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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 100

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THERAPIST HAS ISSUE WITH YELP
SEE PAGE 3

THE AT A COST ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

STRAIGHTENING UP: **Workers clean up after hitting a power line, which caused a brief outage in Downtown last month.**

Only 3 percent of residents signed up for SMAlerts

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Whether you prefer the nickname "Tech Coast" or "Silicon Beach," Santa Monica sells itself as a place that sits on the technological frontier and uses that capability to improve both its economy and its citizens' lives.

Even here, however, city officials are putting on a full-court press to get residents to embrace myriad high tech solutions to a traditionally low-tech problem — connecting with local government.

It's certainly something that Lt. Kenneth Semko, head of Santa Monica's new Office of Emergency Management, thinks about a lot.

Semko was appointed to lead the new organization after it was created last year.

The office has already begun work preparing the city for a potential tsunami, and will soon begin training teams of residents to be the front liners in the event that police or fire can't make it to the scene of a disaster in time.

But getting word out during disasters is a whole other beast.

Santa Monica contracted with Everbridge, a Glendale-based firm that specializes in mass text message technology to communicate critical information to residents when disaster strikes.

City Hall already has the ability to access Santa Monica's 186,000 landlines, but with more and more Americans ditching traditional landline technology for cellphones, text messaging becomes a valuable tool.

According to a 2011 report by the National Center for Health Statistics, three out of every 10 American homes use cell phones exclusively for their communication.

In addition, one out of every six received all their calls on their cell phones despite having a landline.

In Santa Monica, only 3,327 people have signed up for City Hall's new SMAlerts system, which can send out text messages and e-mails regarding everything from traffic updates to information on power outages and natural disasters.

Semko "almost hit the floor" when he was told that a 3 percent enrollment rate is considered a success.

"We're already over that for our community, and we'll keep aggressively pushing the system," Semko said. "We'd like to get it to the 10 percent range. That's unheard of."

The problem is education. Similar to the "I've Got 7" campaign, which encouraged residents to keep seven days worth of supplies on hand in case of an earthquake or other disaster, people just haven't heard of SMAlerts.

According to the 2011 community survey, only 11 percent of respondents said

SEE ALERTS PAGE 10

SMC to expand course offerings at a higher price

New summer classes could cost over three times a normal class

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Over the protests of angry students, Santa Monica College's Board of Trustees passed a policy Tuesday night that will create a second tier of higher-cost classes to expand access to education in the wake of drastic state cuts.

The policy would establish open enrollment contract education at the college, which effectively means that students who choose to sign up for the classes will share in the entire cost of education, from teacher salaries to the price of facilities.

Rather than paying the $46 per unit fee associated with a normal course, the supplemental classes could cost upwards of $150 per unit, according to estimations on a state Assembly bill that sought to standardize the practice throughout California.

A group of students came to the meeting to protest the move, which they felt amounted to a privatization of public education.

School officials see it more as a Band-Aid on an open wound.

Since the 2008-09 school year, funding for the state community college system decreased by 13 percent. The situation could get worse in November if a tax initiative meant to funnel money to schools fails.

The system would face another 5.5 percent reduction in funding, which would equate to another $5 million missing from the SMC budget.

Reductions in state funding since 2008 have already forced the college to cut over 1,000 classes, which meant a lot of students were not getting the classes they needed to complete their education, said Dr. Chui Tsang, president of SMC.

Under the new program, if classes fill up, students could pay higher rates to take identical classes which otherwise would not be

SEE SMC PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 8, 2012

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 8-10. Tickets: Suggested donation of $15, $10 for students.

All about good eats
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., times vary
Food Fare 2012 gives food lovers a chance to taste some of the more interesting offerings from restaurants across L.A. There will be two sessions. The first begins at 10:30 a.m. and runs through 2 p.m. The second starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m. The event benefits Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. For more information, visit pplafoodfare.com.

Second chance
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m.
This free screening of "Larry Crowne" is part of the In Case You Missed It film series. The movie itself, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts, features a man, out of work, who reinvents himself by returning to college. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

One in the chamber
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
With the inquisitive spirit and commitment to pushing artistic boundaries that has become its hallmark, The Baryshnikov Arts Center unpacks a music experience during a performance dubbed The Chamber Music Project. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Friday, March 9, 2012

See it in the stars
New Roads School
3131 Olympic Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club holds its bi-monthly meeting discussing sights in the night skies. For more information, call (310) 495-7595.

Live at The Broad
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., call for times
Tony-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell comes to town with plenty of chops, stage charm and even movie-star good looks. He'll sing some of the hits from his Broadway repertoire. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

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





SWINGING AWAY

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Daniel Jayen makes contact against Mary Star of the Sea on Wednesday at Marine Park. St. Monica would go on to lose, 11-0.

Therapist blames Yelp for drop in business

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SANTA MONICA BLVD A Santa Monica therapist is blaming business review website Yelp.com for a drastic drop in the number of referrals she's received over the last seven months.

Roxy DeCou, who specializes in young adults dealing with depression and anxiety, claims that after she declined to advertise with the San Francisco-based company negative reviews started popping up on her business' profile on Yelp, including one written by a man who was never a patient but had been dumped by her daughter several years ago.

"People can say anything they want and there's nothing I can do about it," DeCou said as she waited for a patient at her modest office on Santa Monica Boulevard. "Now my reputation is in the toilet."

DeCou's claims are not new. Yelp, which hosts some 25 million reviews of restaurants and other businesses and lures close to 66 million visitors a month, has been accused of using unfair business practices, with employees allegedly demanding monthly payments from businesses — in the guise of advertising contracts — in exchange for removing or modifying negative reviews appearing on the website.

A class action lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles two years ago on behalf of a veterinary hospital in Long Beach, who asked Yelp to remove what it called a "false and defamatory review" from its site. The suit claims Yelp refused and demanded roughly $300 per month in exchange for Yelp hiding or removing the negative review.

A federal judge threw out the lawsuit, a decision that is being appealed.

Officials from Yelp deny the allegations, saying there is no amount of money that would entice Yelp employees to manipulate reviews.

"Claims to the contrary have been repeatedly thrown out of federal court," said Kristen Whisenand, senior public relations specialist at Yelp. "Users can check out any advertiser's page on Yelp to see for themselves that our review filter works the same for advertisers and non-advertisers alike."

Yelp, which relies heavily on advertising revenue, uses an automated review filter to protect consumers and merchants from bogus or malicious reviews, and the company, which went public last week at $15 a share, removed a feature that allowed businesses that advertised to place their favorite review above others.

That said, officials with the company admit the filtering system isn't perfect.

SEE **THERAPIST** PAGE 9

Harvestable 'food forest' on the vine

MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press

SEATTLE A plot of grass sits in the middle of Seattle, feet from a busy road and on a hill that overlooks the city's skyline. But it's no ordinary patch of green. Residents hope it will become one of the country's largest "food forests."

