm
Palms/Rancho Park Library, 2nd Fl.
2920 Overland Ave., L.A.
Take Route 8 or 12 to Westwood Blvd. @ National
(library is 2 blocks east on Overland)

Saturday March 5 2:30–4:30 pm
S.M. Main Library, 2nd Fl.
Take Route 1,* 2, 3, 4, 5, 7,* 8, 9, or 10*
*(closest services)

Tuesday March 8 6–8 pm
Virginia Ave. Park, Thelma Terry Ctr
Take Route 7

Wednesday March 9 12–2 pm
UCLA's Ackerman Union, Room 3517
Take Route 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 12 or Super 12
(If driving from the south, use Parking Structure 6; from the north, use Parking Structure 4)

Thursday March 10 11am–1 pm
SMC Main Campus
Curriculum Development, Room 193
Take Route 6, 7, Rapid 7, 8, 11, Sunset Ride or Crosstown Ride

big blue bus

LAYOFFS
FROM PAGE 1

decisions, because we don't know where the state of California is going to be," said board member Nimish Patel.

Patel characterized the pink slips, to be delivered to 5.6 nursing positions and 6 full-time elementary school teachers, as a "precautionary measure."

"It gives the board flexibility, given certain things expected to happen in the near future," he said.

The potential transition of Point Dume to a charter school weighed heavily on the decision to propose teacher layoffs, as not all of the 11 or 12 teachers employed at the school could be brought back into the district, Patel said.

"We would be overly staffed. We'll extend notices that there is a chance that we may not get positions back if that happens," he said.

Deborah Moore Washington, the SMMUSD assistant superintendent of human resources, said other factors also had an impact, including decreased kindergarten enrollment.

Also of concern were possible cuts to special education funding, caused by the elimination of AB 3632 by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The cuts could cause up to $1.3 million in losses to the school district, which may have to pay in full for its contract with Los Angeles County to provide mental health services and individualized education programs to needy students.

L.A. County would charge the district $250,000 a month to continue providing services.

Shari Davis, chair of the Parent Teacher Association, said that the association took a position against the cuts.

"The outlook is grim for the district if that funding has to come out of the district's funds," Davis said.

She took hope in three lawsuits challenging Schwarzenegger's elimination of the funding, which are working through the court system, as well as estimates from the district that costs incurred by contracting with the county might be well under the estimated amount.

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

ashley@smdp.com



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(normally $65) One per person, must be redeemed by March 15th.

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

DO NOT WITHHOLD RENT

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

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

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

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

GIVE LANDLORD A LIST IN WRITING

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

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

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

CONTACT GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS

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

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

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

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

PETITION FOR RENT DECREASE

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

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

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

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

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

CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY

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

This column was prepared by Mark Palmer, a Santa Monica tenants' rights attorney. He can be reached through the Legal Grind at 310-452-1860 or referral@legalgrind.com

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MONDAY	
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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DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

ture appropriate to the space.

Wednesday's meeting, held at the Pier 59 art gallery on Michigan Avenue, launched with planners and consultants giving an overview of the guidelines for developing the area as set forth by the Land Use and Circulation Element, or LUCE.

The emphasis was on the inevitable: Light rail is coming to Santa Monica, giving the city the opportunity to develop a vast amount of land in the area using the framework created through the six-year general plan process.

Primarily, planners look to improve connectivity in the area by chopping up large blocks and buildings using small side roads to reduce the amount of traffic forced onto large, congested streets and encourage pedestrian and bike travel.

The blocks created by the large, industrial buildings are six times as large as those in a comparable area of Downtown.

In exchange for the alterations to buildings, private landowners would get incentives in development agreements allowing them to increase the height of the building based on a formula set out in the plan.

Developers can then build housing and retail that sports a "mix of uses," meaning that potential residents would have cafes, grocery stores and other amenities immediately available without getting in a car.

That feeds into the LUCE mantra of "no new trips" by 2030, and the envisioned 17-hour-a-day community, meaning that activities would be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

This "village" would be further connected by its proximity to Bergamot Station and the light rail line, which is just across Olympic Boulevard from the proposed development.

Jeff Tumlin, a consultant with planning firm Nelson Nygaard, noted that the Bergamot Station area is unique to Santa Monica for its lack of connectivity with retail and large block size.

"Three-quarters of the city is within walking distance of the needs of daily life," Tumlin said. "Not Bergamot Station."

He also discussed other ways to connect the site to the rest of the city by cutting down the width of streets and adding bike lanes and working with Big Blue Bus to increase north-south transit routes.

The struggle, Tumlin said, was how to strike a balance between the goals of the plan and the comfort level of the community.

"How much change is appropriate?" he asked.

The crowd then split into a dozen round-table groups to discuss how to fill in the outline provided by staff, consultants and the LUCE.

Jeff Gordon, owner of Writers Bootcamp located in Bergamot Station, said that he wanted to see an emphasis on preserving the artistic culture of the area and increasing access and parking.

"More density means more affordable housing," Gordon said, "but there's a distinction between low-income housing and a subsidy for artists."

Ron Harari, the property manager for one of the affected buildings on the 2700 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, said that the tradeoffs for developers could be outweighed by the benefits of increased property value.

"This is great vision," he said. "The development in the longer term will promote value throughout the area."

The groups reassembled to present their ideas before the larger audience. In general, participants supported greater connectivity and transit in the area, as well as an emphasis on independently-owned shops and activities during the day.

Many requested childcare as a possible use, as well as parks for people and pets.

More controversial were calls for denser, more affordable housing, and the no-growth option, but the distinctions were not widely discussed.

By 9:30 p.m., the meeting wrapped up after final comments from the commissioners.

The meeting was productive, said Senior Planner Peter James.

"It was positive. People left feeling excited, knowing that they had a role helping shape the future," James said. "They focused on the important things, like making a complete place."

The Planning Department is still accepting comments on the plan. Those who wish to send in thoughts and opinions may do so by e-mailing bergamotplan@smgov.net.

ashley@smdp.com

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:

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DEASY
FROM PAGE 3

pear. He felt earmarking donations for specific uses, such as science labs and various educational projects would be more attractive to donors.

Deasy said he's also working on establishing in Los Angeles a West Coast branch of New York City's Robin Hood Foundation, which raises millions of dollars for New York City schools. The West Coast branch would be called Robin Hood West.

The Robin Hood Foundation, established in 1988, focuses on poverty prevention through programs in early childhood, youth, education jobs and economic security, according to its website. It also funds basic survival programs in health care, hunger, housing and domestic violence.

Deasy will replace current Superintendent Ramon Cortines, who will retire April 15.



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

DRIVING: **Samohi's Bianka Balthazar.**

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 1

team-high 13 points, the Mustangs seemed poised to make a run only to see it dashed by the play of Samohi senior forward Kalaria Obasi, who would score a pair of back-to-back baskets that built Samohi's lead up to seven.

The Mustangs would keep the game close until the opening moments of the fourth quarter, but the defending champs proved to be too skilled and too experienced to let the game slip away. Sophomore Briana Harris helped the cause by sinking a pair of free throws and converting a lay-up on a fast break that put the Vikings up by 12 with 6 minutes to play.

"We finally started to take care of the ball," Samohi head coach Marty Verdugo said. "We started to realize that if the play is not there, we should just slow it down a bit to look for our shot."

Verdugo said that his team's wealth of experience paid off in the final period as the Vikings advanced.

"I told the girls to remember that it isn't about making a highlight reel, it's about moving on to the next round," he said.

