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THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 94

Santa Monica Daily Press

WATER BILL GIVES MORE WATER TO CITIES
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE ABOUT IT ISSUE



LEAP DU SOLEIL

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Fans pose with members of Cirque du Soleil's 'OVO' on Wednesday as part of a day of activities in honor of Leap Day at the Santa Monica Pier.

Four sentenced in 2009 murder at local park

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Four reputed gang members have been given what could end up life sentences for the murder of 20-year-old Richard Manuel Juarez, who was gunned down while hanging out with friends at Virginia Avenue Park in 2009, authorities said Wednesday.

Patrick Dwight Birdsong Jr., 21; Sean Alex Mermer, 31; Taaj Zakee Martin, 20; and Norman Lovan Cole, 36; were convicted of murder, attempted murder and street terrorism — a gang enhancement — said a spokesperson for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The four were sentenced at various times over the last week, according to information posted on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's website.

No other information was available at presstime.

Juarez was shot and killed Nov. 3, 2009 shortly before 9 p.m. as he was hanging out with friends at Virginia Avenue Park. Juarez, a graduate of Olympic High School, had just finished participating in an art class when he was approached by two suspects who immediately opened fire.

SEE JUAREZ PAGE 9

School board to discuss Malibu secession effort

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Board of Education is expected on Thursday to get details on the legal and procedural issues involved with taking the Malibu out of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

It will be the first time the board in its entirety will hear about the complex process of "unification," a strange name for a mechanism that would actually split one district into two.

County officials will be on hand to lay out the process, and answer any questions the board may have, said Matt Spies, spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

"We're going to take it from the perspective that the board knows nothing," Spies said.

Residents of Malibu and their elected officials began exploring the concept in October as one of several means to fix perceived problems with the existing system, including a lack of representation on the Board of Education and the feeling that the two communities have different cultures. The seven-member Board of Education has not included a Malibu resident since Kathy Wisnicki chose not to run for re-election in 2008.

They haven't chosen an easy route.

Unification is a difficult row to hoe, and comes with major monetary implications for both the original district and its potential offshoot.

The process can span several years, going first before the county's Committee on District Reorganization and then to the state Department of Education either with the approval of the county body or on appeal.

It takes about a year to get the matter heard by the Department of Education, and its vote is final.

SEE BOARD PAGE 9

Nativity scenes supporters get council delay

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council voted Tuesday to punt a controversial decision on the winter displays in Palisades Park until the spring to allow church groups and other supporters time to develop ways to keep the program going.

SEE SCENES PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Grounded
Groundwork
Santa Monica Place
See works from painter Gary Palmer's "Coffee Series" during this ongoing exhibit. An extension of his earlier "Coffee Series" of narrative works, Palmer's latest pieces were painted specifically for this exhibition. For more information, visit themarketsmp.com/gary-palmer-coffee-series. The exhibit runs through April 23.

Freshen up
Douglas Park Clubhouse
2439 Wilshire Boulevard, 6:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Attend this community meeting to discuss the proposed Fresh & Easy Market, which is expected to be located in the existing Magnolia Audo Video space at 2800 Wilshire Blvd. For more information, call city planners at (310) 458-8341.

Love on the Pacific
Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica High School's Spring musical is "South Pacific" by Rodgers and Hammerstein. The musical centers on an American nurse stationed at a U.S. Naval base during World War II who falls in love with an expatriate French plantation owner but struggles to accept his mixed-race children. A second romance concerns a U.S. Lieutenant who falls in love with a young Asian woman. Suggested for ages 8 and up. Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m., March 1-3 and March 8-10. Plus special matinee Saturday, March 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets: suggested donation of $15, $10 for students.

Friday, March 2, 2012

Get bugged
Santa Monica Pier
1550 Pacific Coast Highway, 8 p.m.
Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" is under the big top by the sea. In this show, Cirque delves into the secret lives of bugs to tell their unlikely stories. The show runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call (800) 450-1480.

Saturday, March 3, 2012

All things Seuss
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10:30 a.m.
Stop by the library for the Fifth Annual Super Seuss-Abration. The celebration begins with a juggling show. After that, there will be crafts and activities for kids. For more information, call (310) 458-8621.

Rocking the mall
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Enjoy live music at the mall's main plaza every weekend. The artists aren't set, but be ready for some eclectic offerings. For more information, call (310) 260-8333.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WESTWOOD

405 closures scheduled

More overnight closures are planned beginning Friday night on the San Diego (405) Freeway through the Sepulveda Pass as work continues on a $1.2 billion improvement project.

The southbound freeway will be closed from the Ventura (101) Freeway to Getty Center Drive on Friday and Saturday nights as crews continue to work on rebuilding the Mulholland bridge across the 405.

Some freeway ramps in the area could begin closing as early as 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and some lanes could be blocked beginning at 10 p.m. All southbound lanes will be closed at midnight, but the closures should be lifted by 5 a.m.

The closures will impact the northbound lanes between Getty Center Drive and Ventura Boulevard on Monday and Tuesday nights. More southbound closures are planned on the nights of March 12 and 13.

According to Metro, which is overseeing the project, Sepulveda Boulevard will remain open during the freeway closures and will be available as an alternate route.

The project will add carpool lanes to the freeway and make other improvements, including the reconstruction of major bridges over the 405 in the Sepulveda Pass. The overall project is scheduled to be completed next year.

DAILY PRESS

CITY HALL

Celebrating women

The Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) celebrates March as Women's History Month and the 2012 National Women's History Month theme of "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment."

In celebration, the COSW is promoting a month of events throughout the city designed to support and promote women's achievements, courage and creativity.

Kicking off the month will be a photography exhibit of Santa Monica women throughout history in the City Hall foyer before it moves to the Santa Monica History Museum, which will run through March 31.

Throughout the month, the COSW will partner with a variety of city and local organizations to present a range of programming.

For additional questions about the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women and Women's History Month, call (310) 458-8701.

DP

Controversial water bill passes U.S. House

GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a controversial water bill that would block the restoration of the San Joaquin River and give California farmers and urban residents more water.

The bill was approved by a 246 to 175 margin on a largely partisan vote in the Republican-controlled House. The measure is expected to die in the Democrat-controlled Senate. President Barack Obama also has vowed to veto it.