The park, which will start at 2 acres and grow to 7, will offer city dwellers a chance to pick apples, plums and other crops right from the branch.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the people of Seattle to be able to connect to the environment," said Maureen Erbe, who walked her two dogs next to the plot on a recent overcast day.

Would she pluck some fruits from the forest?

"Heck yes, I love a good blueberry. You're not from Seattle if you don't like a good blueberry," she said.

For health-conscious and locally-grown-food-loving Seattle, the park is a new step into urban agriculture. Cities from Portland, Ore., to Syracuse, N.Y., already have their own versions. In Syracuse, for example, vacant lots were turned into vegetable gardens to be tended by local teens.

Seattle already is dotted with community gardens that the city helps maintain. Farmers markets also flourish in many neighborhoods, bringing in vendors from around the state to sell everything from tulips to farm-fresh duck eggs to pricey loaves of bread.

Residents raise chickens in backyards and plant their own vegetables. The more dedicated ones have goats, and forage around the city — one woman even eats neighborhood squirrels.

When a group of people interested in sustainable gardening brought the idea of a food forest for the Beacon Hill neighborhood to city officials in 2010, the city-volunteer effort began. That year, city officials had declared it the "year of urban agriculture."

The plot is in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods. Next to it is a sports park, a driving range and a lawn bowling club. The food forest would be next to a heavily used road and near many apartment complexes.

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 10

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not permitted

Editor:

I have read with interest school board member Jose Escarce's interest in adding some 100 non-resident permit students to the district's present population of permit students ("The facts about permits," Your Column Here, Feb. 17).

[Daily Press columnist] Bill Bauer has asked SMMUSD for financial data to shed some light on this request. Additionally, the district might provide projections as to what resident student growth will be for the next five years.

I ask this as I wonder if SMMUSD has taken into account data that I came across in a section of City Hall's information on the Bergamot proposed development.

In Section 3.8 Cumulative Development Scenario, there is table 3.2 labeled "Cumulative Projects within City of Santa Monica." The source of the table is City Hall; it is dated Nov. 11, 2011. It lists 154 commercial projects planned. There were no totals, but they were separated into categories which included apartment and condominiums. I added up the number of apartment and condominium units planned and was surprised at the number.

There are 3,872 units of apartment and condominium projects on this list. If we assume 5,000 residents would live in these – about 1.5 people per unit – might not at least 300 of them be children of school age. This would mean 300 students for the district from residents.

Had Dr. Escarce and the SMMUSD taken into account this potential growth before suggesting 100 more non-resident permit students? I, for one, would be interested in knowing the answer.

Bob Wolff
Santa Monica

Use other materials

Editor:

Writing in support of Richard Sproul's letter to stop building with trees ("Wood-n't you know," Letters to the Editor, Jan. 20)! They are the lungs of our earth, we need them alive and well, not cut up and dead, not as paper and tissue! Please help put an end to our current insanity!

"Only when the last tree has been cut down; Only when the last river has been poisoned; Only when the last fish has been caught; Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten." (Native American proverb)

"Aside from being beautiful, trees have always been the central critical element of our life-support system on Earth. Trees literally make life possible; by producing oxygen, capturing water, preventing floods, building and feeding soil, providing habitat for bugs, birds, fish and billions of other species, and converting the sun's energy to food ... the list goes on.

"As humans have done throughout the ages, we have forgotten theses facts and think of trees only as decorations. As documented in Jared Diamond's book 'Collapse,' every civilization that forgot its trees began a cascade of life support failures, and ultimately disappeared. Those who remembered and cherished their trees and reversed the trend, saved themselves."

– Taken from Seeding News, by TreePeople.

Patty McCollim
Los Angeles

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Life Matters

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

Concerns about the jealous type

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I was supposed to hang out with a male co-worker — truly just friends — last Saturday night. But my long-distance boyfriend surprised me and showed up over the weekend. I didn't think much about it but my other co-workers said his motive was either protective or jealous. At what point is jealousy unhealthy and at what point is it natural? Where is the line drawn?

Signed,
Better at controlling this then he is

DEAR BETTER,

Jealously, as we think of it, is a natural instinct at times. It may serve to inform or protect those we care about and ourselves. But when it is acute or chronic, there is nothing healthy about it.

Normal is a term that comes from statistics. If it falls within the bell curve, meaning that most people do it, it becomes normal. This is not the same as healthy, although many issues are defined this way. Just as an example, we have an epidemic of obesity in our country right now, not sure it has become the norm but it certainly is not healthy.

So let's talk about healthy and what jealousy actually is. Jealousy is either a quick instinct that is protective or it comes from an anxious attachment.

First of all, do you think your boyfriend meant to truly surprise you or did he know you were hanging out with your co-worker? If it was a real surprise, then I don't think we should label it as jealousy. It is actually curious to me how your co-workers determined this about your boyfriend, an outsider?

When we are in relationships, males are protective when it comes to other men, especially when they don't know them. Boys will be boys and they can barely help it with that powerful testosterone running through their veins.

There are many men that believe that opposite sexes cannot be just friends, unless of course one is gay. I disagree because over the years I have had a number of male friends that I shared intellectual and work-related interests with and nothing ever happened. We are still friends to this day. Yet we still need to be careful, especially when we are young.

In relationships, we have a tendency to think "she is mine or he is mine" and we do protect that which is ours. Having said that, no one belongs to anyone; that kind of thinking is unhealthy for sure.

Real jealously comes from anxiety in your attachment. To secure the relationship, communication about these kinds of things is key. You need a heart-to-heart talk so that you are open, honest and clear with each other and hopefully can and will learn to trust each other. Relationships do not work out well if the trust isn't there.

Now a lack of trust is not exactly the same as jealously, but there is a relationship. Anxious attachment comes from insecurity and fear of loss. Your boyfriend, if he is jealous, may bring this anxious attachment to the relationship. If he did not have a secure relationship with his family growing up he will be insecure in relationships that are important to him.

It is unfortunate that we often judge people as clingy or dependent or even obnoxious and call them jealous types when what they really have is insecure attachment. Building trust will help, but he may need some counseling around this particular issue in order to resolve it because it will continue to get in his way or spoil his relations.

Finally, to answer your question more specifically, try a heart-to-heart talk and building some trust with your boyfriend if he is really important to you.

How much is too much jealously, as you put it, comes down to how much you can endure. There is no blueprint for relationships. It all depends on the people involved. How much can you take?

Also, a little self-examination is in order to make sure you are not bringing it on so that you can feel more important or secure. As they say, it takes two to tango and you did say that you are better at "controlling it?" Be sure your side of the street is clean.

If you can't build the trust that requires both of you, and one of you is suffering from anxious attachment, get some professional help.

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



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Three Innocents Abroad

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop and smell the roses

Editor's note: Longtime Santa Monican Charles Andrews is traveling across Europe in a camper van for one year, with his family.

Indulge me a moment if you will, kind reader, so I may tell you where I am as I write this column for my home newspaper.

I am sitting in the sun at Café Hafa in Tangier, Morocco, looking down over the white walls and faintly blue bannisters to the pale green sea of the Strait of Gibraltar, Spain visible across the horizon and waves of white foam rolling in to the coastline stretching endlessly in either direction.

