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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 89



Santa Monica Daily Press

BELISARIO ADMITS TO DRUG USE
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE GIVING SOMETHING UP ISSUE

Goldline, City Attorney claim victory in lawsuit

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY One of the nation's largest gold dealers will have to strengthen its internal procedures and repay up to $4.5 million to customers who complained that the company engaged in unfair sales practices and provided inaccurate price information, the City Attorney's Office announced Wednesday.

The settlement concludes a civil lawsuit filed Feb. 16 against Goldline International, Inc. and over a year and a half of investigation by the City Attorney's Office.

Criminal charges filed in November 2011 were dropped as part of the settlement.

Goldline International is a 50-year-old company based in Santa Monica that supplies precious metals to collectors and investors in the United States.

According to its figures, the company has over 400 employees and has annual sales exceeding $500 million.

The City Attorney's Office alleged that the company tricked its clients into buying

SEE GOLD PAGE 8

Museum finally cleared for takeoff

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO After a nine-year hiatus, Santa Monica's Museum of Flying will take off once more on Saturday with a host of new exhibits and lofty goals to encourage young people to engage in math and sciences.

The museum (http://museumofflying.com/) will open its new location at 3100 Airport Ave. at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 with a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony, and will offer $5 admission and hourly raffles as part of the festivities.

Visitors will find a new space outfitted with extensive exhibits on the history of the Douglas Aircraft Co., which played a huge role in Santa Monica's growth, along with displays featuring other southern California aircraft and aerospace companies.

The revamped offerings will provide a broader representation of the history of flight, said Daniel Ryan, managing director of the Museum of Flying.

"We're focused on featuring the companies here that had so much to do with the growth of the aviation industry," Ryan said.

The new priority represents a departure from the museum's own historical emphasis.

It was originally founded in 1974 by Donald Douglas Jr. as the Douglas Museum and Library before moving to the north side of the Santa Monica Airport from its southern end in 1989.

It reopened that April as the Museum of Flying, and had up to 50 vintage airplanes on display.

The museum closed its doors in July 2002 and eventually vacated the property in 2003 under economic pressures, Ryan said.

SEE MUSEUM PAGE 8



ASHES TO ASHES

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson of St. Monica Catholic Church creates a cross on the forehead of a parishioner using ashes from burned palms as part of the Ash Wednesday service. Hundreds of people showed up for the noon service, which marked the first day of Lent. The distribution of ashes is supposed to remind believers of their own mortality and calls them to repentance.

Schools work to balance gay, religious rights

BY JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press

Dozens of colleges have scrutinized how on-campus Christian groups operate after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowed a law school to deny funding to a Christian group that would not admit gays.

The 2010 ruling touched on gay and religious rights on campus, and the tension is now at the center of a handful of disputes at colleges.

A chapter of the Christian group InterVarsity at the University of Buffalo was temporarily suspended. The student government is evaluating its groups after a treasur-

SEE RIGHTS PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012

Lost boys
SMC Main Campus
Art Lecture Hall 214, 1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m.
In honor of African American History Month, Santa Monica College is pleased to present Alephonsion Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, speaking on "Africa, America & the Hope of Transnational Connectivity." This event is free. For information, please call (310) 434-4303.

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.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012

Don't forget your pet
Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd.,
9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
A fair to teach people how to prepare for their pets in an emergency with training demos, pet product and services vendors, pet adoption services, etc. There will be give-a-ways. Humans and their pets are all welcome. Cats, rabbits and other exotic pets such as turtles, iguanas, lizards, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and others must be in pet carriers. Dogs must be leashed. The public is requested to not bring pets in cardboard boxes, milk crates or other improvised containers. For more information, visit www.smgov.net/oem or call (310) 458-2263.

Taxman
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
12 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Free tax preparation to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, the elderly, and those with disabilities. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

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



Study: Colonoscopy cuts colon cancer death risk

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Millions of people have endured a colonoscopy, believing the dreaded exam may help keep them from dying of colon cancer. For the first time, a major study offers clear evidence that it does.

Removing precancerous growths spotted during the test can cut the risk of dying from colon cancer in half, the study suggests. Doctors have long assumed a benefit, but research hasn't shown before that removing polyps would improve survival — the key measure of any cancer screening's worth.

Some people skip the test because of the unpleasant steps need to get ready for it.

"Sure, it's a pain in the neck. People complain to me all the time, 'It's horrible. It's terrible,'" said Dr. Sidney Winawer, a gastroenterologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York who helped lead the study. "But look at the alternative."

A second study in Europe found that colonoscopies did a better job of finding polyps than another common screening tool — tests that look for blood in stool. Both studies were published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States and the fourth worldwide. More than 143,000 new cases of cancers of the colon or rectum are expected in the U.S. this year and nearly 52,000 people will die from it, according to the American Cancer Society.

Deaths from colorectal cancer have been declining for more than two decades, mostly because of screening including colonoscopies and other tests, the organization says. People of average risk of colon cancer ages 50 to 75 should get screened, but only about half in the U.S. do.

A government-appointed panel of experts recommends one of three methods: annual stool blood tests; a sigmoidoscopy (scope exam of the lower bowel) every five years, plus stool tests every three years; or a colonoscopy once a decade.

In a colonoscopy, a thin, flexible tube with a tiny camera is guided through the large intestine. Growths can be snipped off and checked for cancer. Patients are sedated, but many dread the test because it requires patients to eat a modified diet and drink solutions the day before to clear out the bowel. It usually costs more than $1,000, compared with a $20 stool test.

Researchers at Sloan-Kettering previously showed that removing polyps during colonoscopy can prevent colon cancer from developing, but it was not clear whether it saved lives.

The new study followed 2,602 patients who had precancerous growths removed during colonoscopies for an average of 15

SEE **CANCER** PAGE 9



LOST OPPORTUNITY

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

South Torrance midfielder Korie Bozart jumps in the air to block the header from Viking Emma Schwartz on Wednesday during the second round of the CIF playoffs. Samohi lost 3-0.

L.A. council moves to amend criticized school truancy law

BY CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Students late to school will no longer face a $250 fine and handcuffs under an amendment to the much criticized daytime curfew law approved by the City Council Wednesday.

About 100 students, some garbed in orange jail jumpsuits and green graduation gowns, cheered, clapped and chanted after the council voted unanimously to relax the 1995 "zero tolerance" ordinance, which many have lambasted as excessive and unfair because it disproportionately affects black and Latino teenagers in low-income neighborhoods.

Under the amendment the council requested the city attorney to draft, police would be prohibited from issuing tickets during the first hour of school and within a three-block radius of the school, and must ask students if they have a valid reason for being tardy, such as a doctor's note.

Punishment for first and second violations would be community service, while a third violation would net a $20 fine. Students who are really truant will be referred to counseling and other services.

"This is a common sense solution," said Laura Faer, education rights director of Public Counsel Law Center, which has been working with community groups for four years to modify the ordinance. "Students won't be put on the jailhouse track."

The amendment had the support of the Los Angeles Unified school board, the police department, the juvenile courts, as well as students, who described to the council how they were handcuffed, made to sit on the curb, searched and piled into police cars simply because their public bus was late or had not stopped because it was full.

"It was embarrassing," said Rosa Solache, a junior at Roosevelt High School. "Neighbors were staring at me like I was a criminal."

The ordinance was initially adopted as a way to crack down on truancy and prevent gang crime and was largely enforced in neighborhoods with gang problems. But police often conducted truancy sweeps near

SEE **LATE** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's up with that?

Editor:

What's wrong with the Planning Commission meeting? I'll tell you.

I was at the meeting on Feb. 8. I rushed over from work to get there very early so that I could speak early and get home. I was with the first group of people through the door. I filled out my request to speak first. I went right up to the clerk and gave it to her. I waited 2 hours and 45 minutes after the start of the meeting before my name was called.