Sponsored by Visalia Republican Devin Nunes, the legislation would repeal plans to restore the San Joaquin River and remove the $300 million already authorized for the project. The bill overrides a settlement that ended nearly two decades of lawsuits to restore the river.

It would also pre-empt state water law and reduce the amount of water available for fish, wildlife and restoration efforts. It would redirect a greater supply from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to farmers, lengthen irrigation contracts to 40 years and ease water transfers.

The bill reinstates a 1994 agreement known as the Bay-Delta Accord that was seen at the time as a compromise among environmentalists, farmers and local, state and national governments. But opponents say that compromise was reached before new science came to light and before delta fisheries collapsed.

Republicans lauded the bill, saying it would guarantee adequate water deliveries. Nunes, the bill's sponsor, said environmental regulations meant to protect fish took water away from farms and harmed the Central Valley's agriculture.

"This bill provides the ultimate protections," Nunes said, adding California would not need to build a new peripheral canal if the bill became law. "People in our nation's breadbasket are standing in food lines, and they're getting carrots that have been imported from China. Their sacrifices have done nothing to improve the environment. Fish populations have declined."

Most Democrats spent the day arguing against the bill — it passed with the vote of just 10 Democrats — saying it's disastrous for the delta estuary and would disrupt California's complex network of water-

SEE **WATER** PAGE 11



FACE TO FACE

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Crossroads catcher Sam Reiss is too late applying a tag to University High School's Jeffrey Walkerfrom, who scored on the play at Clover Park on Wednesday. Crossroads would end up losing the home game, 9-1.

Bereavement Group

Share the experience of losing a loved one with others in a confidential and supportive setting. Through the sharing with others you may be able to identify and address your own physical and emotional needs and develop new strategies to cope with the hard days.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Minority over the majority

Editor:

I am a local baby boomer who grew up in Santa Monica. For my entire life I have always enjoyed the nativity scenes in Santa Monica. As soon as they were put up each year, my mother would wait until after sunset and drive me down Ocean Avenue to enjoy the beautiful scenes. At that time I was not a Catholic, not a Christian, but still really enjoyed them. It wasn't Christmas until we drove down Ocean Avenue. It was a part of my life that was very special for me.

Now I am 58 and my mother is 90 and at Christmas I drive her down Ocean Avenue to enjoy the nativity scenes ... until this past year.

What happened? Who had the force and incredible power to stop a beloved tradition in the great city of Santa Monica? What is wrong with the nativity scenes? Why do the atheists, a small minority, have the last word? To not offend a minority, the majority must go away?

Call me crazy but this seems upside down to me!

Christine Rudolph
Santa Monica

Don't back down to outsiders

Editor:

Being Jewish, I can't say that I am in favor of the display of nativity scenes in Palisades Park during the winter holiday season. But I can't see why non-Santa Monicans can influence our way of handling Santa Monica traditions or affairs.

I think we are not violating First Amendment rights if we limit spaces to bona fide Santa Monica institutions, with each institution limited to one application for one space in a lottery each season. After all, this is our Santa Monica, not the atheists from outside our city. Please note that the First Amendment does not give outsiders the right to vote in our elections, so what gives them the right to disrupt or intervene in our traditions or the way we run our city?

B. N. Harris
Santa Monica

Finding a compromise

Editor:

I participated in one of City Hall's Santa Monica Airport Phase 2 visioning sessions this last week. I was pleased that everyone at the session seemed genuinely interested in finding compromises.

Here's mine: No-fly Sundays. Such a compromise allows airplane traffic to continue at SMO six days out of seven while giving the community one day a week of relative peace and quiet on a day that most are at home.

Jan Ludwinski
Santa Monica

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For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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Your column here

Jeff Goodman — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Helping neighbors, changing lives

ABOUT A WEEK AGO I TOOK MY DOGS for a walk along the alleyway east of Lincoln Boulevard. I started at Pico Boulevard and made my way down to Ocean Park Boulevard. Along the way I saw much activity in the alley. Some people were sitting and drinking from brown bags, others appeared to be under the influence of drugs. Some individuals seemed a little shady, and way too many souls were wandering around thinking about where they could sit and sleep for the night.

While I don't live next to that alleyway, I do live nearby and this is my city — my home. I know that what I saw posed little or no threat to my personal safety. But it wasn't comfortable. Really, when is it ever comfortable to encounter human suffering?

So it was no surprise to me that many neighbors were opposed to Common Ground joining the Sunset Park neighborhood. Who wouldn't be concerned about any change in the neighborhood make-up?

Common Ground is a Santa Monica-based agency whose mission is to bring together the diverse members of our community in the fight against HIV; we offer free education, prevention and treatment programs. We are the only comprehensive HIV services agency serving the Westside. Since our founding as the Santa Monica AIDS Project in 1992, the face of AIDS has changed. And so today we serve many clients who look different from those we served back in the "early" years.

This month we began to move into our new headquarters. Lincoln Boulevard is Zone C4 — essentially a commercial zone with a huge span of acceptable uses. Our use and purpose easily fit into that zone. In fact, it is the same zone as our old location on Lincoln and Bay Street. So without further ado, we signed the lease. Our business license was granted because there simply is no zoning issue. We have not opened for business yet while we await construction permits. Clients have been notified of this but for the occasional person who may walk up, we have someone stationed at our front door to help that person with transportation so they can obtain the necessary and immediate services at other locations.

Still, a hailstorm of reaction ensued. When we, along with City Hall's Human Services Division, sponsored a community meeting on Feb. 13, it was apparent that residents were angry and frightened for themselves, for their property values and for their children. Our former neighbors from Bay Street had much to say about our being poor neighbors. It was tough to hear but we took all the information in and spent the next few days soul searching. We know we do amazing and unique work for those with HIV. But are we good citizens and neighbors? And how can we help a neighborhood rather than create conflict?

And so with humble pie on our plates, we assessed, discussed, and decided there were constructive changes we could make. We want Santa Monica residents to know what we are doing.

First, there will be no needle exchange program at this location on Lincoln. We will continue to offer the program in our other locations because it is a proven public health intervention that prevents disease. But not at 2401 Lincoln Blvd. Secondly, we will implement security measures. We will institute patrol car service to monitor our area all night. We will also install lighting and cameras. Currently we are seeking expert advice on proper placement, coverage and best practice.