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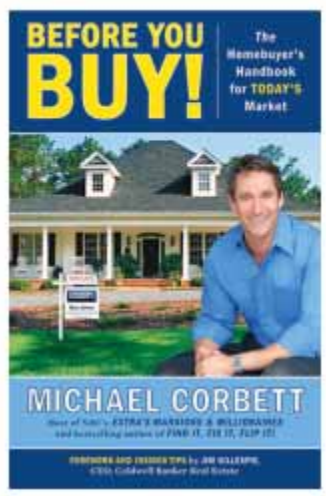
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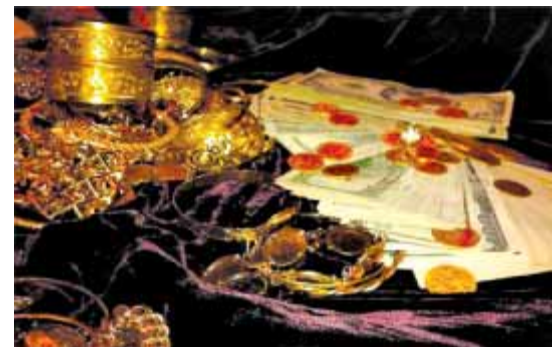
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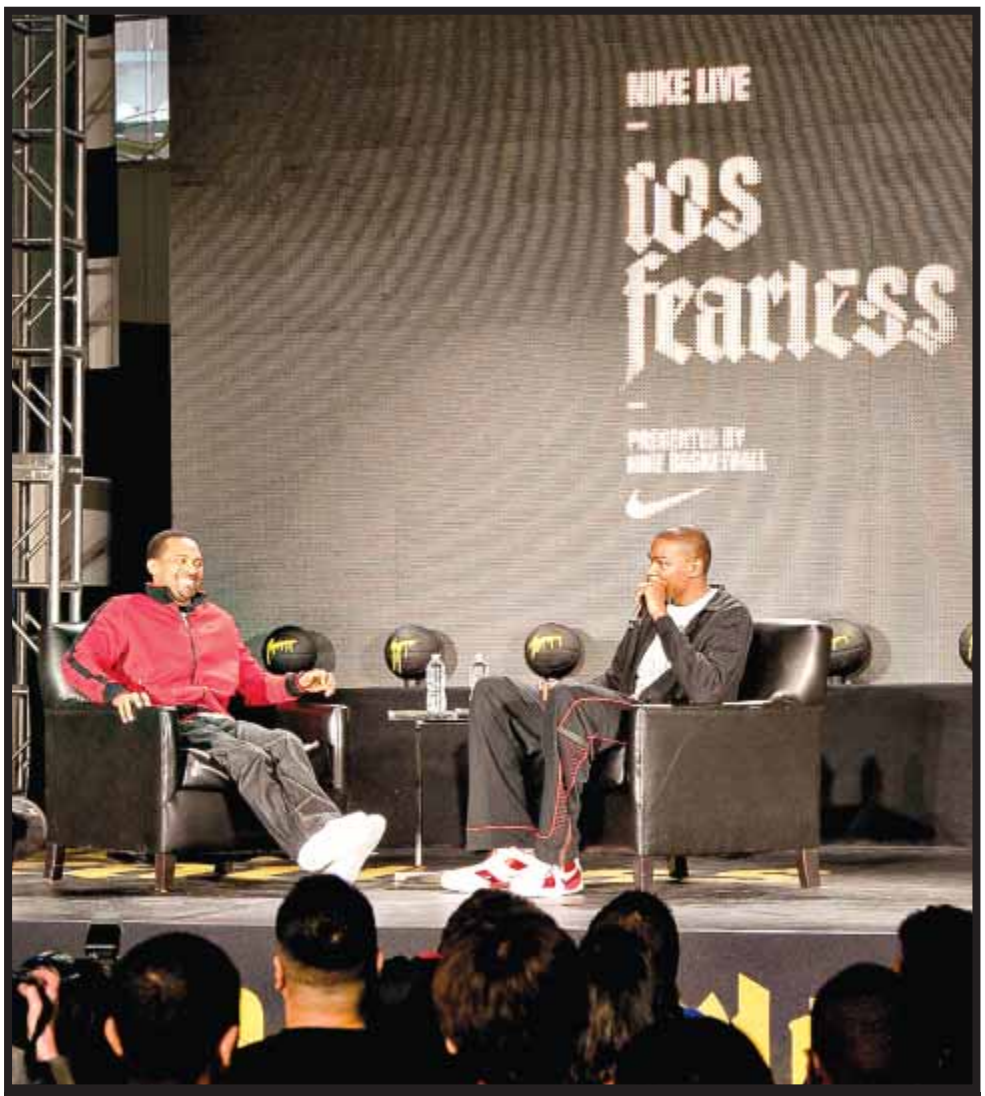
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HOOP TALK

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Comedian Mike Epps (left) talks with NBA star Kevin Durant (right) during a Q&A special event hosted by Nike at Santa Monica Place on Thursday night. Durant is in town for the All-Star Game.

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NASA picks next week for Discovery's final launch

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. NASA will try next week to launch space shuttle Discovery on its final voyage following a four-month delay for fuel tank repairs.

Liftoff is set for late Thursday afternoon. Senior managers voted unanimously Friday on the new launch date after discussing the fixes made since the shuttle's grounding in early November.

Cracks in the external fuel tank were discovered after a launch attempt was foiled by leaking hydrogen gas. It's taken this long to understand and repair the cracking, which could have harmed the shuttle during liftoff.

The shuttle will carry six astronauts and a humanoid robot, along with a full load of supplies, to the International Space Station. One of the human crew is a substitute, replacing an astronaut who was injured last month in a bicycle crash.

Astronaut Timothy Kopra helped train his fill-in after he stepped down and was instrumental in keeping the flight on track, officials said. He was supposed to be the lead spacewalker.

NASA opted for a Thursday liftoff at 4:50 p.m., even though a European cargo vessel will be docking at the space station that morning. Officials normally prefer more time between arriving spacecraft, but they want to get Discovery flying as soon as possible given its lengthy delay.

The shuttle launch will be put off if anything goes wrong with the docking of the European freighter.

As for the cracks in Discovery's external fuel tank, engineers traced the problem to inferior material combined with assembly issues. The cracking was confined to some of the aluminum alloy struts in the center of the tank, which holds instruments but no fuel. The damaged struts were patched, and the others reinforced as a precaution.

NASA worried that the underlying cracks could have caused foam insulation to break off the tank and slam into Discovery, as it did during Columbia's doomed mission in 2003.

Another problem cropped up last week: A measuring gauge broke at the launch pad, and one of the falling pieces gouged a tiny slit in the fuel tank foam. No repairs were necessary because of the location on the bottom back side of the tank.

This will represent the end of Discovery's flying career. NASA is retiring the three remaining shuttles this year, leaving orbital trips to private companies so it can focus on interplanetary travel. Until the private sector can take over crew hauls, NASA will have to pay millions of dollars to Russia for astronaut trips to and from the space station.









GOP challenges unions in state capitols

DAVID A. LIEB & SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

Editors Note: This story is an installment in a joint project by The Associated Press and Associated Press Managing Editors on the fiscal crisis facing U.S. states and cities, how state and local governments are dealing with severe budget cuts, and how American lives will change because of it.

Republicans who swept into power in state capitols this year with promises to cut spending and bolster the business climate now are beginning to usher in a new era of labor relations that could result in the largest reduction of power in decades for public employee unions.

But as massive public protests and legislative boycotts in Wisconsin this week have shown, the Republican charge can be fraught with risk and unpredictable turns as politicians try to transform campaign ideas into action.

The question GOP governors and lawmakers are now facing is exactly how far they can go without possibly alienating voters they won over in the midterm elections last fall. Do they merely extract more money from school teachers, prison guards and office workers to help ease their states' budget problems? Or do they go at the very core of union power by abolishing the workers' right to bargain collectively? Do they try to impose changes by steamrolling the opposition, or by coming to the bargaining table?

"The consequences will be rolling forth for many, many years," said James Gregory, director of Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington. "The battle lines have been drawn and will be replicated around the country. This is going to be very tough for unions and public sector employees."

In Wisconsin, new Republican Gov. Scott Walker is going for it all — the elimination of collective bargaining rights for public employees plus sharp increases in their health care and pension payments. His plan advanced quickly to the Republican-led Senate, despite several days of protests that drew tens of thousands of demonstrators to the Capitol. Then Senate Democrats suddenly fled the state, bringing the legislative process to a halt.

Friday, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, urged people to show their support for Walker in what he described as "a defining moment for our country and the conservative movement."

But some Republican governors want to avoid a showdown. "That's not our path," said new GOP Gov. Rick Snyder, who won election in neighboring Michigan, also on a pro-business agenda. He said he wants costs savings, too, but "I and my administration fully intend to work with our employees and union partners in a collective fashion."

Wisconsin is the first battleground between Republicans and unions. But it is unlikely to be the last.

A similar proposal to strip public employees of collective bargaining rights drew throngs of protesters Thursday at the Ohio Capitol. Hundreds more have demonstrated in Tennessee and Indiana, where Republican-led committees have advanced bills to restrict bargaining rights for teachers' unions. And governors from Nevada to Florida have been touting the need to weaken union powers and extract more money from government employees to help balance out-of-whack budgets.

The confrontation comes as organized labor is reeling from a steady loss of members in the private sector. The public sector, with about 7.6 million members, now account for the majority of workers on union rolls, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among union leaders, a sense of crisis is growing. Labor is preparing to spend at least $30 million to fight anti-union legislation in dozens of states, according to internal budget numbers reviewed by The Associated Press. They're lobbying local officials, organizing public rallies, working phone banks and buying television and newspaper ads in a desperate attempt to swing public opinion.