At the break, I heard several people complaining to the clerk that several people who were waiting downstairs had already been called, while none of the people who got there first had been called. She basically replied that it didn't happen on her shift. No other explanation.

At the break, I looked at the list of people waiting to speak. According to the list, I was the next to be called. Many, many people were called before I heard my name. In addition, people were called who were after me on the list. I didn't realize you had to tip the maitre d' a C note, to get in the queue.

This is how it should be done.

There should be a time stamp just like punching a timecard. First in, first to speak.

There were people filling out multiple requests for others to speak. Only one person can fill out one request to speak.

There was a man complaining that he drove 40 miles to get there and was still waiting to speak. Santa Monica is 8.2 square miles. Unless that person drove around the perimeter of the city several times, he doesn't live here. He's someone looking to make a profit. Santa Monica residents should be given priority over people from out of town.

The developers were sitting in reserved seats in the front rows. Everybody at that meeting was an interested party. They have just as much right to a seat as any developer.

There were employees of the Miramar hotel at the meeting. Questions that should have been asked. Are you here at the request of your employer? Are you being paid for the time that you are here? Did the Miramar owners prompt you on what to say? People said that the employer had "promised" to hire the employees again when the renovation was finished. Is there a written agreement or an oral promise? You could be out of work for four to six years, what is the employer doing for you besides saying they promise to rehire you?

The project includes "affordable" housing. I have never been able to get anything but the run around when asked, "How are you defining 'affordable' housing?" The developers were suggesting that employees of the Miramar would be using those units. The employees of the hotel will probably only be able to dream about living there. What will those affordable units actually cost?

The time limit was 2 minutes, but some people spoke for 5 or 15 minutes because someone else gave up their time. What's with that? Anybody can say other people gave up their time. The time wasn't theirs to give up. It was for the audience to endure. When there are more than 80 people waiting to speak, the time limit should be enforced. People kept talking after the timer went off.

The "unobstructed ocean view" was a selling point coming from the developers. Why didn't anyone ask the developers about destroying the view of all those who will suffer when the development blocks their view?

Jeanne Laurie
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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Life Matters

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

Hard making new friends

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I would really appreciate your suggestions on how I can make more friends. I only have one good friend, a girlfriend. But not only would I like more girlfriends, I would also like to have friends of the opposite sex. How do I make them, where do people go to find them in this town?

Signed,
Not Enough

DEAR NOT ENOUGH,

I cannot tell you how many times I have heard about the difficulty of making friends in Los Angeles. I am not sure what it is. Perhaps our diversity, while a great thing, creates more cliques. Then there is the urban layout which makes it inconvenient to connect with friends in other areas. And of course, many people now feel that they have more friends than they really do through Internet connections like Facebook. Whatever the reason, you are not alone.

Most people make friends through their work, school, church or a common interest. If you play a sport, stay with it and reach out to the others you may end up playing with, whether it's volleyball on the beach, golf, tennis or basketball at local community centers.

If you tend toward religion, join a church or temple and participate in the activities there. Be sure to let the pastor or rabbi know that you are new.

If you are still in school, join some clubs. If you graduated, connect with alumni if possible.

Living in Santa Monica can be a blessing for meeting friends. If you are physically active you can meet people walking the Fourth Street stairs, rollerblading or riding bikes on the beach.

It sounds like you are not married yet, but if you do marry or form a permanent union and if you have children, you will meet and connect with other parents through your children.

There are actually many different ways to meet people in Los Angeles, you just need to be willing to get out and do it and you need to have patience.

Friendships are rarely made overnight. They generally take time and we usually get to know someone through something that we share.

Whether it's work, training or degree program, a sport or a religion, we generally become close to someone through the sharing of an activity. And it takes time. Be prepared to reach out, but take baby steps; don't come on too strong. If you have enough in common and the chemistry is there, it will happen naturally.

Now if you seem to be too shy and are hoping that others come to you or if you have sincerely tried some of the things that I have mentioned and nothing seems to work, then there just might be something in your interpersonal approach that would be worth exploring. Group therapy is excellent for this and you can find it through the American Psychological Association Therapist Locator or the California or Los Angeles Psychological Association. There is also the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists or perhaps you might look into Psychology Today's web site and search "Group Therapy."

If you feel comfortable with and around people and they seem to respond favorably to you, then my best recommendation is to start doing something you really like and are truly interested in. Volunteer, join a hiking group or go to Meet Up where you can find hundreds of different groups with special interests that you might like. Just do it and making friends will happen naturally over time.

FRIENDSHIPS ARE RARELY MADE OVERNIGHT. THEY GENERALLY TAKE TIME AND WE USUALLY GET TO KNOW SOMEONE THROUGH SOMETHING THAT WE SHARE.

If you care about the upcoming elections, whatever your party, there will soon be many volunteer opportunities to promote your candidate and that can be a great way to make friends of both sexes.

Now with the opposite sex friends, you will definitely need a common interest such as this that clearly differentiates a sexual interest from a friendship interest. There can be a lot of hesitancy in this regard if it is not clear and there is not a good reason for friendship.

Along these thoughts, I would avoid bars or gyms for the purpose of making friends. They are often pick-up places or people go there to seriously workout or drink.

The bottom line is to get involved with something that you are truly interested in and then give it time. And don't reject anyone unless they really bother you. You never know who will introduce you to others that you may really like.

Good luck!

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com and send your inquires and replies to newshrink@gmail.com Got something on your mind? Let us help you with your life matters.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Some attacks on Prop. 13 are a hoot

ATTACKS ON PROPOSITION 13 CAN BE divided into two categories, the semi-serious and the ludicrous.

The first category come from those who believe government is entitled to more taxpayer money and there should be no restrictions on government's ability to get it, such as Proposition 13's limit on annual increases in property taxes and the two-thirds vote required of both houses of the Legislature to raise state taxes.

Also in this group are those who say Proposition 13's acquisition value system is unfair, in that it means that someone who bought their home many years ago, when home values and wages were much lower, may end up paying less than a new neighbor who is willing to pay more, now that both prices and salaries are higher. These folks usually advocate higher taxes for longtime owners, not tax reductions for new buyers.

Still, some of these critics are less than intellectually honest. One columnist featured in a number of local papers is pushing for higher taxes on business property and states that business sought to achieve special status under Proposition 13 through heavy contributions to the campaign. The problem is that neither assertion is true. First, business does not enjoy special status — California maintained a single tax rate for residential and commercial property prior to Proposition 13 — and second, the vast majority of the business community opposed Proposition 13, while major companies donated heavily to opposition efforts. Business, typically timid, was afraid to buck the status quo and feared that if tax relief was provided to property owners, the Legislature would make up the difference by increasing taxes directly on the commercial sector.

These are all policy matters on which voters have had the final say, but the debate goes on.

In the second category are the attacks that are more amusing than serious. At the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, one of our favorites is the column penned for a small local paper by a physical education teacher who cited Proposition 13 as the reason the shot putters on his track team were losing the heavy iron balls. It seems that the young athletes were unable to recover the shots in the high grass, and it was due to Proposition 13 that there was no money to keep the grass trimmed.

Then there was the columnist in a national magazine who blamed Proposition 13 for the not guilty verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial. According to the author's logic, Proposition 13 prevented Los Angeles from paying enough to hire the best investigators. We actually took time out from laughing to check and found that Los Angeles paid better than other large cities around the nation.

Other societal ills for which Proposition 13 is alleged to be at fault: The increase in obesity in children and the reduction in the number of choral singers. Seriously. We're not making this stuff up.

Perhaps the most amusing recent attack on Proposition 13 comes from another columnist who has been engaged in a long-running jihad against our state's favorite tax limiting measure — recent polls show it as popular today as it was 34 years ago when it passed with 65 percent of the vote. He now asserts that because of Proposition 13, California is like China, where, he says, local governing bodies have the responsibility to provide services but lack the ability to raise revenue. He suggests, "The next time someone speaks in praise of Prop. 13, ask them: are you some kind of Chinese communist?"