We will also hire someone part-time during the hours of our youth program to direct our youth clients away from the residential streets. Third, we will establish a regular Neighborhood Advisory Council as part of our Good Neighbor Agreement. This group will meet on a regular basis and review all records of incidents, neighborhood communications, etc. This will provide an objective assessment of our impact on the neighborhood, providing both accountability and ongoing self-evaluation of how we are doing in responding to concerns.

Detailed plans for the Neighborhood Advisory Council and the Good Neighbor Agreement are being developed by a workgroup that includes impacted neighborhood representatives, the Human Services Division, the Santa Monica Police Department, and management and board members from Common Ground.

Many of those who have voiced concern about Common Ground's new location fear that our agency is a magnet for people who make them uncomfortable. But there are 3,300 people on the Westside who live with HIV. These people are already here, mostly concentrated in Santa Monica and Venice. Many of our clients are your neighbors. The people who walk into our doors seeking services are asking for much-needed help. They are not here to create neighborhood disturbances but to change their lives for the better. By making room in our neighborhood for the delivery of services that help people survive — and often set their lives on a new course — we can all have a positive impact on the problems that burden the neighborhood. Common Ground has renewed its commitment to serve our clients in a new and expanded facility. But with the move, we have also renewed our commitment to serve the community by making sure we don't unintentionally create new problems for our neighbors. The Neighborhood Advisory Council and a strong Good Neighbor Agreement will help us fulfill that commitment.

JEFF GOODMAN is a nationally recognized expert in HIV prevention and treatment and the president of the board for Common Ground. When not walking his dogs through alleys, he can be reached at

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Life Matters

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

Get connected with LinkedIn

Dear Life Matters,

I recently joined LinkedIn at the recommendation of a friend. I am new to the site and am not sure how to use all of its features. Can you please provide me with some recommendations to make the most of my new online endeavor?

Thank you,
Getting Linked

Dear Linked,

Online networking sites, liked LinkedIn, can be a great tool for your career development and building your professional network. LinkedIn is an easy-to-use professional networking site that connects professionals to trusted colleagues through an "invitation" system.

While joining LinkedIn is free, the website also features a premium version which allows you to connect with professionals outside of your network who are working in your area of interest.

LinkedIn can be used to stay in touch with colleagues, build your network, collaborate on projects, or investigate new opportunities. Although it does not have the photo and instant sharing features of Facebook or Google Plus, it does allow users to focus on displaying their professional background and qualifications. Many users choose to include their professional resume and a tagline describing their talents.

While I could probably write numerous articles about all the ways you can use LinkedIn, I will focus on the basics to get you started. LinkedIn also has great information online about how to make the most of your account. You can access this material by logging into your account, clicking "More" from the top menu and selecting "Learning Center."

I would recommend starting your LinkedIn journey by completing your profile. One of the first steps you will want to take is to select your display name (how your name is listed on LinkedIn), your professional headline, and your location and industry. This information is generally what others will see when looking through the directory or when searching for you on LinkedIn. You can customize this information to your own personal preferences, for example you can have the specific location within a city that you live listed (i.e. "Santa Monica") or the general greater area listed (i.e. "Greater Los Angeles Area"). Your headline can be a specific job title, an industry or specialty focus, or quick statement to describe your expertise. Add a professional headshot to upload as your profile picture.

Once you have completed your basic information you will have the opportunity to finish the rest of your profile. This includes a summary section which lists your qualifications and experiences (how you market yourself), publications, and education. Rather than just a laundry list of experiences, think about writing your profile in a very action-oriented way. You want to engage the reader by focusing on key accomplishments and results.

One of the unique features of LinkedIn is the ability to request a recommendation from a current or former supervisor, colleague, business associate or other professional. After you enter each of your experiences, you can request a recommendation by clicking "ask for recommendations" under the appropriate entry. Once a reference writes you an online recommendation you will have the opportunity to review and approve the recommendation before it's posted on your profile. This feature allows potential employers and those in your network the opportunity to learn about you from another person's perspective and can be a great way to enhance your professional online image.

Beyond sharing your own personal information, LinkedIn can be a great way to gather professional information as well. Consider joining LinkedIn groups related to your interests, industry, university connection, and location. Some groups are open to all interested parties while others require approval. Once you've joined a group you'll have access to the discussion boards where you can review current topics within that field and also comment or start a discussion of your own. LinkedIn is a great way to find out about new job openings, hot topics for a particular industry, and to keep tabs on your former classmates and colleagues.

KATRINA DAVY, M.A., ED.M, is a Santa Monica-based professional career counselor who has worked in university and private settings. She holds degrees from Columbia and Cornell universities. Visit her online at www.kdcareer.com. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!

The Q Line

Making cuts

Officials with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are considering cutting $2 million from next year's budget. There has been talk of reducing staff and an increase in class sizes.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
If cuts have to be made, where do you think are logical places to look 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) 458-7737 ext. 102.**

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BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

City Council relaxes onerous truancy ordinance

The Los Angeles City Council has relaxed a much criticized truancy ordinance that ticketed students for being tardy to school.

The council on Wednesday approved a law that replaces $250 fines with community service for the first and second offenses, and start fines at $20 for the third offense.

The ordinance also prevents police officers from writing tickets during the first hour of school to students within a three-block radius of their campus.

Community groups and public interest lawyers lambasted the old law as unfair as it disproportionately affected black, Latino and low-income students.

Los Angeles police issued 47,000 truancy tickets from 2004 to 2009. Students complained they received tickets when they were clearly on their way to school and even had a legitimate reason for being tardy.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Trial over 'Desperate Housewives' firing begins

Nicollette Sheridan should receive $6 million for being killed off "Desperate Housewives" after the show's creator slapped her, her attorney said Wednesday, as a defense lawyer argued her onscreen demise was a natural part of television.

The dueling characterizations of a dispute between Sheridan and "Housewives" creator and executive producer Marc Cherry were presented to jurors in opening remarks of a case that will offer glimpses into the behind-the-scenes maneuvers of a hit TV show.

Sheridan, 48, was scheduled to be the trial's first witness on Thursday. Her wrongful termination and battery trial centers on whether her complaints about Cherry's slap — described by her attorney as a hard whack, and a defense lawyer as a tap meant to give artistic direction — led to her character Edie Britt's violent demise and the loss of her $175,000-an-episode job.