"Plans are being put into place to silence workers, lower their wages, cut their benefits and increase the likelihood that they will suffer injuries and fatalities at work," said Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "It is happening at a breakneck pace and too little attention is being paid."

Labor plans to spend large amounts of money on battles in Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Missouri, New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Unions see their goal as not just playing defense — as opponents chip away at bargaining rights — but going on offense to try to educate the public about the role of unions.

But last fall's midterm elections, which brought the defeat of many union-supported candidates and victories by pro-business Republican adversaries, show the difficulty the unions face in a climate shaped by the sour economy. In many states, Republican governors have blamed unions in part for the state budget crisis by negotiating flush benefit packages for public workers that have forced states to slash aid to schools, social services and important services.

Wisconsin's legislation, for example, not only would eliminate collective bargaining rights but also force public workers to pay half the costs of their pensions and at least 12.6 percent of their health care coverage — increases the governor calls "modest" compared with those in the private sector. It's projected to save $300 million over the next two years to address a $3.6 billion budget shortfall.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, citing an estimated $8 billion budget gap, wants to restrict union rights for state workers and in townships, cities, counties, school districts and publicly funded universities. The legislation would generally eliminate salary schedules.

Kasich drew support from local tea party leader Ted Lyons, an electronics executive from Troy, Ohio, who said the proposed union changes are long overdue. "The labor unions have become so powerful now on a worldwide basis," Lyons said. "It's beyond just the benefits of the membership, it's about all the spending."

Although it exploded to the forefront with the 2010 elections, the Republican challenge to labor unions had been quietly gaining momentum in recent years. When Republican Matt Blunt took over the Missouri governor's office in 2005, for example, one of his first acts was to rescind an executive order from a Democratic predecessor granting collective bargaining rights to public employees.

Many union leaders contend the latest efforts have less to do the budget crisis than simple political retribution.

"What you're seeing is the same old politics as usual — elections take place, and politicians who get elected then use their newfound power to try to punish their enemies or organizations and individuals who didn't support them," said Jeff Mazur, executive director of AFSCME Council 72, which covers Missouri and Kansas.

Lotus Platforms

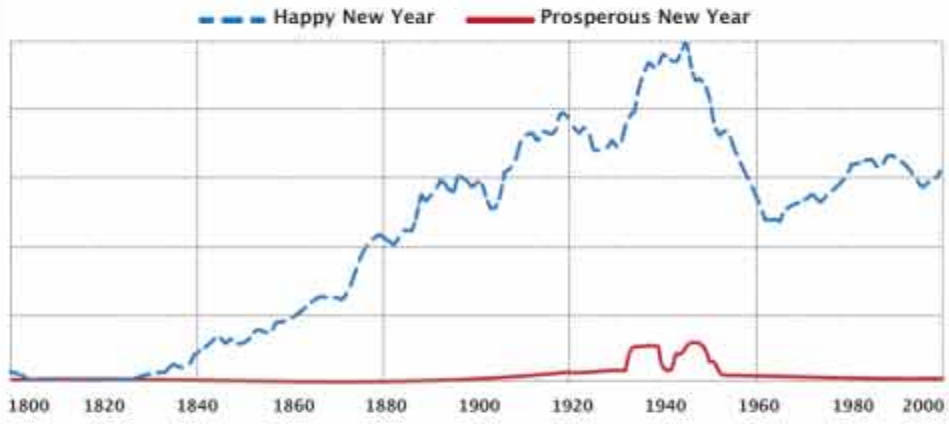
After weeks of trying to get some attention, we got some! We thank David McCoul of UCLA for the following enlightening response to our question regarding the frequency of use of the greetings "Happy New Year" and "Prosperous New Year".

Hi Lotus Platforms,

I saw your ad printed in the SMDP for the first time today, and I wanted to offer my input. I'm currently an engineering Ph.D. student at UCLA, so I tend to be scientifically-minded anyway, and also these sorts of things are interesting to me.

As background information to our readers, Google Ngram is an amazing new feature of Google Labs that attempts to extract data from the millions of scanned books and magazines in Google's digital library. You see, when Google scans a work, it uses optical character recognition (OCR) technology to turn the scanned images of words into searchable text.

In this way, you can search for any word or phrase, and Ngram will show you its percent occurrence in all of its digital books over a 200-year period. Search for more than one word, and you might be able to find relationships between the occurrence of these two words in the written corpus of literature. And that's exactly what Lotus Platforms did for the phrases "Happy New Year" and "Prosperous New Year".



Now, having looked at the graph of this search, I agree that there might be a correlation between the lone incidence of "Prosperous New Year" ("PNY") from 1930-50 and the bicentennial global maximum for "Happy New Year" ("HNY"). I have two hypotheses for how these peaks could be related; one deals with human psychology, and the other, history.

First, it may be that as the commonness of the phrase "HNY" reached an all-time high, people were just tired of it and wanted to try something new, so someone started saying "PNY" and it caught on. Then, as soon as "HNY" started to lose popularity, "PNY" died out because it is harder to say. (It has an extra syllable.) That extra syllable may also explain in part why "PNY" never got nearly as popular as "HNY". (That is, the "HNY" peak is ten times as tall as the "PNY" bumps ever got.)

Playing around with Google Ngram, I realized that the data printed in this column was from the corpus of both American and British English. And if I select data for British English only, no notable peaks show up for "PNY" at all! Peaks for both phrases show up only in the American body of literature during that time, implying that something historically significant must have occurred domestically (vs. in England) between 1930 and 1950.

And as it turns out, 1929 was a significant time in American history: Wall Street crashed, ushering in the Great Depression. And as if by magic, the first major peak for "Prosperous New Year" starts to appear in 1930. In light of this, I don't think that word choice was an accident. And, after about a decade, the main effects of the Great Depression wore off in the late 1930s, which is marked by a sudden drop in the use of "PNY". This explains the first hump.

What about that second, twin hump? Another major event happens in 1941: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, marking the start of World War II for America. Suddenly, in the early 1940s we see "PNY" rise again, as if authors and journalists decided its audience needed extra encouragement for this surprise war, situated right at the tail end of the United States' recovery from the Depression. Finally, WWII ends in 1945, and use of "PNY" eventually fades into oblivion by 1950.

I hope this helps to shed some light on these curves!

A Happy (and Prosperous!) 2011,

David J. McCoul

P.S.: While it may be beyond the scope of your main audience, scientists reading this would be interested to know that Google Ngram is based on the following work:

Jean-Baptiste Michel*, Yuan Kui Shen, Aviva Presser Aiden, Adrian Veres, Matthew K. Gray, William Brockman, The Google Books Team, Joseph P. Pickett, Dale Hoiberg, Dan Clancy, Peter Norvig, Jon Orwant, Steven Pinker, Martin A. Nowak, and Erez Lieberman Aiden*. Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books. Science (Published online ahead of print: 12/16/2010)

P.P.S.: When your ad went to print, it was in black and white. As a result, it was difficult to see which line was for which expression. Using solid vs. dashed lines, in addition to color, helps avoid this (despite the fact that Google Ngram doesn't provide the feature to dash lines). To solve that problem, I've attached a version of the graph that I've edited to make one of the curves dashed. You may want to use it for your next printing.

Visit us at our web site: www.lotusplatforms.com. It will be ready soon!

Storms dump 4-9 feet of snow in Sierra Nevada range

MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. The latest in a string of powerful storms dropped heavy snow Friday in the Sierra Nevada and set up ski resorts for a busy Presidents Day weekend, but it also caused more traffic delays and school closures.

The Alpine Meadows ski resort just north of Lake Tahoe reported up to 4 feet of new snow over a 24-hour period ending Friday morning, for a total of as much as 9 feet of snow since the storms began Monday. Most other Sierra resorts reported 4 to 7 feet of new snow this week.

Resort operators welcomed the mountain of snow ahead of the holiday weekend, which is usually one of their most lucrative periods of the season.

"All this snow has people thinking about skiing and snowboarding again after a dry January," said Jon Slaughter, spokesman for the Boreal resort atop Donner Summit. "Mother Nature set us up for a big weekend. She brought the light, dry powder that Utah usually brags about."

Snow was falling at a rate of about 1 inch per hour at the Kirkwood resort south of Tahoe, said spokeswoman Prudence Wiesener.

"It's really bucketing down. Despite the occasional road closures, it's really attracting a crowd," she told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Mountain motorists were not as happy as they were forced to strap on tire chains on most Sierra highways.

