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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 108

Santa Monica Daily Press

AMERICAN WINE TOPS FRENCH
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE WHO'S RUNNING? ISSUE



FEELING IRISH

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Brad Nemmeers (left) pours a glass of green beer as customers celebrate St. Patrick's Day at O'Brien's Pub on Thursday.

Marathon equals big money for city, region

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Over 50,000 runners and observers will descend upon Santa Monica Sunday as part of the L.A. Marathon, filling hotel rooms, restaurants and, hopefully, the pockets of local business owners.

Organizers expect the race to top the $5 million in economic benefits reported by L.A. County businesses from the 2010 event, said Dave Klewan, spokesperson for the marathon.

"Between increased numbers of runners and spectators, we expect some growth," Klewan said.

Santa Monica hotels and businesses may

SEE MARATHON PAGE 9

Ed board members reach out to Malibu

PTSA members question Allen, Patel on nurses, class offerings

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU Members of the Malibu Parent Teacher Student Association packed the Malibu High School library Thursday morning to question two members of the school board about issues facing the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Vice President Ben Allen and newly-elected member Nimish Patel attended the meeting as part of an ongoing district effort to better include the distant Malibu schools in conversations about the direction of the district.

"I've been involved with the PTA for a few years," said Wendy S, a Malibu parent who ran the meeting. "I've never had any board member reach out to me and ask, 'Can I come to a meeting?'"

High on the agenda was the fate of registered nurses, who are facing layoffs given the uncertain financial situation handed down from the state Legislature, class-sharing opportunities between Santa Monica and Malibu high schools and a new focus group to make it easier for the parent community to reach out to the rest of the district.

Nurse Anne Ernst addressed the parents and board members about the dangers of reducing the nursing staff at the schools and replacing them with health clerks with less training.

"They have no training, or experience," Ernst said. "They can apply Band-Aids. They can't assess the difference between anxiety, an appendix problem, major or minor injuries."

Health clerks also don't have the ability to refer students to doctors, nor give vouchers for free care, two major drawbacks in times where families are strapped for cash

SEE MALIBU PAGE 11

LaSalle buys Viceroy for $80.1 million

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BETHESDA, Md. LaSalle Hotel Properties is buying the Viceroy Santa Monica hotel for $80.1 million.

The real estate investment trust said Thursday that the 162-room hotel is subject to a ground lease with the City of Santa Monica, which expires on Sept. 25, 2065.

The property, which is one block from Santa Monica Beach, will continue to be managed by Viceroy Hotel Group. The hotel opened as the Pacific Shores Hotel in 1967 and re-opened in 2002 as the Viceroy Santa Monica following a renovation.

LaSalle anticipates recognizing about $500,000 in expenses related to the transaction during the first quarter.

LaSalle owns 35 upscale hotels in nine states and the District of Columbia.

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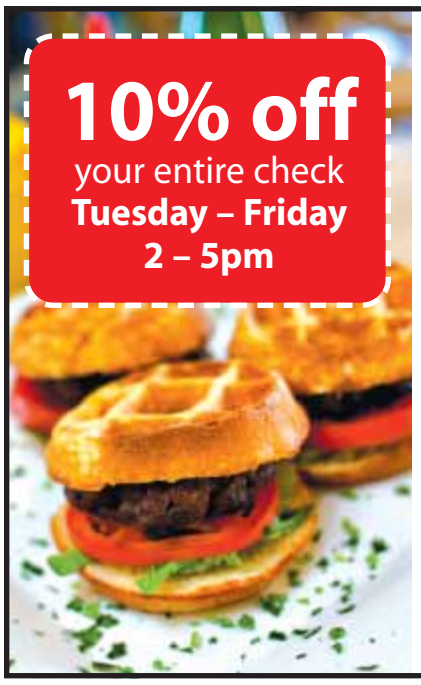
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, March 18, 2011

Build green
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 9 a.m.
There is no doubt that green building mandates constitute a growing trend among state and local jurisdictions. Nothing evidences this more than California's new CAL Green building code, which requires that all new construction in California conform to strict environmental standards never before imposed on the real estate industry. Experts in the field help guide you through some of the finer points of this new movement.
For more information, call (800) 574-4852.