Mark Baute, Sheridan's attorney, claims her character was killed off only after ABC, which airs the series, cleared Cherry of wrongdoing.

He told jurors that determination was made after a sham investigation and the plotline was hastily planned.

Cherry and ABC have denied all wrongdoing. Adam Levin, who represents Cherry and ABC, said he would present evidence that the decision to kill off Sheridan's character came months before the on-set dispute and was made after consulting the highest ranks of the network's management.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Man gets probation for mailing rat poison

A federal judge has sentenced a California man to five years of probation for sending envelopes of rat poison to Los Angeles County child welfare officials in a fit of anger over the handling of his nephew's case in the 1990s.

The U.S. Attorney's office said Judge Howard Matz on Wednesday also ordered Martin Yarbrough Jr. to undergo mental health treatment and barred him from possessing dangerous weapons.

Yarbrough, 50, pleaded guilty last year to 13 counts of mailing injurious materials for sending envelopes containing rat and cockroach poison to offices of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Edelman Children's Court from 2008 to 2010.

No one was harmed, but discovery of the poison caused the buildings to be evacuated and hazardous materials teams to be dispatched.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Postal worker's legs severed in collision

Los Angeles police say a postal worker's legs were severed when he was pinned between his van and another vehicle.

Officer Karen Rayner tells City News Service the man is hospitalized Wednesday in very critical condition.

The worker was standing at the rear of his van Tuesday in Boyle Heights when he was struck.

The driver who hit the man has a suspended license. Rayner says the motorist was not detained but the investigation is ongoing and charges are possible.

Rayner says the driver may have fallen asleep.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Ex-official surrenders on child porn charges

The former president of the Los Angeles neighborhood commission has surrendered to FBI agents to face federal charges of child pornography.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 63-year-old Albert Abrams, of Tarzana, was taken into custody Wednesday.

Prosecutors say investigators investigating a peer-to-peer file sharing network were able to download more than 150 child pornography videos and pictures from a computer at Abrams' home last summer.

An indictment charges Abrams with five counts of distributing child pornography, two counts of receiving child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

Abrams resigned from the board of neighborhood commissioners in August, days after authorities searched his home.

He could not be reached for comment.

The distribution and receipt charges carry a mandatory five years in prison each.

AP

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Apple market value hits $500B

BY PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Apple's market capitalization topped $500 billion Wednesday, climbing to a mountain peak where few companies have ventured — and none have stayed for long.

Apple was already the world's most valuable company. The gap between it and No. 2 Exxon Mobil Corp. has widened rapidly in the past month, as investors have digested Apple's report of blow-out holiday-season sales of iPhones and iPads. And, more recently, Apple has raised investors' hopes that it might institute a dividend.

The company's market capitalization was near $506 billion at the market close. Shares rose $7.03, or 1.3 percent, to close at $542.44 Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Cupertino, Calif., company sent out invites to reporters for an event in San Francisco next Wednesday, apparently to reveal its next iPad model. The launch of the new model was expected around this time, a year after the launch of the iPad 2.

Apple is in rare company. It is the sixth U.S. corporation to reach the $500 billion milestone, and the only one to be worth that much at current prices.

Exxon, now worth $411 billion, was worth just over $500 billion for two short stretches at the end of 2007.

Apple's arch-nemesis Microsoft Corp. was worth just more than $500 billion briefly at the end of 1999, and again in early 2000. It even shot up above $600 billion for one day. The company is now worth $267 billion.

Cisco Systems Inc., Intel Corp. and General Electric Co. also peaked just above $500 billion in early 2000. Cisco and Intel are now worth a bit more than $100 billion each, while GE is worth $200 billion.

Exxon's ascent to the $500 billion level was propelled by record oil prices. Cisco, Intel, Microsoft and GE were boosted by the general stock mania of 1999 and 2000, and the hunger for technology stocks in particular.

Apple's rise, by contrast, is powered by its mammoth sales and profits, which are growing at rates unheard of for a company its size. And despite its sky-high market capitalization, Apple's shares aren't expensive compared to its earnings. It's worth 15 times its earnings for the last year. That compares to 21 times earnings for Google Inc. and 14 times for the S&P 500 overall. Yet few companies in the index grow their earnings as fast as Apple does: In its latest quarter, its earnings rose 118 percent from a year ago, to $13.06 billion.

Analysts expect the Apple rally to have some legs. The 35 analysts who have reported to FactSet since Apple's latest earnings report have set an average price target of $592 per share, or 8 percent higher than Wednesday's level. That implies a market capitalization of $552 billion.

Apple has been helped by a general recovery in the stock market after the doldrums of the financial crisis and the recession. The S&P 500 index has posted its best February performance in 14 years, and on Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 13,000 for the first time since May 2008.

Apple's stock accounts for 3.8 percent of the value of the S&P 500, according to Standard & Poor's, and it made up 6 percent of the operating income of the 500 companies in the fourth quarter.

Analysts say Apple's sheer size works against its stock price. Apple stock already makes up a large share of the holdings of technology and growth-focused funds, and they have little appetite for more. Meanwhile, value-focused funds are often prevented from buying the shares because the company doesn't pay a dividend.

However, the company has been signaling that a dividend is under consideration, and several analysts now consider it a given that one will be announced this year. Last week, CEO Tim Cook told shareholders at the annual meeting that the company has more money than it needs, and the board and management are thinking "very deeply" about ways to use the cash.

Former CEO Steve Jobs, apparently haunted by the company's lean years in the 90s, had a policy of accumulating cash. The company now sits on $97.6 billion.

China's largest oil company, PetroChina, was briefly worth $1 trillion after it listed on the Shanghai stock exchange in 2007, but only based on its price on that exchange. Its shares also trade in Hong Kong and on the New York Stock Exchange. Based on trading there, its market capitalization has never reached $500 billion.







Culture Watch

Sarah Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ocean Park art in Orange County

RICHARD DIEBENKORN PUT SANTA MONICA'S OCEAN Park on the map the world over. Every major museum owns at least one of the iconic paintings in his "Ocean Park Series" — only two own more than one. He worked on them in his studios on Main Street at Ashland Avenue over a 20-year period. There are nearly 500 pieces in the series; 140 paintings, many drawings, collages, paintings on cigar box lids and prints, his most celebrated body of work.

At Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) in Newport Beach, 80 selections from the "Ocean Park Series" are together for the first time, all in one place. It's a monumental, historic achievement.

In this 50th anniversary year of OCMA (through its various incarnations), the show is also a homecoming for Diebenkorn, championed early on by OCMA's forerunner (Pavilion Gallery), which presented a survey of his work in 1965. LACMA followed suit in 1977, with a widely acclaimed career retrospective.

There's a personal connection to his art for me: For many years, when meeting in former KCRW General Manager Ruth Seymour's office, we'd look up from our basement bunker to see part of an Ocean Park painting that Ruth had replicated on the inner wall of the well beneath the grate that gave us the only outdoor light we received downstairs. It was a reminder of the nearby neighborhood above ground.

A shorthand version of Diebenkorn's trajectory sees him moving from abstract expressionism in the late 1940s, early '50s to figurative/representational painting in the '50s and '60s, back to abstraction in the late '60s, '70s and beyond. But this is far too simplified a description for an artist so deeply consumed with achieving "rightness" — the changing quality of light, dimensionality, layering of colors, sense of place, geometric balance within the frame, or as he put it, "The idea is to get everything right — it's not just color or form or space or line — it's everything all at once."

Diebenkorn was influenced by many artists but his eyes were opened especially by Cezanne and Matisse; he underwent another visual revelation while flying over the Southwest, struck by the flat plane of the landscape, the gridlines of the "Earth's skin" and the intersection of geographic features. These all play into the "Ocean Park Series."

Diebenkorn pursued his own path, continuing to paint after painting was declared dead, painting figures when abstraction reigned, returning to abstraction and architectonic shapes when hyper-real Pop and conceptual art were capturing the art world's attention.

Already a recognized artist, he'd also taught elsewhere by the time he joined the UCLA art faculty in 1965; he and his wife Phyllis settled into Santa Monica Canyon. By 1966, he found his first Ashland studio, later moving into Sam Francis' studio on Main Street, where the first Ocean Park painting was born in 1967.

The paintings are strikingly large — Diebenkorn was 6 foot 2, and he could paint as far as he could reach; and the new Sam Francis studio offered considerably more space and much more light.

About that light, Diebenkorn's friend and colleague Peter Levitt writes in the exhibition catalog: "I remember… the unique and beautiful quality of the light, how from morning to night the sky's variable shades of blue seemed to retain a moist translucence, as if the color rose from the nearby sea to cool the heated summer air. And yet … the air retained enough of the desert dryness, where it was also born, to almost flatten out the blue color of the sky… . The angle and intensity of what I came to think of as 'Ocean Park light' were so much a part of our daily lives that we could tell the time of day by the hour it bounced off the stucco walls of the modest ocher, russet, or pale blue homes, or the white wooden cottages that made that neighborhood a world."



Photo courtesy Orange County Museum of Art

COOL COLORS: **This is one of roughly 80 works by artist Richard Diebenkorn that will be on display at the Orange County Museum of Art as part of the exhibit 'The Ocean Park Series.'**

Diebenkorn captures that world and that light in "The Ocean Park Series," on view at the Orange County Museum of Art through May 27. Call (949) 659-1122 or visit www.ocma.net.

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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Hollywood


JUAREZ
FROM PAGE 1

A police officer who was in a marked police car just a block from the shooting heard the shots and responded to the scene. He saw the two suspects running from the park toward a vehicle occupied by two other men. The officer drove behind the vehicle and arrested the two occupants. The alleged shooters continued running on foot south onto 22nd Street.

One of the suspects was found shortly after hiding under a van during a K9 search. The other suspect was found hiding in the rear yard of a vacant home.

The shooting sent shockwaves through the community because of the brazenness of the attack. It took place next to a police substation and recreation center where the Police Activities League sponsors sports programs to help keep kids out of trouble.

At the time of the shooting, it was believed that Juarez was targeted because of the clothes he was wearing. Family members said he was not a gang member.

"He loved to laugh," Laura Alexander, a teacher at Olympic who spent considerable time with Juarez, said days after the fatal shooting. "He loved to draw. He was very loyal. He had a lot of friends and would often spend time after school helping out. He was really just one of the nicest kids. He always had a huge smile."

news@smdp.com

BOARD
FROM PAGE 1

If approved, unification would pop up on the ballot in the next election. It would be up to the county Office of Education to recommend who could vote on the issue — Malibu and Santa Monica residents or just those in Malibu — and the state would either accept that recommendation or make its own.

A reorganization would have immediate impacts on both the old and new district, with the largest monetary losses accruing in the new Malibu district.

First, the parcel taxes passed to support the schools would not extend to the new school district in Malibu, Spies said.

Second, the new Malibu district would not have any obligation to pay off the $299 million Measure BB bond, but it also wouldn't get any of the measure's benefits.

SMMUSD is currently making improvements to Malibu High School using bond funds.

All of the bond payments would fall on the shoulders of Santa Monica residents.

Measure BB has been a sore spot for Malibu residents who pay a disproportionate share of the money because of their higher land values.

Those eventualities are several years in the future if the drive gets that far.

There are two ways to begin unification. The first is through a petition, which would require signatures from 25 percent of the Malibu electorate in support of the move.

Alternatively, the Board of Education could agree to work with Malibu and authorize the split.

That's the road that activists in Malibu are hoping for, said Craig Foster, a parent of a child in Webster Elementary and member of community group Advocates for Malibu Public Schools.

Unification is complicated and requires a great deal of research and negotiating to ensure that the outcome is the best for both districts, Foster said.

"We won't fully know the implications until we sit down and start working through this," he said.

If it turns out that it's not the right route, Malibu activists will move on to other strategies.

"What we're trying to do is find the simplest, most efficient way to get every kid in the district the education they deserve," Foster said.

Rosenthal believes that unification could be the best route to achieve Malibu's goals, although other options such as creating a trustee voting system that would ensure Malibu representation or the formation of charter schools are not off the table.

"I think I could say that would be the preferable route if the financial numbers work out for both communities as well as the educational goals," Rosenthal said.

The SMMUSD Board of Education meeting will take place today at district headquarters, 1651 16th St., Santa Monica. The secession issue is expected to be discussed at 7:10 p.m. For more information go to www.smmusd.org.

