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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 88

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAMOHI NETS TOP RANKING
SEE PAGE 3

THE BACK IN THE FOLD ISSUE

Convicted child molester will still receive pension

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A former teacher at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District who pleaded guilty to multiple counts of sexual molestation involving nine female students in 2008 is still eligible for his pension, according to the California State Teachers' Retirement System, or CalSTRS.

Thomas Beltran, who was sentenced to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to 10 counts of sexual molestation, has a pre-tax pension allowance of $5,673 each month, said Ricardo Duran, spokesman for CalSTRS.

The amount is based off his compensation for the 2007-08 fiscal year of $88,715. He had over 31 years of service credit with the district.

Even if an employee is convicted of a felony, as Beltran was, the state retirement system cannot deprive him of his pension, Duran said.

"The law in effect right now is basically that a pension is akin to a property right," Duran said.

CalSTRS, prosecutors nor the courts can touch those funds except to fulfill the members' responsibility to pay spousal or child support.

The only other exception is if the pension is padded through fraudulent means, like inflating the last year's salary specifically to bolster the final calculated pension.

The matter came to light after district parent Dr. Lisette Gold learned that former Miramonte Elementary School teacher Mark Berndt, who's been accused of lewd acts against children, will still receive his pension if he is found guilty.

The Daily Press contacted CalSTRS, which released the monthly compensation.

"It's shocking that we had it first before the whole Berndt thing came up. You think it never happens, and I remember living through that horror," Gold said.

According to Duran, 18 percent of the pension costs come directly from the employee, on average.

Another 18 percent is paid in by the employer, 9 percent comes from the state and approximately 55 percent is comprised

SEE BELTRAN PAGE 8



PAVING THE WAY

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A City Hall-contracted work crew was out paving Pacific Street in Ocean Park on Tuesday. A number of streets in the area are currently being repaved.

Rent Control's hot tub decision gets reversed

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES The State Court of Appeals has ruled that rent decreases ordered by the Rent Control Board be paid retroactively to a landlord almost three years after the board decreased the rents of two tenants who complained that the communal hot tub was too cold and sauna access was restricted.

The decision overturned a lower court's ruling that the rent decreases — amounting to $48 and $25, respectively — were justified because landlord Santa Monica Properties stopped heating a Jacuzzi during working hours and installed a timer on the complex's sauna that let it run for at most 25 minutes.

"… [W]e find that all decreases in rents ordered by the hearing examiner's decision should be retroactively paid to (Santa Monica Properties)," the judges wrote in the decision. "No decreases should have been ordered on the evidence presented at the administrative hearing in this case."

According to the decision, two tenants of a 32-unit apartment building under rent control in Santa Monica, R. Liza Salvatore and Roberta Rosskam, filed petitions for a decrease in rent because the building owner reduced the number of hours that a Jacuzzi was heated from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The company also installed a sauna timer that cut the amount of time the sauna heated from one hour to 25 minutes.

On Oct. 14, 2008, the hearing examiner hired by the Rent Control Board issued a 99-page decision reducing Salvatore's rent on a 1,200-square-foot unit by $48 from $1,214.25 per month and Rosskam's rent on her 1,300-square-foot unit $25 from $1,440.33 per month.

The hearing examiner awarded both tenants a $25 decrease because of the reduction of hours that the hot tub was heated. Salvatore was awarded an additional $20 for the loss of the sauna and an additional $3 for an unrelated matter.

All decreases were effective Dec. 1, 2008.

Santa Monica Properties fixed the situation with the hot tub, and the hearing examiner agreed to restore the $25 cut in both rents that related to the hot tub beginning June 1, 2009.

The $20 reduction in Salvatore's rent

SEE HOT TUB PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012

What are we fighting for?
Fairview Library Branch
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Join Anna Stramese, who has a master's in critical studies from USC, for a screening and discussion of Oliver Stone's "Born on the Fourth of July," a film that examines war, peace and patriotism. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

The things we do for love
Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.
At this special Citywide Reads screening at the Main Library, "Double Indemnity" features Fred MacMurray as a mild-mannered insurance salesman who is led to cold-blooded murder by femme fatale Barbara Stanwyck, in this classic of the film noir genre. The script earned Raymond Chandler an Oscar nomination. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012

Redevelopment talk
Santa Monica College,
Bundy Campus
3171 Bundy Dr.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute presents a panel and audience discussion "The End of Redevelopment?," about the possible demise of redevelopment projects in California's cities and counties and the redirection of billions of tax dollars generated by past projects. The panel is hosted by former State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. For more information, call (310) 434-3429.

DIY blogging
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.
Learn about blogs and how to start your own. For more information, call (310) 434-2608.

Hip to hop
Library Ale House
2911 Main St., call for times
The Hophead Heaven Bitter Beer Event will give brew lovers a chance to find out how tasty a humble hop can be. The event runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call (310) 314-4855

Friday, Feb. 24, 2012

Calling all veterans
Santa Monica College, Bundy Campus
3171 Bundy Dr.,
3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Assemblymember Betsy Butler invites veterans and their families to the Veterans Resource Townhall to learn about state and federal benefits available and how to access them. For more information, call (310) 615-3515.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LINCOLN BOULEVARD

Teaching kids to eat wisely

With childhood obesity on the rise, the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation is partnering with the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club to educate kids on ways to eat healthy.

The foundation provided the club with two grants totaling $6,500 to expand Triple Play programming, Boys & Girls Club of America's health and wellness program proven to demonstrate how eating right, keeping fit and forming positive relationships add up to a healthy lifestyle, according to a press release issued Tuesday.

The foundation provided $66,000 in grants to various clubs in California.

Of the money Santa Monica's club received, $1,500 will cover a "Gamesroom Tournament" to bring club members together for competitions that challenge minds and help build friendships, according to the release.

A part of Triple Play, the Healthy Habits program includes cooking classes to encourage healthy habits while explaining the importance of nutritious food — with ingredients coming from the Santa Monica club's newly-built edible garden. That program will continue into the summer.