Chains were mandatory most of Friday except for four-wheel drive vehicles on all three major highways linking the Sacramento, Calif., and Tahoe areas: Interstate 80 over Donner Summit, U.S. 50 over Echo Summit and Highway 88 over Carson Pass.

"We've had heavy holiday traffic and hundreds of calls for service," said California Highway Patrol Officer Steve Skeen of Truckee, Calif. "Most involve vehicles that spin off slick roadways and become stuck in snowbanks."

The Nevada Highway Patrol reported 127 crashes and 43 such spinouts across much of northern Nevada over a 20-hour period ending late Thursday afternoon. While no updated figure was available Friday, troopers stayed busy, said NHP Sgt. Bryan Jorgensen.

"The problem has been that the roads become real slick when the temperatures drop," he said. "Most people don't realize they're driving on black ice."

No major injuries were reported because traffic moved so slowly, he added.

The storm also closed schools in Washoe and Douglas counties in northwestern Nevada and in the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District in California, and caused a two-hour delay in classes at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The storm also was blamed for power outages that temporarily knocked out power to about 250 Reno customers, including the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dow Jones average notches third straight week of gains

DAVID K. RANDALL & MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK The Dow Jones industrial average continued climbing on Friday, notching its third straight week of gains.

The Dow has lost ground only three days in February. The average of 30 large companies rose 1 percent this week and 4.2 percent for the month.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 1 percent this week and is up 4.4 percent in February.

Better manufacturing reports and stronger profits from Dell Inc., McDonald's Corp. and other companies have pushed stocks higher this month. With the earnings season coming to a close, nearly 70 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 that reported results so far have beat analysts' expectations, according to Royal Bank of Scotland.

Caterpillar Inc. rose 2.4 percent to lead the Dow. The company said sales of its heavy construction and mining equipment surged 49 percent last month.

Alcoa Inc. fell 1.4 percent, the largest drop.

The Dow gained 73.11 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 12,391.25. The S&P 500 rose 2.58 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,343.01. The Nasdaq composite rose 2.37, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,833.95.

The Nasdaq is now 25 points away from reaching a 10-year high.

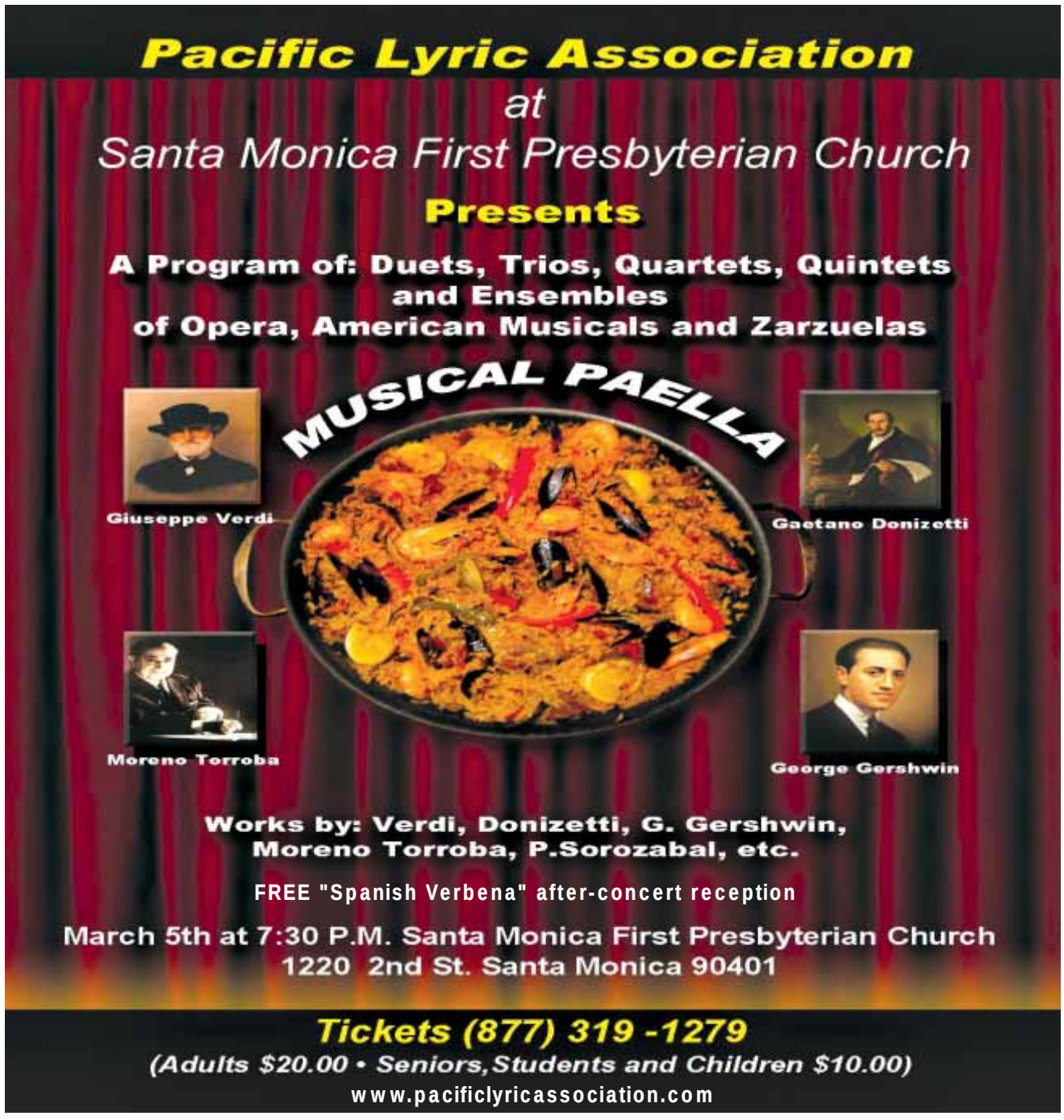
Finance ministers and central bankers from countries in the Group of 20 met in Paris Friday to discuss issues affecting the global economy. In a speech at the conference, Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said that countries with large trade surpluses like China should let their currencies rise in value in order to prevent another financial crisis. He also said that countries with large trade deficits must reduce government spending over time, an apparent reference to the United States.

Campbell Soup Co. fell 4 percent after the company said its profit fell 8 percent in its latest quarter. The company also cut its outlook for the rest of its fiscal year.

Intuit Inc. jumped 7 percent after the personal finance software maker raised its forecast for full-year earnings growth late Thursday.

Rising shares outpaced falling ones by a nearly three to two margin on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated trading volume was 4 billion shares.

Markets will be closed Monday for the President's Day holiday.







NFL

League officials, union hold initial session with federal mediator

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON The contentious NFL labor negotiations went in front of a federal mediator Friday, two weeks before owners could impose a lockout on players and threaten the 2011 season.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, players' union executive director DeMaurice Smith and their bargaining teams met for about six hours at the Washington office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Goodell was accompanied by NFL outside counsel Bob Batterman and the league's lead labor negotiator, Jeff Pash, when he arrived shortly before 11 a.m. No team owners were seen entering the building. About 15 minutes after Goodell showed up, Smith walked in, joined by union lawyer Richard Berthelsen, Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch and former player Jim McFarland, a member of the NFL Players Association's executive committee.

Goodell and Smith declined comment on their way into the meeting with George H. Cohen, the director of the FMCS, an independent U.S. government agency.

"We're going to participate fully, and we look forward to working with Mr. Cohen," Pash told The Associated Press.

Asked what progress he expects to come from mediation, Pash replied: "We don't know."

NFLPA spokesman George Atallah said: "We're not going to make any comments or talk about what happens in today's negotiating session."

More than two hours later, Atallah and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello tweeted a joint statement saying the mediation process has begun and both sides agreed to Cohen's request not to make any public comment.

Smith also declined to answer questions on his way out of the meeting.

Cohen announced Thursday that both sides had agreed to have him participate in talks. Mediation is not binding.

The current collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of the day March 3, and the union has said it expects a lockout to come as soon as the next day.

News of the start of mediation could be a positive sign after several months of infrequent negotiations.

The league and union went more than two months without holding any formal bargaining sessions, until a meeting Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once last week but called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about $9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players.

Cohen was involved in Major League Soccer's negotiations with its players' union last year, when a possible work stoppage was avoided. Cohen also has worked with the players' associations for Major League Baseball, helping end the 1994-95 strike as a consulting attorney, and the NBA, and was an advisor to the NHL players' union before joining the FMCS.

The FMCS also became involved in negotiations during the 2004-05 NHL lockout, and a 2005 dispute between the U.S. Soccer Federation and its players.

MLB

Newly-acquired Wells up for challenge to play in left field

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. Vernon Wells has a new goal this year, and it's to excel in a new spot.

