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Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012

Volume 11 Issue 90

Santa Monica Daily Press

SAMOH! FACES FAMILIAR FOE
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE NEW KICKS ISSUE

Staff recommends end to nativity scenes

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Spring has not yet sprung, but City Hall is already thinking about 2013's winter holiday season, and what won't be under the Christmas tree.

Staff is expected to recommend that the City Council end a six-decade tradition of holiday displays in Palisades Park after a controversial contest for display space between atheists and Christians put Santa Monica under the national spotlight.

For the first time in 57 years, a group of

organized atheists took over space traditionally allotted to a coalition of 13 churches for nativity displays, prompting calls by the community to reserve the spaces for the churches in the name of tradition.

According to a report by the City Attorney's Office, Santa Monica officials

cannot pick and choose which displays to approve or deny because they're considered free speech under the U.S. Constitution, tradition or no tradition.

City Hall either must continue to allocate

SEE SCENES PAGE 9



Rendering courtesy of Fairmont Miramar Hotel

IN DEVELOPMENT: A rendering of a remodeled Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

Planning Commission not sweet on Fairmont Miramar

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Planning Commissioners sent a clear message to the development team working on the revamp of a seaside luxury hotel Wednesday night: We're not impressed.

Commissioners stopped short of recommending that the City Council not approve the direction that the development agreement is taking at this early stage in the process, but gave a laundry list of concerns that they hoped council members would look at when the item comes before them in coming weeks.

The architecture proposed for the revamp of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows

was uninspired, the massing disproportionate to its surroundings and its package of community benefits lacking for a project of its size and scope, commissioners said.

Commissioner Ted Winterer summed up his colleagues comments on the look and feel of the complex simply.

"When you said it should be iconic, you have a long ways to go," Winterer told Alan Epstein, an executive with the hotel's owner, MSD Capital.

The hearing consisted only of the commissioners' comments and questions about the project.

Over four hours of public testimony had

SEE HOTEL PAGE 8



TOUGH WAY TO GO

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Santa Monica High School's Kevin Eyler (left) gives chase as Cathedral goalkeeper Brian Paredes makes a save on Thursday at Samohi. Cathedral would go on to win the game, 3-2, in overtime and advance in the CIF-Southern Section Division 4 playoffs.



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President's Day Trash Schedule

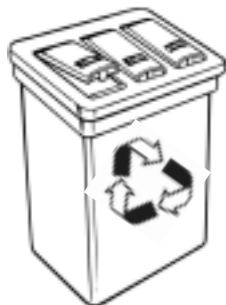
There is no collection on Monday, February 20th.

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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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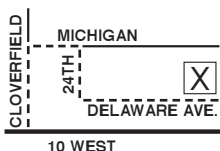
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Feb. 24, 2012

Dance, dance, dance

Santa Monica Bay
Women's Club

1210 Fourth St., 7:30 p.m.

Returning to the stage after performing to sold-out audiences in 2011, The Central Avenue Dance Ensemble presents "A History of Black Dance in America." This two-hour multi-media dance retrospective chronicles the history of African and African-American inspired social dances that have been popularly danced in the United States from the 1800s to today. For more information, call (310) 395-1308.

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.

By the fire
Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd.,
8 p.m. & 10 p.m.

For the third year in a row Miles presents the "Fireside at the Miles" series. Enjoy six weekends and 13 separate events featuring contemporary music, opera, jazz, dance, puppetry, poetry, beat boxing, a capella singing and more. Performances take place beside the huge vintage fireplace with a cheery eco-logs fire. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

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

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012

Art with a side

Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave.,
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

In celebration of the culinary arts, Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980 announces the new program Art As An Appetizer, featuring fare inspired by art in Pacific Standard Time exhibitions.

For more information, visit
pacificstandardtime.org/blog/artasanapp.

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.



Dems seek state-run pensions for private workers

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Two leading California Democrats introduced legislation Thursday that attempts to provide retirement savings for private-sector workers of modest means, creating a government-run program for private-sector workers whose employers do not

offer pensions or 401(k) plans. They said it could help an estimated 6.7 million California workers. Sen. Kevin de Leon and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg introduced SB1234, which would require employers with five or more workers to enroll them into what they have termed a “personal pension program” to be run by a state board. Their

idea is to get small-business employees and hospitality workers who don’t make much money to save more for their retirement. “We must take action on the impending retirement tsunami,” de Leon, of Los Angeles, said during a news conference in front of the state Treasurer’s Office. “We cannot afford the rampant poverty and devastation that awaits us if we continue on our present course.”

The lawmakers said they believed their program would be the first in which a state government established a retirement program for workers in the private sector. As a program with little or no precedent, several issues remain unsettled, such as whether California taxpayers would ever be on the

SEE PENSIONS PAGE 11

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP Samohi gets taste of familiarity in quarterfinals

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

DOWNTOWN As Samohi preps for Etiwanda in the quarterfinals of the CIF-Southern Section Division 1AA boys’ basketball playoffs, they approach the game knowing a bit about their opponent. The game today is a rematch of a regular season matchup that saw Etiwanda walk away victorious in a close contest in December. “Everybody at this stage is better than they were in December,” Samohi head coach James Hecht said. “But, being familiar with them does help.” After watching recent game films on Etiwanda, Hecht said that he sees the same disciplined team the Vikings faced the last meeting. He did note that they are a bit more polished this time around, but he’s not too worried. “I think we’re a little bit better, too,” he said.

Samohi advanced to the quarterfinals by dispatching Silverado, 68-55, in the second round on Tuesday. Samohi enters today’s game at Etiwanda as the No. 6 seed in the playoffs. Etiwanda is the No. 3 seed. The prevailing team will face the winner of the Eisenhower, Long Beach Poly game, also being played today. The semifinals will take place at the Anaheim Arena. **PACIFICA BOYS ELIMINATED** Pacifica Christian’s boys’ basketball team was eliminated from the CIF-SS Division 5A playoffs by Kilpatrick, 59-54, on Tuesday. Kilpatrick advances to face No. 1 seed Providence on Friday. Pacifica Christian finished the regular season as co-champions of the Heritage League. daniela@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MONTANA AVE Back to business

The Montana Avenue Branch Library will reopen this Saturday after being shuttered Jan. 16 for renovation, city officials said Thursday. Major features of the branch’s interior improvements include new carpeting and paint; new shelving for books and media collections; added book displays; a more “efficient” service desk; more self-checkout stations; additional seating in the teen area; and a new configuration for Internet-accessible computers on the adult side. “With its 50th anniversary a few years behind us it was time for the Montana Avenue Branch to get some much needed attention,” said City Librarian Greg Mullen. “What started as a re-carpeting project was expanded to a general freshening. The Montana area neighbors have been active supporters and users of their branch library. “I invite them to drop in to see what’s been done.” An open house is planned for the end of March. The branch is located at 1704 Montana Ave. Its hours are Monday through Thursday, noon to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The branch is closed Fridays and Sundays. The library is wheelchair accessible. The branch is served by Big Blue Bus Line 3 and the Crosstown Ride. Bicycle parking racks are available. For more information, visit the library’s website at smpl.org

KEVIN HERRERA



SENT HOME

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com
St. Monica’s Briana Harris attempts a shot over Brentwood’s Drew Cabral on Wednesday at Brentwood. St. Monica would lose the CIF-Southern Section Division 4A playoff game, 52-46.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Standing up for cyclists

Editor:

I have lived within seven blocks of the beach for the last 17 years. I go for bike rides every day to work and back and run all my errands, even picking up groceries on my tricycle.