"We're thrilled to have the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation as a co-sponsor of the Triple Play program and thank them for the work they are doing to make sure that we are continuously able to bring the program to our youth," said Aaron Young, president and CEO of Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club. "Anthem Blue Cross is truly committed to improving the health of kids and families, and the grants provided to Boys & Girls Clubs make an immediate, positive difference in the lives and futures of our club members."

A recent study of more than 2,000 children ages 9-14 who attend Boys & Girls Clubs showed that Triple Play succeeded in getting them to exercise more, eat healthier foods and feel better about themselves, according to the press release.

Triple Play kids increased to 90 percent of the federally recommended amount of daily exercise, which is 60 minutes a day for children, while their peers outside the program decreased to 78 percent.

Approximately 17 percent, or 12.5 million, children and adolescents aged 2-19 years are obese, according to data from the National Health and Examination Survey.

KEVIN HERRERA

MAIN LIBRARY

Two for one

The Santa Monica History Museum will celebrate the spirit of Valentine's Day through the month of December by offering two-for-one admission for $5 to couples that mention the Valentine's special when they visit the museum, which is located at 1350 Seventh St., adjacent to the Main Library.

For more information, call (310) 395-2290.

KH

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

TITLE HOLDERS: **The Santa Monica boys' volleyball celebrates winning last year's CIF-SS Division 4 championship.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi v-ball opens season No. 1

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Defending CIF boys' volleyball champion Santa Monica was named the No. 1 team in Division 4 in the preseason poll, it was announced Monday.

The Vikings, who represent the Southern Section, have a number of players from last year's title team returning, including Trevor Pye and Ethan Kahan. Both players were named to the All-Ocean League first team last year.

Play begins next month.

ST. MONICA GIRLS HEAD TO BRENTWOOD

St. Monica's girls' basketball team continues its playoff run today, traveling to Brentwood for CIF-SS Division 4A play.

Brentwood advanced by defeating Whittier Christian, 55-52, on Monday.

St. Monica enters the game as the No. 6 seed in the playoffs. Brentwood is No. 3.

The game begins at 7 p.m.

PLAY BALL

Samohi's baseball team opens the season on Friday at Moorpark as part of the prestigious Easton Tournament.

The Vikings will play their first home game on Saturday against El Camino Real, also part of the tournament. That game begins at 11 a.m.

Samohi finished last season 13-17, but were undefeated in the Ocean League, going 10-0.

SAMOHI GIRLS AT HOME

Samohi's girls' soccer team hosts South Torrance today in the second round of the CIF-SS Division 4 playoffs.

Samohi advanced to the second round by defeating Laguna Beach, 2-0.

Today's game begins at 3 p.m. on campus.

daniela@smdp.com

Parrot rescuers flocking to help

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES With lots of smarts and long lives, parrots were once favored by Baby Boomers, but more of the former pets are now wild, passed from owner to owner or ignored altogether in cramped cages without the feathered mates they crave, rescuers said.

Karen Windsor, executive director of Foster Parrots, which runs a sanctuary in Hope Valley, R.I., hears just about

SEE **BIRDS** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Liquid currency

Editor:

Santa Monica almost lost the Santa Monica Pier, also the Civic Auditorium. And now the historic memorial rose garden is to go and possibly the significant "Chain Reaction" ("Damaged 'Chain Reaction' sculpture needs a savior," Feb. 3, page 1).

My suggestion and a solution is not to replace the roses with water features, but divert these monies to saving "Chain Reaction."

Water features, also proposed in the new park, are a shameful and frivolous use of precious water.

Asta Young
Santa Monica

Still making noise

Editor:

As a former Santa Monican, I've been following the current debate about what to do with "Chain Reaction," the piece by the late Paul Conrad that is now, evidently, falling to smithereens.

If a public/private effort can come together to have it restored, well, all to the good. Perhaps Iran and North Korea will donate to the effort. I like my old friend Bruce Henstell's suggestion: let it fall gracefully ("Proposing an alternative," Letters to the Editor, Feb. 9).

I envision a pretty, black-iron fence around it which would certainly be cheaper than the current estimates of restoring it. Of course, a chain link fence does add to the metaphor.

Maybe it will defy all odds and not collapse until there is a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons. That would be splendid.

But, if the decision is made to destroy it, then tear it down on Aug. 6.

It is now up to the people of Santa Monica as to how city monies should be spent.

And, R.I.P. Paul Conrad. Your art is still making noise.

C.D. Rhoden
Pinon Hills, Calif.

Focus on the students we have

Editor:

Allowing kids from other cities to take seats in our schools? Am I the only person who thinks this is a bad idea ("School board considering adding permit students," Feb. 4-5, page 1)?

Why should we allow more students into the district when we have one huge public high school all the elementary and middle schools feed into? A high school that is over subscribed as it is!

I think this is the strength of the teachers' union talking. We know that each child enrolled in the district represents a certain amount of money for the district and they need 25 kids (approximately) to fund a FTE (full-time employee). A teacher, or another administrator.

Great. The teachers and administrators get job security. And what do we get for our high Santa Monica property taxes? Kids from another city filling the seats to justify teachers' jobs.

I thought previous administrations in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District limited permits for a reason: to not overcrowd the schools; to ensure a proven successful low number of kids per teacher; to work on producing quality instruction, not quantity; to close the achievement gap between wealthier children and their poorer counterparts.

Apparently, the unions have other priorities. Keeping their members employed with generous benefits we can ill afford. Benefits and salaries the taxpayers in Santa Monica pay for – to pay for Venice and West L.A. permit students in our district.

Why don't we concentrate on doing the best possible job educating the children who are in the district now?

Kiki Monroe
Santa Monica

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Meredith Pro Tem

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

High school redux: Monica, Whitney, Gwyneth and Demi

THIS WEEK PBS AIRED THE TWO-PART, four-hour documentary "Clinton." Am I alone in thinking they could have kept going? Particularly because the program centers on the Monica Lewinsky affair heard 'round the world — literally. (Thanks again, Linda Tripp!) They actually could have just left Clinton out of "Clinton" and talked only about Monica instead. "The Real Hussy of the Oval Office" would have proudly retained a permanent spot on my DVR.