The writer behaves as if he has spent too much time in a cave in Tibet — a country claimed by China. In California, locals do have the authority to raise all kinds of taxes. Utility user taxes, hotel taxes and business license taxes (three common general fund taxes) can all be imposed or raised with a simple majority vote of the people. Special purpose taxes are virtually unlimited as long as the local government gets a two-thirds vote. And, of course, fees can be raised almost without limitation as long as the fees do not exceed the cost of the service being provided.

We have no doubt that the tax-and-spend lobby and the think tank collectivists will, in the future, blame Prop. 13 for things they simply haven't thought of yet. But, to get their creative juices flowing, perhaps they should spend some time analyzing whether Prop. 13 is to blame for the extinction of dinosaurs. We're certain there's a connection.

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

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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.
You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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Calif. pledges better mobile privacy disclosures

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO California is clamping down on nosy mobile applications, telling them they must give people advance warning if they want to keep pulling sensitive information from smartphones and computer tablets.

The crackdown comes six months after California Attorney General Kamala Harris began discussing the need for better privacy protections with six powerful companies that have shaped the mobile computing market, spawning nearly 1 million applications over the past four years.

Those talks led to an agreement requiring mobile apps seeking to collect personal information to forewarn users by displaying privacy policies before their services are installed on a device.

The companies working with Harris are: Apple Inc., the maker of the iPhone and iPad; Google Inc., the Internet search leader and maker of Android mobile software; Amazon.com Inc., the maker of the Kindle Fire tablet; Microsoft Corp., which makes a mobile version of its Windows operating system; Research in Motion Ltd., the maker of the BlackBerry; and Hewlett-Packard Co., which is donating its mobile software to the open-source community.

"We are assuming everyone is going to cooperate in good faith and not get cute," said Harris, who plans to review compliance with the guidelines in six months.

Harris, a Democrat, is taking her stand as lawmakers and regulators throughout the country are zeroing in on how technology has made it easier to pry into the lives of people who share personal information on websites and store sensitive data on their mobile devices.

The concerns have intensified in recent weeks as Google prepares to blend together a hodgepodge of privacy policies covering various services. The move will make it easier for Google to tie together personal information as it tries to sell more online advertising.

Harris and 35 other attorneys general sent a letter Wednesday to Google CEO Larry Page seeking a meeting with company officials to discuss the "troubling" privacy policy changes before they are scheduled to take effect March 1.

Most mobile apps haven't even drawn up a privacy policy, Harris said, partly because of confusion about whether a 7-year-old law governing online privacy applies to them.

The law requires online services collecting personal information to "conspicuously post" a privacy policy. That hasn't been happening among some of the even most intrusive apps that drill into address books and other personal files on smartphones and tablets. Having the data can help mobile apps attract more users or make their services more compelling.

"I would suggest most consumers don't want that to happen and in most cases don't know that is happening," Harris said.

That ignorance has been bliss so far for mobile apps. More than 35 billion apps already have been downloaded, a number likely to grow as smartphones and tablets replace desktop and laptop computers as people's primary connection to the Internet.

That will make people even more vulnerable to the kinds of privacy abuses that have been surfacing this month.

Path, which offers a mobile app for its social networking service, recently got caught downloading users' address books without explicit permission. After the practice was exposed on technology blogs, Path apologized and stopped doing it.

Just last week, the Federal Trade Commission released a study that concluded mobile app makers haven't been telling parents about the personal information they are collecting about kids who have installed their programs. That report raised questions whether some mobile app developers have been violating federal laws protecting children's online privacy.

Harris promised to sue mobile app makers who vacuum personal data without the required forewarning. Even if mobile apps obey the law, Harris acknowledged it still may not be enough to protect the majority of people who don't carefully reading voluminous privacy policies before accepting them.

Just having to sit down to write a privacy policy may be enough to force mobile app developers to think more carefully about their actions, said by Jon Fox, a consumer advocate for the California Public Interest Research Group.

"Having privacy policies is step one to protecting consumers' personal information," Fox said in a statement. "Step two is making sure the privacy policies are strong."



Some money from mortgage settlement to be diverted

BY DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. The ink wasn't even dry on a settlement with the nation's top mortgage lenders when Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon laid claim to a chunk of the money to avert a huge budget cut for public colleges and universities.

He's not the only politician eyeing the cash for purposes that have nothing to do with foreclosure. Like a pot of gold in a barren field, the $25 billion deal offers a tempting and timely source of funding for state governments with multimillion-dollar budget gaps.

Although most of the money goes directly to homeowners affected by the mortgage crisis, the settlement announced this month by attorneys general in 49 states includes nearly $2.7 billion for state governments to spend as they wish.

Some are pledging to use it as relief for struggling homeowners or to help related initiatives such as a Michigan plan to assist children left homeless by foreclosures. But several states are already planning to divert at least some of the money to prop up their budgets, and more will be wrestling with those decisions in the coming weeks.

For some consumer advocates, the diversion is reminiscent of the 1998 tobacco settlement in which states spent billions on projects that had nothing to do with curbing smoking.

"We shouldn't be in the position of taking money that is intended to help consumers and their mortgage tribulations and putting that to another purpose," said Joan Bray, a former Democratic Missouri senator who now is chairwoman of the Consumers Council of Missouri.

States that use the onetime payout for immediate expenses may also face the question of what to do next year when the money is used up. But officials in struggling states say they must deal with the most immediate problems first.

A federal judge in Washington could approve the final settlement by the end of February. Once that happens, money could begin flowing to states within a couple of weeks, arriving just as lawmakers are crafting budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

Republican legislative leaders in Missouri have already embraced the Democratic governor's plan to use nearly all of the state's $41 million settlement payment to help shore up the budget. The mortgage money allowed Nixon to reduce his proposed funding cut for public colleges and universities from 12.5 percent to 7.8 percent — potentially easing student tuition increases.

The money was "as we looked at it, relatively unfettered," Nixon said. "Clearly the economy was affected all across the country by foreclosure challenges, and I think it is apt and appropriate to use those dollars to help restore some of the challenging cuts that I was forced to make."

In Pennsylvania, where a fourth straight budget deficit is projected, Democrats are pressing the Republican-run attorney general's office to use some of its $69 million payment to offset $2 billion in cuts to programs that benefit education, the elderly, disabled or poor.

"The governor's budget has so many cuts to so many valuable programs, if the attorney general's office has $69 million, why not use that to offset these cuts to essential programs?" said state Rep. Joe Markosek, the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Vermont plans to use $2.4 million from the settlement to help balance its budget. Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler said about 10 percent of his state's $62.5 million payment will be made available for the governor and lawmakers to spend as they choose.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker wants to use $26 million to plug a state budget hole because the foreclosure crisis had a "direct impact on the economy." But the Republican governor's plan has ruffled some Democrats, including Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

St. Louis homebuilder Bob Suelmann, who has a background in real estate and finance, said it's "ridiculous" for states to divert mortgage settlement payments to other purposes.

"It's like taking tax money that was supposed to go to road improvements, and then suddenly the bridges are falling down and you don't know what to do about it," Suelmann said. "That money should go to something that can directly improve the situation with the housing program."

When the tobacco settlement was reached, states initially promised to beef up public health with the $206 billion paid out over several decades. Instead, much of the money went to general government operations. State funding for tobacco-prevention programs has now fallen to its lowest level since 1999, according to recent estimates.

"The lesson is advocates have to be vigilant," said Marie Cocco, a spokeswoman for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Most states will probably use the money for mortgage-assistance hotlines, mediation between borrowers and lenders, legal aid and financial counseling, said Geoff Greenwood, a spokesman for Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, who was the lead negotiator on the settlement.