Hug a tree
Palisades Park
Corner of Colorado and Ocean avenues, 6 p.m.
The "Hug a Tree and a Tree Hugger" event celebrates the role trees play in our community. The event will be held at the Children's Tree of Life. This is part of the "Tree Hugging Weekend."

Art of the Matter
Herb Alpert Educational Village
3131 Olympic Blvd.
New Roads School hosts the Art of the Matter, an exhibition and one-night auction showcasing a varied and vibrant array of works by leading contemporary artists from Los Angeles and beyond. The Friday evening auction is open to the art-collecting community, and all proceeds from the event benefit the unique financial aid program at New Roads School which provides need-based financial assistance to over 50 percent of New Roads families each year. For more info, visit www.newroads.org.

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Buy Local Day
Citywide
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Celebrating local businesses, Buy Local Day will be highlighted by events across the city. There will be the primary event on the Third Street Promenade featuring music, demos and raffle prizes. Montana Avenue, Pico Boulevard and Main Street will also be host to activities including live music, a trunk sale and crafts for kids. Even the annual Airport Artwalk is part of the action. For more information, visit buylocalsantamonica.com.

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Stadium to the Sea
Citywide
7 a.m. — 3 p.m.
The Honda LA Marathon presented by K-Swiss returns to Santa Monica. The Stadium to the Sea route makes its way from Dodger Stadium to Ocean and California avenues. Thousands are expected to line San Vicente Boulevard and Ocean Avenue to cheer on participants. There will also be a Finish Line Party near the corner of Ocean and Colorado avenues.
For more information, visit lamarathon.com.

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



No increased radiation detected in S. California

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Air quality officials say they have not detected increased radiation levels in Southern California from a crippled nuclear power plant in Japan.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District said Thursday there's been no change in background levels of radiation.

The agency operates three stations around Southern California for the Environmental Protection Agency, which has deployed more radiation monitors in the western United States and Pacific territories after growing concerns by Americans.

Some computer models suggest the radioactive plume from the damaged Japanese plant could reach Southern California as early as Friday. Health officials have said there's no danger to the West Coast or Pacific territories.

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



YUM
Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*
Santa Monica High School students participate in the St. Patrick's Day 'Build-A-Cake' event on campus Thursday afternoon.

Food and gasoline prices up sharply in February

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Americans paid more for food and gas in February, driving up consumer prices at the fastest pace in nearly two years.

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.5 percent in February, the largest increase since June 2009, the Labor Department said Thursday. Core prices, which exclude food and energy, rose only 0.2 percent, matching January's gain.

Gas prices jumped 4.7 percent in February, above January's increase but below December's rise. Oil and gas prices have risen sharply since the beginning of the year due to political turmoil in the Middle East.

Food costs increased 0.6 percent, the most since September 2008. Food costs rose for almost all major grocery store groups, including meat and eggs, dairy, and fruits and vegetables. The cost of cereals and baked goods was flat, the only group that didn't increase.

Bigger food and gas bills may limit Americans' ability to buy discretionary goods, and that could hamper economic growth. Rising raw material costs are also reducing profit margins at some companies.

There are also concerns that inflation could spread. New car prices also jumped 1 percent, and airline fares and medical care costs rose. Clothing costs dropped 0.9 percent, after a sharp rise in January.

Despite those gains, economists said there is little sign that price increases outside of food and energy will get out of hand.

"High unemployment and modest wage gains should continue to keep a lid on ... inflation," said Sal Guatieri, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Some companies are starting to pass on higher raw materials costs to consumers. Kimberly-Clark Corp. said Thursday that it is raising prices on its Huggies diapers, Cottonelle toilet paper and other child care products. The move is intended to offset higher costs for wood pulp and oil.