Wells won three Gold Gloves while playing center field with Toronto. The Blue Jays traded him to the Los Angeles Angels during the offseason and plan to play him in left.

"When you get to a position, a different position, you want to be the best at that position," Wells said Friday. "If I'm going to end up playing left, I want to be the best left fielder in the game."

The Angels have speedy youngster Peter Bourjos in center and nine-time Gold Glover Torii Hunter in right.

The 32-year-old Wells has a history of hamstring problems and there were whispers he'd lost a step or two.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia doesn't sound concerned at all.

"Talking with other managers, seeing him (and) his range against us, seeing the way he was controlling the gaps, there's no doubt that he can play center field and play it at a high level, much the same way we feel Torii can," Scioscia said.

"Certainly, there are going to be some angles and getting balls into the corner that as a center fielder you're not as in tuned with. But as athletic as Vernon is and as much talent as he has, it should be a position that he settles into very comfortably and we're excited to start putting those pieces together."

Scioscia expects the Angels' outfield defensive will improve this season, and sees Wells adding a lot.

"He's going to virtually shut down a first-to-third situation as well as he, hopefully, can play left field," Scioscia said. "With Torii in right and Bourjos in center doing what he does and Vernon in left, we're going to control a lot of the baserunning aspects that were troubling to us at some points early in the year.

"You're not going to impact a game as much from a defensive end from left field the same way you are in center," he said. "There's an advantage to having a plus defensive left fielder which we feel we will have. Vernon's defense would show up more if he's playing center field. So, there's less pressure for him to have to do that on a daily basis."

Wells is close friend of Texas infielder Michael Young, who has asked the team to trade him. The Angels are one of the clubs Young selected as a team to which he'd accept a trade.

Wells is not thrilled with how the Rangers are going about their business with Young.

"I would love to have him here, let's put it that way," Well said. "He's having to deal with it, unfortunately, publicly. It creates all kinds of problems. It's been handled poorly on their end, I'll say that."



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SANTA MONICA CIVIC CENTER PARKS
PALISADES GARDEN WALK + TOWN
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
Please join the Recreation and Parks Commission for a review of the latest park designs at the next Community Workshop. James Corner and the design team will present Design Development plans and renderings which were revised based on feedback received from community members, City Commissions and the City Council. After the presentation, participate in break-out groups and contribute your comments and ideas to the process. Be sure to **Shape Your Parks** and **Make your Mark** by attending.
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1 PM TO 3 PM
WHERE: SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM
Bike and car parking available in the lot adjacent to the Civic Auditorium. Walk or use Big Blue Bus Lines 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9 or 10. To request a disability-related accommodation, call (310) 458-8310 at least three business days before the workshop. For questions: (310) 458-8310 or ccs@smgov.net. Updates and more info: **www.smciviccenterparks.com.**

MLB

Broxton ready for a fresh start

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Whatever went wrong for Jonathan Broxton in the second half last season, he's ready to put it behind. So are the Los Angeles Dodgers and new manager Don Mattingly.

"The snowball got rolling and he got caught up in it," Mattingly said.

The normally reliable closer with the 100 mph fastball got the save for the NL in the All-Star game, but completely fell apart in the final months. He eventually lost his job to Hong-Chih Kuo.

Broxton threw from a mound Friday for the first time in spring training. He looked to be at ease during a 25-pitch bullpen session.

"Last year is last year. It's gone," he said a day earlier. "Time to move forward."

At 6-foot-4 and 295 pounds, Broxton is one of the more imposing closers in baseball. For the first half of 2010, Broxton was pitching as well as ever, earning 19 saves and posting an ERA that dipped as low as 0.86.

Broxton's struggles actually began in a loss to the New York Yankees on June 27 in which he gave up four earned runs in an inning.

In the month of July, his ERA was 7.45. It got slightly better in August (4.63), but by then, Broxton had lost the closer's role. His confidence shaken, Broxton posted an 8.59 ERA in September to close the year with a 4.04 ERA, the highest since his first season in the major leagues.

So why would Mattingly exude so much faith in Broxton, making him the team's closer once again, without seeing if the right-hander had regained his confidence?

"Looking at his whole body of work, I have confidence that he's going to bounce back and do what he's done the majority of his career," Mattingly said. "I don't think he's a headcase. I think it's happened to a lot of guys."

Broxton's second-half struggles were a big part of the Dodgers' troubles. They were 49-39 going into the All-Star break, but went 31-43 the rest of the way to fall to fourth in the NL West.

"There's nothing you can do about last year other than learn from the experience,"" Mattingly said. "We're asking our whole club to learn from that experience."

BASKETBALL

Hall of Fame announces 12 finalists

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Dennis Rodman, Jamaal Wilkes and Tex Winter were among 12 finalists announced Friday for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Rodman was the flamboyant rebounder who won five NBA titles with Chicago and Detroit; Wilkes won four NBA titles with Golden State and the Lakers after starring at UCLA; and Winter was the architect of the triangle and triple-post offense.

"I am truly humbled, privileged and honored," said Wilkes, who attended the announcement in Los Angeles, site of this weekend's All-Star game.

Rodman's agent, Darren Prince, called him in Florida with the news.

"He's really more excited for his children and to secure a legacy for them. They're at an age where they're starting to know who their dad was," Prince said. "He's taken aback a little bit because he's not used to being isolated as an individual for what he's done. He was the most unselfish teammate."

Hall of Fame member David Robinson experienced Rodman first-hand when he played against him as a member of the San Antonio Spurs.

"He was annoying," Robinson said. "He just would be in your shorts all the time, always there with you. He was a very, very strong guy — a little bit undersized at times, but he never let it stop him. He had relentless energy, and he had no fear."

Kobe Bryant weighed in on Winter's candidacy, having spent time with him when Winter was a Lakers special assistant coach.

"I don't know how he's not in the Hall of Fame. That's just disgraceful," Bryant said. "He should have been in the Hall of Fame a long time ago."

The other finalists are former NBA stars Maurice Cheeks, Chris Mullin and Ralph Sampson, five-time Olympian Teresa Edwards, Stanford women's coach Tara VanDerveer, former NBA coach Dick Motta, Philadelphia University coach Herb Magee, college referee Hank Nichols, and Al Attles, the current vice president and assistant general manager of the Golden State Warriors.

To be inducted, finalists must receive at least 18 votes from a 24-member committee.

Those elected will be introduced April 3 at the men's Final Four in Houston. The induction ceremony is at the hall in Springfield, Mass., from Aug. 11-13.

Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Hall of Fame's board, said four others will be elected directly into the hall representing four categories: African-American pioneers before the mid-50s, veterans, the defunct American Basketball League, and international.

Their names will be announced in Houston.

"There's more opportunity for others to get in," Colangelo said. "If we continue with this process for the next four, five years, you're going to see another 16 to 20 people in the Hall of Fame that might not have been in, and I think that's great."

Among the nominees not chosen as finalists this year were former Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller and Don Nelson, the NBA's winningest coach.

"Although I'm disappointed not to be included on this year's HOF ballot, I sincerely wish the best of luck to this year's class of finalists, all of whom I admire and respect greatly," Miller said in a statement.

Miller, who works as a broadcaster for TNT, was a first-time nominee, and no first-timers were named finalists.

"Reggie just didn't get enough traction this time. He's a first-time candidate, that speaks nothing about the future," Colangelo said. "Next year could be a whole different story for Reggie Miller. He's certainly a candidate going forward."

Nelson was a previous contender. The final year of his contract with Golden State was bought out after last season.

"Nellie just couldn't get over the hump," Colangelo said. "I think it was just a collective 'didn't get the traction' in terms of the group he was considered with."

Colangelo said the hall is working on lining up a sponsor to include fan participation in the voting.

He is pushing for a more transparent selection process, short of revealing the names of committee members who vote on potential inductees. Colangelo selects those members, whom he says include four media members; two Hall of Famers; two coaches; and a current NBA general manager.

PGA

Couples enjoying Riviera

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES Fred Couples does not look like he belongs atop the leaderboard on the PGA Tour.

Except that he's at Riviera.

Despite a bad back that hurts when he stoops over a short iron, Couples navigated around his favorite tour course without a bogey Friday for a 5-under 66 that gave him the early lead in the Northern Trust Open.

It helped that he knocked in an eagle putt of nearly 100 feet on his opening hole, along with a pair of 30-foot birdie putts. But even for a 51-year-old well past his prime, he was carried along by a languid swing and his love for Riviera.

"I feel like I can play this course blindfolded," Couples said.

Some of his peers couldn't believe what they saw.