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

THE SPOT: **A sign marks the location of nativity scenes that have traditionally been placed in Palisades Park.**

SCENES
FROM PAGE 1

City Councilmember Bob Holbrook requested the delay early in the meeting after supporters of the displays flooded his inbox with pleas for a reprieve.

"These people have never asked for anything before," Holbrook said.

City staff agendized an ordinance for Tuesday evening that would have in effect ended a 57-year tradition of displays in Palisades Park that depicted scenes from the Christian nativity story.

It did so by repealing an exception specifically for the winter displays built into a blanket ban on unattended displays in Santa Monica's parks, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie.

"The proposal would eliminate all such displays irrespective of content, purpose and history," Moutrie said.

That last point — history — has been the rallying cry of supporters who felt that there had to be some way to preserve the decades-long tradition.

The displays, put up by a coalition of 13 churches in Santa Monica and the police officers' union, were pushed out of their normal space last year by a group of dedicated atheists who applied for and won 18 of the 21 spaces allotted for displays in a lottery administered by city staff.

In their stead, individuals and groups erected signs like one by Burbank resident Damon Vix which quoted Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers on the importance of the separation of church and state.

Those involved with the nativity displays took the move as an attack, and quickly set up a petition to bring the displays back and cement their place in Palisades Park.

Two court cases, one out of San Diego and one from Beverly Hills, have made the case law very clear on the matter, Moutrie told council members: City Hall cannot promise spaces to any group, and instead can only create a fair system by which anybody could get space.

"The city can opt to allow displays during the season, and that includes religious displays," Moutrie said. "You have to make the opportunity to erect a display equally available to all. You cannot favor a group or display."

The only way to govern displays would be to put size or other design requirements on them, and it would be difficult, Moutrie told them.

Furthermore, the method of ensuring that there's a fair system for allotting the spaces was difficult to administer in 2011 and will only get harder as more applications come in.

And they will come.

Atheist groups have stated that they will be better prepared with displays and ready to submit additional applications for 2012 if the system continues.

Speakers pleaded with council members to give them time to find other options that would allow the displays to continue.

"I love diversity and I love that we're known for tolerance and I would love for that to continue," said Steve Snook, a chaplain with the Santa Monica Police Department. "I do not believe this should be all about the nativity scenes.

"Let's find a way to make this work."

Council members were amenable to giving the groups extra time to make sure that all options had been explored.

"It allows us to speak with one voice as a city," said City Councilmember Terry O'Day.

Booked council agendas will keep the matter tabled potentially until April.

As time goes on, it will become increasingly difficult for staff to put together a lottery system for the upcoming season, officials said.

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WAITING ROOM

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

People gather in the lobby of the new UCLA Outpatient Surgery and Medical Building during the opening ceremony on Wednesday. The facility is located on 16th Street.

WATER

FROM PAGE 3

sharing agreements.

"It's a water grab," said Rep. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove. "This legislation... takes 800,000 acre feet away from the environment of the delta and delivers it to south-of-delta water contractors. This theft will have a profound and negative effect on the water for protection of species, for smelt and salmon."

California water officials and Gov. Jerry Brown also opposed the bill, as did officials from more than a dozen other states, from Oregon to Nevada to Texas. They said the bill would overturn states' water rights and determine who receives water within a state, a precedent that could threaten water agreements across the West.

Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer vowed to fight the bill in the Senate.

"Put simply, this bill is a recipe for disaster. It is slanted and dangerously short-sighted," Sen. Feinstein said in a statement. "It promises water deliveries to certain areas while neglecting to identify where that water will come from or how its diversion will affect other regions. It destroys any chance to achieve a balanced solution to Bay Delta restoration and undermines state and local efforts to assure long-term water deliveries."

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SURF REPORT



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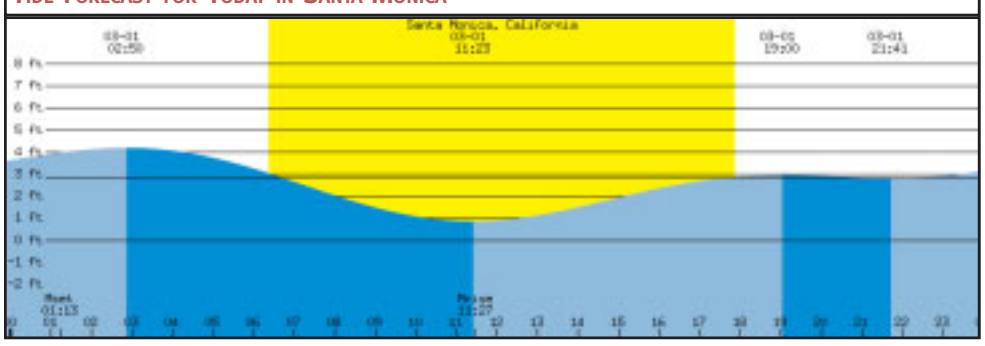
Swell Forecast

Today is when our next NW swell is due with chest high surf at most west facing breaks in the early AM, building later in the day to at least head high by sunset.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday is looking at the peak of the NW, chest to head high at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **February 22, 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 -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 3
- 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, Goodrich Family Foundation, simplehuman, LacarGUY, SMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	F	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los 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.	A	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..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	F	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	F	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	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+	B

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	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.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	B
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.	A	B
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	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 DBW 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	B

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'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.

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

MLB

Uribe returns to Dodgers camp in upbeat mood

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Dodgers third baseman Juan Uribe almost danced back into camp Wednesday. He sang. He playfully reached into the dressing stall next to his own and turned up the volume on Matt Kemp's iPod as high as it would go. For good measure, he homered in batting practice and walked off the field singing "It's a beautiful day."

It was as if Uribe was celebrating a new beginning to a career that looked as if it had taken a wrong turn last season.

Uribe returned to Camelback Ranch after reaching an out-of-court settlement Tuesday in San Francisco in a suit filed by a former landlord seeking $145,000 in damages for a kitchen fire at his residence in 2010 when he was with the Giants.

"Everything is good," said Uribe, who left the Dodgers' spring camp on Monday for a trial in the case. "Happy? Very, very happy."

One burden had been lifted. There are more to go. For one day, however, Uribe looked light on his feet and anxious to cast off doubts about whether the Dodgers were wise to sign him to a three-year, $21 million contract.