Other companies are reporting lower profits due to higher commodity costs. FedEx Corp. said Thursday that earnings fell 3 percent in the December-February quarter because of rising fuel prices and bad winter weather. The drop occurred even though the package delivery company also raised prices to offset oil costs.

Prices for many agricultural commodities, including corn, wheat and soybeans, have doubled since last summer due to bad weather around the globe. Those higher prices are now showing up on store shelves. Vegetable prices also soared last month due to harsh winter freezes in southern U.S. states.

More food and gas price increases are in the pipeline. The Labor Department said Wednesday that wholesale prices jumped 1.6 percent in February, the largest increase since June 2009. Wholesale food prices rose 3.9 percent, the biggest increase since November 1974.

Prices for other goods and services are recovering from very low levels. Core consumer prices increased 1.1 percent in the past year, up from a 0.6 percent annual increase in October. Still, that's below the Fed's preferred range of 1.5 percent to 2 percent.

Overall prices are up 2.1 percent in the past year, the report said.

The Federal Reserve said this week that more expensive food and energy is "currently putting upward pressure on inflation." But the central bank said the pressures are likely to be temporary. It also said that measures of underlying inflation have been subdued, a reference to core prices.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Still plenty to offer in SM

Editor:

Dear Helen Fiske, I totally understand your frustration with our "new" Santa Monica Place ("Missing the old place," Letters to the editor, March 3, 2011).

I already vented my frustration last summer and even more so when the holidays were upon us. You can still buy your diamonds at the only good family Santa Monica department store, Sears. You still have some good stores on the Third Street Promenade. There are also good ole fashion very helpful stores like Busy Bee's on 15th Street where you can almost find anything to help you repair or fix-up your home and they have the nicest employees there also. Remember we still have a great variety of stores on Montana Avenue and Main Street. Don't forget our Ralphs and Vons and other great grocery/food stores. We still have five great movie theaters.

But you know, on those times when it's either too cold or too hot I'll head down to Culver City to their mall and be comfortable inside with a great food court and the Target and Best Buy that never made it here to Santa Monica.

Mike DeMendoza
Santa Monica

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Procrastination is a problem when it comes to doing my disaster plan. As a business owner I have a lot to do. It's not like a disaster is going to happen tomorrow. Besides, we have that new business pitch. I've been waiting for this to happen for a while now. I'll get the disaster plan finished eventually. Nothing to worry about, it'll happen.

Whether natural or man-made, at least one in four businesses affected by a disaster never reopen. Though emergencies are unpredictable, when you have a plan in place you can adapt, recover and stay in control.

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Jack Neworth — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

An anniversary from hell

DIVORCE IN AMERICA IS A "GROWTH industry." It's been estimated that 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. (And that poll was taken before Kelsey Grammer.)

For those who stay married, each anniversary has a name. Year one is called "paper," a rather flimsy term. The 10th anniversary is "aluminum or tin," which is hardly romantic. The 11th is "steel," which as least connotes strength in a marriage. The 25th is "silver" and the 50th is "golden."

With divorce rates so high, instead of years to mark anniversaries, maybe we should use months. If a couple stayed married 50 months maybe that could be considered their golden anniversary? (OK, dumb idea.)

Wikipedia refers to a marriage that ends before five years as "short." A divorce lawyer friend refers to a marriage that ends after five years as "expensive."

Actually, I know of many happy, long lasting marriages. This September, my childhood friend Don will have been married to his bride Joyce for 25 years. Another friend, one with whom I worked on our high school newspaper, Lance, has been married to lovely Marilyn for 30 years, an anniversary called "pearl."

This August, my sister Brenda and her husband David will celebrate their 47th anniversary which is Ruby plus two. This June, readers of mine, Joe and Kathy Geletko, will be married 53 years which is golden plus three while my neighbors Flo and Bill have been married 63 years, or diamond plus three. (There will be a short quiz at the end of this column.)

Tomorrow our country "celebrates" the eighth anniversary of the Iraq War. The eighth is known as "bronze" but, in this case it could be called "The Worst Foreign Policy Mistake in our History" anniversary.