Maybe it's because Monica and I are the same age. Maybe it's because I know a few women who likely (OK, easily) would have done the same thing had they been in her blue dress. But I'll never forget being hypnotized by the special New York Times insert of the Starr Report when it was published on a Saturday in September 1998.

It read like an even juicier Danielle Steel novel. If the Starr Report had been a straight-to-video film, it would have far outsold Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee's home movie, not to mention the home movie of whoever the guy was with Paris Hilton and the home movie of whoever that other guy was with Kim Kardashian. It was that dirty.

Monica was exactly like so many girls with whom I went to high school. They made no secret of the fact that they would do anything to be the Molly Ringwald to Jake Ryan; except as we all know, in real life, Jake Ryan never would have left the prom queen for the nondescript sophomore who was flat as a board.

If Monica had been given the opportunity when she was in high school to let Jake feel up what was there and then drop her off afterward a block away from her house without so much as the fake promise of a future phone call, she still would have bragged about it to all her friends, and I guarantee she'd have filled nine journals on their 20-minute, er, encounter. Of course the real Monica blabbed every sordid detail to Linda Tripp. She was so that girl.

There's no shortage of reasons I can't get my hands on enough material about Monica Lewinsky, but to be fair, there are other women in the spotlight who also consume me because of their uncanny similarities to women who I used to sit next to in homeroom.

Whitney Houston (too soon?) and Bobby Brown were totally like Brenda and Eddie from Billy Joel's "Scenes From an Italian Restaurant" — the king and the queen of the prom. But then they ended up with the deep-pile carpet and a couple of paintings from Sears, reliving their high school good times over the crack pipe.

Sadly, something sad or tragic always ends up happening to the Brendas and Eddies, Bobbys and Whitneys. While everyone remembers them from their glory days, what's equally memorable is the fact that was all they ever really had. Nothing but potential up in smoke and, eventually, turned to ashes.

There's no way Gwyneth Paltrow ever would have been friends with me in high school. Despite bottle after bottle of Sun-In, I wasn't ever nearly blond enough, nor was I WASP-y enough (despite the fact that she is, in fact, half Jewish) to have been deserving of her two-faced friendship.

Gwyneth was that girl in high school who was so snobby you just assumed she was insecure and would get nicer with age. But then you ran into her at the coffee shop last week when you were home visiting your parents and realized she actually wasn't unsure of herself in high school. No, she was really just a bitch then, just as she still is today.

WHITNEY HOUSTON (TOO SOON?) AND BOBBY BROWN WERE TOTALLY LIKE BRENDA AND EDDIE FROM BILLY JOEL'S 'SCENES FROM AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT' — THE KING AND THE QUEEN OF THE PROM.

It's a relief in some ways because you're spared that "what if" moment of awkward bonding with someone 20 years after graduation. Mostly because she still acts like you're just as invisible to her now as you were to her then.

And then there were the girls in high school like Demi Moore, who was that upperclassman who ruled the school, and when she started dating a freshman, it made everyone look at freshmen just a little differently. After all, if she was doing it (or him), it must be cool, no?

But then you looked just a little closer and realized it was actually kind of pathetic how she, too, was doing keg stands like the freshmen did when they wanted everyone to notice them — particularly because she let her shirt fly up over her head when she was chugging with her mouth sealed around the tap as she stayed in a handstand position. You thought once you were a senior you could stop playing those reindeer "Look at me! Look at me!" games. Girls like her were, and still are, that embarrassing realization that with age does not maturity, clarity or class necessarily come.

I missed my own high school reunion last fall, on paper because it occurred when I was six weeks postpartum with my second daughter. But I didn't make any great effort to attend also because I'm on Facebook and read US Weekly, and aren't they both just one big high school reunion? If only I could find a way to get Monica to friend me.

More at MeredithCarroll.com

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Prosecutors oppose Jackson doctor's bail bid

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES Michael Jackson's doctor was properly sentenced to four years behind bars in the star's death and should not be released on bail, prosecutors argued Tuesday in a response to his bid for release while his case is appealed.

Dr. Conrad Murray would be a danger to the community and a flight risk if he was released on bail or on his own recognizance with an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet, Deputy District Attorneys David Walgren and Deborah Brazil said.

Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a trial focusing on use of the anesthetic propofol as a sleeping medication for the superstar. Jackson died of an overdose of the drug in June 2009.

Murray's four-year jail sentence is the highest term that could be imposed for that crime.

Prosecutors said the sentence was appropriate under the circumstances and noted it was unlikely Murray would serve more than half that time.

"Michael Jackson died because of a totality of circumstances directly attributable to the defendant," the motion said. Murray had practiced "a form of highly dangerous and experimental medicine that directly resulted in Mr. Jackson's death," it added.

"Based on his failure to accept responsibility for the decisions he made, his complete lack of remorse and lack of insight into the danger of his criminally negligent conduct, he remains a danger to the communi-

SEE **JACKSON** PAGE 7

BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Ex-teacher pleads not guilty to lewd acts

A former teacher whose arrest sparked a scandal at an elementary school that led to the replacement of all of its teachers pleaded not guilty Tuesday to committing lewd acts with 23 children in his classroom.

Mark Berndt, 61, remained jailed on $23 million bail. He was the first of two teachers arrested within a week on molestation charges involving students at Miramonte Elementary School

Martin Springer, 49, previously pleaded not guilty after he was charged with committing three lewd acts on one girl in 2009. He is free on $300,000 bail.

The entire Miramonte staff was replaced — at least temporarily — as the investigation proceeds.

Former students have sued, alleging other molestation incidents.

Outside the courtroom where Berndt was arraigned, his attorney, Victor Acevedo, complained that deputies used a loudspeaker system at the jail to identify Berndt to other inmates as a child molestation suspect.

He said the actions "put a bulls-eye on his head," placing his client in danger.

"Anyone accused of these charges, who is in the custody of the Sheriff's Department, always runs the risk of their personal safety, for obvious reasons," Acevedo said.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore told City News Service that an investigation has been launched into the claim.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH

Agent who shot colleague fought sex crime

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent believed to have fatally shot a colleague who opened fire on a supervisor in Long Beach, Calif. is known for investigating sex crimes against children.