But, he added, officials "have to acknowledge that there has been damage done to states and their budgets and their services because of this mortgage crisis. ...So states will have some flexibility in how they spend" the money.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said she will oppose any efforts to use the money to prop up the state's shaky budget.

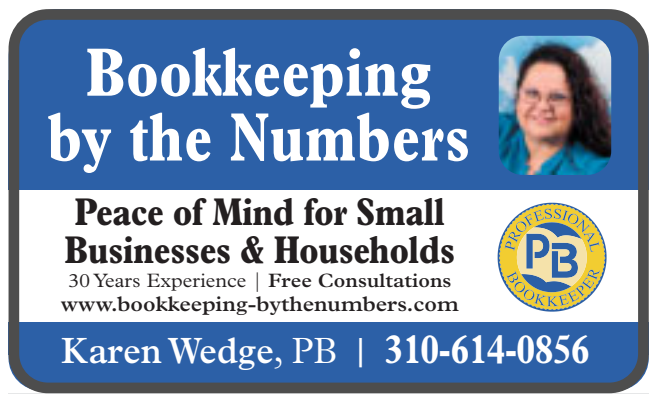
California, which was one of the hardest hit states by the mortgage crisis, will receive the largest payment — about $430 million at a time when the state is facing a $9.2 billion deficit. A spokesman for Gov. Jerry Brown said no decision has been made on how to spend the money.

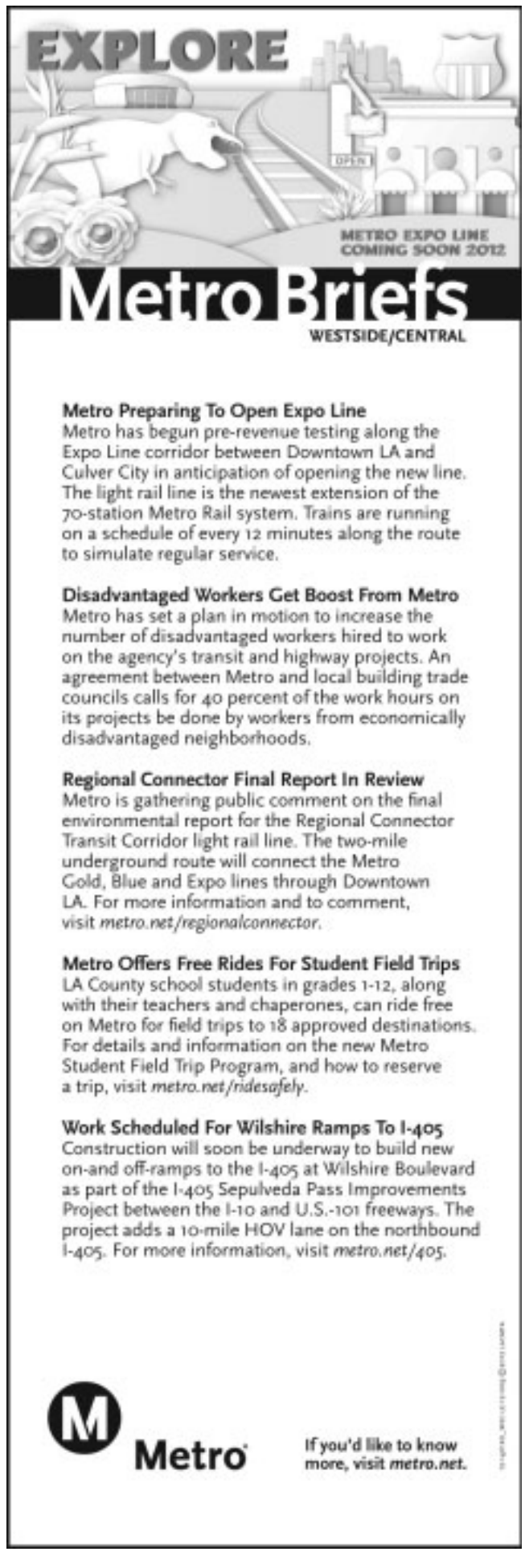
Some consumer advocates say they will be watching closely to see where the payments are spent.

"As insufficient as it is," said Kathleen Day, a spokeswoman for the nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending, "this money was intended to go directly to help struggling homeowners."

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LATE
FROM PAGE 3

schools, ticketing late-arriving students on their way to class.

Between 2005 and 2009, police issued 47,000 truancy tickets that carry a $250 fine and a court appearance which a parent had to attend, often missing work to do so, according to a report by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Public Counsel Law Center and Community Rights Campaign. Blacks and Latinos, who represent 74 percent of the student body, received 88 percent of the tickets.

The report said lower income students more frequently were caught by truancy sweeps because they rely on public transit or walk to school. Consequently, if students were tardy, they would stay home rather than risk a ticket.

"We're pushing students further away from attending school," said City Councilman Tony Cardenas, who promoted the amendment. "Being late to school for uncontrollable reasons should not be a crime."

MUSEUM
FROM PAGE 1

Visitors stopped coming in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the museum could no longer afford the extreme costs of its operational planes, which included several World War II fighters.

Maintenance and insurance on those airplanes, many of which were licensed as "experimental" aircraft, was extremely expensive, Ryan said.

The new museum has a much smaller flying component, and instead focuses on static displays, a 30-seat theater, the Douglas executive board room and even the cockpit of a 727 aircraft that visitors can sit in facing the runway.

Its new location has 22,000 square feet to accommodate the displays, and museum officials hope to create an educational program that will attract schools and get kids excited about science, technology, engineering and math, Ryan said.

"We want to introduce the importance of those skills to really achieve success in the academic world and the business world," Ryan said.

The museum may be opening Saturday, but it hasn't yet paid off the cost of its own construction.

Officials have raised over $2.5 million for the $4 million construction project, and hope to pad that total by an extra $1 million as an early endowment to bankroll future displays and activities, Ryan said.

Those interested in donating can go to the museum's website and visit their "Capital Campaign" tab.

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GOLD
FROM PAGE 1

gold coins with a marked up value, sometimes to the tune of 55 percent on top of the gold's worth, and incentivized its employees to direct customers away from reasonably-priced gold bullion with large commissions.

As a part of the settlement, Goldline International does not admit any wrongdoing.

According to the decision, Goldline will have to disclose any price markups on its gold products, follow a strict script when discussing transactions with customers, give customers a prompt refund and set up a new phone line for refunds, liquidations and other customer service.

The settlement also requires that the company put $800,000 into a fund to pay for future claims.

Anthony Pacheco, of the law firm Proskauer Rose, was appointed to monitor the company's progress for a minimum of three years.

Both sides of the lawsuit declared the decision a win.

Adam Radinsky, a deputy city attorney with the Consumer Affairs Division, said that the decision required Goldline International to "overhaul its business model," something that would have been more difficult to achieve through a criminal case.

"Restitution is part of a criminal case, but this kind of sweeping injunction, typically, is not," Radinsky said.

Goldline International CEO Scott Carter dismissed the city attorney's representation of the case, saying that the company was an industry leader in its business practices.

"As a result of this settlement, we will enhance two disclosures that we already provided and provide more transparency," Carter said. "We felt it was actually a positive thing."

The $4.5 million payment represents the total invested by the 43 clients that testified for the case. If those people want their money back they can have it, but they have to return the gold they bought.

That accumulated gold would have been worth approximately $4 million to the company last week, Carter said, and the number of clients involved was a tiny fraction of the company's total base.

The criminal case and ensuing lawsuit have taken their own toll on the company, however.

When charges were filed in November, Goldline International had an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau, an organization that informs the public about the reputation of companies with which they do business.

The BBB rescinded the company's accreditation. A hearing on reinstatement in the wake of the settlement is expected to take place Thursday, according to the BBB's website.

Other customers that bought coins from Goldline International after Nov. 1, 2008 may be eligible for a portion of the $800,000 set aside as part of the settlement.