I'm sitting on a plastic chair (very comfortable) and my notebook (the paper kind) rests on a metal table covered with thick dark green paint and pocked with rust craters, the legs cemented into the concrete floor. It may be an original table from Café Hafa's opening in 1921, and it may have been written or at least leaned upon by Tennessee Williams or William S. Burroughs, Bernardo Bertolucci or Jack Kerouac, Brion Gysin or Allen Ginsberg, but more likely by Paul Bowles ("The Sheltering Sky," much more), who came here frequently during the 52 years he lived in Tangier, meeting with such characters as above who came here to see him. Our family was privileged to be invited to stay in his mostly intact apartment for several days, so there is special meaning for me, especially as a writer.

We were fetched here by our new but dear Moroccan friend Aziz Begdouri, considered the best tour guide in Morocco and an expert on the amazing history of his beloved hometown. As he parked on the usual spot he beckoned us the opposite direction. "I want you to see something."

A few steps away we walked out onto a large area of pale grey smooth rock, with the same glorious view of the sea as the nearby cafe, and saw large rectangular niches of varying sizes on the surface, some half-filled with green water.

"These are Phoenician tombs," Aziz told us. "So, around 3000 BC?" I asked. "Yes," he replied, "before the Romans, before the Carthaginians, the Phoenicians ruled here. When they saw the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean to the west, they thought that was the end of the world. So they went no further."

"… or we Americans might be speaking to you in Phoenician today," I quipped, and Aziz burst forth with his ever-ready laugh. He answers the phone with a laugh, and you can always picture his smiling face. He has been our angel in Morocco, and the only person one would ever need for anything having to do with Morocco. You may ask me for his phone number or e-mail, if you like. If you get to meet him, you will call me and thank me.

I had to tell you where I'm writing this not to make you envious (though if it moves you to consider visiting this remarkable city and nation, I'll be honored and delighted) but because sitting here at Café Hafa with a big glass of sweet tea in front of me, stuffed almost to the top with large fresh mint leaves, is simply one of the best experiences of my life. In more than seven months traveling across 24 countries with endless visual bounty, this place is probably my favorite. It's easy to see why Paul Bowles came here so often, and brought his creative visiting friends.

It's filling with people now; a table of Spanish speakers next to me, some fashionably dressed young Arabic speakers the next table down, and a lone dark-skinned man behind me with legs stretched out, just taking in the sun and the sea.

It's the way some of the world lives, we've found everywhere we've been on this family odyssey, slowing down to smell all the roses life has to offer, often with a friend or two or a dozen, and with no concern for the clock.

Which is not to say we haven't also seen people rushing about, in suits or sandals or djellabas, in all those places. More so in the big cities, but I'm in a big city now and Café Hafa fills its many levels every day with people pausing to enjoy life and each other.

It doesn't cost much. It may involve a lifestyle change for most Americans; it is a choice you make. I hope I will always remember moments like this, and make that choice much more often when back in the bustle of Los Angeles.

Living in Santa Monica makes it easier. We've got the beach, the rolling waves, palm trees, the sun. Many, like my good friend Keith, who lives in Riverside, Calif., come to Santa Monica for that kind of slow down; he drives in as often as possible to grab me to go sit on Main Street with a coffee, talking politics and family and philosophy for hours.

When I get back I hope I've learned not to wait for the wise Keiths, but to do some grabbing of my own. Save me a table on Main Street, will you?

You can follow the **ANDREWS** family's daily blog at anandrewsadventure.blogspot.com

The Q Line

Turn the other cheek

The City Council is struggling with what to do about the holiday displays in Palisades Park after atheists last year were able to secure 18 spots, leaving a coalition of churches only two spots to erect their nativity scenes.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks: Should the City Council continue with the lottery, abolish holiday displays or make the law more narrow in an attempt to exclude the atheists and risk getting sued?

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. 107**.

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Marine's Facebook page tests military speech rules

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Marine Sgt. Gary Stein first started a Facebook page called Armed Forces Tea Party Patriots to encourage service members to exercise their free speech rights. Then he declared that he wouldn't follow orders from the commander in chief, President Barack Obama.

While Stein softened his statement to say he wouldn't follow "unlawful orders," military observers say he may have gone too far.

The Marine Corps is now looking into whether he violated the military's rules prohibiting political statements by those in uniform and broke its guidelines on what troops can and cannot say on social media. Stein said his views are constitutionally protected.

While troops have always expressed their views in private, Stein's case highlights the potential for their opinions to go global as tech-savvy service members post personal details, videos and pictures that can hurt the military's image at home and abroad.

"I think that it's been pretty well established for a long time that freedom of speech is one area in which people do surrender some of their basic rights in entering the armed forces," said former Navy officer David Glazier, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

"Good order and discipline require the military maintain respect for the chain of command," Glazier said. "That includes prohibiting speech critical of the senior officers in that chain of command — up to and including the commander in chief."

According to Pentagon directives, military personnel in uniform can't sponsor a political club; participate in any TV or radio program or group discussion that advocates for or against a political party, candidate or cause; or speak at any event promoting a political movement.

Commissioned officers also may not use contemptuous words against senior officials, including the defense secretary or the president.

In January, an Army reservist wearing camouflaged fatigues got into trouble for taking the stage during a rally in Iowa with Republican presidential candidate and Texas congressman Ron Paul.

Stein was first cautioned by his superiors at Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego, in 2010 after he launched his Facebook page, criticizing Obama's health care overhaul. Stein volunteered to take down the page while he reviewed the rules at the request of his superiors.

He said he determined he was not in violation and relaunched the page. Last week, he said his superiors told him he couldn't use social media sites on government computers after he posted the message stating he would not follow unlawful orders of the president.

Stein said his statement was part of an online debate about NATO allowing U.S. troops to be tried for the Quran burnings in Afghanistan.

In that context, he said, he was stating that he would not follow orders from the president if those orders included detaining U.S. citizens, disarming them or doing anything else that he believes would violate their constitutional rights.

Another Marine alerted his command about the statement, Stein said.

Stein said he respects the office of the president, but he does not agree with Obama's policies. He said he is within his rights to speak up.

"Just because I'm a Marine doesn't mean I don't have free speech or can't say my personal opinion about the president or other public official just like anybody else," Stein said. "The Constitution trumps everything else."

Stein said it's positive when service members are well-versed on the Constitution and what's going on in government.

"When we know what we're fighting for, we fight harder," he said.

The Marine Corps said Stein is allowed to express his personal opinions as long as they do not give the impression he is speaking in his official capacity as a Marine. Spokesman Maj. Michael Armistead said the Corps is taking a closer look to ensure Stein has not crossed that line.

"At this time, he has not been asked to take down the statement on his page," he said.

Stein appears in a dress shirt and tie on his Facebook page but he also describes himself as "a conservative blogger, speaker, the founder of the Armed Forces Tea Party and active-duty, eight-year Marine Corps veteran."