Usually I commute during rush hour, when traffic is at its heaviest. I also take walks in the morning and afternoon with my dog. At least a few times a week, maybe more every day, I have had near death encounters with speeding motorists that don't look right when they're making right turns, texting/talking on cell-phones while driving, etc.

Also, I observe every day that 99 percent of motorists do not observe traffic laws and flagrantly violate the law, doing "California rolls" at stop signs, running red lights, changing lanes without signaling, making illegal turns, rarely yielding to pedestrians or other vehicles at crosswalks. I've also seen vehicles driving on sidewalks to avoid making a right turn at Kragen's on Lincoln Boulevard, going the wrong way down alleys and one-way streets and I always see vehicles blocking traffic; in a sense they are creating and are the cause of traffic.

In addition there is a certain element of motorists who alone, in pairs and in large groups act as if the streets and pathways are training grounds for NASCAR. They drive at very high rates of speed and swerve in and out of traffic, blasting through stops signs, lights and crosswalks.

I have seen police pull motorists, and bicyclists over for infractions. City Hall is spending money on bike lanes, but most bicyclists I know avoid them because of their inherent danger. City Hall seems to be patting itself on the back as we spend millions of dollars for better bike lanes and infrastructure, but where is the enforcement of existing laws to protect us mere pedestrians?

At the age of 3, I was hit and run over by a drunk driver. I have been hit by vehicles many times while walking and riding my bicycle. City Hall encourages more bike usage, but many laws regarding cycling are outdated, antiquated or enforced selectively. The police stop bicyclists on Lincoln all the time for lack of lights (something many cyclists don't know the law requires), riding on the sidewalk (again many cyclists don't know this) and I don't blame most of them. Riding your bicycle down city streets is very dangerous because of motorists' behavior. When riding a bicycle, you must obey the same rules as a vehicle. And although there are laws regarding traffic signals, speed limits and no talking on cellphones while driving, motorists do it all the time.

You may be wondering if I'm the only cyclist out there that does follow the law. I may be, I may not. But not every motorist follows the law. As a cyclist, I can't apologize for other cyclists' behaviors, but there are those out here that do follow the law. Just count your blessings that a "near death experience" with a bicycle isn't as bad as a "near death experience" with a vehicle. We can only remember George Russell Weller [Farmers' Market crash] and wish he had been riding a tricycle. His excuse of "pedal error" wouldn't have caused so much death.

Cars are coffins. Ride a bike, you'd be home by now!

Alex Cantarero

Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

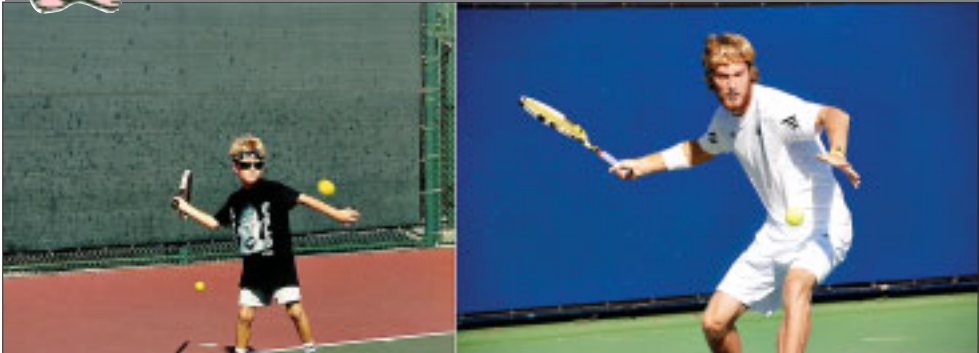


Photo courtesy Tommy Thompson

KABOOM! Clay Thompson, age 5 (left) and later at 19, is about to smash a forehand.

Kid from the hood makes good

AS THE YEARS SEEM TO FLY BY I'VE concluded that getting older has very few advantages. Forget "maturity" and "wisdom," all I can think of are the senior discounts at movie theaters and Norms restaurant. But since I rarely go to the movies anymore and have never dined at Norms, I'm hardly comforted.

Unmistakably, there are definitely moments in life when it dawns on you that you've gotten old. I recall the Woody Allen character who glanced in the mirror and exclaimed in horror, "When did I go bald?"

For me it could have been the first time I was examined by a doctor younger than I was, or when I was pulled over by a motorcycle cop half my age. Or last summer my apartment pool, when a bikini-wearing woman, young enough to be my granddaughter, asked, "Sir, excuse me, what time do you have?"

Sir? (Even worse, she spoke loudly, thinking I was hard of hearing.)

Another time I felt unusually old was last year when I heard that Clay Thompson was in college. That's impossible, I mumbled to myself. Just yesterday Clay was in grade school. Yeah, well now he's 6 feet 6 inches tall and the number two player on UCLA's nationally-ranked tennis team.

I first met Clay 15 years ago as I played tennis, almost daily, at the Ocean View Courts next to my apartment complex in Ocean Park. Clay's father, Tommy, also played tennis there and often brought Clay to the courts when he was still in a stroller. And now Clay's a sophomore at UCLA, begging the question, where did the time go? As Bette Davis once mused, "Getting old is not for sissies."

Thinking of all the hours Clay spent on the tennis court, I'm reminded of the old joke about show business. A New York tourist innocently asks a man on the street, "Pardon me, do you know how to get to Carnegie Hall?" "Yeah," the man answers, "PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE."

From age 5 through 12, Clay took countless lessons at Ocean View from his coach, Michael Kelly. In the beginning it seemed

like the racket was almost as big as Clay. But he was such a determined kid, and when he wore sunglasses, a cool black T-shirt and a matching black headband, the combination killed me.

I swear it seemed like one minute Clay was 3 foot 6 inches and then 5 feet 6 inches tall. A few years later, he enrolled in Crossroads School here in Santa Monica. In his freshman year, Clay led his tennis team to a state championship, while as a junior he won the state individual championship.

Not surprisingly, as a senior Clay received scholarship offers from almost every college in the country. He visited Duke, but thankfully chose UCLA. I say "thankfully" because I'm a UCLA alum and if Clay had gone to USC this column would be harder for me to write.