Those that qualify can apply for the difference between what their gold is worth and how much they paid for it when they made the purchase.

Goldline International customers who feel they might be affected must file a claim at gold.smconsumer.org by May 22, 2012.

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RIGHTS
FROM PAGE 1

er, who is gay, felt pressured to step down.

The University of North Carolina is reviewing its student organizations after a Christian singing group expelled a gay member. And at Vanderbilt University, a private college in Tennessee, Christian groups were asked to change requirements that their leaders also be Christian. Administrators say that requirement is discriminatory.

Kim Colby, senior counsel for the Christian Legal Society, said Christian groups shouldn't be asked, and the ruling doesn't require them, to essentially erase their religious identities to comply with nondiscrimination codes.

College administrators may not agree with conservative Christian views that homosexual acts are sinful, but that's not a reason to remove all official support, she said.

"Pluralism says the government is supposed to be letting groups form around their beliefs, whether it agrees with them or not," she said.

Susan Sommer of Lambda Legal, a gay rights group, said no one is trying to stop students from forming groups around their beliefs. But she said the Supreme Court ruling has now clarified that public colleges don't have to support groups that discriminate.

If such groups see it as a repudiation of what they believe, "that is something they have to live with," Sommer said.

The 5-4 court ruling backed a policy at California's Hastings College of the Law that denied the Christian Legal Society's attempts to win official recognition — including funding and other assistance — because the group violated the school's nondiscrimination policies by not admitting gays.

The decision dealt strictly with the constitutionality of so-called all comers policies, which require every student group to keep membership and leadership open to any person who wants to join.

True all comers policies are rare because they're often impractical and can lead to absurd results, said Robert Shibley of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which monitors free speech issues on campuses and has criticized Vanderbilt.

For instance, such policies stop a campus Christian group from ousting its president if he converts to Islam, Shibley said.

They also raise the prospect of mischief: in theory, the College Republicans could join the College Democrats en masse, take over the leadership and disband the group, he said.

Sommer said such things never happen, and all comers policies are straightforward and just.

"The position of the university is, 'We really don't need to know the basis of your desire to exclude people, we have a policy that simply says you can't exclude people," she said.

The Supreme Court decision applies at public colleges, but the decision has had a broader influence.

In the past 18 months, at least 41 public and private schools have reviewed the practices of Christian ministries whose policies require their leaders to have the same faith, according to the Christian campus group InterVarsity.

Vanderbilt began reviewing the policies of student groups in 2010, after a gay student complained that he was dismissed from a Christian fraternity. At a campus meeting last month, a Vanderbilt official noted the Supreme Court had upheld the constitutionality of all comers policies, like the one Vanderbilt was trying to enforce.

Provost Richard McCarty said the school's policy evenly affects all groups, and he's convinced it will benefit those groups by opening up leadership to new voices.

He compared groups that discriminate against gays to integration opponents because both have used the Bible to justify discrimination.

"I think that those are two of the great challenges that our society has been facing and I believe that our nondiscrimination policy places us on the correct side of both issues," he said.

Christians find comparisons to segregationists odious. They say the belief that homosexuality is sinful is widely held, and Christian groups have a right to require their leaders to behave in ways consistent with Biblical texts.

InterVarsity didn't wish to comment in detail on discussions with colleges since the Supreme Court ruling.

But it said in a statement that after 70 years upholding "historic biblical standards" on campus, it was thankful many schools who recently took another look at its policies allowed it to remain on campus.

"We love the university and want to be a positive presence there," the group said.

CANCER
FROM PAGE 3

years. Their risk of dying from colon cancer was 53 percent lower than what would be expected among a similar group in the general population — 12 patients followed in the study died, versus 25 estimated deaths in the general population.

The study was not a randomized trial that's the gold standard in medical research. But Robert Smith, director of screening at the American Cancer Society, said it's the first direct evidence that removing polyps can reduce the risk of colon cancer death.

"There's no question that these are findings that we can take to the bank," said Smith, who had no role in the research.

The National Cancer Institute and several cancer organizations paid for the study.

Government and private cancer groups also funded the second study in the journal, led by researchers in Spain. About 53,000 participants were given a colonoscopy or a stool blood test. Both tests found similar numbers of colon cancer cases — about 30 in each group.

However, colonoscopies found advanced growths in twice as many people — 514 versus 231 of those given the stool test. Colonoscopy also found 10 times more people with less serious growths than the stool test did.

Neither test proved very appealing — only a quarter of patients offered a colonoscopy had one. Similarly, only a third agreed to the offered stool test.

The Spanish study is continuing and similar research in the U.S. and Norway that began recently is looking at the long-term impacts of colonoscopy.

Stephen Raquet, of Mount Kisco, N.Y., finds the test reassuring even if the preparation is unpleasant. He had his first colonoscopy 13 years ago at age 41, earlier than usual because of a family history of colon cancer.

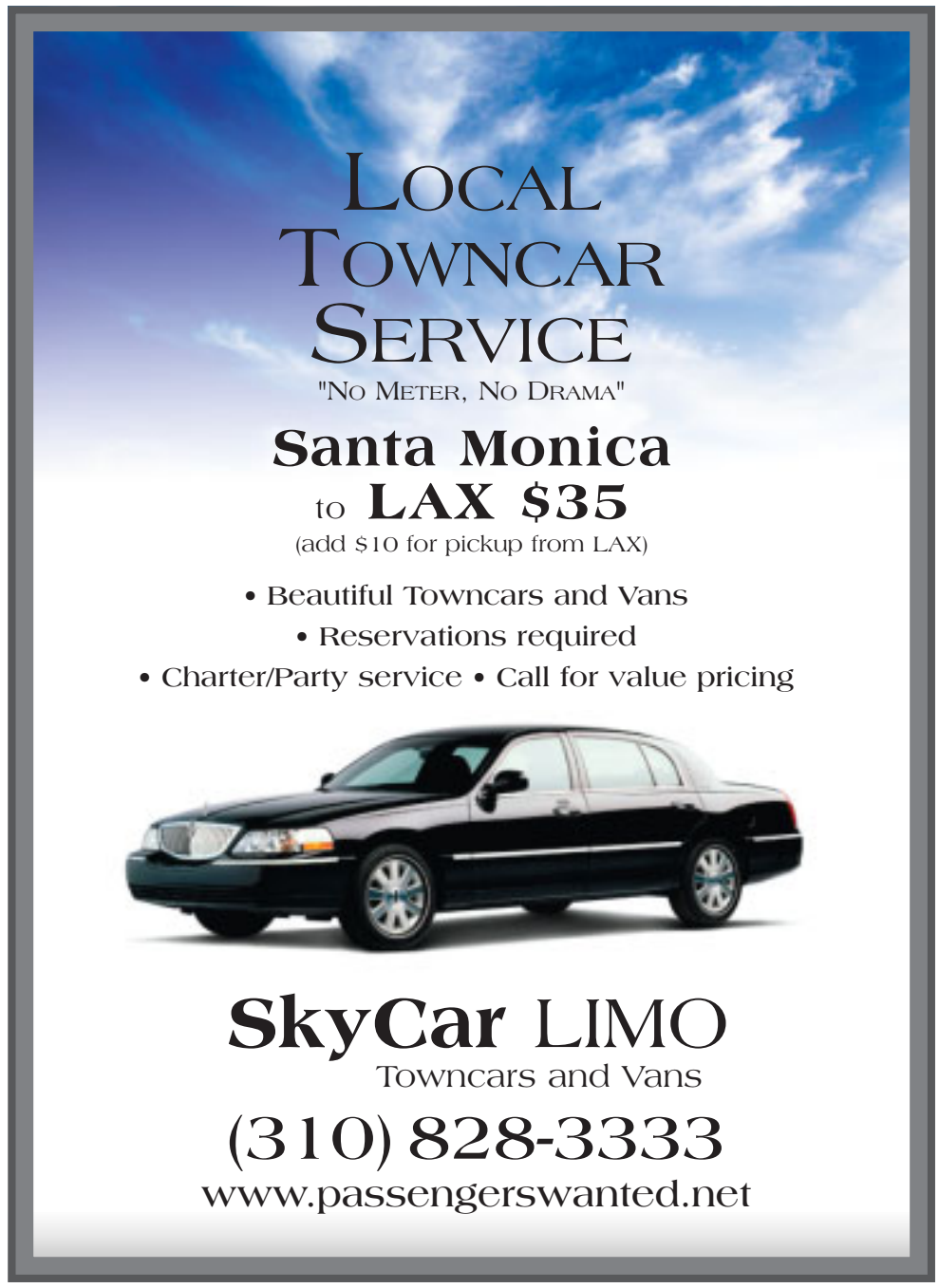
The sudden death of his 45-year-old sister from the disease prompted Raquet to get checked out. He had a precancerous growth removed at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in 1999, and has had the test every three years since.