He played in only 77 games. He started the season on the disabled list because of a hip injury. He landed on the DL again in July with an abdominal strain. Uribe's season ended where it started: On the DL, this time after undergoing surgery in September for a sports hernia. The numbers weren't any better. He hit .204 with only four homers and 28 RBIs, all career lows.

"A hard season," Uribe said.

Also a lesson for the 32-year-old infielder.

Uribe said he came away from the sobering season with a resolve to resurrect the reliable player who has hit at least 20 home runs in four of his 11 big-league seasons. He wasted no time in getting back to work.

He said he hired a trainer at home in the Dominican Republic. Uribe reported to Dodgers camp last year looking as though he had gained weight. Uribe wouldn't say how much weight he has lost. But he looks stronger in the upper body. And if his dance steps Wednesday were any indication, his feet are a lot quicker.

The goal is to avoid a repeat of last year's injuries. Last year's pain, he said, is gone.

"I worked very, very hard," he said. "I just pray to God to give me health."

Uribe's well-chronicled struggles with the bat are just one part of the story. More significant, perhaps, is what the Dodgers need from him defensively. With the repeated injuries, the Dodgers were forced to scramble.

"The guy is a defender," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "I don't think we talk about that enough. He's got great hands and a sure arm."

NOTES: NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw, scheduled to be the Dodgers' opening starter, threw against live bats for the first time this spring. ""He was good," said first baseman James Loney, who was in the first group of four to face Kershaw. "Sharp, he looked very sharp." . Right-hander Aaron Harang also threw live batting practice. Harang had been limited by a sore foot caused by a new orthotic.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Ingmar Bergman/Max von Sydow double drama.
The Virgin Spring (NR) 1hr 29min
Hour of the Wolf (NR) 1hr 30min
7:30pm

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

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:20pm

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
1:15pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

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

Woman in Black (PG-13) 1hr 35min
4:30pm, 10:00pm

Rampart (R) 1hr 45min
1:45pm, 7:15pm

Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
3:55pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

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

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

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min
11:45am, 5:15pm, 10:30pm

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

Act of Valor (R) 1hr 51min
11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:10pm, 4:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm

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
11:55am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:25pm, 10:20pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
2:30pm, 8:00pm

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

On the Ice (R) 1hr 36min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Love at First Sight (Liebe auf den ersten Blick) (NR) 1hr 45min
1:00pm, 1:20pm

2012 Oscar Shorts: Documentary
4:20pm

Descendants (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 9:45pm

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

Bullhead (R) 2hrs 04min
1:30pm, 10:10pm

No Room For Rockstars (NR) 1hr 38min
7:30pm

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

Wanderlust (R) 1hr 38min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Vow (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

This Means War (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Gone (PG-13) 1hr 25min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:10pm, 10:30pm

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

Pisces, be unavailable tonight

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might know a little too much. Be discreet, and keep your observations to yourself. Communication excels. You know what to say and when to say it. You understand others' motives better than they do. Few like to be read that well. Tonight: Hang out with your buddies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Deal with finances directly. An emotional risk or monetary gamble could easily backfire and be the source of an argument. The smart move is to do nothing. Tonight: Your treat!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ There is an underlying sense of dissatisfaction that keeps bubbling up from out of nowhere. You know what is going on, and you know where you are heading, with the exception of a property-related issue or domestic matter. Tonight: Discuss this issue with the other party involved.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ You might be taken aback by the harshness of your words, even in a simple conversation. You might wonder what is going on within. Stop and root out some rather strong feelings, even if you are uncomfortable. Otherwise, you might not have the control you desire. Tonight: Soul-searching.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Zero in on your priorities in meetings and discussions. You could overspend without intending to cause yourself a problem. You can justify your spending, but still be careful. Tonight: Let your hair down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Without intending to, you could be sarcastic and cop an attitude out of the blue. Your smile draws many people, and you do not want to push them away. Think about a boss or parent. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your ability to detach from a situation could earmark your ability to get to the root of a problem. Use intellect rather than emotion, and you will succeed. Be careful with pent-up anger. Tonight: Put on music and relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You are driven to succeed, but you need to work or brainstorm with a key associate or partner. Together, you are more likely to pull off the impossible. You also manage to get the support of others, even if there is an angry exchange at the beginning. Tonight: An intense conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others continue to run the show. Someone could be irate or angry with you. You might try to straighten out the issue or choose to let it sit for a while. Sooner or later, you will be told what is going on. Make this day special, and make it yours. Tonight: So many choices.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might not be very stable right now. Part of the problem is that new information makes you aware of misinformation or how someone created his or her own version of the story. Detach rather than get angry. Tonight: Go for an escape.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You can do nothing with a partner or associate who decides to go on the warpath. You gregarious nature possibly triggered some of the problem, but there is another issue on another level. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You are focused on a personal matter and become even more distracted because of your interactions with others. In fact, a key associate or partner could be spouting too much anger for you to handle. You do not know what to do. Tonight: Be unavailable.

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 open up because of a willingness to go within. Your ability to communicate also is heightened. Be careful when handling what you might consider to be difficult feelings, but do not run away from them. Try to express hurt before it evolves into anger. If you are single, developing a stable relationship this year could be challenging. If you are attached, you and your significant other often find yourselves at odds. Understand your feelings rather than interpret your sweetie's. Don't worry as much. VIRGO can express his or her anger through pickiness.



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. Hint: It's on Second Street!