It's hard enough as it is because SC's tennis team is ranked No. 1 in the country. So when they meet at the L.A. Tennis Center on the UCLA campus next Wednesday (Feb. 29; tickets are free to the public) at 2 p.m. the Trojans will likely be favored over the eighth ranked Bruins. My hunch is that it could come down to the last match to determine the winner. And I wouldn't be surprised if Clay saves the day. He's done it before.

Clay, who turns 20 this May, has had a national collegiate ranking as high as 35. As for his future, he says, "I have a lot of interests outside of tennis, including broadcasting and journalism, but I really want to give myself a chance on the professional tour."

In pursuing his pro tennis dream, the odds are probably long against Clay. But, then again, the odds were rather long he'd go from the stroller at Ocean View to the number two player on UCLA's team.

If Clay does make it on the pro tour, I'll be exceedingly proud, although it might make me feel just that much older. Either way, however, it'll be a lot more gratifying than having a bikini-wearing young woman ask loudly, "Excuse me sir, what time is it?"

Clay and UCLA battle USC at the L.A. Tennis Center on the Bruin campus on Wednesday at 2 p.m. JACK can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.



PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Bill Bauer, David Pisarra,
Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth,
Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks,
Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht,
Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount,
Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge,
Katrina Davy

NEWS INTERN

Colin Newton
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN

Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT-BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR

Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Spinoza shocks Amsterdam

A FEW DAYS AGO, NOBEL LAUREATE AND Holocaust historian Elie Wiesel appeared on Lawrence O'Donnell's TV program "The Last Word" to express his outrage at a practice of the Mormon Church. Apparently, according to Wiesel, the church, in the belief that only Mormons can enter the Kingdom of Heaven, has been baptizing selected people in absentia, and without their permission, after they have died.

Also a few days ago, the West Coast premiere of a play by David Ives demonstrated that that imposition of certain religious convictions on the differing beliefs of another person has been going on seemingly forever.

Ives' play is called "New Jerusalem, The Interrogation of Baruch De Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656." The New Jerusalem was Amsterdam, which had provided refuge for Spanish and Portuguese Jews fleeing the Inquisition of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Miguel Spinoza, a Portuguese merchant whose family had been forced to convert to Catholicism, returned to Judaism when he settled in Amsterdam. His son, Baruch, was given a traditional Jewish education. But by the age of 23, Baruch had embarked on a philosophical journey that took him far afield from the beliefs of his contemporaries.

He believed in "panentheism" which doesn't distinguish between God and nature and stipulates that God is a substance that exists outside of time, and that nature is a subset of God. "How can the nonphysical produce the physical?" he asked.

He believed that we partake of eternity in life, that there is no life after death, that there is no free will, that everything that happens is a product of cause and effect, that God is perfect but indifferent to man, that religion is meant to keep people obedient and fearful, and the religion that Jews and Christians subscribe to is mere superstition.

At that time in Amsterdam the Jews were protected, but were treated as second-class citizens. They could practice their religion, but only in private. And so, because Spinoza was becoming an influential figure, (his rabbi called him "a second Solomon"), the

Dutch soon regarded him as a public nuisance and prevailed upon his community to silence him.

Thus it was that on July 27, 1656, the pillars of the Temple (including Spinoza's mentor, Rabbi Saul Mortera) gathered to question Spinoza's beliefs.

And here, unfortunately, the play degenerates into disputatious didacticism. Spinoza's philosophy becomes a monologue that is not as difficult to follow as it might seem, but you have to really work at it. And you have to stay with it.

Under Marco Naggar's bland portrayal, however, Spinoza does not engender much sympathy. More sympathetic is Rabbi Mortera (Richard Fancy), who agonizes over Spinoza's self-righteous opinions and eventually cries, "it's the truth, but your world cannot be lived in! You have emptied my heaven!"

Then, with the support of a high city official, Abraham van Valkenburgh (a marvelously volatile Mark Bramhall), the Jewish elders pronounce a hideously destructive sentence that excommunicates Spinoza from "all the tribes of Israel" and brings down upon him "the anger and wrath of the Lord" and "all the curses that are written in the Book of the Law."

Set and costume designer Stephanie Kerley Schwartz, lighting designer Leigh Allen, and sound designer Bill Froggatt have enhanced the production as much as is possible in a single setting, but Elina de Santos, a much-acclaimed director, has faltered a bit here because the very nature of the play virtually ensures that it will come off as static and overly complicated. And that's a hard act to overcome.

"New Jerusalem, The Interrogation of Baruch De Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656," is a production of the West Coast Jewish Theatre. It will continue Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through April 1 at Pico Playhouse, 10508 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. Call (323) 821-2449 or visit www.wcjt.org for tickets.

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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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The Palette

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Los Lonely Boys

The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St.

SATURDAY, 7 P.M. & 9:30 P.M.

On the heels of their latest album release, Los Lonely Boys bring their pop-lyrical charm and irresistible grooves to The Broad Stage. “Rockpango,” a Spanglish term coined by the Tex-Mex triumvirate, is the band’s fourth studio album and embraces the spirit and sound of infectious Latin rhythms. An ode to fandango and huapango, “Rockpango” is the ultimate celebratory fiesta rock. Don’t miss your chance to hear this band and their hit single “Heaven” in the intimacy of a 499-seat theater. Sing along with the Texican rock ‘n’ roll trio as they unleash their brotherly harmonies and rousing beats in an all-acoustic concert. Tickets: \$47 B, \$60 A, \$75 Premium. For more information: (310) 828-0211.



Beatrice Wood, Adam Berg, and Georgi Tushev & Family Day Workshop: The Art Bug

Santa Monica Museum of Art, Bergamot

Station G-1, 2525 Michigan Ave.

SATURDAY, EXHIBIT: 11 A.M. — 6

P.M., WORKSHOP: 1 P.M. — 3 P.M.

Does your favorite insect fly, swim, jump, or crawl? Discover the spectacular hidden world of insects with The Art Bug workshop in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil’s “OVO” and artist Karen Nakashima. Learn the basics of bugs and construct your own specially designed specimen box with found natural materials. The “OVO” Bug Team joins the workshop for additional insect-inspired fun. Put on your best critter-face for the OH-Snap photo booth. Exhibit admission: \$5 suggested donation, \$3 artists, students and seniors. Workshop admission: \$10 general admission, free for SMMoA members. For more information: (310) 586-6488.

Don’t miss your last chance to see these critically acclaimed exhibitions. Docent led tours will be offered at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Museum of Flying Grand Opening & Ribbon-Cutting

Museum of Flying, 3100 Airport Ave.

SATURDAY, 10 A.M. — 5 P.M.

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Northrop. There’s also a hands-on interactive area for children, a theater for screening historic test footage, documentaries, aviation related films, and an outdoor aircraft display plaza. Special giveaways will be awarded by random drawing for visitors who arrive throughout the day. Admission: \$5 general admission, free for children 5 and under. For more information: (310) 398-2500.