During his last appointment four months ago, doctors said he can come back in five years.

"It's given me peace of mind," said the 54-year-old business executive.







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Culture Watch

Sarah Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Plácido goes baritone

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I GREW UP IN the 1960s, but there's a peace, love and reconciliation theme, though bittersweet, that resonates as I continue to think about "Simon Boccanegra," the current Los Angeles Opera production at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Not only does it boast L.A. Opera's Artistic Director Placido Domingo in the title role, but our tenor in chief is performing as a baritone. Trained as a baritone, he's spent his stellar singing career as a tenor.

This is one of Verdi's "political operas," not quite the "hum it as you leave your seat" variety, yet here I am with the opening music flowing repeatedly through my head, motifs that carry through the opera and play out in the scenes which, as the supertitles translate for me, urge peace and love.

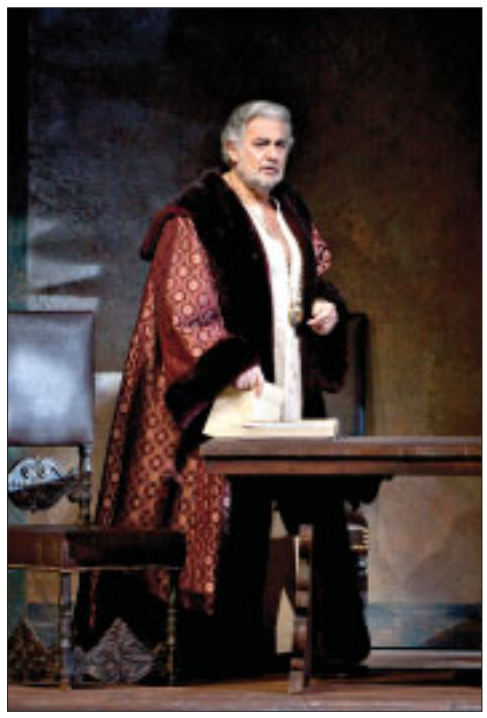
Maestro James Conlon fell in love with this work when he first heard it as a 13 year old, and is conducting it for the first time with L.A. Opera — amazingly the first time that he and Placido have performed a Verdi opera together on any stage.

It is a complicated story line, involving politics, the power and persuasion of the people, an illegitimate child, a secret identity, a father's love, revenge, and the ultimate betrayal by a loyal advisor turned villain, resulting in death. No spoiler alert here: what good opera doesn't involve a death?

Many ominous low notes sound in the music, which is why the scenes emphasizing peace and love so intrigue me. The music echoes the swelling of waves, and you hear it in scenes where Simon, former seafarer and now plebeian leader, cautions the people against another pointless battle. We will hear it later as Simon rediscovers his long lost daughter Amelia, and in the death scene between Simon and his nemesis, Fiesco, the father of Simon's deceased beloved, who gave birth to Amelia without sanction of marriage.

What amazes me most is that I left the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion not really thinking about the music but finding it coming back to me more than once in the few days since. No wonder Conlon is so taken with it. There are a few more performances left for you to enjoy through March 4.

If you prefer your operas lighter, courtesy of Discover the Arts L.A. you can save up to 50 percent off the ticket price for the upcoming Benjamin Britten comedy "Albert Herring," about a virginal boy and his night of big adventure. It opens on Saturday, Feb. 25. http://discoverlosangeles.com/thearts/



Marty Sohl/Metropolitan Opera

THE VOICE: **Plácido Domingo in the title role of Verdi's 'Simon Boccanegra.' Taken at the Metropolitan Opera during the rehearsal on Jan. 14, 2010.**

CELEBRATING NOIR

Every opera has its "book" or libretto, often originating in an actual book. This week we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Santa Monica Citywide Reads, featuring Raymond Chandler's classic, "The Lady in the Lake." Bay City, where the action takes place, is based on Santa Monica. And two of the top selling and best writers of mystery fiction — Michael Connelly (a personal favorite) and Robert Crais — will be talking about Chandler's influence on their work and on the mystery genre at a free event, Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School Auditorium. It's free, and with no reservations, first-come, first-served seating, it's sure to fill up fast!

LIVING ON THE EDGE

There's a relatively new gallery in town, km gallery, on Santa Monica Boulevard at Yale Street, where TAG used to be. Still in its inaugural year, km offers a first solo show of work by Rebecca Farr called "Edge." Farr was raised in L.A., lived in Washington, and has something of a split artistic personality: paintings of wide open spaces, solitary, somewhat forbidding and lonely, then oddly-related collages that brim with multiple images and energy. She began her journey thinking about migrations, the big push West, and what happens to those taking the trip. In the paintings, she takes you to the empty edges, the borders, the end of the line, as much a psychological state as a physical space. But the collages teem with life, people, historic images, highly composed and pleasantly crowded. She calls her work an example of dualistic thinking — and she's right. On view through March 24 (http://www.gallerykmla.com/).

FINAL TRIBUTE

The Museum of Contemporary Art pays tribute to the work and legacy of Mike Kelley, who took his own life earlier this year. Kelley had a far-reaching influence on the L.A. art community, through groundbreaking performances, installations, sculptures, and works on paper; his insightful critical writings; and his deep commitment to artists, as a peer and a teacher. Over the last three decades, his influence extended to MOCA itself, with donations of his own works as well as those by local and international artists that have profoundly shaped the museum's permanent collection. On view through April 2 at MOCA (www.moca.org/).

SARAH SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for National Public Radio and a producer for public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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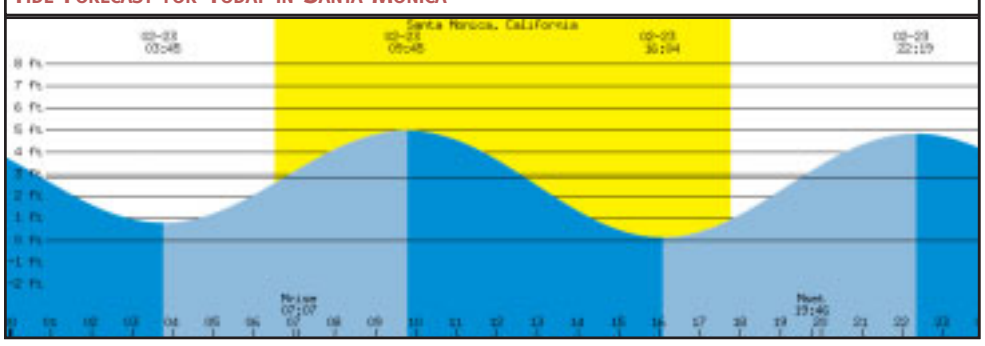
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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 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, Goldsbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBBA

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 or 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 Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	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+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco 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
Corbon 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 Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	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

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

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

MLB

Belisario acknowledges positive cocaine test

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. Ronald Belisario spent last season in Venezuela instead of with the Los Angeles Dodgers due to visa problems.