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



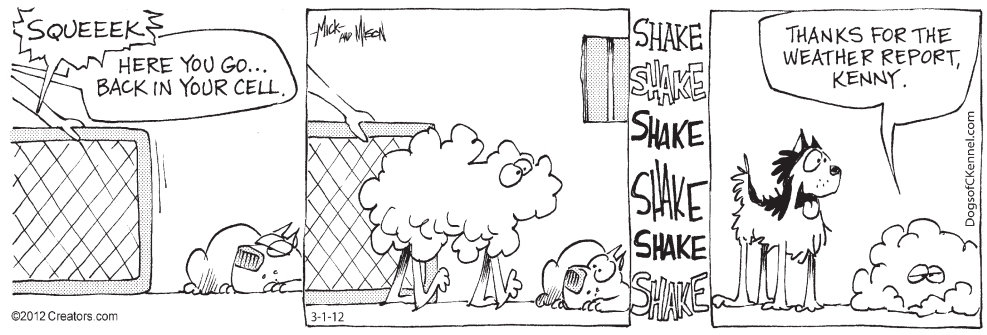
Strange Brew

By John Deering



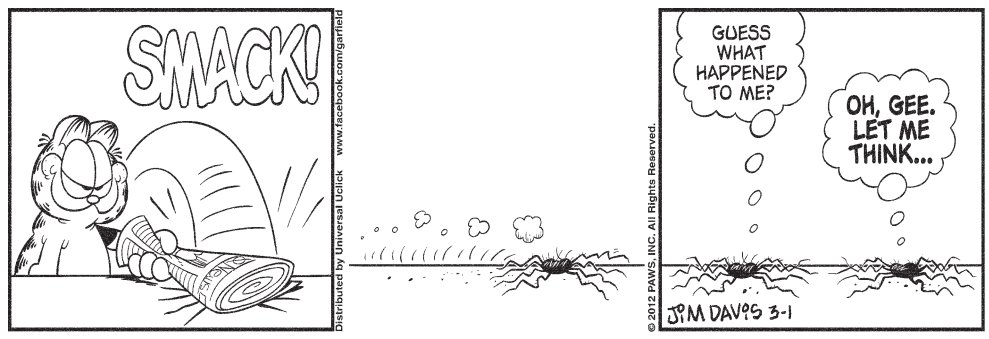
Dogs of C-Kennel

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 ★★★

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

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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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Watch part
5 Cleaner scent
10 Swears
12 Visibly shocked
13 Insertion sign
14 Dunkable ring
15 Cinch
16 Tar
18 Chap, in Chelsea
20 "My word!"
21 A long time
23 Complete
24 Extra amount
26 Pucker-inducing
28 Japanese honorific
29 Glided
31 Long of "Soul Food"
32 Adage
36 Gunfight setting
39 Tall tale
40 Corn-husker city
41 "Pal Joey" writer
43 Greek letters
44 When pigs fly
45 Rival
46 Some wines

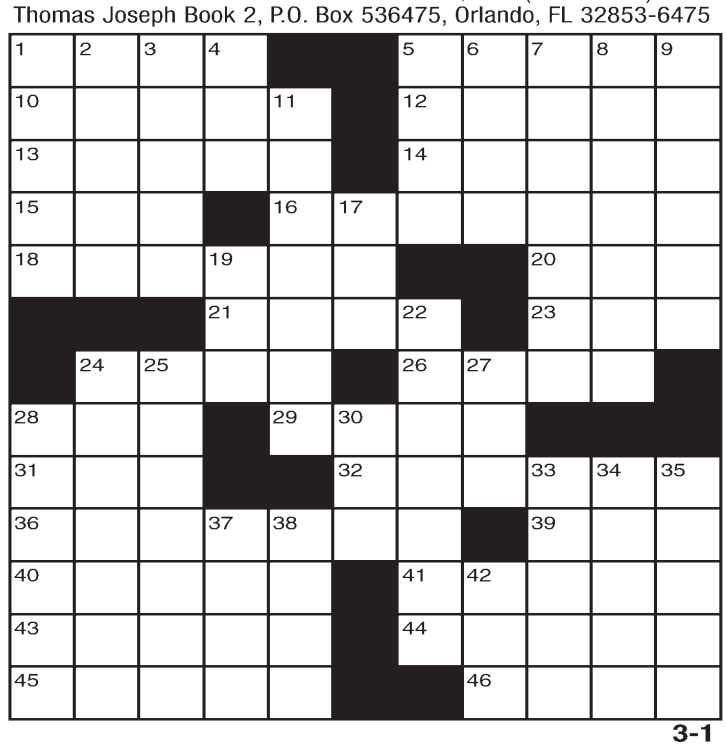
DOWN

1 Ipso —
2 Profit
3 Prepared for the cobbler
4 Merino mom
5 "Shane" star
6 They may clash
7 Team leader
8 Showy
9 Pulled in
11 Patsies
17 Caustic stuff
19 Gold unit
22 Blue-veined cheese
24 Fellows with letters
25 Out, socially
27 Throw in
28 Catch some Z's
30 — Alamos
33 Spartacus, for one
34 Ventilated
35 Puts on
37 Impact sound
38 Effortless
42 That lass

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-1

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MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/28
6 15 29 39 51
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: $108M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/29
11 13 17 24 47
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/29
22 28 33 36 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/29
MIDDAY: 5 6 0
EVENING: 0 7 0

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 2/29
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:40.71

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

■ In February, a German court awarded artist Stefan Bohnenberger the equivalent of about $2,600 from the Munich gallery that had previously housed his work, "Pommes d'Or," which consisted of two ordinary french fries contrasted with two golden-leafed ones. The gallery returned the golden-leafed ones but claimed it could not find the ordinary fries, and, anyway, pointed out that they were nothing but old french fries.

■ Police officers are of course generally forbidden to engage in sex acts in order to gather evidence. Thus, a scandal erupted in the U.K. in January when The Guardian revealed that two undercover officers had fathered children (to enhance their credibility) while infiltrating protest groups beginning in the 1980s. After the two women learned in late 2011 who their kids' fathers really were, they filed lawsuits against the responsible police agencies. (In Sydney, Australia, a state contractor operated under no such restriction when it hired a brothel inspector in January. Brothels are legal and regulated in Sydney, and if off-books facilities are providing sex illegally, the inspector can testify from first-hand knowledge.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

2002 - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda begins in eastern Afghanistan.

2002 - The Envisat environmental satellite successfully reaches an orbit 800 kilometers (500 mi) above the Earth on its 11th launch, carrying the heaviest payload to date at 8500 kilograms (9.5 tons).

2002 - The peseta is discontinued as official currency of Spain and is replaced by the euro (?).

WORD UP!

quadrennial \ kwo-DREN-ee-uhl \ , adjective, noun;
1. Occurring every four years.
2. Of or lasting for four years.
noun:

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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 Stt., 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

Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. ES015472
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of JORDAN BENJAMIN SERWIN for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: JORDAN BENJAMIN SERWIN filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: JORDAN BENJAMIN SERWIN to JORDYN OLIVIA SERWIN. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 23, 2012 Time: 8:30am, Dept. A
The address of the court is 300 E. Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 90502
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: 3/23/12
MARY THORNTON HOUSE, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Name Changes



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