Perry Woo received the U.S. Justice Department's Officer of the Year Award for Missing and Exploited Children in 2004 for an investigation that led to the capture of eight alleged child molesters and pornographers. Authorities credit his work for rescuing 30 Mexican children, including an 8-year-old.

ICE is not publicly identifying Woo as the agent who killed his colleague, Ezequiel Garcia, after Garcia allegedly fired his weapon at ICE's second-in-command in the Los Angeles region.

However, an official familiar with the investigation of the shooting confirms Woo's identity to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the source is not authorized to speak publicly.

AP

The Q Line

Paying it forward

The Planning Commission last week included a living wage provision into a development agreement with a hotel project at 710 Wilshire Blvd. This may set a precedent for future hotels if the City Council signs-off on the agreement.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it is fair to force a developer to pay a living wage as part of the cost of doing business in Santa Monica and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.
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City of Santa Monica

President's Day Trash Schedule

There is no collection on Monday, February 20th.

All refuse collection will be one day later than the regular schedule.

Monday's routes will be collected on Tuesday.
Tuesday's routes will be collected on Wednesday.
Wednesday's routes will be collected on Thursday.
Thursday's routes will be collected on Friday.
Friday's routes will be collected on Saturday.

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Study finds $135.7B in local pension liabilities

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Two dozen city and county governments in California face a combined $135.7 billion in unfunded pension liabilities, according to a study released Tuesday that also found the problem is growing.

The Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and a nonprofit group, California Common Sense, evaluated 24 local government pension systems that are not part of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the state's main pension fund. The funds ranged from those for smaller entities, such as Santa Barbara and Stanislaus County, to the largest local governments in California, including Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

The report found that none of the systems is at least 80 percent funded, which often is used as a benchmark for the minimum funding level of pension funds. The study assumed a 5 percent annual rate of return for the funds' investments, much more conservative than the 7.75 percent or greater annual return rate assumed by many of the funds.

The two retirement systems operated by the city of Fresno came close, with a funded ratio of 78.5 percent, while the pension system in neighboring Kern County was only 41.5 percent funded.

"Each system substantially understates liabilities and overstates funded ratios," the report stated.

The benefits paid to retired workers also vary.

Government retirees in the city of Los Angeles received the highest pensions in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, with an average annual benefit of $46,211. Stanislaus County was the lowest at $24,179 a year.

Public safety employees retire with more generous benefits. The average pension for a retired peace officer or firefighter in Fresno County was $48,732, while the average in San Jose city was $90,612.

The study found that spending on public employee pensions has grown 11.4 percent a year since 1999, making it the fastest-growing cost for cities and counties.

Los Angeles County spokesman David Sommers said the county has been careful to protect taxpayers and disputed some of the report's findings. He estimated that Los Angeles County's pension system is 90

SEE PENSION PAGE 7

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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Santa Monica Community College District
Facilities Planning
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER
(RFQ NO. 002-2012)

Issued February 15, 2012

The Santa Monica Community College District is requesting qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to perform the architectural and engineering services for the District's Early Childhood Education Center. This is a cooperative project with the City of Santa Monica and will be financed by the college's Measure AA Bond Program and the City of Santa Monica. The District will construct a new early childhood education center on property at the Santa Monica Civic Center. The proposed project constructs a new state licensed Early Childhood Education Center to provide a teaching laboratory for Santa Monica College's Early Childhood Education curriculum serving up to 100 infants, toddlers and preschool age children in the community.

The following experience is mandatory and required for all submissions:
- **Recent experience in the planning and design of a child development center.**
- **Experience submitting and certifying projects through the Division of State Architect (DSA).**

If you are interested in this RFQ, go to our web site, register and complete the questionnaire by 2:00 pm Thursday, March 1, 2012. Our web site is located at: **smcbondprogram.com**

All responses are due by 2:00 pm on Thursday March 15, 2012. Late responses will be returned unopened. FAX OR EMAIL RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have any questions regarding this RFQ please send and email to rfc@smcbondprogram.com. Include the words "Early Childhood Education Center" in the subject line. **We are unable to respond to telephone calls. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason.**

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Santa Monica Community College District
Facilities Planning
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
MALIBU CENTER
(RFQ NO. 001-2012)

Issued February 15, 2012

The Santa Monica Community College District is requesting qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to perform the architectural and engineering services for the District's new Malibu Center. This is a cooperative project with the City of Malibu and the County of Los Angeles and will be financed by the college's Measure S Bond Program. The District will construct a new classroom and lab building at the Malibu Civic Center. The proposed project includes a Los Angeles County Sheriff's sub-station. The building is approximately 25,000 gross square feet with a construction budget of $15,000,000.

The following experience is mandatory and required for all submissions:
- **Recent experience in the planning and design of a college or university classroom building.**
- **Recent experience with the planning and design of a public safety facility.**
- **Experience submitting and certifying projects through the Division of State Architect (DSA).**

If you are interested in this RFQ, go to our web site, register and complete the questionnaire. Our web site is located at: **smcbondprogram.com**

The entire process is accomplished electronically online; no paper submissions will be accepted. Please note that we may be using your public web site to view examples of your completed projects and to obtain other information about your firm as part of the evaluation process.

All responses are due by 2:00 pm on Thursday March 1, 2012. Late responses will not be considered. FAX OR EMAIL RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have any questions regarding this RFQ please send and email to rfc@smcbondprogram.com. Include the words "Malibu Center" in the subject line. **We are unable to respond to telephone calls. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason.**

PENSION
FROM PAGE 6

percent funded.

He also said it has been revised four times since 1977, including four separate benefit rollbacks and increases in employee contributions.

"We've been very conservative over the decades, not spending in good years to the detriment of bad years," Sommers said.

Los Angeles County pulled out of the Social Security system three decades ago, he said. The county also negotiated no cost increases in its current labor contract, which will save taxpayers in the future, Sommers said.

The report's authors said the study represents 99 percent of the independent public employee pension systems in California. It is being released at a time when Gov. Jerry Brown seeks to bring public-sector retirement benefits more in line with those in the private sector and as weak investment returns are adding to the unfunded liabilities of many government pension funds.

The report was co-authored by California Common Sense, a student-oriented nonprofit organization at Stanford that focuses on government transparency.