Courtesy of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs. Sign up to receive The Palette weekly via e-mail at www.smgov.net/arts.

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FEB 25

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Riding without a light leads to arrest

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, AT 2:17 A.M.,

Santa Monica police officers were on routine patrol on the 200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard when they noticed someone riding a bike at night without a headlight, a violation. Officers made contact with the cyclist a few blocks down and ordered him to get off the bike. When he did, officers said they saw an object tucked in his waistband that was wrapped in electrical tape. Believing the suspect had a weapon, officers took him into custody quickly. They later discovered that the object was a pair of wire cutters. The suspect was riding a bike that police said appeared to belong to a woman. The suspect had no reason for being in the area and would not provide his real name to officers. Police placed him under arrest for providing false information to police, possession of burglary tools, riding a bike without a light, a probation violation, and three outstanding warrants. The suspect was identified as Raul Tarango, 34, a transient. His bail was set at \$70,561.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, AT 10:10 P.M.,

Officers were on patrol on the 3300 block of Bernard Way when they entered an adjacent alley and saw four people huddled near a dumpster. Officers approached the group and were granted permission to search the suspects. Officers said one man was in possession of a baggy containing methamphetamine. Two others were also found to be in possession of glass pipes commonly used to smoke meth. The fourth person was released. Officers arrested the three suspects, who were identified as David Leo Schacht, 28, a transient; David Robert Poley, 23, of Santa Monica; and Trevor Donald Egbert, 36, a transient. Schacht was booked for possession of a controlled substance, providing false information to a police officer, a probation violation and an outstanding warrant. His bail was set at \$60,000. Poley and Egbert were both booked for possession of drug paraphernalia. Their bail was set at \$250 each.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18, AT 9:23 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 100 block of Palisades Avenue on the report of a prowler in the area. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim, who was standing in the alley to the rear of her home talking with police dispatch. The woman pointed to a man, who was standing at the north end of the alley, and said he stuck his hand through a partially open window and tried to pry it open so that he could gain access to her home. When confronted by the woman, the suspect walked away. He was detained by police without incident and placed under arrest for burglary. He was identified as Jonathan Lewis, 28, of Northridge, Calif. His bail was set at \$50,000.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17, AT 6:16 P.M.,

Officers were in the area of 700 Broadway when they were flagged down by people who saw a man assault a pedestrian. Officers detained the suspect, who appeared to be intoxicated, and made contact with the alleged victim, who stated that he had just left a grocery store with his sisters when the suspect rode up on his bike and verbally accosted him. The suspect then dropped his bike and struck the victim in the face with a clenched fist, police said. The suspect continued his attack until other people came to his aid. The victim refused any medical aid and the suspect was placed under arrest for public intoxication, assault and battery. The suspect was identified as Vidal Asante Oguinn, 28, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18, AT 8:46 A.M.,

Officers responded to the rear alley of the 1500 block of Fifth Street regarding a report of a man who returned to his old apartment to get some property that was placed in the trash. When officers arrived, they found the suspect inside a trash bin looking for items he said were thrown out approximately a week after he had moved. The suspect allegedly told officers that he broke a metal gate that enclosed the trash containers and scratched a parked car when trying to move the trash bin. After speaking with the property manager and the owner of the scratched car, officers placed the suspect under arrest for felony vandalism. He was identified as Robert Brian Hutchings, 51, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18, AT 1:58 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1500 block of Lincoln Boulevard – Denny's – regarding a report of a diner who refused to pay for their meal. When officers arrived, they contacted the restaurant manager, who said that the suspect entered the restaurant, ordered food and after eating told employees that he did not have money. Officers learned that the suspect was arrested days earlier for the same thing. Police cuffed him and transported him to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for defrauding an innkeeper. He was identified as Cameron Taylor Dodge, 38, a transient.

MONDAY, FEB. 20, AT 5 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 2700 block of Lincoln Boulevard on the report of a man saying his girlfriend was inside an automotive business and needed help. When officers arrived to Smog Check they saw an open bay door and a man and a woman inside talking. While checking in on the woman, officers said they saw several glass pipes commonly used to smoke rock cocaine on the ground next to the two. The male suspect allegedly admitted the pipes were his. Officers checked further and said they found cocaine next to the pipes. The man was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was identified as Issam Camille Khoury, 50, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$10,000.

news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

Kate Bransfield

Estates Director

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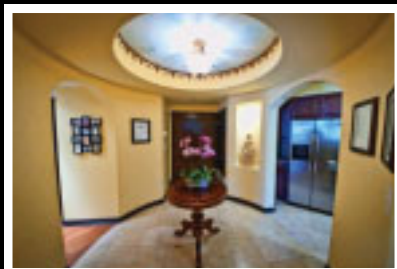
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HOTEL
FROM PAGE 1

been taken two weeks before, with concerned residents siding with the adjacent Huntley Hotel against the project, and primarily education advocates touting the benefits that the projected \$5 million in additional city revenue would bring to local schools.

While no one spoke against the concept of renovating the aging hotel, those that live nearby lobbied for a more restrained footprint than the proposed seven- and 12-story buildings that would line California Avenue and Second Street.

Developers argue that the additional height is necessary to include a luxury condominium housing component, which could be sold outright or rented and would help finance construction of the renovated hotel, those with MSD Capital said.

The inclusion of the housing also means code-required affordable housing, which the developer proposes to build in what's now a parking lot on Second Street.

In many ways, the Planning Commission sided with residents who were concerned that their quality of life — and ocean views — would be impacted by the proposed 550,000-square-foot hotel, which is twice the size of the facility that exists at 101 Wilshire Blvd. right now.

The majority believed that most of the building's mass should be concentrated on Wilshire Boulevard, which abuts a retail district, rather than next to the residential area on California Avenue.

Others, particularly Winterer and Commissioner Richard McKinnon, felt that to make the project comfortable and cohesive in the neighborhood, the entire plan would

need to drop by at least 100,000 square feet. "The real issue is that the scale of the project creates design complications," Winterer said. "You're trying to move that around in a way that works and it's just not there. A lot of the problems can be solved by reducing it."

A reduction could mean eliminating the market rate housing, creating the wall of retail and street-level uses on Wilshire Boulevard and creating spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists to walk through the complex, which does not exist in current plans.

"The rental units on top are what's creating some of the mass," said Commissioner Jim Ries. "If you lost some of the housing, you would reduce the mass as well."

None of the commissioners were on board with the preliminary package of community benefits offered up by the developers, which included code-required affordable housing, preservation of the landmarked Moreton Bay fig tree and occasional access to gardens facing the ocean.

"No more low balls," McKinnon said. "This is where the community benefits come into play. You're preserving the tree and that's great."

McKinnon pushed for street scaping at a cost of \$300,000 per block, playgrounds and contributions to the school district.

Residents who attended the meeting, like Robert Gurfield, got on board with McKinnon and Winterer, who pushed for a harder message to go to the City Council.