This all came to mind after I watched "60 Minutes" last Sunday. One of the segments featured former Iraqi defector Rafid Alwan whose spy codename was "Curveball." Sleazy and nervous, Alwan is a 44-year-old former chemical engineer and apparently a congenital liar. You can see the interview on YouTube by typing "60 Minutes Curveball."

Curveball's deceit-filled story was the "crown jewel" of Colin Powell's infamous testimony to the United Nations. In fact, the entire case for the mythical "mobile weapons labs," which the Bush administration touted as the rationale for the war, came from Curveball who unapologetically admits he made the entire thing up.

Curveball came to us via another Iraqi defector, Ahmed Chalabi, who was convicted in Jordan of bank fraud (having stolen a mere $288 million) and sentenced in absentia to 22 years in jail. And yet Ahmed was on the CIA payroll at $350,000 a month, and brought us scam artists like Curveball.

With budget deficits these days we're told that we can't possibly afford to help Americans below the poverty line pay for home heating oil in the winter but evidently we had plenty of dough for the likes of Chalabi and Curveball. Something's rotten folks, and it's not in Denmark.

After Curveball was proven to be an unabashed liar (and we lost 4,439 GI's in Iraq, the most recent on Feb. 17, 2011) the Bush administration fired Chalibi. Talk about closing the barn door after the cows have gone. Also a sociopath like Curveball, Ahmed's defense was, "Sure, I brought you Curveball but no one told you to believe him."

When questioned, W. claimed that he wasn't sure he even knew Chalibi. This belies the fact that Ahmed sat right behind Laura at one of W's State of the Union addresses. (Oops. Did Bush tell a little fib?)

After watching Curveball on "60 Minutes" it's hard to imagine anyone believing him about the time of day, much less mobile weapons labs. When Bob Simon pressed for the "whole truth," Curveball bolted off the set. And yet the CIA bought his story lock, stock and barrel. (Barrel of what, I'm not going to say as this is a family newspaper.)

Or perhaps the Bush administration needed Curveball? Had they finally found someone saying exactly what they wanted to justify an invasion they longed for way before 9/11?

Either way, we went to war in Iraq almost solely on Curveball's bogus story. Why has no one gone to jail over this? Why has there never ever been a real investigation where Bush and Cheney testify separately (not holding hands) and are under oath? (Apparently we're too busy cracking down on teacher unions.)

So, tomorrow is our eighth anniversary in Iraq and in October it will be our 10th anniversary in Afghanistan. Frankly, I wish we could get a divorce from both. We could call it "irreconcilable differences." Given the endless lies, the loss of lives, limbs and national treasure, and the staggering ineptitude of the architects of these wars, I'd like to call it something else but this column is G-rated.

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U.S. wine sales top France

MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO For the first time ever, overall U.S. wine sales have topped the wine-loving French. It's big news for vintners — on both sides of the Atlantic — but don't break out the "We're No. 1!" foam fingers just yet.

In terms of per capita consumption, the French still are well ahead at an average 12.2 gallons per year compared to 2.6 gallons for the U.S.

Still, many in the industry saw the figures, released this week by the San Francisco-based Wine Institute, as an important step.

"It's exciting," said Stephanie Gallo, vice president of marketing for Modesto-based Gallo Family Vineyards. "It's great for the industry and it's great for a whole host of reasons."

Why now? Part of the story is that as U.S. per capita consumption has risen, French consumption has fallen. In fact, U.S. wine consumption continued to grow during the recession, though many consumers switched to cheaper wines.

"We just completed 17 straight years of growth in consumption of table wine in the United States, which is really an incredible record," said John Gillespie, president of the Wine Market Council, a trade association based in the Napa Valley.

Another factor was the introduction of lesser-known varieties, such as moscato, a sweeter white wine that has seen a big boost in popularity in the U.S. Gallo sees the appeal of that wine as dovetailing with another trend, the rise of wine-lovers among the millennial generation — people born after 1980.