JACKSON
FROM PAGE 5

ty," the motion stated.

It noted that he has many contacts outside the state and out of the country and could flee if released.

The motion also said Murray has not established the existence of any substantial legal question that might result in reversal of his conviction.

His lawyer, J. Michael Flanagan, said in a motion last month that Murray knows he cannot work as a doctor but would find other employment. He suggested the sentence and Murray's mode of confinement is extremely severe for a man with no prior criminal record.

Murray is being held in solitary confinement and is chained to a table when he meets with his lawyers, according to Flanagan, who said Murray is extremely sorrowful about Jackson's death.

Flanagan conceded that Murray made some medical misjudgments but said he never intended harm to Jackson.

With Murray's appeal expected to take more than a year to move through the courts, the attorney said it would be unfair to keep him jailed in the interim. His appeal has not yet been filed. Conceivably, he could serve his entire sentence before the appeal is decided.

A hearing on the motion was set for Friday.

Email QLINE@SMDP.COM. WE'LL PRINT THE ANSWERS.
Sound off every week on our Q-Line™. See page 5 for more info.

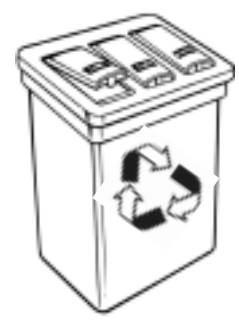


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HOT TUB

FROM PAGE 1

relating to the sauna, however, remained in place.

The property owner went to the courts, asking for a review of the Rent Control Board's final decision on the rent decrease and asked that the court force the board to make a decision on any rent decrease within 120 days.

The trial court ruled against Santa Monica Properties on both counts, but the appeals court reversed the decision on rent decreases, saying that there was no evidence that the tenants' rent had become excessive as a result of the changes to the hot tub and sauna.

It also required that all rent reductions be repaid to the landlord.

The ruling troubled Rent Control staff less for its impact on this case and more for the potential precedent that it sets, said Stephen Lewis, spokesperson for Rent Control.

"It went way beyond expressing a concern about the amount of the decrease," Lewis said. "They could have just said the amount of the decrease is too much."

Instead, the court said that the reduction in services was so minor that no decrease in rent was warranted.

The decision evoked two different provisions of rent control law. The first is called "fair return," which promises that the property owner can expect a fair return for the use of their property, but not necessarily a profit or maximum return, Lewis said.

The second is rent decrease, which is applied to even things out when a landlord takes away services like a parking space but tries to charge the tenants the same amount as always.

"The decision jumbled these two concepts up, and that creates a big conceptual problem for dealing with rent decrease," Lewis said.

The Rent Control Board will have to decide in a future meeting how they want to respond to the court's ruling.

Staff is working on defining those options, which could include a request that the court reconsider its position, an appeal to the California Supreme Court or a request that the decision no longer be published.

If the decision was not published, it could not be used as a precedent in a future case, Lewis said.

ashley@smdp.com

BELTRAN

FROM PAGE 1

of return on investment.

Under current law, CalSTRS is required to pay out pensions to felons, but a move proposed in October 2011 by Gov. Jerry Brown could change that.

The 12-point proposal aims to lower state pension costs from a number of fronts, one of which would require public officials who commit crimes in the course of their duties to forfeit their pensions and related benefits.

Even if such a proposal were to get approved, Duran said, it would likely only apply to new employees, similar to many of the other proposed reforms.

"Case law has shown that it's hard to take away from existing employees," Duran said.

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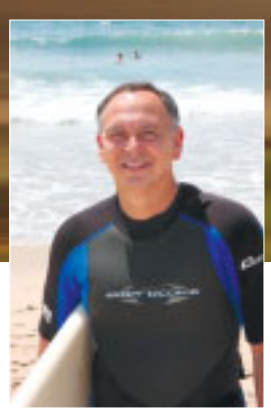


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STAR POWER

Photo courtesy Ballantines PR

Actor Pierce Brosnan (center) was at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Monday for the opening of the Cinemagic Los Angeles Film and Television Festival for Young People

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BIRDS
FROM PAGE 3

every excuse for giving up a parrot: divorce, marriage, babies, kids leaving home, kids moving back, "the bird hates me," age, disease.

So has Mira Tweti, executive director of the national Parrot Care Project based in Los Angeles.

"The lucky ones end up in rescues. Others are released to fend for themselves, But the vast majority are neglected to death or passed around from home to home and then neglected, sometimes relegated to garages where no one hears them screaming for attention," Tweti said.

The sanctuary Windsor runs with her husband, Marc Johnson, is full, like hundreds of other parrot rescues and sanctuaries around the country.

Part of the problem is the larger varieties of parrots can live from 25 to 100 years or longer (the bigger the bird, the longer its life). And they can be demanding, aggressive, loud and in need of a lot of space.

No one has exact numbers, but millions of parrots were bought between the 1960s and 1995, when the pet bird boom subsided, said Tweti, who owns one herself and wrote a book, "Of Parrots and People," in 2008.

There are about 370 known species of parrots. The most common is the parakeet, but Macaws and African greys are also popular, Tweti said.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said medium and large parrots like macaws, cockatoos, Amazons and African greys are smart (parrots have the intelligence of a 5-year-old child) and social animals that need a place to fly, climb and exercise. They need mental stimulation and at least one companion. They are extremely loyal to their mates, though both males and females might have trysts.

To improve their lot in captivity, Tweti's group will launch a five-year campaign March 25 at a bird shop, Omar's Exotic Birds, in Santa Monica offering to exchange too-small parrot cages for larger ones. She said experts will also spend time in 50 cities around the country offering free and low-cost cage swaps and to show owners how to make over their own cages.

There will be avian nutrition experts, bird behaviorists, rescuers to promote adoptions and builders to conduct workshops on making simple and inexpensive aviaries, Tweti said.

"A lot of people say no cage is big enough," said Windsor, whose group runs the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. "But baby steps are important. It's not easy to take care of a bird. A $15 dollar cage and a bowl of seed is not enough. The right size cage is a rainforest, but what Mira is pushing is doable."

There are at least 1,500 parrot rescues in the country, and most run at maximum capacity, Tweti said.