"I think the comment is that it's basically too big, that they could take off 150,000 square feet and make it smaller," Gurfield said. "A lot of the problems we're criticizing them for would go away."

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SCENES FROM PAGE 1

spaces using the lottery system developed for the 2011 season, or disallow the displays altogether.

Staff lobbied for the end of the displays because of the cost of administering the system, the ability for groups to put their displays on private property and community input.

"... many residents who complained about winter displays this year urged that they would rather preserve the aesthetic qualities of this designated landmark and look at the ocean vista than continue the displays," according to the report.

The report represents a victory for Damon Vix, an atheist and Burbank resident who first opposed the nativity scenes' presence on public land 20 years ago when he was working in Santa Monica.

He felt that the practice should end or at least become open to other points of view.

This is the best of all worlds, he said.

"If it's canceled, I would feel that this was a worthwhile endeavor," Vix said. "At the same time, it's a hollow victory, because a lot of people are upset and it doesn't feel good to me knowing that people are attached to this."

Vix, his acquaintances and other atheist organizations inundated City Hall with applications to fill the display spaces with "winter solstice greetings," pushing out the Christian groups who won only two spaces in the lottery. The Chabad House received one space for a menorah, its traditional display.

The move angered Christian groups, who argued that their nativity scenes deserved protection because they were Santa Monica residents, unlike the atheists, and had been carrying on the tradition for a long time.

Adding insult to injury, the atheists didn't fill all of the spaces that they won through the lottery.

Hundreds of people signed the Save Our Nativity Scenes petition and contacted the City Council with their complaints, prompting discussion of altering the lottery system.

On Tuesday, the City Council will get the chance to decide if the lottery system is worth the monetary cost and staff time, or if the sun has set on holiday displays in Palisades Park.

Hunter Jameson, a representative of the Christian coalition, urged council members Thursday to preserve the spaces.

"The question for council members to decide Tuesday is whether to capitulate to a small group of out-of-town agitators that want to censor the Santa Monica Christmas story and its message of love, joy and peace, or to direct staff to undertake further serious effort to find a way to preserve this beloved tradition," Jameson wrote in an e-mail.

Even Vix's group will be a little disappointed if the displays go away. A number of people were already excited to create displays for the next year, he said.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown predicted Thursday that the council would go along with staff's recommendation.

"Under constitutional law and court interpretations, we have no options, zero, in our parks. Moving the displays onto private property lets the

community decide what displays and where," McKeown wrote in an e-mail. "Eastertide seems the wrong ecclesiastical season to be discussing this, but the nativity displays in Palisades Park just aren't going to be resurrected."

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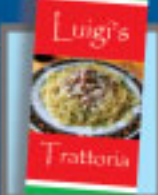
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PENSIONS

FROM PAGE 3

hook if future investment returns failed to meet projections.

In Michigan, the state's Municipal Employees Retirement System began offering retirement services to Indian gaming tribes in 2009 to manage benefits for tribal government employees.

According to a draft, SB1234 would establish the Golden State Retirement Savings Trust, which would be administered by a six-member board, including the state treasurer, controller, director of finance and an appointment each by the governor, Senate and Assembly. Private-sector workers would automatically have 3 percent of their earnings set aside in the trust, unless they opted out.

Unlike in an individual IRA or 401(k) account, their benefits — defined as their contributions plus earnings — would be guaranteed when they retire. The draft language does not specify how the earnings would be guaranteed. The board would then contract with a fund administrator, such as

the California State Public Employees Retirement System, the state's main pension fund.

Republican lawmakers warned that taxpayers or employers could wind up on the hook to cover any shortfalls if the government starts guaranteeing benefits to private-sector employees. Under proposed legislation, an employer who fails to enroll in the program or offer their own pension plan would be fined \$1,000 per employee after a 90-day grace period.

"Before we start discussing creating a new pension system, California needs to focus on the current pension crisis," said Sen. Mimi Walters, R-Lake Forest, vice chairwoman of the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

She noted the Democrats' proposal comes four months after Gov. Jerry Brown put out sweeping reforms to public employee pensions. The largest of those funds, CalPERS, is underfunded by at least \$75 billion.

Unlike most retirement plans for private-sector workers, public employees receive a guaranteed pension for life that is not subject to the ups and downs of the stock mar-

ket. CalPERS, for example, has the ability to impose higher contributions on state and local governments without the Legislature's permission.

Additionally, some public employee groups contribute nothing or only modest amounts to their pensions.

Walters dismissed the legislation as a way for Democrats to deflect attention from the problems with public pensions. Public employee unions are fighting against Brown's 12-point reform package and are key campaign supporters of Democrats.

De Leon, whose previous efforts to open CalPERS up to private-sector employers have failed, said he believed California taxpayers would not be burdened by his private pension program. He said the board would be expected to invest conservatively, offering low earnings tied to long-term treasury rates.

"This is a minimal risk," de Leon said.

Steinberg, the Senate's leading Democrat, said the majority party is not running away from reforming public pensions.

"The challenge is not how we settle for an insufficient level of retirement for all Californians, whether they be public or pri-

ivate employees," he said. "The question is how do we bring everybody up to a responsible decent standard of living during their retirement years."

Ilana Boivie, director of programs at the National Institute on Retirement Security, a not-for-profit organization in Washington, D.C., funded in part by public pension systems, said half of private-sector workers offer no retirement program.

One small business owner said it was a good idea.

Andrew Blaskovich, owner of Drewski's Hot Rod Kitchen, a mobile food truck business in Sacramento, said most of his 25 employees make \$2,500 to \$3,000 a month and he can't afford to provide them retirement benefits.

"This gives them an easier opportunity to put away money for the future," he said during the press conference.

The draft bill said employers would not be forced to contribute to the retirement plans, but a summary of the legislation from de Leon's office leaves open the possibility for "companion legislation that requires employers to assist their employees in saving for retirement."

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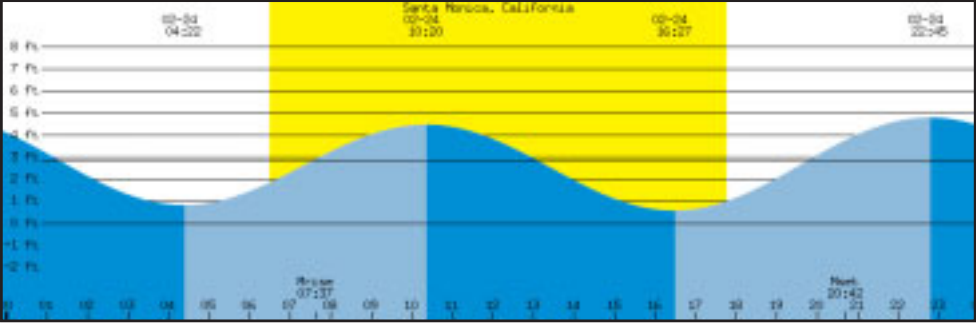
SWELL FORECAST

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW IS EXPECTED TO BACK OFF A BIT, MORE ALONG THE LINES OF CHEST TO AT TIMES HEAD HIGH FOR 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**

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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 Otter - von Furstenberg Family Foundation, simplehuman, LARROUY, and SMA.