"What we're seeing is that they're turning to wine as their preferred alcoholic beverage of choice and they are interested in more approachable, slightly sweet, aromatic wines like moscato," she said.

Meanwhile, Americans also are paying increased attention to what's on their plate, which has spurred equal interest in what's in their glasses.

"We're actually becoming a nation that enjoys food culture," said Gallo. "As people are embracing cooking and delicious meals, wine is a natural beverage that accompanies those meals."

The overall U.S. wine market grew 2 percent in 2010 to nearly 330 million cases, according to the Wine Institute report prepared by industry consultants Gomberg, Fredrikson & Associates in Woodside. That compares to nearly 321 million cases in France, said report author Jon Fredrikson.

"All of a sudden, in terms of absolute volume, we're the biggest in the world, which is a huge benchmark for those of us who've been around for a while," he said.

Looking at the value of those shipments, estimated retail was $30 billion, up 4 percent from 2009. Wines from California accounted for a 61 percent volume share of the total U.S. wine market, with sales of nearly 200 million cases, up 1 percent from the previous year.

Assessing the wine market is complicated because there are so many brands sold at so many outlets. The new report is based on trade shipments, meaning wine sold to regional wine distributors, restaurants, liquor stores, etc. Since none of those entities is likely to build up long-term inventory, the figures correlate closely to consumption.

One vintner with a unique perspective on the new figures is Jean-Charles Boisset, president of Boisset Family Estates, a company with roots in Burgundy, France, that also owns a number of American properties.

"Obviously we saw it coming for many years now," said Boisset. "For us it's very exciting news because we've always strongly believed that the U.S. is the place to be and being bicultural, being in both of the biggest markets in the world is not only exciting, but at the same time allowing us to really read world consumers well."

The new report doesn't mean troubles are over for high-end producers, some of whom have struggled as the recession sapped wine-buyers' budgets.

But since the 2.6 gallons per capita U.S. figure amounts to a little more than a case a year, or a bottle a month, that means there is a large potential market yet to be tapped, said Kevin Morrisey, winemaker at Ehlers Estate, a boutique winery in the Napa Valley.

"There are so many people out there who are just starting to become acquainted with these terrific California wines," he said. "There should be more than enough people to drink everything we can possibly produce."

But no one is predicting that U.S. per capita consumption is likely to rival the French anytime soon. "It's too big of a gap," said Gillespie.

Still, there was delight over the milestone.

"It's pretty cool," said Morrisey. "It's fun to beat the French at their own game."

The Q Line

Building bridges in Malibu

For years some parents in Malibu have said they feel like second-class citizens and have complained about a lack of inclusion in the school district. Some have tried to break away from Santa Monica, and recently parents tried to make Point Dume Elementary a charter school. School board members and district officials are trying to heal old wounds and build bridges by meeting with parents, some of whom want to change the charter so there is always a school board member elected from Malibu.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think Malibu parents have a legitimate beef? Should at least one school board seat be reserved for a Malibu resident? Is the school board sincere this time around?

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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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Home prices, sales down from a year ago

Home prices and sales dipped in California from year-ago levels as "short sales" and sales of foreclosed homes accounted for more than half of home resales in the state.

San Diego-based DataQuick Information Systems said Thursday that the median price paid in the state last month was $244,000, down 2 percent from $249,000 in February 2010.

The median is up about 2 percent from $239,000 in January.

Home sales in February dipped nearly 3 percent to about 27,300 from around 28,100 in February 2010. Sales were down over 1 percent from 27,700 in January.

Foreclosures made up more than 40 percent of last month's sales.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COSTA MESA

Layoffs for nearly half of city's workforce

An Orange County city is eliminating nearly half its workforce in a drastic move to plug an up to $15 million budget hole.

Councilwoman Wendy Leece failed Tuesday to get the council to revisit an earlier 4-1 decision to cut about 213 city jobs, including about 90 firefighters, 50 maintenance workers, 30 dispatchers and a dozen jail employees.