Marine Sgt. Jerret Wright, who liked Stein's page, said Stein "probably skirted the line a little bit" with his latest message about not following Obama's orders, but his boldness in expressing his views has been refreshing in a community that often feels silenced.

"People assume that we're zombies with an on-and-off switch, and that we listen to orders and do nothing else," Wright said.

Military observers say it's not that simple. They say it is bad form to lash out at the commander in chief. Experts also say his Facebook postings appear to link his professional standing with his political views.

They also point out that the Pentagon policy is necessary in preventing political and religious debates that could divide a unit and disrupt the strong working relationship that is needed to carry out missions, Glazier said.

"There are plenty of examples in the world of militaries heavily involved in influencing political events that have shown that is not conducive to civilian rule of law," he said.





Culture Watch

Sarah Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

When food becomes art

"If music be the food of love, play on!" — William Shakespeare

L.A. CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (LACO) IS always thinking of ingenious new ways to get audiences interested in chamber music. With their "Westside Connections" series at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, they've hit upon a great combination: music and the culinary arts.

Author Michael Ruhlman opened the series on Thursday, March 1, paired with the music of Rossini, Puccini, De Falla and "Café Music," by Paul Schoenfeld, a premiere for LACO and a spectacular number that brought to mind the bustle of a busy bistro.

Subsequent events will feature the food world's rock star, Pulitzer Prize-winner Jonathan Gold (who's returning to the L.A. Times, and now also writes for Smithsonian Magazine) March 22, and one of Food Network's "Too Hot Tamales," chef Susan Feniger of Border Grill in Santa Monica, on Thursday, April 5.

Accompanied by appropriately themed musical selections, these culinary stars share their thoughts about the connections between music and food.

Surprisingly, there are many. Ruhlman — author of "Ratio," "Ruhlman's Twenty," and "Soul of a Chef" about The French Laundry's legendary chef Thomas Keller, with whom he also collaborated on a cookbook — spoke first, telling the audience that Rossini could easily have been a chef, had he not been so busy composing operas. If he liked you, he invited you to one of his famed dining soirees; he's said to have cried only three times in his life, "the first time over the fiasco of his first opera, the second when he heard Niccolò Paganini play the violin, and finally, when a picnic lunch — a turkey stuffed with truffles — fell overboard on a day's outing on a boat."

Then a quartet of LACO string musicians performed the curated selections by Rossini, Puccini and Falla.

Before the final number, Ruhlman took the stage again, sharing the experience of his four-hour final meal at The French Laundry, following a month's immersion in Keller's kitchen and life. As the only VIP that evening, he was completely in Keller's hands, but he angered the chef upon leaving the table to "visit the loo, to release what must have been two bottles of wine over three hours. Later it occurred to me why. He'd been performing. This was a performing art, with a building of tastes and flavors. He was the conductor, and I'd left the auditorium in the middle of the performance."

Ruhlman asked us to imagine a busy bistro as he introduced Schoenfeld's "Café Music," a virtuosic 20th century composition that brought the audience to its feet for a spontaneous and lengthy standing ovation. Following the performance, Ruhlman and two of the players sat on stage for a Q&A with the audience, which included questions about their most memorable meal and most memorable concert.



Photo courtesy Anne Fishbein

UPCOMING: **Pulitzer Prize-winning Food critic Jonathan Gold will be at the Broad Stage March 22 for a night of food talk and music.**

Make reservations now. Given the name value of the stars at the next two events, the series is likely to sell out. Visit www.laco.org/series/31 for tickets and information and to read a blog post with more details about the evening.

CUBA IN PERSON

Have you ever dreamed of taking a trip to Cuba to see the colors, the crumbling buildings, the classic American cars — and the dynamic art scene? Cal State Long Beach is putting together two rare and exciting cultural exchange trips to the Havana Biennial in May. Attend an informational Q&A and slide show session to get all your Cuba travel questions and concerns answered on Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the University Art Museum at CSULB, inside the Horn Center, at 1250 Bellflower Blvd. in Long Beach. Contact brian.trimble@csulb.edu; more details here: www.csulb.edu/org/uam/EVENTStravel.html

CATCH 'PINA'

And finally, before it closes, see "Pina," the extraordinary Wim Wenders 3-D film about the complex German contemporary dance artist Pina Bausch. Meant to be made with her during her lifetime, she died before the film began shooting. The film has become instead a personal testament to her spirit by way of the thoughts and faces of her dancers and collaborators, including extended excerpts from some of her most renowned indoor and outdoor Wuppertal Dance Theatre works. It's at the Landmark in West L.A., but it could go away any time — don't miss it! The 3-D experience is quite unique in this context.

JIRO'S DREAMS

And, ending where we began — with food — be sure to seek out the film "Jiro Dreams of Sushi" when it opens on Friday, March 16 at the Nuart in West L.A. It's the story of 85-year-old Jiro Ono, considered by many to be the world's greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a 10-seat, sushi-only restaurant inauspiciously located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearances, it is the first restaurant of its kind to be awarded a prestigious three-star Michelin review, and sushi lovers from around the globe make repeated pilgrimage, calling months in advance and shelling out top dollar for a coveted seat at Jiro's sushi bar.

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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THERAPIST
FROM PAGE 3

"Some legitimate content might get filtered and some illegitimate content might make it through, but our product team is always working to improve it," Whisenand said.

Merchants who believe a post may have violated Yelp's terms of service can flag it and notify the company's customer support team, which would review the complaint and determine if the post is in violation. If so, the team will remove if and notify the business.

Whisenand would not discuss how the review filter works, however, she said that sometimes more positive reviews are affected because "Yelp users write more positive reviews in the first place."

"In other cases, it affects positive reviews that appear to have been solicited by business owners, a practice which may seem like a good way to generate more reviews, but which tends to create an unintentional bias," she said.

That's part of the reason why some choose not to use Yelp, but instead rely on recommendations from friends or family, or the Better Business Bureau.

Yelp's explanation brings no comfort to DeCou. While her daughter's former flame has since removed his negative review (after some pressuring from DeCou and her daughter), she is still dealing with the aftermath. Just last year she was getting roughly 10 to 15 calls a month from potential clients, some of whom saw positive reviews on Yelp. She's lucky now if she gets one.

"Yelp helped me tremendously at first, but after they asked me to advertise, it all changed," she said. "It can be very helpful, but in my case it has destroyed my business."