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth.	F	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	B	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Alamos creeks.	m	m	Will Rogers State Beach at Tomacual Canyon drain.	A	F
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth).	A	F
Basel Beach at Tencas Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain.	B	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach.	B	B	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants).	A+	F
Lodge Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Salvador Canyon at San Benito County Beach.	A	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	B	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	A+	Venice Beach at Winkworth Ave. drain.	C	D
Seafolder Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	B	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Seafolder Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topail St.	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	m	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+	Ockeville State Beach at Collins Creek mouth.	B	F
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point road).	A+	A+	Ockeville State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 13548 PCH stairs.	F	B	North Westchester Storm Drain at Ockeville State Beach.	A+	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach.	A+	A+	Ockeville State Beach at World Way (south of DWR jetty).	A+	B
Tuna Canyon.	A+	m	Ockeville State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	A+
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F	Ockeville Beach- appellate Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Candlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	A+	Ockeville State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	D
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset 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

m -- 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

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 swimmers are happy.

MLB

Dodgers’ Sands hopes to build on strong fall

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDAL, Ariz. Substitute teacher Jerry Sands is seeking something more permanent with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Sands, who was teaching everything from math to physical education to high school and middle school students in North Carolina just days before the start of spring training, has a chance to go from sometime to fulltime if he can prove to the Dodgers that they need his hitting.

“I want to be the starting left-fielder,” the 24-year-old Sands said Thursday, a few hours after notifying the schools that he won’t be available for at least the next six weeks. “But no matter where they put me, I’ve got to show I can play.

“I don’t know if I have to win the starting job to be on the opening-day roster. I can’t make that decision. If they gave me the spot off the bench, I wouldn’t be mad about that.”

Sands has done the elementary math. A \$480,000 paycheck, the major-league minimum for one season, is a lot better than \$80 to \$100 a day for substitute teaching.

His chances are a little harder to calculate.

“He is going to have to be getting X-amount of at-bats,” Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. “There’s got to be enough at-bats for him to develop, learn.”

The Dodgers’ need for hitting was obvious last season. That’s when Sands was brought in from Triple-A Albuquerque. His impact was immediate. In his major league debut, he doubled. The crowd at Dodger Stadium chanted his name. It’s hard not to like a school teacher. But he began to struggle not long after his notable introduction. His average sank to .200. He was sent back to Albuquerque.

In September, however, Sanders and all of that potential were back. After rejoining the Dodgers on Sept. 6, he hit .343. He had a 14-game hitting streak, a .413 on-base

percentage and a .493 slugging percentage. Add it all up and Mattingly sees a promising future.

“This guy is a good player,” Mattingly said. “It didn’t happen quite as fast as we wanted it to happen. He struggled early. The second time period was a lot better. We still like everything about the kid. He’s really athletic.”

In Sands, Mattingly sees versatility. He can move to first base, a position he played in the Dominican Republic this winter when he wasn’t teaching. His busy offseason also included marriage to his high school sweetheart, Morgan.

“He gives us flexibility with our lineup,” said Mattingly, who is hopeful that Sands can add some pop to Dodger bats that struggled so mightily against left-handers last season.

In September, Sands was 12-for-26, including three doubles and one home run, against lefties.

“I feel like there will be enough at-bats,” Mattingly said. “But we’ll see.”

NOTES: Outfielder Matt Angle was claimed off waivers Thursday. Angle hit .177 in 31 games for the Baltimore Orioles last season. Mattingly said he didn’t know much about Angle, who spent most of last season at Triple-A Norfolk. “I know he’s a speed guy,” Mattingly said. “I don’t know if he would be a guy who’s competing for a spot right now. Let’s just get to know him. See what he can do.” RHP Jose Ascanio, a non-roster invitee, was waived. Ascanio failed the physical, according to club officials. RHP Mike MacDougal, 3-1 with a 2.01 ERA last season, has been troubled by some pain near his back. Mattingly said he felt better Thursday. The medical staff will determine how much work MacDougal can do Friday. ... Injured RHP Rubby De La Rosa was placed on the 60-day disabled list.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Santa Monica Pier Gangway

SP2124

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30 p.m.** on **March 22, 2012**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00 p.m.** Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

DATE: March 7, 2012

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: End of Pier

PROJECT ESTIMATE: \$1,150,000

CONTRACT DAYS: 270 DAYS

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$800 Per Day

COMPENSABLE DELAY: \$800 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City’s Finance website at: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167#>. The Contractor is required to have a **Class “A”** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City’s Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