Costa Mesa is spending more than $15 million of its $93 million budget this year on pensions. The Orange County Register says that figure is expected to rise above $25 million within five years.

Councilman Jim Righeimer says $10 million to $15 million must be cut in the budget due July 1.

The Los Angeles Times says layoff notices go out Thursday telling workers their jobs will be outsourced in six months.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Mel Gibson booked and released on battery charge

California authorities say Mel Gibson was booked and released on a misdemeanor battery charge as part of the criminal case involving his former girlfriend.

Jail records show the actor-director turned himself in Wednesday to the El Segundo Police Department.

He was fingerprinted and his mug shot was taken, a requirement of a plea deal that resulted in him being on probation for three years and attending a year of domestic violence counseling.

The 55-year-old Oscar winner was accused of striking his then-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva (gree-GOR'-yeh-vuh) during a January 2010 fight, but his no contest plea on Friday did not include an admission of guilt.

Gibson opted to turn himself in on the same night his film "The Beaver" premiered at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin, Texas.

AP

VENTURA

'King of Heroin' pleads guilty to conspiracy

The man dubbed Mexico's "King of Heroin," who was pocketing up to $260,000 a week in California drug sales, pleaded guilty in a Ventura County courtroom to conspiring to sell narcotics.

Jose Antonio Medina Arreguin, also known as Don Pepe, faces up to 24 years in prison when he's sentenced April 13, prosecutor David Russell said.

When Arreguin was arrested last year, investigators said the 36-year-old resident of Apatzingan, Michoacan, Mexico, was the leader of an elaborate, multimillion-dollar smuggling operation that once moved an estimated 440 pounds of heroin a month into Oxnard, Downey, Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Jose.

The news media in Mexico dubbed him King of Heroin.

Money from the drug sales was illegally transported out of the country and into Mexico on a regular basis, Oxnard police Officer Robert Eckman said in court documents. Arreguin was getting $100,000 to $260,000 a week, Eckman said.

Prosecutors alleged that wiretaps captured phone conversations in which Arreguin discussed drug transactions.

Arreguin was booked into Ventura County jail Oct. 13 after extradition from Mexico more than six months after he was arrested on the California warrant. He pleaded not guilty.

In a Ventura County Star jailhouse interview last year, Arreguin denied he was a drug dealer. He said he was an innocent lemon farmer who sold tortillas and had some cows.

Arreguin told the newspaper he was tortured and threatened into making a false confession by the Mexican Federal Police. Veronica Penunuri, a spokeswoman for the Mexican Secretariat of Public Security, said authorities in her country found no evidence of torture.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Tagger arrested on alleged probation violation

Authorities have arrested a Los Angeles graffiti artist on an alleged probation violation.

Cristian Gheorghiu, also known as Smear, was taken into custody Wednesday a day after sheriff's deputies searched his East Hollywood home and The Los Angeles Times published an article chronicling the tagger's rise in the art world, the newspaper reported.

Sheriff's Lt. Vince Carter would not provide specifics on the arrest, saying the booking was related to new information and vandalism tools. Gheorghiu is on felony probation for a 2007 vandalism conviction. Authorities searched his home Tuesday as part of a probation check.

His attorney, Peter Bibring, said deputies told him they planned to show that Gheorghiu's possession of graffiti tools was a violation of his probation. Authorities seized markers, stickers, art prints and a copy of the newspaper profile, he said.

"It raises extreme First Amendment issues," said Bibring, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. "The government shouldn't be in a position of saying you can't make art from certain materials."

Gheorghiu also is being sued by the city attorney's office which is seeking an injunction to keep him from profiting from his art work, which now fetches as much as $2,500 a piece. The suit seeks at least $1 million in penalties and a court order barring him and others in his old tagging crew from making money off artwork under their street names.

AP

Ex-Los Angeles fire captain convicted of murdering woman

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A former city fire captain was found guilty of second-degree murder for beating and choking a homeless woman who refused to have sex with him.