"He played like he was my age," said 25-year-old Anthony Kim, who was paired with Couples and was nine shots behind. "He was loose, swinging hard. He hit some quality shots, some aggressive shots. It doesn't hurt that he's won here a couple of times. He just knows what he's doing out here."

Couples first played Riviera three years before Kim was born. He won in 1990 and 1992, back when his hair was brown, not mostly gray, and when he didn't have to get up at 4 a.m. to stretch out his back so he could make it to the first tee.

The affection from the gallery hasn't changed.

From the other side of the par-5 first green, Couples rapped a putt and watched it roll some 100 feet toward the cup and drop for an eagle. The cheer was loud enough for players still on the practice range to look up.

One player jokingly said, "Couples just made a 10-footer for par."

Paul Casey, who had a 67 and was four shots back, played in the group behind Couples. Asked how it felt to trail a 51-year-old who can barely bend over to tie his shoes, Casey started laughing.

"Every time I looked ahead, he's stretching his back, his hand is on his hip," Casey said. "We all know Freddie. He looks like he doesn't care. He looks like he's in pain. He could be on any score. And the fact he's on 8 under is brilliant."

Couples was at 8-under 134 heading into what could be a soggy weekend. The rain began to fall late in the afternoon as half of the field was trying to cope with tougher conditions.

J.B. Holmes was tied for the lead until a double bogey on the last hole gave him a 69.

Phil Mickelson struggled with his irons on his way to a 70 that put him seven shots behind, although not terribly worried.

"I'm not pleased being in the position where I'm at, but it could be a lot worse," Mickelson said. "And I should be within striking distance if I can go out and shoot some hot round tomorrow."

That he would be trying to catch up to Couples was surprising given his age and his health. Casey, however, said course knowledge and good vibes only go so far.

"I don't care how well he knows this course, and he probably knows it as well as the members," Casey said. "It doesn't matter if you don't hit the golf ball where you need to."

Such is his affection for Riviera that Couples didn't think twice about playing this week — even though he is the defending champion at the Champions Tour event in Naples, Fla.

"I don't think anyone is mad. Besides Augusta, it's my favorite spot," Couples said. "I don't think it's a slap in the face if they just look where I live and my schedule and how I play here. It would take two seconds to figure it out."

Couples not only has two wins at Riviera, he has four top 10s in the last decade and nearly had a chance to win two years ago until he butchered a 9-iron into the 18th with a chance to put pressure on Mickelson.

He was 49, and that figured to be his last chance to win on tour.

Yet here is again, twisting and stretching, taking left-handed baseball swings with his putter while trying to keep loose. The hardest part for Couples after his round was climbing the 100-foot hill toward the clubhouse to sign his card.

When the tour asked him to visit The Golf Channel's booth, Couples said, "Can't do it."

"I'm ready for a nap," he said.

He was up at 4 a.m. to stretch and get treatment on what he called a "back machine." It was still dark when he got to the practice range, and he kept to his routine in which he only hits long clubs — the driver, 5-wood and hybrids — because to bend over a short iron hurts. He'd rather wait until the shot counts to do that.

"I don't consider this warming up," Couples said. "I just think it's waiting for my tee time to come."

And he came out swinging, with the long eagle putt on No. 1, a 35-foot birdie putt on the ninth, a 30-footer on the 15th and a series of scary putts in the 5-foot range for pars. He has gone 32 holes without a bogey at Riviera.

For two rounds, he looks as young as ever. But that only goes so far.

He went to see "The Social Network," but only because it starred Justin Timberlake. Couples still doesn't know what Facebook is all about. Remember, it was only two years ago that he started sending text messages (he received one after his round from Tiger Woods).

As for Twitter? Uh, no.

"If I did Twitter, would I tell people that I'm heading home and then going to eat at California Pizza Kitchen? Is that what you do? Or do you actually tweet information?" he said. "Well, what information do I have for my 500,000 followers? I'm 51. I live in the desert. They all know that already.

"If you guys write well enough, they'll know that I'm in good shape going into tomorrow. I don't need to tweet anybody."

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA

Heat, Celtics want to ruin Kobe's weekend

LOS ANGELES — Paul Pierce says the Boston Celtics and the Miami Heat can go back to being enemies on Sunday night.

For one celebrity-soaked weekend in Hollywood, the NBA's two biggest constellations of stars are teaming up to see if they can ruin Kobe Bryant's All-Star party.

Boston and Miami placed a combined seven players on the East team for Sunday's All-Star game at Staples Center, and their presence dominated discussion Friday when the NBA's superstars reported to Los Angeles.

Chris Bosh won't be surprised to get booed by the West Coast crowd, and East coach Doc Rivers says fans should look out for a lineup with LeBron James playing alongside four Celtics.

Carmelo Anthony mostly deflected questions about his up-in-the-air future.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

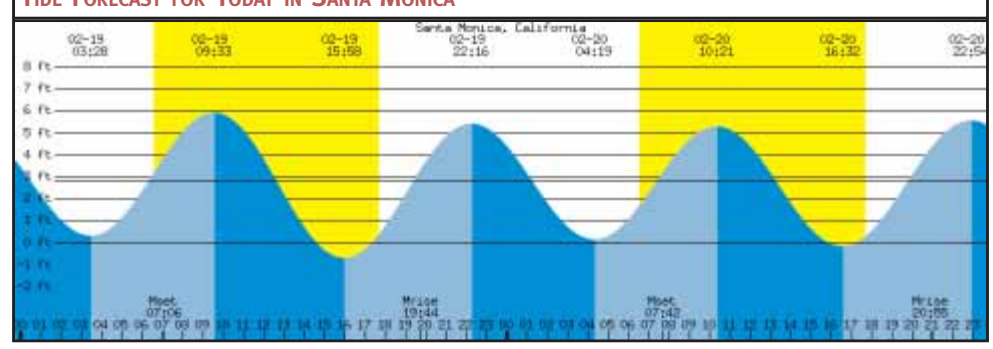
Swell Forecast

Looking at a high probability of WSW wind swell coming in from another passing storm. NW swell will back off. West and south facing breaks could see chest high waves, but conditions would be trashed.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell is expected to back off, with waist high waves most everywhere.

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 14, 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 -- 37 / 34
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 7

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	B	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	C	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rameer Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	D	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	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A+
Los Flores State Beach at Los 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+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	B
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+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
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.	A	D

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday
Prizzi's Honor & The Dead with Anjelica Huston in person
7:30pm

Sunday
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
5pm

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

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

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

I Am Number Four (PG-13) 1hr 44min
10:25am, 1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:15pm

Unknown (PG-13) 1hr 49min
10:35am, 1:15pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:35am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 7:55pm, 10:35pm

I Am Number Four (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:25am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
10:55am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Justin Bieber Never Say Never 3D (G) 1hr 45min
10:10am, 10:55am, 12:45pm, 1:50pm, 3:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:15pm, 7:15pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Waste Land (NR) 1hr 38min
11:00am

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

Carbon Nation (NR) 1hr 26min
11:00am

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

Illusionist (L'illusionniste) (PG) 1hr 22min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:45pm

Immigration Tango (R) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Queen of the Lot (R) 1hr 54min
11:00am

Harmony Game: The Making of Bridge Over Troubled Water (NR) 1hr 11:00am

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

Eagle (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:35pm, 7:25pm, 10:15pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm

Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13) 1hr 47min
10:50am, 1:25pm, 2:10pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

Unknown (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
11:10am, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Gnomeo & Juliet (PG) 1hr 24min
10:45am, 1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm

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

Hang with friends, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Take a mental-health day, allowing for more relaxation and less stress. Perhaps in order to flourish and perform to the level you would like, it is mandatory to recharge your batteries. A discussion or observation could lead to a surprising insight. Pull back. Tonight: Just avoid going public.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Where the crowds are is where the Bull will be happiest, among friends and loved ones. An invitation leads you down a new path. Don't overplan your day, as you might want some room to be spontaneous. Tonight: Hang with friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Knowing what is expected and what you need could make a difference. Eliminating a gap between these two objectives can happen if you stay open, especially to an older relative or friend. This person points to the correct path. Tonight: Invite a friend or two over.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Even the most planned-out days could find an element of change and the unexpected running through them. Express your caring in a meaningful manner, and you will see new feelings open up. Follow through on returning a call and/or having a chat. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be aware of certain insecurities that lead you to act out. Build up your self-esteem and release these needs. Perhaps seeking out some feedback from a trusted friend might be worthwhile. Let go of the idea that money brings security. Tonight: Indulge a little. Have a good time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your caring ways draw much caring toward you. Someone at a distance could surprise you with an unexpected visit, call or other form of communication. The end results could be worth reorganizing your schedule. Tonight: Others simply want to hang with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Continue to maintain a low profile. You like being a little mysterious at times. You can be sure that someone is wondering about your lack of presence. Take this time for a workout, massage or any other tension-busting activity. Tonight: Screen your calls.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your sense of direction points to your friends. A good time is had by all. You see what is happening behind the scenes, but you might choose to ignore it for now. A new friendship could bud from what seems like out of nowhere. Tonight: Loosen up and lighten up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Getting out of the limelight might be necessary in order to kick back and just be yourself. On the other hand, many people appreciate your hands-on follow-through. A family member throws a tantrum, perhaps because he or she has had enough! Find out why. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Prepare to take off at the drop of a hat. Though you might not be sure of anything right now, you will be. Someone might provide a pleasant jolt with his or her invitation. Don't let anything stop you, if possible. Tonight: Go for something different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ How you deal with a partner could define the very nature of your day. If you manage to reach an agreement, with some give-and-take, the two of you could act like honeymooners. Otherwise, the tension will only build. Use care with your funds. Count your change. Tonight: Togetherness is a great theme.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Go with spontaneity, but discuss a sudden change of plans with a loved one first. You might not know which is the best way to go. Curb an innate need to rebel, for your sake as well as for others'. Understanding evolves. Tonight: Go with an unusual suggestion.

Happy birthday

This year, opportunities to move in new ways appear unexpectedly. You will see and have many possibilities. The biggest problem will be making a choice. You also will swing between being intellectual and being emotional. Try both sides of the equation. See what works for you as an individual. If you are single, Romeo or Juliet could appear out of the blue, when you least expect it. If you are attached, your relationship will move to another level of intimacy. VIRGO has the same issues as you but reacts to them differently.

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.

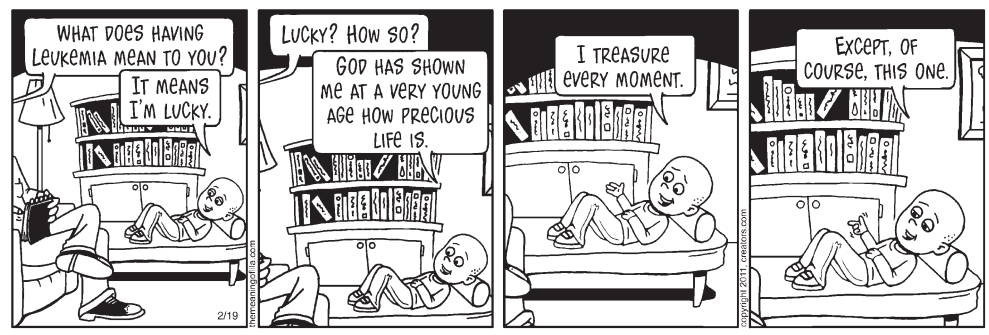
Garfield

By Jim Davis



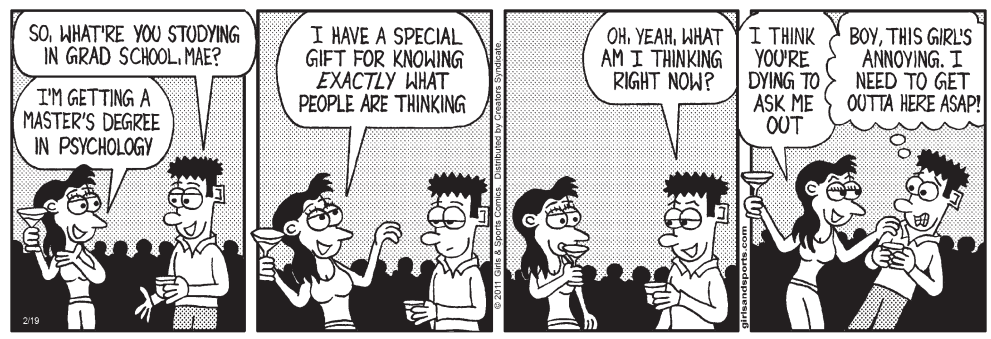
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



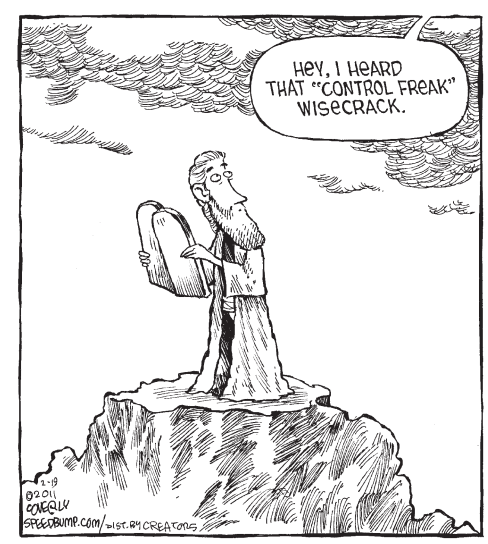
Strange Brew

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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Employees
6 Mist over
11 Bocelli, for one
12 Plain silly
13 Trig topic
14 Entice
15 Was mopey
17 Yale fan
18 Fury
19 Overlooked
22 Spot
23 Crew member's task
24 Going rates
25 Raid site?
27 Force member
30 Finds out about
31 As done by
32 Will Smith movie
33 "Shoot!"
35 Bits of smoke
38 Head out
39 Prepare to propose
40 Burdened
41 Like wetlands
42 Stylish

DOWN

1 Equilibrium
2 Prof protector
3 "Brokeback Mountain" director
4 Music category
5 Sponges
6 In shape
7 Afternoon hour
8 "Now the competition is serious!"
9 Disconnect
10 Small, to Simone
16 Greg Kinnear movie
20 Diving descents
21 "— folly to be wise"
24 Fragrant tree
25 Stealthy
26 Upped
27 Second-largest nation
28 Oscar-winning musical
29 Obvious
30 Birds of prey
34 Paper pack
36 Coat-rack part
37 Shrewd

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

Yesterday's answer

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

2-19

ARITHMO™

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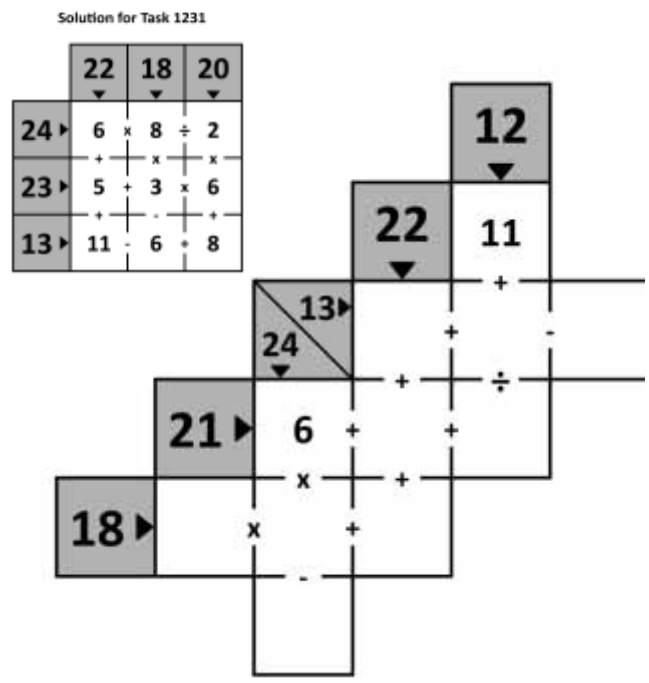
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 3, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 12

Solution for Task 1231



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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 8 16 21 23 Meganumber: 19 Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 3 14 19 35 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 9 6 EVENING: 8 2 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 01 Gold Rush 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:44.52

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

■ Respect for All Cultures: (1) In January, in Village One in Cambodia (about 12 miles from Phnom Penh), local residents alarmed by a spirit-possessed boy gathered, about 1,000 strong, for a good-luck wedding ceremony marrying two pythons -- "magic" animals that have the power to bring fortune and happiness. (2) Customs and Border Protection officers at Washington, D.C.'s Dulles Airport often receive international passengers carrying reminders of home -- such as the visitor from Ghana who, according to a Baltimore Sun report, landed on Dec. 3 carrying a hedgehog, elephant tails, chameleons, skins from cat-like "genets," sheets soaked in the blood of sacrificed chickens, and a package of dirt.