MOVIE TIMES

<p>Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave. (310) 260-1528</p> <p>Fifth Annual Screen Student Film Festival 7pm</p> <p>AMC Loews Broadway 4 1441 Third Street Promenade (888) 262-4386</p> <p>Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min 12:15pm, 3:00pm</p> <p>Safe House (R) 1hr 57min 11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:10pm, 11:00pm</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) 2hrs 11min 12:20pm, 3:25pm, 6:40pm, 10:10pm</p> <p>Rampart (R) 1hr 45min 11:55am, 5:10pm, 10:35pm</p> <p>Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min 5:35pm, 8:15pm, 10:45pm</p> <p>AMC 7 Santa Monica 1310 Third St. (310) 451-9440</p> <p>Safe House (R) 1hr 57min 11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm</p>	<p>Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min 11:45am, 5:15pm, 10:30pm</p> <p>Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arietti) (G) 1hr 34min 11:25am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm</p> <p>Act of Valor (R) 1hr 41min 10:50am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:10pm, 4:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:00pm, 10:45pm</p> <p>Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min 11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm</p> <p>Chronicle (2012/ I) (PG-13) 1hr 23min 11:55am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:25pm, 9:50pm</p> <p>Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) 1hr 34min 2:30pm, 8:00pm</p> <p>Laemmle's Monica Fourplex 1332 Second St. (310) 478-3836</p> <p>On the Ice (R) 1hr 36min 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm</p> <p>2012 Oscar Shorts: Documentary I 4:20pm</p> <p>Descendants (R) 1hr 55min</p>	<p>1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm</p> <p>Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm</p> <p>Bullhead (R) 2hrs 04min 1:30pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm</p> <p>AMC Criterion 6 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599</p> <p>Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min 12:30pm, 3:40pm, 6:45pm, 9:40pm</p> <p>Wanderlust (R) 1hr 38min 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm</p> <p>Vow (PG-13) 1hr 44min 11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm</p> <p>This Means War (PG-13) 2hrs 00min 11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm</p> <p>Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 2hrs 09min 11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm</p> <p>Gone (PG-13) 1hr 25min 11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:10pm, 10:40pm</p>
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For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Find your friends tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Observe a tendency to do the unexpected or to experience quiet jolts in your life. Strap on your seatbelt. A powerful person in your life could be difficult and controlling. You just might decide to walk away. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take your time making a decision. You might not be able to honor a request from your in-laws or someone at a distance. It is possible that your saying "no" could cause a problem when you least expect it. Be willing to see a situation through another person's eyes. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities and find out where your supporters are. A problem with a partner or loved one could force you to make a change. Refuse to get into a power play at all costs. You won't win. Tonight: Find your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You see life from another perspective. An early upset could be somewhat difficult to come back from. It hits you harder than it does most people. Discussions evolve, and you will see the other side of a situation. Tonight: Chill out at dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You hear news that gets you going this morning. Detach rather than react. You will make better decisions as a result. You might feel as if you have to do too much. Be careful about changing your schedule; you could upset a key person. Tonight: Opt for something different.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Remain sensitive to a boss or higher-up who means a lot to you. Discussions occur on a one-on-one level that help resolve a problem. Everyone wants events to happen his or her way. Avoid a power play by walking away from a controlling individual. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others are direct and know what they want. You could feel unusually tense when dealing with a key person. You sense a hidden agenda. Do not play into what you cannot see. Respond only to what is agreed upon. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Pace yourself and take your time; you will complete what is needed with more precision. Communication forces you to take a different look at a situation, whether you are open to it or not. Try to control your intensity. Tonight: Indulge in a favorite form of relaxation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ The fire associated with your sign comes out full blast. You need to handle a personal matter differently, especially if it revolves around a power play. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight: Act like it is Friday night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Others don't know what ails you, but they recognize that you are not feeling up to snuff. You might be suppressing more emotions than you realize, creating a withdrawn attitude. Tonight: Refuse to get caught up in a power play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep communication open. You might hear something that is so surprising, that even you need to sit down. Flex and get into the spontaneity of the moment. You might be more controlling than you think. Tonight: Meet friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might see a situation much differently because of a change with your finances. You pull the wild card financially. Do not indulge a knee-jerk reaction. Look to the long-term. A friend might push too hard to have you follow his or her lead. Tonight: Treat a friend to munchies and a drink.

Happy birthday

This year you demonstrate your skills with dealing with financial changes. If you feel fortunate, buy a lottery ticket. Remain in tune with your budget, even if someone is talking about a risk. Do not create a problem. If you are single, be careful, as your work could become far less of a priority if you meet that special person. Romance flourishes through May and into 2013. Power plays take on an important role when relating to others. If you are attached, learn not to play into a sweetie's controlling ways. Be nonreactive. ARIES might become very pushy. Learn the word "no."

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

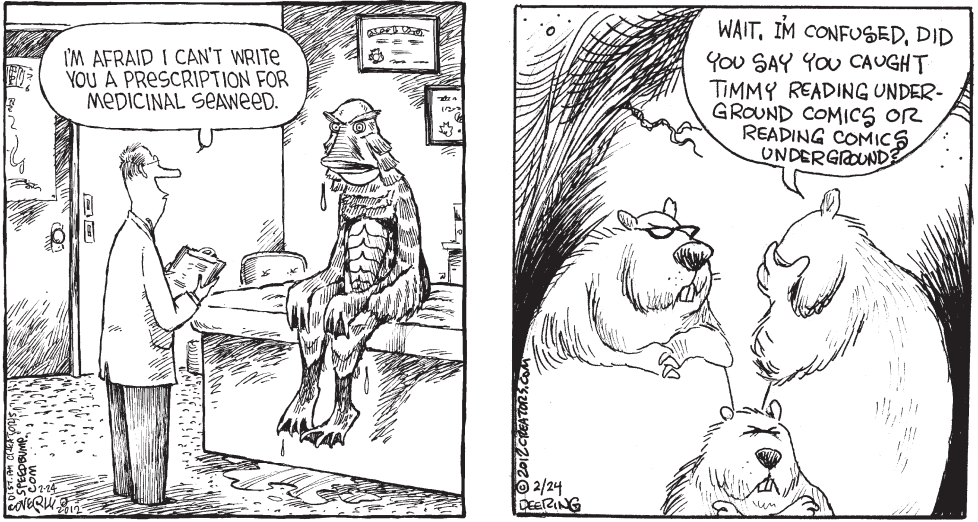


MYSTERY PHOTO

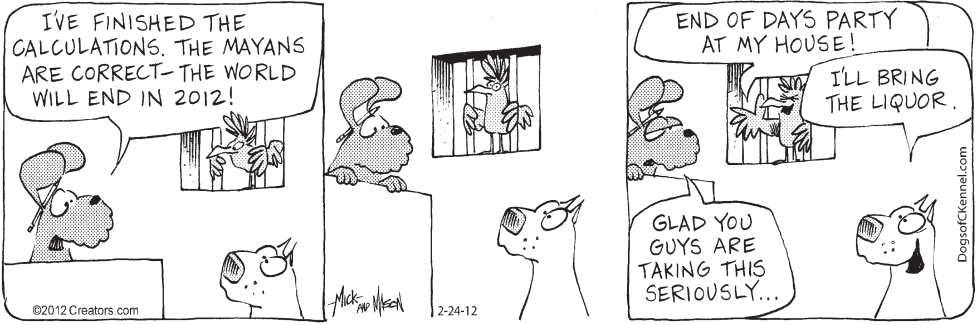
Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

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



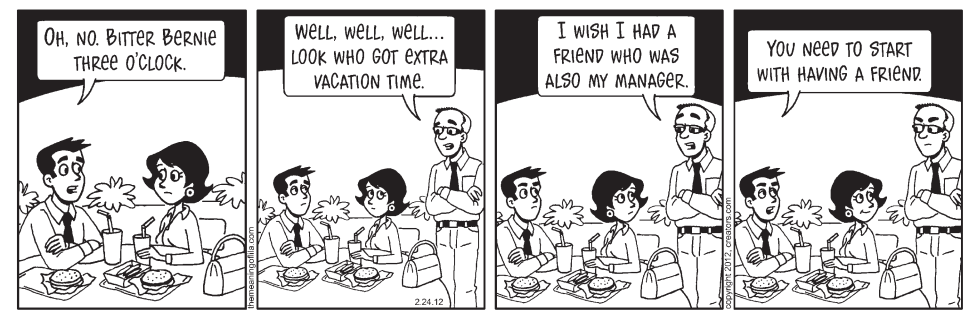
Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Crack up
- 6 Change from a sawbuck
- 11 Wipe clear
- 12 Spiny plant
- 13 Storage sites
- 14 Taboo acts
- 15 Biol. or geol.
- 16 Famed raft
- 18 The whole amount
- 19 — Lanka
- 20 Cariou of Broadway
- 21 Eye drop
- 23 Quasi-modo's concern
- 25 Fragrant tree
- 27 Neptune's realm
- 28 Makes do
- 30 Has debts
- 33 Costa del —
- 34 Empty talk
- 36 Ensign's answer
- 37 Sailor
- 39 Swamp
- 40 Bloom in le jardin
- 41 Staggers
- 43 Broadcast
- 44 Be in accord
- 45 Takes five
- 46 Bed parts