The reason? A positive test for cocaine.

Belisario says he only used the drug once, but doesn't remember when he tried it, when he tested positive or who administered the test. He said he must serve a 25-game suspension — Major League Baseball has not announced any discipline.

"I don't have a problem with drugs, I'm good," Belisario said Wednesday, the first day of workouts for Dodgers pitchers and catchers at spring training. "It was a one-time thing."

Belisario has had a checkered past, derailing what was once a promising career.

As a rookie in 2009, he had a 2.04 ERA in 69 appearances despite getting a late start to the season due to visa problems. Belisario again had visa issues the following year, in part because of a DUI arrest in Pasadena, Calif., in 2009. He also left the team for a month to enter a drug rehabilitation program in 2010, which he said was not for cocaine. The 29-year-old right-hander wouldn't elaborate on why he went into the program.

Belisario spent last season playing in Venezuela after the positive test for cocaine prevented him from obtaining the necessary paperwork to enter the United States. The Dodgers also placed him on the restricted list for the third time in two seasons last March, which is still in place.

Belisario cleared up his visa problems in plenty of time for this season, arriving Jan. 23, but said he still has to serve a 25-game suspension for failing to comply with baseball's joint drug agreement. He wasn't sure if the positive cocaine test was the reason for the suspension, but it appears to be for violating his drug treatment program.

"I don't know what's going on," he said.

After his superb rookie season, Belisario's ERA ballooned to 5.04 in 59 games during his troublesome 2010 season. He wasn't exactly dominating in the Venezuelan Winter League last year, either, posting another 5-plus ERA with 15 walks in 22 2-3 innings for Margarita.

Despite his troubled past, the Dodgers are ready to give him a fresh shot in the hopes that he can regain his rookie-season form.

"The thing with Beli is to have an understanding of his past, but he'll have a fresh start here," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "He'll be tested like everyone in baseball, maybe even more. Until we have any problems, I'm going to anticipate he's in good order."

Mattingly said he doesn't plan to keep an extra focus on Belisario, but added that the team does have personnel who deal with counseling and giving players what they need, no matter the situation.

"I don't necessarily have to be part of the actual conversations as long as we know he's being able to see someone if he wants to," Mattingly said. "I think baseball is proactive and we're proactive in making sure everything's available.

Belisario arrived to the Dodgers' clubhouse early on Wednesday, got dressed and chatted with a couple of his teammates before heading in for a physical. He, like the rest of the pitchers, went through a handful of drills during the first workout, then threw his first bullpen of the spring, about 35 pitches.

After everything he had been through to get here, he was glad to be back.

"I am so excited to be here," he said. "I was waiting for this moment when I was home, and finally, I'm here."

Notes: LHP Ted Lilly didn't attend the first day of workouts because his wife gave birth to a daughter. The 36-year-old will be a few days behind the other pitchers when he does arrive in the desert, but Mattingly wasn't concerned because, unlike some of the past years, he was healthy during the offseason.

Lefty Clayton Kershaw threw a career-high 233 1-3 innings last season, the fourth straight year with an increase, but Mattingly said he won't try to limit the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner's pitches in the spring. "I'm not going to be the one to do it," he said. "And if I tried, Clayton probably wouldn't listen to me anyway."

Last year, OF Matt Kemp fell a homer short of becoming baseball's fifth player to have 40 homers and 40 steals in the same season. He's set his sights even higher this year: becoming the first 50-50 player ever. Is the NL MVP runner-up setting himself up for a fall? Not in Mattingly's eyes. "I'd rather have him shoot for that than to say he wants another 20-20 season and remain consistent," he said. "I want him to challenge himself."

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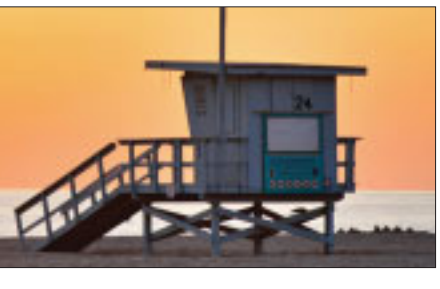


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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Neo-noir double feature!
Crimes and Misdemeanors (PG-13) 1hr 44min
Blood Simple (R) 1hr 39min
7:30pm

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
10:05pm

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, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

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

Make it early tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Much might be going on at work and also within yourself. You could become angry, but try not to act on that feeling. Sarcasm could be a whole other issue. You probably just need time to yourself. A walk might work. Close your door, if possible. Tonight: Perking up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You benefit in the daylight hours. Whatever you decide to do works out even better than you thought possible. Meetings work well. Ideas flourish when talking with a group of people. Surprises surround you. Tonight: Make it early.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Conflict is possible with a boss. Honor your differences and remember who is in charge. Your words could come off as harsh-sounding when dealing with this person. Postpone an important conversation until dinnertime. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ If you are not sure as to which way to go, reach out to a trusted friend. Together, if you are open, you can figure out the proper path. When you detach, you gain a better perspective about conversations and interactions. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Sarcasm marks the morning. Be smart, and avoid playing into this behavior. You know what you want and where you are going. Do not get caught up in trivial matters. Let your mind expand in order to grasp the details of a new situation. Tonight: Get away from the here and now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others continue to knock on your door, and will call and email you. You might be surprised at all the inquiries. Do not get short-tempered simply because you have too much on your plate. Instead, tell them what ails you. Tonight: Make nice with a favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Focus on work and your accomplishments. You have so much to do and so little time. Your effectiveness emerges. Schedule distractions and meetings for as late as you can. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Remove yourself from situations where you might not be energized or interested. Others will be able to see your lack of involvement. Focus on what is challenging. If you opt for a bohemian route, you will succeed. Sometimes a staid attitude does not work. Tonight: Try to make it early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You move slowly when dealing with a boss or older relative. You wonder why you have done what you have as of late, especially with another person's attitude. Tonight: Paint the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Make phone calls and schedule meetings. Above all else, do not stand on ceremony -- especially with a key person. Rather than encouraging separation, you will melt down emotional walls. News involving travel and/or new information forces thought and possible action. Tonight: Mosey on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Refuse to get involved with others financially, or to accept another person's idea regarding your funds. You might not be right, but he or she might not be right either. Time is your ally, though you might feel pressured by a situation. Tonight: Listen to the pros and cons.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Someone might be trying to push your buttons. Stay centered and nonreactive, and this person will stop. Now is not the time to clear the air. Tonight: Get another opinion and maybe one more. Then decide.

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 forge a new path, but only after you are sure that the status quo does not work. Tension and sarcasm often mark your endeavors. Are they a reason to move in another direction? Only you will be able to decide this, and you will. Deal with funds carefully. Your communication excels. If you are single, you will see the results of being able to present yourself well. Look for romance after June. If you are attached, the two of you work through some hot-button issues. Passion plays a significant role in your bond. ARIES always encourages you.