■ Broward County, Fla., judge Paul Marko, in a July (1990) divorce case, awarded Marianne Price, 33, possession of the marital house but prohibited her from having boyfriends over, adding that her husband could have the "entire (Miami) Dolphins cheerleading squad running through his apartment naked" if he wanted to, because that apartment was his. Marko then advised Price to start visiting singles bars: "I've been (in them). I'm a single man. There are all kinds of bimbos ... and ... guys running around in open shirts with eagles on their chests. There are great guys out there." Marko said he would order Price's house sold if she allowed a male to live there: "I don't want (you) all of a sudden taking up with some nice, sweet, little blond from Norway." Marko later apologized.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1600 The Peruvian stratovolcano Huaynaputina explodes in the most violent eruption in the recorded history of South America.

1674 England and the Netherlands sign the Treaty of Westminster, ending the Third Anglo-Dutch War. A provision of the agreement transfers the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam to England, and it is renamed New York.

WORD UP!

libation \ ly-BAY-shun \ , noun;
1. The act of pouring a liquid (usually wine) either on the ground or on a victim in sacrifice to some deity; also, the wine or liquid thus poured out.

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federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 02/19/2011, 02/26/2011, 03/05/2011, 03/12/2011.

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*Based on Toyota Motor Sales 2010 calendar year.

0.0% AVAILABLE** FOR 60 MONTHS!

**0% APR includes 60 monthly payments of $16.67 per $1000 borrowed. For example 10% down - down payment varies with credit. Available through Toyota Financial Services to qualified Tier 1 + (plus); Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 credit customers. Available on new 2010 Corolla (excludes S models) & Yaris, 2011 Camry (excludes Hybrid) & Tundra purchased out of dealer stock by midnight 2/28/2011. Offers cannot be combined. See Toyota dealer for details.

NEW 2011 TOYOTA PRIUS II



LEASE FOR $149t /MO+TAX $3,299 DOWN

OR

$0 DOWN** LEASE FOR $245* /MO+TAX

BUY FOR $20,627tt

AUTOMATIC 1223

5 AT THESE OFFERS!

*Lease for $245/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $0 due at lease signing plus $500 military rebate and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. †Lease for $149/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $3299 due at lease signing plus $500 military rebate and tax, license and doc fees. ††Purchase for $20627 after $500 military** rebate and $500 factory rebate. $0 security deposit. Lease: 12k miles/year and $0.15 per mile in excess. Expires 2/21/2011.

NEW 2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE



LEASE FOR $36t /MO+TAX $3,299 DOWN

OR

$0 DOWN!* LEASE FOR $115* /MO+TAX

BUY FOR $12,850tt

AUTOMATIC 1838

5 AT THESE OFFERS!

0.0% AVAILABLE**

*Lease for $115/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $0 due at lease signing plus $1000 college grad** rebate, $500 military** rebate, $500 lease cash and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. †Lease for $36/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $3299 due at lease signing plus $1000 college grad** rebate, $500 military** rebate, $500 lease cash and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. ††Purchase for $12850 after $750 manufacturer rebate, $500 military** rebate and $1000 college grad** rebate and must be financed through TFS. Lease: 12k miles/year and $0.15 per mile in excess. 2/21/2011.

NEW 2011 TOYOTA CAMRY LE



LEASE FOR $71t /MO+TAX $3,299 DOWN

OR

$0 DOWN!* LEASE FOR $149* /MO+TAX

BUY FOR $17,549tt

AUTOMATIC 2532

5 AT THESE OFFERS!

0.0% AVAILABLE**

*Lease for $149/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $0 due at lease signing after $1000 college grad** rebate, $500 lease cash, $500 military** rebate and tax, license, and doc fees. $0 security deposit. †Lease for $71/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $3299 due at lease signing plus $1000 college grad** rebate, $1000 military** rebate, $500 factory rebate and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. ††Purchase for $17549 after $750 manufacturer rebate and $1000 college grad** rebate and must be financed through TFS. Lease: 12k miles/year and $0.15 per mile in excess. Expires 2/21/2011.

NEW 2011 TOYOTA SIENNA LE



LEASE FOR $279t /MO+TAX $3,299 DOWN

OR

$0 DOWN!* LEASE FOR $359* /MO+TAX

BUY FOR $27,998tt

AUTOMATIC 5338

2 AT THESE OFFERS!

*Lease for $359/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $0 due at lease signing plus tax, license, and doc fees. $0 security deposit. †Lease for $279/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $3299 due at lease signing plus tax, license, and doc fees. $0 security deposit. ††Purchase for $27998 cash deal only. Lease: 12k miles/year and $0.15 per mile in excess. (306358/113313; 306356/112380) Expires 2/21/2011.

NEW 2011 TOYOTA RAV4



LEASE FOR $125t /MO+TAX $3,299 DOWN

OR

$0 DOWN!* LEASE FOR $209* /MO+TAX

BUY FOR $19,888tt

AUTOMATIC 4430

5 AT THESE OFFERS!

*Lease for $209/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $0 due at lease signing plus $1000 college grad** rebate and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. †Lease for $125/mo+tax for 36 months on approved credit. $3299 due at lease signing plus $1000 college grad** rebate and tax, license and doc fees. $0 security deposit. ††Purchase for $19888 after $1000 college grad** rebate, $500 military** rebate and must be financed through TFS. Lease: 12k miles/year and $0.15 per mile in excess. Expires 2/21/2011.

NEW 2011 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X2 AUTOMATIC 7104

1 AT THIS OFFER!

BUY FOR $15,998tt

*Purchase for $15998 after $1000 college grad** rebate and tax, license and doc fee and must be financed through TFS. (305583DT/003592) Expires 2/14/2011

CARFAX VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

2.9%APR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON ALL OVER 30 ONE-OWNER VEHICLES IN STOCK!

TOYOTA CERTIFIED Used Vehicles

04 TOYOTA CAMRY SE	07 TOYOTA CAMRY LE	05 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER	10 SCION XB	08 TOYOTA MATRIX
1000746/321434	305658DTA/551870	1000718/081651	1000714/098368	R1000764/005057 (CERT. PREV. RTL.)
$14,498	$15,775	$16,989	$16,989	$16,995

Miller Toyota 866-966-4553

9077 W. Washington Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232

www.MillerToyota.LA

**$1,000 College Graduate Rebate Program applies to new Toyota Camry (excluding Hybrid models), Corolla, Matrix, Rav4, Yaris, & Tacoma. One rebate per finance transaction. Must be college graduate within 2 years from 2 or 4 year accredited college or university or about to graduate within 6 months. Requires letter from registrar's office or copy of diploma. College Graduate Program is subject to change or termination at any time. On approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer valid through 1/3/12. **Valid Military ID required. Rebate offered by Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, $55 dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. All financing subject to credit approval. Sale ends on close of business 2/21/2011.



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
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Previews Properties Specialist

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Just Reduced! Ocean View Condo!



515 Ocean Avenue
#605 South
2 Bed , 2.5 Bath
$ 1,399,000
Please Call for Private Showing

Perfect Home to Expand in Sunset Park!



2310 31st Street
2 Bed , 1 Bath
$795,000
Open Sunday
February 20th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

New Listing! Gorgeous Home!



1724 Cedar Street
3 Bed , 1.75 Bath
$1,299,000
Open Sunday
February 20th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

New Listing ! Must See in Person!



1520 16th Street #101
2 Bed, 2 Bath + Loft
$899,000
Open Sunday
February 20th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For More Pictures & Virtual Tour of Our Properties Visit www. SantaMonicaListings.com

Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from
ALL Agents from ALL Companies
Listed for Sale As of Mid February 2011

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,125,000	$2,347,000
North of Montana	$3,087,500	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,990,000	$790,000
South of Wilshire	$775,000	$470,000
Sunset Park	$990,000	$552,000
Ocean Park	$1,295,000	$480,000
Statistics Updated Every Monday		

Featuring Your Home First

- To find out how I get your home 500% more exposure online on over 100 websites
- To find out the most up-to-date Santa Monica real estate information
- For a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

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Gorgeous Sunset Park Home!



2415 33rd Street
4 Bed , 3 Bath
$1,595,000
Open Sunday
February 20th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
More Pictures and Virtual Tour at www.SantaMonicaListings.com

Ocean Avenue Condo with Ocean & Park Views!



515 Ocean Avenue
507 South
3 Bed , 2.5 Bath
$ 1,629,000
Call for Private Showing
More Pictures and Virtual Tour at www.SantaMonicaListings.com

Four New Construction TownHomes!





1814 12th Street

Unit 1	$859,000
Unit 2	$839,000
Unit 3	$839,000
Unit 4	$799,000

All Units have 3 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths

Rooftop Decks & Custom Kitchens

Open House
Sunday
February 20th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Open Sunday!

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