DOWN

- 1 Alludes to
- 2 Answer source
- 3 Office holders
- 4 Invite
- 5 Office fixtures
- 6 Rear ends
- 7 "— You Babe"

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

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Sweet cookies
- 9 Conjures up
- 10 Amber source
- 17 Sphere
- 22 Tatter
- 24 Summer sign
- 26 Looks at
- 28 Lassie, for one
- 29 Mineo of movies
- 31 Lace's place
- 32 Detects
- 33 Until now
- 35 Thong
- 38 Winter treat for birds
- 42 Big head

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16	17				
18					19			20		
21			22		23		24			
		25		26		27				
	28				29		30		31	32
33				34		35		36		
37			38					39		
40						41	42			
43						44				
45						46				

2-24

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × - ÷

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

1, 1, 7, 7, 9, 11, 11, 11, 12

Arithmo Crossmath - Reclaim Your Brain

- 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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Solution for Task 704

			7	
		23	8	
24	10	5	9	
	20	12	10	6
			6	

	17	13	19
14		+	-
10		+	+
8		+	÷

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 2/21
9 30 39 42 47
Meganumber: 37
Jackpot: \$83M



Draw Date: 2/22
1 34 37 39 41
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$15M



Draw Date: 2/23
4 11 29 35 37



Draw Date: 2/23
MIDDAY: 5 7 3
EVENING: 6 3 0



Draw Date: 2/23
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:47.79

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Bill Robinson, 66, of Decatur, Ga., was arrested on a misdemeanor firearm charge in December for gathering holiday mistletoe in the "best way" he knew -- shooting it out of a tree with a 12-gauge shotgun. The fact that the tree was in the parking lot of the suburban North DeKalb Mall (filled with holiday shoppers) apparently completely escaped his attention. "Well," said Robinson to WGCL-TV, "about the time I did it, I got to thinking about it. ... I guess I assumed that everybody knew what I was doing."

■ Not Ready for Prime Time: Mostafa Hendi was charged with attempted robbery of the We Buy Gold store in Hendersonville, N.C., in December, but clerk Derek Mothershead stopped him. As Hendi reached for the money, Mothershead punched him in the face, momentarily knocking him out cold. He held Hendi down with one hand and called 911 with the other, and as the two waited for police, Mothershead handed Hendi cleanser and paper towels and ordered him to clean up his blood off of the floor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1983 - A special commission of the U.S. Congress releases a report that condemns the practice of Japanese internment during World War II.

1989 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini offers a US\$3 million bounty for the death of The Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie.

1989 - United Airlines Flight 811, bound for New Zealand from Honolulu, Hawaii, rips open during flight, sucking 9 passengers out of the business-class section.

1996 - The last occurrence of February 24 as a leap day in the European Union and for the Roman Catholic Church.

WORD UP!

plenum \ PLEE-nuhm \ , noun;
1. A full assembly, as a joint legislative assembly.
2. The state or a space in which a gas, usually air, is contained at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Employment Wanted

HOUSE BOY/COMPANION for older couple. CA drivers license. Speaks english & perform all household duties. References. (310)454-5798

Employment

Callison, LLC seeks FT Architectural Designer (Intl Markets) in Santa Monica, CA. Requires Masters in Arch + 3 yrs specific exp with intl mixed-use projects or Bach Arch + 5 years exp. 25% travel to Asia. See www.callison.com for complete details & reqs. Resumes: J. Hughes, 1445 Ross Avenue Suite 2600, Dallas, TX 75202.

CASHIER/SALES F/T for a Building Materials retailer, including Sat. Will train. Retail and computer exp favored. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, Ca 90404

COMMISSION SALES rep needed part time with internet marketing experience. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

IT-Programmer Analyst- provide netw&k & server admin, database and web mgmt. Send CV to UCLA Semel Institute, Attn: Admin, 10920 Wilshire Bl., #300, LA, CA 90024

LUMBER SALES F/T, including Sat. For a Building Materials retailer. Will train. Lumber/Door/Window exp favored. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, Ca 90404.

Help Wanted

An administrative assistant is urgently needed. Successful candidate will provide executive and administrative support. Must be detail-oriented, organized, and adapt well to change. Proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint required. Qualified candidates should send applications to kmtadtpt@aol.com

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MV/MDR adj. Large Studio , near Centinela/90 Freeway. Full kitchen with stove and fridge, large closet, carpets, laundry, parking. \$925/mo. (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

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10703 Holman Ave. 2Bd + 1Bth. One level unit w/ hdwd floors and garage. \$1725

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF (Name):Lucille Stumbaugh, aka Lucille Brink, deceased. Case Number BP 132536
1.To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of (specify all names by which the decedent was known): Lucille Stumbaugh, aka Lucille Brink, aka Lucille Witherow, aka Lucille Wolf
2.A Petition for Probate has been filed by (name of petitioner): in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify): Jack D. Wolf
3.The Petition for Probate requests that (name): Jack D. Wolf

be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
4.The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
5.The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
6.A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

a. Date: Mar. 22, 2012 Time: 8:30am Dept.:11
b.Address of court: 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
8.If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
9.You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10.Petitioner Attorney for petitioner (name): Jack D. Wolf
(Address):
16511 County Road 7
Wiggins, CO 80654
(Telephone):
(970) 483-6308

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012000031 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/03/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SALON MONDEZ. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: DIEGO MONROY 2123 N. TOWN AVE POMONA, CA 91767. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:DIEGO MONROY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/03/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY

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PRESS to publish 02/03/2012, 02/10/2012, 02/17/2012, 02/24/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012000034 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/03/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MIA MARISA PHOTOGRAPHY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: MIA REED 5910 JAYMILLS AVE. LONG BEACH, CA 90805. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/01/2011. /s/: MIA REED. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/03/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 02/03/2012, 02/10/2012, 02/17/2012, 02/24/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012000035 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/03/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. C.M. MEIERS COMPANY 2. C.M. MEIERS ENTERTAINMENT 3. AFFINITY GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT 4. AFFINITY GLOBAL HEALTHCARE. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: AFFINITY GLOBAL INSURANCE SERVICES 21045 CALIFA STREET, SUITE 100, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367. This Business is being conducted by: a corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/: JASON ADELMAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/03/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 02/03/2012, 02/10/2012, 02/17/2012, 02/24/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012006023 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/11/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as M.S. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Michael J. Shivers 816 S. Bundy Dr. #5 Brentwood, CA 90049. This Business is being conducted by: . The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Michael J. Shivers. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/11/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 02/13/2012, 02/20/2012, 02/27/2012, 03/05/2012.

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