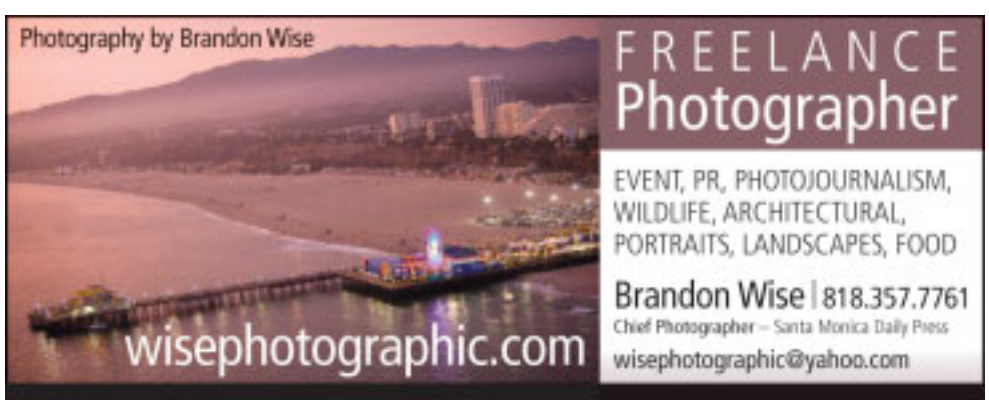
Now DeCou, who has been in practice for 25 years, is trying to build her business back up the old-fashioned way, by word of mouth. But this time around, there's no Internet connection necessary.

kevinh@smdp.com



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

CANDID: **Therapist Roxy DeCou says that negative reviews on Yelp are hurting her business.**







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CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE

City of Santa Monica

Pursuant to the authority granted by California Health and Safety Code section 9069, the City of Santa Monica filed petitions to recover abandoned graves at the City of Santa Monica's Woodlawn Cemetery, Mausoleum, and Mortuary. At the hearing on these petitions, heard at 8:30 a.m. on February 8, 2012, in Department K of the Los Angeles Superior Court, West District (the Santa Monica Courthouse), the Court declared the graves abandoned. The City will be awarded possession of graves that were sold more than 50 years ago, but have not been used for interment purposes, when the Court's order becomes final on February 10, 2013. The lead case is City of Santa Monica v. Mrs. James B. Allen; LASC Case No.: SS 021022. Any person may review the Court's Order in person at the office of the cemetery at 1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, or at the City Clerk's Office, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica or online at http://www.smgov.net/departments/cao/

FOOD
FROM PAGE 3

"Seattle gets the big picture and so the focus on local food actions is a collaborative one," said Laura Raymond of the city's community garden program.

The department has allocated $100,000 for the first phase of the park, roughly a 2-acre plot. The land is owned by the city's utility and through an inter-agency agreement will be developed at no land cost.

Raymond said the city hasn't verified it, but the forest might become the biggest one in the country. Glenn Herlihy, who helped create the park's initial designs, believes it can grow to that size.

Herlihy studies permaculture, a land management technique that aims to develop gardens modeled on natural ecosystems — that means natural fertilization that comes with decaying vegetation and a variety of plants in one plot. Unlike orchards, which only have one type of tree or shrub, a food forest has many types.

Developers use edible trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Fruit and nut trees are on the upper level, while berry shrubs, edible perennials and annuals are on the lower levels. Plants to attract insects are also planted for natural pest management.

"All of these plants work together like a forest ecosystem, but they are edible," Herlihy said.

In Pittsburgh, a food forest a quarter of an acre big is in its second year of existence. So far, only a berry bush and a pear tree have yielded fruits.

"We tell people it's not a food forest, it's aspiring to be a food forest," said organizer Juliette Jones. "I really do believe the longer that we're there, once you start to see the trees producing and see the site develop more, it will attract people to get involved."

In Seattle, the park will have an area for the food forest, and another area for the smaller community gardens that can be used by families or community groups. One of the goals is to provide affordable healthy food at a time when such items can be too costly for low-income residents.

The first harvest from the community gardens will happen in spring 2013. The fruit trees and shrubs will take a while to grow. Herlihy expects those harvests to come in about two years.

Ultimately, Herlihy envisions thick plots of nut trees, such as walnuts and hazelnuts, next to apple, pears and plum trees. Underneath, there will be huckleberries, salmon berries and even salal, a native shrub. Herbs like rosemary will also be planted. The group plans to install beehives to aid with pollination.

Organizers say that they will use the honor system when it comes to how much food people can take.

"It's simply just good ethics," he said. "Help yourself, don't take it all and save some for anybody else."

ALERTS
FROM PAGE 1

they'd heard anything about the "I've Got 7" campaign, and only 3 percent said they'd heard "a lot."

The idea gets a good response after public presentations where employees come armed with laptops and wireless cards to help people sign up on the spot, Semko said.

"It's getting people to take the time to sit down and do it. It's a five minute process," he said. "If you call us, we'll do it for you. I want those numbers in there in case we need to reach them in an emergency."

Tom Casale, a spokesperson for the mass-text marketing company Simplified Alerts, said sign-up numbers go up when alerts start going out.

Simplified Alerts focuses on small organizations like sports teams and businesses for its text message solutions.

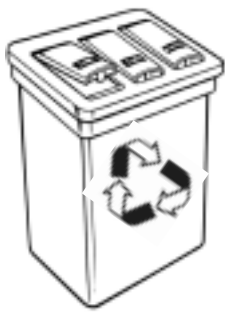
When the first soccer mom shows up to a game only to find out that it was canceled for weather and others knew in advance, she signs up, Casale said.

"We see sign up increase to 50 percent and sometimes to almost 100 percent the first time that alert goes out and people feel left out," Casale said.

Santa Monica officials hope that they don't have to go through a major emergency to give people incentive to sign up.

"Santa Monica is a really active community and I can see this thing really blossoming," Semko said. "No one else is doing this, but Santa Monica has new numbers. We just introduced this in September. In that six months, the fact that we are way over the national average is great."

ashley@smdp.com

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SMC
FROM PAGE 1

offered.

"We want to lay out our classes during the regular semester with the funding we have from the state," Tsang said. "Then we'll look at where the student demand has not been met, and where there's more student demand, we'll fill the shortage."

Students can use their normal financial aid to help pay for the classes, and the college is already seeking donations for scholarships for those who can't afford the steeper cost.

In the end, the board voted to increase access to education at a time when community colleges and universities are being forced to reduce, said trustee Louise Jaffe.

"If the state continues to not fund classes, would you rather have the opportunity to spend $250 per unit at SMC as opposed to $300 or $400 a unit at for-profits or a UC? That's the question," Jaffe said. "It's what helps students, and what we can do for the students in the world we live in."

The fact that the board approved the policy shows how tough things are for public education, said Michele Siqueiros, executive director of the education advocacy group Campaign for College Opportunity.

"Colleges have their backs up against the wall. You have critical demand for courses, and certainly have students willing to pay the full cost when California is not providing funding for colleges," she said.

Still, many of the cuts from the state, including cuts to child care and other social services, have fallen on low-income people and minorities, she said.

Students called on administrators to take pay cuts and find other means to keep classes affordable.

The idea of privately-funded public classes isn't new. In fact, SMC's new policy draws inspiration from two local sources, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica).

SMMUSD works with its Education Foundation to provide summer school in a pay-to-play model created by school budget cuts.

Students pay a fee to take "get-ahead" classes, which used to be funded by the state before summer school budgets were slashed. Similarly, SMC will create a nonprofit to administer its new courses.