Windsor, who got her first parrot at a garage sale in San Diego, said she gets at least a call a day from someone trying to find a home for their bird. And that doesn't count calls for help with raids and seizures. Last year, Windsor's group helped with 800 parrots taken from a Texas parrot mill, 165 seized at a Tennessee mill and 130 taken from an Ohio hoarder, Windsor said.

"We are all completely overwhelmed, overfilled and underfunded," she said.

Some people, unable to find homes for their birds, will let them loose. It's illegal to release non-native birds, but there are hundreds of thousands of feral birds in self-sustaining, noisy flocks in cities across the country. They are thriving and breeding, Tweti said.

Despite the increasing wild numbers, some people are buying, so parrot mills pump them out and smugglers sneak them in from other countries.

Foster Parents' mascot is Lola, a green-winged macaw who lived in a dog crate in a basement for several years, Windsor said. He arrived in 2001 with one eye, a brain injury, a seizure disorder and broken bones in his wing and feet.

The vet said put him down, but they chose medicine instead. "Today, he is a vital, wonderful, happy bird. He is a symbol for all the birds that live in dark and forgotten places and need their place in the sun," Windsor said.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56.5°

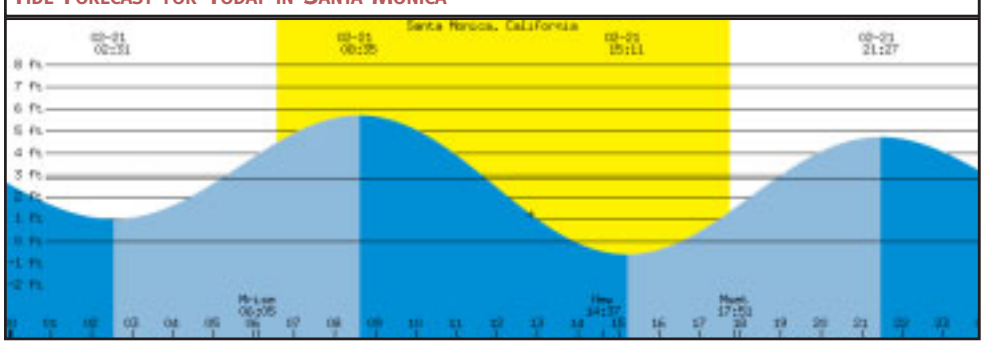
Swell Forecast

Looking smaller, about chest max at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Sees our next NW swell, but with size running still about chest max at west facing breaks.

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 15, 2012**

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 -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 22 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LiterGUY, SBMA

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.	F	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Arbs creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A	A+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	B	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	B	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	F	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	C	D
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	A	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBW jetty).	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	D

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB

Mattingly wastes no time, picks Kershaw for opener

A casually dressed Don Mattingly leaned back in his clubhouse chair admittedly much more relaxed his second time around as Dodgers manager.

Nobody will question that his first move of spring training is spot on: Mattingly wasted no time Tuesday choosing reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw as the opening day starter for Los Angeles come April 5 at San Diego — even if it's a no-brainer to slot the 21-game winner at No. 1 in the rotation.

Mattingly and the Dodgers are bracing for another chaotic season considering the sale of the team is expected by April 30 and nobody knows exactly what will happen with new leadership at the top. Kershaw, for one, is rooting for former skipper Joe Torre's group because he's a familiar face.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDIA

Magic Johnson starting network targeting African Americans

Earvin "Magic" Johnson is launching a basic cable television network targeting black viewers with positive, uplifting images of African Americans.

The former Los Angeles Lakers star tells the Los Angeles Times (http://lat.ms/Ar1Th7) that his 24-hour Aspire channel will also offer opportunities for blacks who have struggled to find work in mainstream Hollywood.

Aspire's mix will include film, TV, music, comedy, performing arts and shows about faith.

The 52-year-old Johnson, who was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002, says he's wanted a vehicle to showcase positive images of African Americans with stories written, produced and directed by blacks.

Comcast Corp. reached an agreement with the FCC and Department of Justice to diversify.

Johnson's channel will launch on June 30.

AP

MLB

Ramirez expected to arrive to A's on Friday

Manny Ramirez is expected to join Oakland at its spring training facility on Friday, yet another part of the Athletics' offseason overhaul.

"I watched some video of him and saw the swing. It didn't look any different, and it looked like he was in good shape," A's manager Bob Melvin said Tuesday. "He'll be ready to go with the position players and we'll see what he has to offer."

After trading All-Star pitchers Trevor Cahill and Gio Gonzalez for prospects, the A's signed veteran pitcher Bartolo Colon, re-signed outfielder Coco Crisp, agreed to terms with Cuban outfielder Yoenis Cespedes and added Ramirez.

"I'm feeling really good, mostly on a spiritual level. I'm very confident with the shape I'm in heading to spring training," Ramirez said during an interview on Dominican radio station 104.5 FM. "There were three teams interested, but I left God to decide, and that's why I signed with the Oakland A's. I'm only coming back because I always loved baseball, ever since I was little kid. I have a passion for the sport, and I know I can still play."

AP



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City of Santa Monica

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #3089 – FURNISH AND DELIVER TWO (2) NEW AND UNUSED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE BACKHOE LOADERS AS REQUESTED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167#
Submission Deadline is March 14, 2012 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8215, or by e-mailing your request to monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

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

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

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:15pm, 3:50pm

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:50pm, 9:40pm

Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) 2hrs 11min
1:45pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

Grey (R) 1hr 57min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
6:30pm, 9:15pm

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

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm

Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arietti) (G) 1hr 34min
11:25am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) 2hrs 11min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
9:40pm

Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Chronicle (2012/ I) (PG-13) 1hr 23min
11:00am, 1:10pm, 3:30pm, 5:50pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
12:05pm, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

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

2012 Oscar Shorts: Documentary (NR)
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Descendants (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Bullhead (R) 2hrs 04min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

Royal Opera House's: Il Trittico - Encore (NR)
7:30pm

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:50pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

Vow (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:10am, 12:15pm, 1:40pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm

This Means War (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:20am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Woman in Black (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:35am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
4:05pm