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



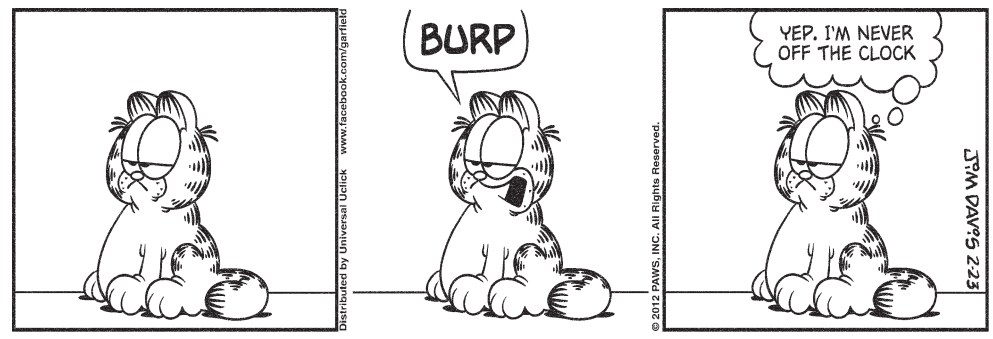
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



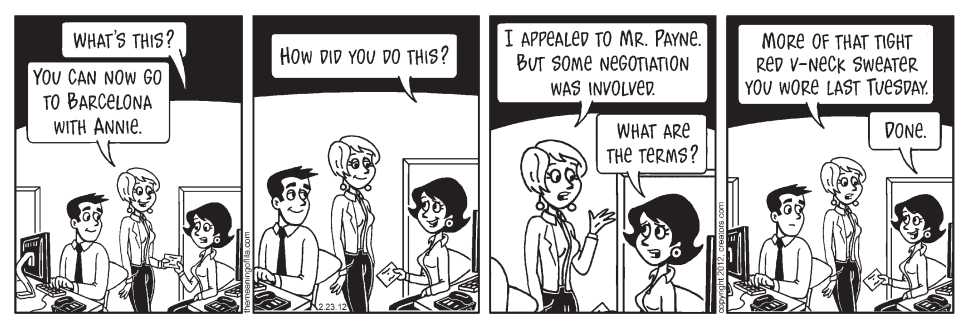
Garfield

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dojo blow
5 Paris subway
10 Eastern monk
11 Tropical fruit
12 Singer Jackson
13 Starting bid
14 Liner window
16 Finishes on the green
20 Expands
23 Debate side
24 Love to pieces
25 Bread-making need
27 Lawn makeup
28 Cowboys' home
29 Writer's inconsistency
32 It's dealt face down
36 Digestion aid
39 Jazz combo
40 Acted the nomad
41 Snaky swimmers
42 Wrath
43 Secluded spot

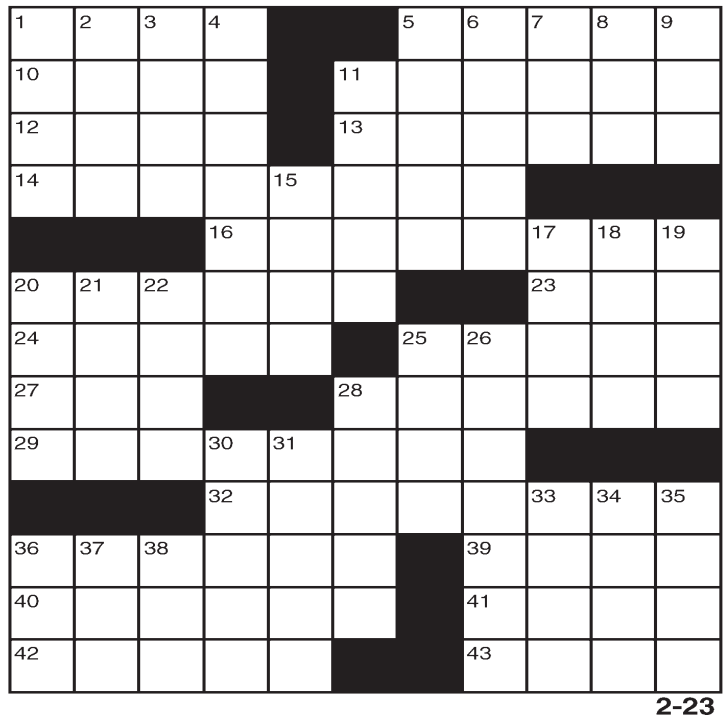
DOWN

1 Thunder sound
2 Ring of light
3 Epps of "House"
4 Big cat
5 Sap source
6 Foils' kin
7 Shoe shade
8 Reuben base
9 Crew need
11 Natatorium features
15 Sharpen
17 October birthstone
18 Stellar bear
19 Nursery group
20 Fig pollinator
21 Revered one
22 Extinct bird
25 Bulldog's home
26 Not appointed
28 Meted out
30 Sweet herb
31 Lisa's dad
33 Bailiwick
34 Moon valley
35 Rx amount
36 Hurler's stat
37 Dijon denial
38 Veer the other way

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

Yesterday's answer

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2-23

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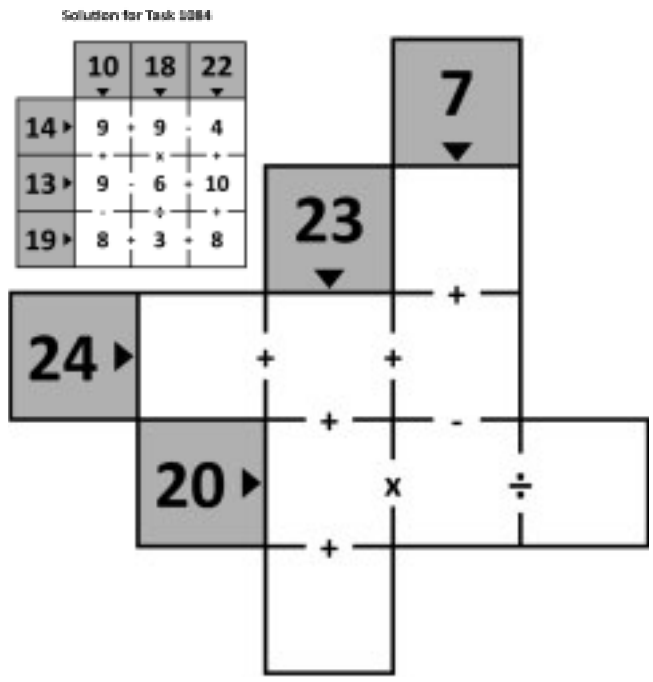
- Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.
- Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.
- Remember 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:

5, 6, 6, 8, 9, 10, 10, 12

Solution for Task 1084



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9 30 39 42 47
Meganumber: 37
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SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/18
1 19 32 41 42
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/22
12 15 33 34 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/22
MIDDAY: 0 2 3
EVENING: 3 1 7

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 2/22
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:46.90

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Recent Newsmakers:** In a Christmas Eve alcohol-related auto accident in Buffalo, N.Y., the injured victims included Chad Beers, and the man charged was Richard Booze Jr. In Burnett County, Wis., in October, Scott Martini, 51, was arrested for suspicion of DUI, which would be his fourth offense. In Madison, Wis., in January, police filed weapon and drug charges against the 30-year-old man who had legally changed his name to Beezow Doo-Doo Zopittybop-Bop-Bop. And charged with vandalism of a Rhode Island state troopers' barracks in November was the 27-year-old Mr. Wanker Rene.

■ In 2011, for the first time in 10 years, Jose was not the most popular baby name in Texas (it was Jacob), but more interesting were the outlier names from the birth register examined by the Houston Press in December. Among last year's Houston babies were boys with the first names Aa'den, Z'yun, Goodness, Godswill, Clever, Handsome, Sir Genius and Dallas Cowboys. Girls' names included Gorgeousg'zaiya, A'Miracle, Dae'Gorgeous and Praisegod. The newspaper had previously combed the register of convicts in Harris County (Houston) and found Willie Nelson de Ochoa, Shi'tia Alford, Petrono Tum Pu, Charmin Crew and Anal Exceus.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1991 - Gulf War: Ground troops cross the Saudi Arabian border and enter Iraq, thus beginning the ground phase of the war.

1998 - Osama bin Laden publishes a fatwa declaring jihad against all Jews and "Crusaders"; the latter term is commonly interpreted to refer to the people of Europe and the U.S.

WORD UP!

ad rem
\ ad REM \ , adverb, adjective;
1.
Without digressing; in a straightforward manner.
adjective:
1.
Relevant; pertinent.

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Roomates
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Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
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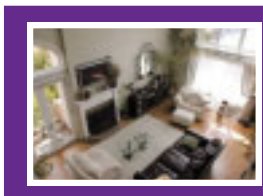
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