The program is almost identical to one proposed in a bill by Brownley, a former SMMUSD school board member, that would allow for the same system for every community college in California.

Assembly Bill 515 drew sharp criticism from teachers' organizations which complained that it would create a two-tiered system that pits wealthier students against low-income students.

At the time, Brownley defended her bill saying that even at the higher cost, the community college courses were cheaper than those at for-profit institutions.

That bill died in the State Senate, leaving SMC to go forward on its own.

Officials hope to have the new system in place for summer 2012. It could expand to regular semesters in the future.

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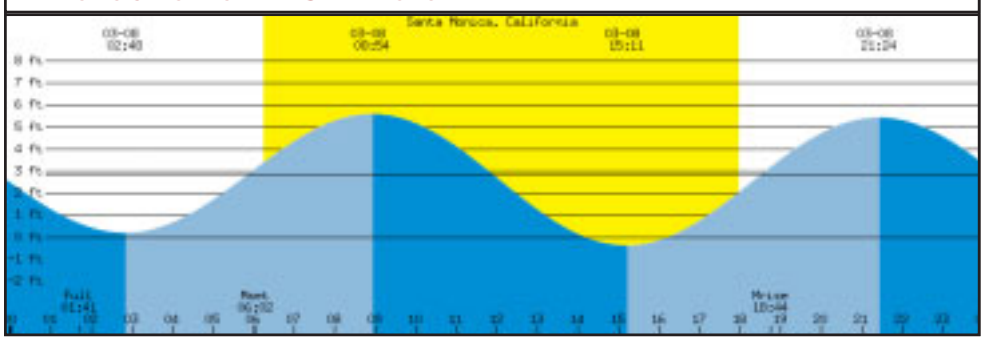
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BEACH REPORT CARD

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 29, 2012**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 21 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrek Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBBA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	B	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	B	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just west of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	B	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
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+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MLS

League still thriving a decade removed from struggles

BY TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

Don Garber was still in the infancy of his tenure as commissioner of Major League Soccer when the league faced legitimate uncertainty about its future and was forced to fold two underperforming franchises.

That was 10 years, nine new franchises and 13 new or renovated soccer stadiums ago.

"There were many times where we were wondering whether or not we would be able to continue to operate," Garber said. "The league came out with that launch in 1996 and at that time everybody thought we had cracked the code for soccer in America, and all of a sudden the league would explode on the pro sports scene. In reality, it's difficult to launch a sports league. There is lots of competition and soccer was clearly an emerging sport at that time.

"... We feel really good about the developments over the last 10 years and I feel really bullish about the future."

For the first time in recent years, the biggest story entering the MLS season isn't expansion, even though the league will welcome its 19th franchise with Montreal becoming the third Canadian member of the MLS. Instead, it's acknowledging a decade of successes.

When franchises in Miami and Tampa, Fla., were contracted following the 2001 season, the league was left with 10 teams, just three different owners and only one soccer-specific stadium.

Since that 2002 season, the league has successfully added teams and diversified its ownership in nearly every corner of the country, gone north by bringing on three Canadian franchises and raised the talent level to where the quality of play is gaining international respect.

"I think the improvement of the league over the last 10 years is exponentially more than 10 years," said Seattle coach Sigi Schmid, who was coaching the L.A. Galaxy 10 years ago. "You look at Year 1 through Year 6 and you look at Year 6 to now or whatever, the quality of play has gotten better. The fan bases, every club, every city you go into, with the exception of a few, has a really good base support following."

The MLS season begins on Saturday with expansion Montreal hosting Vancouver; Colorado vs. Columbus; D.C. United vs. Kansas City; San Jose vs. New England and reigning MLS Cup champion Los Angeles hosting Real Salt Lake. On Sunday, Dallas hosts New York and Chivas USA hosts Houston and the first week of play wraps up Monday night with Portland hosting Philadelphia.

Toronto and Seattle both received first-week byes due to their involvement in the quarterfinals of the CONCACAF Champions League, as did Chicago. The Sounders host Toronto in their opener on March 17, while Chicago opens its season at Montreal the same day.

Montreal is the latest franchise to join the fray, hoping to achieve a modicum of the success that recent expansion markets — Toronto, Seattle, Portland and Vancouver — have enjoyed.

But while successful expansion has dominated the league's on-field story lines for much of the past few seasons, this year might as well be highlighted by individuals who turned down overseas offers to continue playing in North America's top league.

David Beckham's groundbreaking initial contract with the league expired at the end of last season when Beckham and the Galaxy claimed the MLS Cup title to cap a dominant season. And while a handful of clubs in Europe — most notably Paris Saint-German — came close to wooing Beckham back across the Atlantic, the English star decided to continue his soccer career in California.

The Galaxy weren't done there. Landon Donovan thrived during his loan at Everton, but returned to L.A. Robbie Keane will have his first full season playing in MLS with the Galaxy, while Edson Buddle returns from Europe and Juninho from Brazil.

About the only question regarding Los Angeles is along the backline, where Omar Gonzalez is still recovering from a serious knee injury.

"I think we've been developing a team that's a little bit deeper than last year. Hopefully, that's a good sign," L.A. coach Bruce Arena said. "The only way we're going to be able to tell the potential of this team is when we get into the season (but) I'm optimistic we can put together another good team."

Los Angeles leads a powerful Western Conference where just about everyone got stronger. The top four clubs in terms of points and six of the top seven last season were in the West and 2012 isn't expected to be much different. Seattle said goodbye to Kasey Keller but added former U.S. national team striker Eddie Johnson and retained MLS newcomer of the year Mauro Rosales.

Real Salt Lake retained the squad that reached the Western Conference finals last year. FC Dallas brings back Brek Shea, while both Portland and Vancouver have upgraded entering their sophomore campaigns.

While the West is loaded, the Eastern Conference is muddled. New York has the name talent with Thierry Henry returning for another season and Rafa Marquez trying to bounce back from 2011 disappointment. But the favorite in the East might be Sporting Kansas City, playing its first full season in its home stadium and with emerging stars Teal Bunbury and 2011 rookie of the year C.J. Sapong.

"We have a core group of guys returning from last year that has an understanding of how we want to play, so it's up to those guys to decide how we're going to be week to week," KC coach Peter Vermes said. "They haven't really won anything yet, so I think hunger is something that goes with wanting to win."

MLS has again changed its playoff format. The highest remaining seed will now host the MLS Cup title game instead of having it played at a pre-determined site. The top five teams in each conference will reach the playoffs, with the Nos. 4 and 5 seeds playing for the right to advance to the conference semifinals.