Rampart (R) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:30pm

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

Do what you want tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ You follow through on your instincts with someone you look up to. Communicate what you feel is necessary. Perhaps revealing more of your thoughts would be helpful. At this point, you probably will keep them within. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You know exactly what you want and where you are going. You also easily convince others of your sense of direction. You have supporters and a strong understanding of your goals. When these factors blend, you head toward success. Tonight: Let the good times begin.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ While you thought you could relax, you discover that that might be an impossibility. Wherever you are, no matter what your plans are, you will step up to the plate. Tonight: A family member or roommate could be on the warpath.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Revise your thoughts about a partner or loved one. You could be seeing only what you want, and/or you are not recognizing a change in this person's behavior. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Build a key relationship on common ground. Whether this bond is new or old, you will notice where change might be good. A struggle over finances could happen. Your words might be more defensive than you realize. Tonight: Postpone a chat until you both are relaxed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be far more sarcastic or angry than you realize. Creative distractions and ideas can camouflage what is really going on, even with you. When animosity breaks out with a partner or friend, look within to see what is going on with you. Tonight: Get past a hassle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ What you feel is appropriate with someone in your daily life probably is. However, for some reason anger could break out before you can have a conversation with this person. Do not overthink a situation, if possible. Tonight: Do what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ A meeting could be more important than you realize. You could be drawn to one specific person, or just believe that he or she is very special. Observe more before making a decision. Might you be putting this person on a pedestal? Tonight: Where the fun is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Stay centered and direct when dealing with a family member about a property issue. You might want to revise your thinking about a money matter. An investment might not be as good as you think it is. Tonight: Happy close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your perspective is subject to change. What you originally thought was OK might not be the case now. The more you learn, the fewer judgments you will make. Make sure your goals transform with your intellect. Tonight: You do not need to go far.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Your perspective of a financial matter changes rapidly and gives you yet a different point of view. How you viewed yourself several years ago is substantially different than now. You are in a period of transition. Tonight: Someone is adjusting to the ever-changing you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Defer to others, even if you are sure of yourself. You don't need to prove that you are right over and over again. Let others come to that conclusion on their own. Tonight: Someone you care about becomes feisty. Let this person be.

Happy birthday

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

This year you demonstrate the ability to get along with people who wield power. Your creativity and charisma draw people toward you and also allow barriers to dissolve. Many people act differently with you than they do with others. The downside is that you will see some of their less-amiable traits. If you are single, you will have to sort through quite a few admirers. Know what type of relationship you want, and that information will help you choose the right person. If you are attached, remember that this bond consists of two people. Note a tendency to be me-oriented. Another PISCES demonstrates a different side of your sign.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



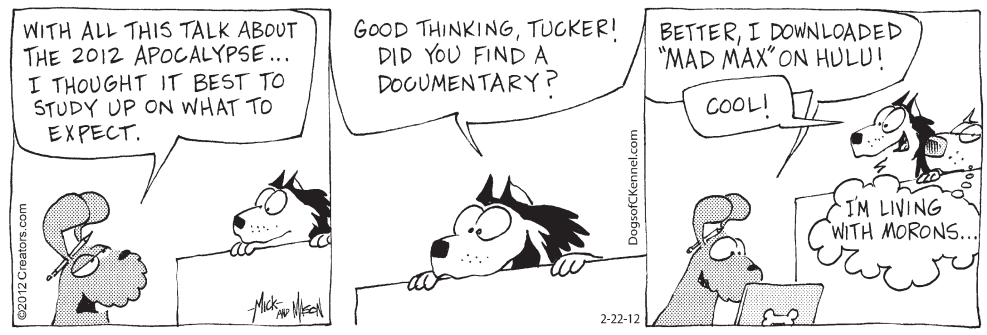
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



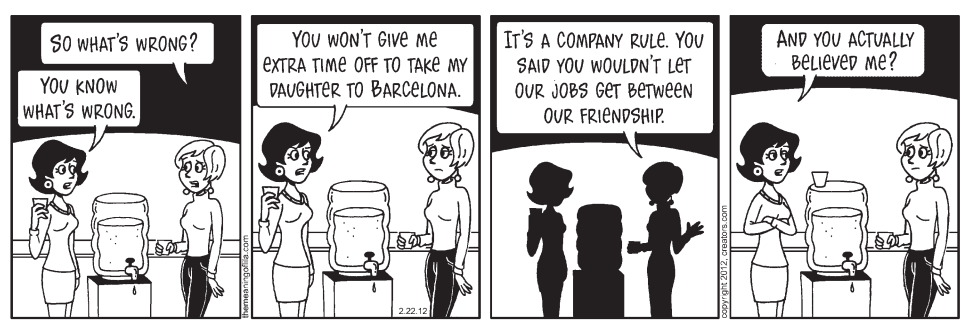
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cronies
5 Yester-year
9 Island greeting
11 Croc's cousin
12 Daytona events
13 Dunne of films
14 Annoy
15 Guitar great Carlos
17 "The Bartered Bride" composer
19 Ready to go
20 Solemn
21 Track act
22 Move smoothly
24 Check-cashing needs
26 Wanders
29 Candle count
30 Billings setting
32 Yellow raisin
34 Disen-cumber
35 — noster
36 Nonsense
38 Nonsen-sical
39 Studio stand
40 Play group
41 Do a KP chore