The conference championships will also be a two-leg, home-and-home series rather than a single game as in the past.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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The films of Ingmar Bergman.
Wild Strawberries (NR) 1hr 31min
Persona (NR) 1hr 25min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
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Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
5:00pm, 10:15pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min
5:00pm, 10:20pm

Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arietti) (G) 1hr 34min
1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 1hr 35min
2:15pm, 7:45pm

Chronicle (PG-13) 1hr 23min
1:50pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
2:30pm, 7:45pm

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

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
11:15am, 1:30pm, 3:45pm, 6:00pm, 8:30pm, 11:00pm

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

Project X (R) 1hr 28min
11:45am, 12:45pm, 2:20pm, 3:20pm, 4:50pm, 5:40pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm, 9:50pm, 10:50pm

Act of Valor (R) 1hr 51min
11:30am, 1:15pm, 2:10pm, 4:15pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:00pm, 10:45pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Let the Bullets Fly (Rang zidan fei) (NR) 2hrs 12min
9:45pm

Descendants (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm

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

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
5:00pm

Forgiveness of Blood (NR) 1hr 49min
1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

In Darkness (R) 2hrs 25min
1:30pm, 8:00pm

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:40pm, 6:45pm, 9:40pm

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
11:20am, 2:00pm, 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

Have fun tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could be stressed out from pressure at work. You are handling too many different situations, and you need to distance yourself. You juggle your feelings with your obligations. This attempt to balance your life could be difficult at best. Tonight: Listen to a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Let your creativity soar, and you will be capable of turning a losing situation into a winning one. A friend plays a major role in what is about to take place. Understand how important it is to keep some facts to yourself. Tonight: Put your feet up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be ready to try another approach or do something differently. Impulsiveness pushes you down the right path. Communication is off, so trying to convince another person of the rightness of your ways could be a problem. Tonight: Have more fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You are likely to say exactly what you are thinking, and others are likely to respond accordingly. You might not be sure what to do. Keep communication flowing; otherwise, you could feel stuck. Tonight: Head home while singing an ode to the Full Moon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use special caution with a financial matter. You could be very drawn and tired of juggling funds and/or sharing your innate talents. Pressure builds if you are not careful. Tonight: Talk yourself through discomfort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You are all personality and then some. You also could feel as if you have pushed way too hard, and you find others to be constantly challenging. Know when to say you have had enough. Establish limits for how much you want to give. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Use the afternoon to review some details and make sure everything is as it should be. You could be more on target about a personal matter than you realize. Tonight: As you like it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Use the daytime hours to the max. You could be surprised by what you make possible. Meetings and alliances with others could be strategic and essential. You might be pressured to make an uncomfortable emotional choice. Tonight: Vanish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take a long-overdue stand. You could feel pressured to maintain a steady pace. Your personal life might be in direct opposition to what must be done. Try to integrate the differences. Zero in on what you want. Tonight: Focus on your goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance to get more information. Seek out different opinions. You could feel torn between two choices. Reflect and decide what it is that you want, and/or which way you should go. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal directly with others. A partner and several associates respond more positively on a one-on-one basis. You easily could be overspending and need to rein yourself in. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, and understand what is happening within a relationship. You need to allow others to walk in your footsteps. They will change their tune very quickly after they assume a responsibility or two that you previously had shouldered. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

Happy birthday

This year you waver between your feelings and your intellect -- two very prominent inner voices. You will learn to integrate them or choose which one you want to lean toward. Relationships prove to be very exciting. If you are attached, the two of you have issues to work through. The good news is that your attraction to each other remains high, which will give the process a boost. If you are single, you are a magnet to the opposite sex. You could date many different people or one special person; it is your call. LIBRA wants to relate closely.

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

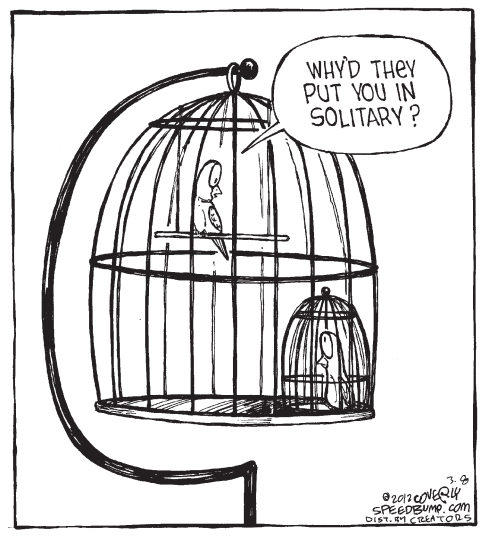


MYSTERY PHOTO

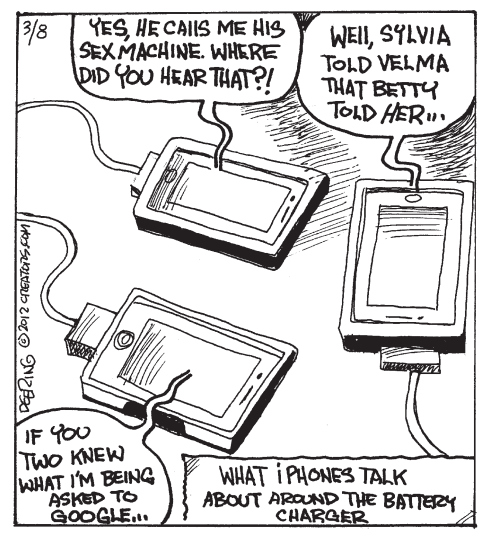
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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



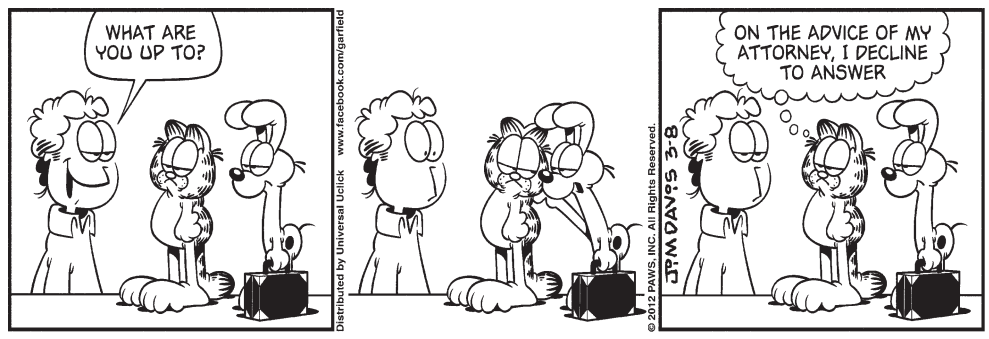
Strange Brew
By John Deering



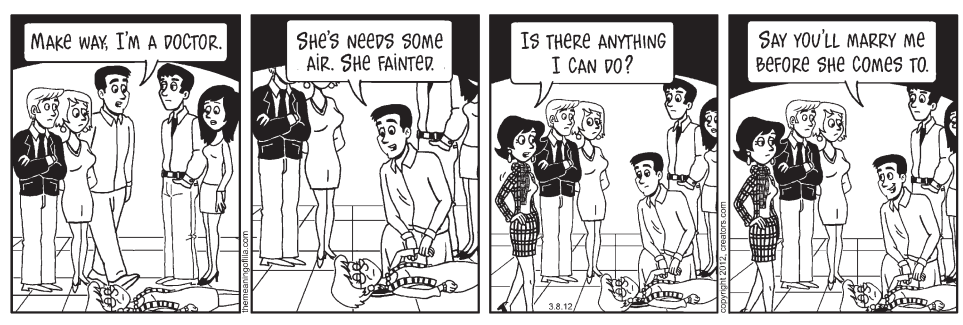
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Country dances
6 Indy racer Guthrie
11 Bewildered
12 Merge
13 Aspect
14 Ran easily
15 Up
17 Wing
19 Tear
20 Central
23 Installing sets and lighting, in the theater
25 Replacer of 33-Across
26 Put into words
28 New driver, often
29 Excursion
30 Wrap up
31 Hot-dog holder
32 Sheltered side
33 Former Spanish coin
35 Irritate
38 Carries
41 Ticket category
42 Strata
43 Barnstorming feats
44 Town official

DOWN
1 Brit. fliers
2 Seventh Greek letter
3 Shot up
4 Wolfish look
5 Mocking
6 Minty quaff
7 Shortly, in poems
8 Wee drink
9 Summer on the Seine
10 Clarinetist Lewis
16 Winding
17 Gladden
18 "Two Women" star
20 Mangled
21 Dunne of films
22 Avoid
24 Racket
25 Have a bite
27 Crescent-shaped window
31 Borscht base
33 Juicer byproduct
34 Drudgery
35 Crony
36 Groom's answer
37 Status —
39 Before, to bards
40 Georgia, once: Abbr.

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

Yesterday's answer

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

3-8

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– 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.

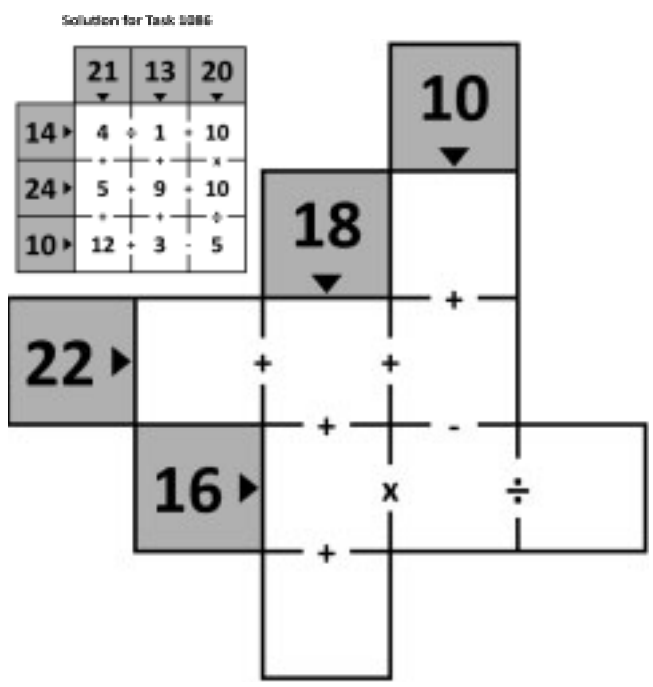
• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

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

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

1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 9, 12, 12



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20 24 31 33 36
Meganumber: 44
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SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/3
2 4 6 7 18
Meganumber: 8
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/7
4 5 9 10 23

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/7
MIDDAY: 5 7 3
EVENING: 7 9 6

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/7
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:47.08

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The 547-acre FBI Academy on the grounds of Quantico (Va.) Marine Base houses a firing range on which about a million bullets a month are shot by agents in training, but it also happens to be a de facto wildlife refuge for the simple fact that the academy is off-limits to Virginia hunters. Thus, according to a December ABC News dispatch, deer learn that, despite the gunfire (sometimes at astonishingly close range as they wander by the targets), none of them ever gets hit. The academy is also a "sanctuary" for foxes, wild turkeys and other critters.

■ Equity Lifestyle Properties of Chicago fired receptionist Sharon Smiley after 10 years' service because she violated company policy by declining to stop working during her lunch hour. (The company's strict policy is apparently based on avoiding liability for overtime pay, but Smiley had in fact clocked out for lunch while remaining at her desk.) Smiley subsequently applied for unemployment benefits, but the administrator denied them because the firing was for insubordination. However, in January, a state appeals court granted the benefits.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1957 – Egypt re-opens the Suez Canal after the Suez Crisis.

1957 – The 1957 Georgia Memorial to Congress, which petitions the U.S. Congress to declare the ratification of the 14th & 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution null and void, is adopted by the U.S. state of Georgia.

1957 – Ghana joins the United Nations.

1963 – The Ba'ath Party comes to power in Syria in a coup d'état by a clique of quasi-leftist Syrian Army officers calling themselves the National Council of the Revolutionary Command.

WORD UP!

rutilant
\ ROOT-l-uhnt \ , adjective;
1.
Glowing or glittering with ruddy or golden light.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica CPA firm seeks dependable, bright, energetic "temporary" employee looking for part time work for the next six weeks until mid-April. Responsibilities include: General office, filing, typing & phone skills. Must be able to follow instructions and complete projects on a timely manner. Please fax resumes at (310)829-7659 No cold calls or job agencies.

Viva Group, LLC. d/b/a Rent.com seeks Software Engineer 3, Quality in Santa Monica, CA: Test weekly release builds by means of manual and/or automated testing to ensure both new and existing functionality are released defect free and function as documented. Define, create, document, verify and execute component and end-to-end test cases using Selenium, www-Mechanize, manual testing and/or other available tools. Req's: MS (or equiv.) +3 yrs exp. or BS (or equiv.) +5 yrs exp. Must be legally authorized to work in US w/out sponsorship. Submit resume w/ ref. to: Req. #: RA1(smdn) to: Nichelle Cummings, Rent.com, 2425 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404. EOE

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Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. PS014215
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of IN BEHALF OF SOPHIA C. SAHAGUN-JIMENEZ for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: IN BEHALF OF SOPHIA C. SAHAGUN-JIMENEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: SOPHIA CARMEN SAHAGUN-JIMENEZ to SOPHIA CARMEN JIMENEZ. 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: April 23, 2012 Time: 8:30am, Dept. F49
The address of the court is 9425 Penfield Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311
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: 2/27/2012
CHARLAINE F. OLMEDO, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS022030
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of MARY JULIA TEACHEY LEMLE for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: MARY JULIA TEACHEY LEMLE filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: MARY JULIA TEACHEY LEMLE to JULIA TEACHEY LEMLE. 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: April 12, 2012 Time: 8:30am, Dept. A Rm. 104
The address of the court is 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401
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: 3/1/2012
JOSEPH S. BIDERMAN, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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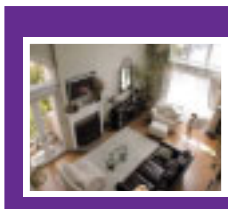
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March 11th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



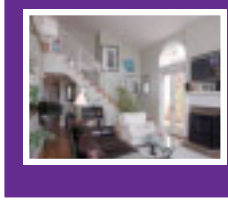
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