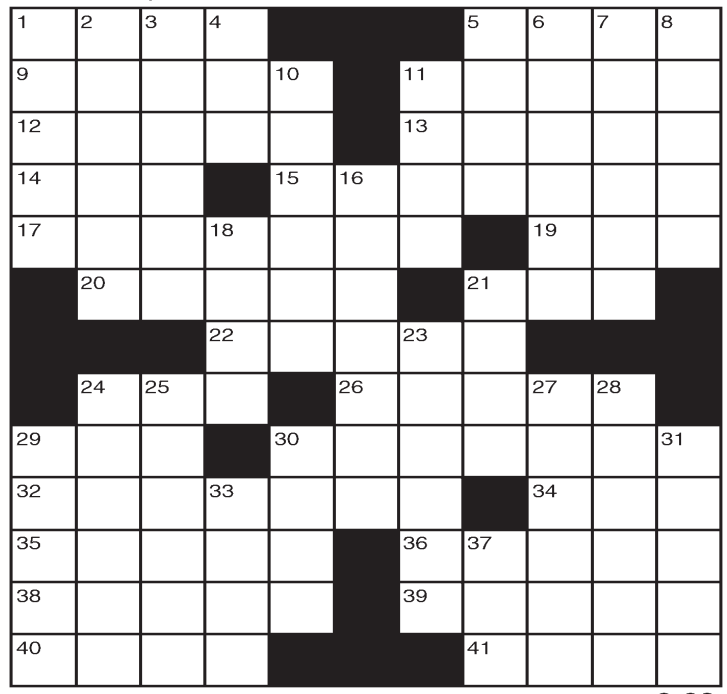
DOWN

1 Seine straddler
2 Burglar deterrents
3 Pendant with a picture
4 That lass
5 Divide
6 Comfort-able
7 Shake-speare creation
8 Goodie
10 Set upon
11 Gershon of "Bound"
16 Fireplace tool
18 Price holders
21 Trounce
23 Be generous
24 Large lizard
25 River features
27 Oscar winner Tomei
28 Skilled shooter
29 Savory jelly
30 Foal's mother
31 "Rolling in the Deep" singer
33 Campout sight
37 Kanye's music

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

Yesterday's answer

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2-22

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

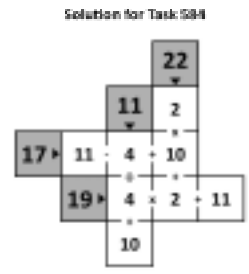
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

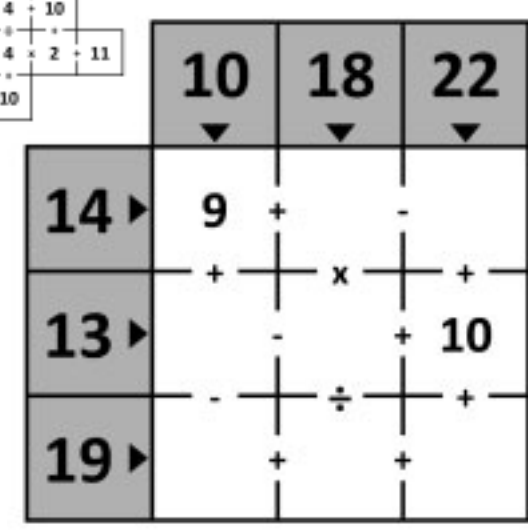
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Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

3, 4, 6, 8, 8, 9, 9

Solution for Task 584





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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 19 32 41 42 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5: 2 23 24 37 38

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

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Lucky Star 2nd: 06 California Classic 3rd: 05 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:45.86

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Paul Rothschild, 40, was facing a Dec. 9 court date in Lake County, Ill., on a charge of indecent solicitation of a minor -- a charge that could have sent him to prison for five years. Apparently oblivious of the imminent danger, Rothschild was arrested on Dec. 7 after a months-long campaign to entice another minor girl to engage in sex.

■ In November, Rickie La Touche, 30, was convicted in England's Preston Crown Court of killing his wife in a rage over her having allegedly destroyed the Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker memorabilia that he had collected since childhood. And in January, a judge in Portland, Ore., ordered a 45-day jail sentence, plus mental evaluation, for David Canterbury, 33, after he attacked Toys R Us customers with a lightsaber in each hand. And in February in Brooklyn, N.Y., Flynn Michael expanded his search for his stolen $400 custom-made lightsaber. "I guess that's the joke," said Michael, self-pityingly. "Some Jedi I turned out to be."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1957 - Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam survives a communist shooting assassination attempt in Ban Me Thuot.

1958 - Egypt and Syria join to form the United Arab Republic.

1959 - Lee Petty wins the first Daytona 500.

1972 - The Official Irish Republican Army detonates a car bomb at Aldershot barracks, killing seven and injuring nineteen others.

1973 - Cold War: Following President Richard Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China, the two countries agree to establish liaison offices.

1974 - The Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit begins in Lahore, Pakistan. Thirty-seven countries attend and twenty-two heads of state and government participate. It also recognizes Bangladesh.

WORD UP!

bespeak
\ bih-SPEEK \ , verb;
1. To show; indicate.
2. To ask for in advance.
3. To reserve beforehand; engage in advance; make arrangements for.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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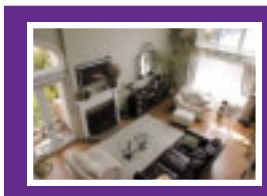
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist
Coldwell Banker - Montana Avenue
310.395.1133

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL





New Listing
1018 4th Street #304

$5,900 per month



Hurry
Won't Last

2 Bedroom
2.5 Bath
Almost 2000 sq ft
Loft
Roof-top Deck
Remodeled 2005

1424 Marguerita Avenue
North of Montana
Wonderful, Corner Lot

5 Bed + 4.5 Bath

Soaring Ceilings &
Sky-High Windows

$2,999,000

Call Kate for a
Private Showing



619 Euclid Street
North of Montana
Great, Quiet Street

5 Bed + 4.5 Bath

Great Square Footage

$2,899,000

Open Sunday
February 26th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



12220 Dorothy Street

Brentwood Flats Traditional
Custom French Country Kitchen
4 Bed + 4 Bath
$2,099,000
Open Sunday
February 26th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



1053 17th Street

Great Opportunity to
Renovate or Rebuild
2 Bed + 1 Bath
$989,000
Open Sunday
February 26th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Late - February 2012

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,995,000
North of Montana	=	$3,145,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,450,000
South of Wilshire	=	$899,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,197,500
Ocean Park	=	$1,649,000

Statistics updated every Monday

11 Marine Terrace #1



Stunning Ocean Views
3 Bed + 3.5 Bath
$28,000/ Month

Call Kate for a
Private Showing

1751 Appian Way #101



Only ONE unit left!
Gorgeous Ocean Views

1 Bedroom + 1 Bath

$4,999 / Month

Kate Bransfield
Proud Sponsor Of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School
Roosevelt Elementary School
LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA
Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE

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

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