The conviction was announced Thursday in the case of David Del Toro, who could now face 15 years to life in prison.

Del Toro, a 23-year Fire Department veteran, attacked Jennifer Flores in his Eagle Rock home on Aug. 16, 2006.

"He's not going to suffer nearly as much as he made my sister suffer," the victim's brother, Richard Flores, said after the verdict.

Del Toro was acquitted of a first-degree murder count, which would have required a finding that the killing was planned.

Flores, 42, was a homeless acquaintance of the 54-year-old fire captain. He broke her nose, jaw and ribs and strangled her after Flores refused to have sex with him, prosecutors say, then used his pickup truck to carry or drag her nude body to a street a mile away, possibly to make it appear she was a hit-and-run victim.

Investigators found tire tracks and a bloody trail from the body to Del Toro's home and discovered blood in the home and his truck.

Del Toro testified that he never sought sex from the woman and didn't remember killing her.

"I don't believe I killed her ... I just didn't kill her," he testified.

His defense team argued that he went to bed and passed out from heavy drinking and exhaustion after working more than 200 hours over a two-week period leading up to the killing.

They claimed he later woke up and tried to clean up an unexplained mess at his home.

The fact that Del Toro was drunk at the time may have prompted jurors to acquit him of premeditated murder, prosecutor Bobby Grace told City News Service.

Del Toro retired from the Fire Department following his arrest.

Jurors deliberated for about two weeks but had to start over Monday after two panelists were excused and replaced with alternates.

Cause of Long Beach plane crash probed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH Charred debris from a plane that crashed and burned on takeoff, killing five people and critically injuring the survivor, was removed Thursday from the Long Beach Airport.

A salvage company took the wreckage to a facility near Palmdale where federal investigators will examine it and try to determine the cause of the crash, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The twin-engine Beechcraft King Air turboprop went down shortly after 10:30 a.m. Wednesday just after takeoff. Witnesses said it plunged and exploded in a fireball, leaving a flaming trail for dozens of feet along a grass median between two paved airport taxiways. The plane's tail was torn off along with part of the fuselage.

Firefighters managed to rescue one person. Passenger Mike Jensen, 51, was hospitalized in critical condition.

The Los Angeles County coroner's office identified the dead Thursday as Thomas Fay Dean, 50, of Laguna Beach; Bruce Michael Krall, 51, of Ladera Ranch; Jeffrey Albert Berger, 49, of Manhattan Beach; Mark Llewllyn Bixby, 44, from Long Beach; and Kenneth Earl Cruz, 43, of Culver City.

Dean and Berger were prominent real estate developers and Bixby was a bicycle advocate, Mike Murchison, a spokesman for Dean, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Dean owned the plane, he said.

The group was flying to Park City, Utah, to go skiing, Bixby's friend, Allan Crawford, told the Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Cruz was the pilot and had no record of any previous accidents or disciplinary action, according to Gregor.

Early reports said the plane was circling back to the airport when it went down, but Gregor said he could not confirm that.

"The plane made an immediate left bank after taking off and then a sharp left bank or dive into the airfield," he said in a statement.

Murchison said Dean owned most of the Los Cerritos Wetlands in southeast Long Beach. Part of the wetlands was traded last year to the city in exchange for most of its public service yard in a land swap.

Berger was Dean's business partner.

Bixby, a descendant of a founding family of Long Beach, was passionate about cycling and had been advocating to put a bike lane on a new bridge over the Port of Long Beach.




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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

An inside job

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, AT 8:40 A.M.

Officers responded to 2401 Lincoln Blvd. — Livity — regarding a burglary report. Upon arrival, the manager advised that on March 5 he noticed that the business had been burglarized the previous night. A check of surveillance tapes revealed that an ex-employee had been in the business after hours and removed numerous items (clothing, merchandise and skateboards) and left the business. Officers located the suspect, arresting him for burglary. He was identified as Timothy Huffman, 44, a transient in Santa Monica. His bail was set at $20,000.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, AT 1:55 P.M.

Officers were patrolling the 900 block of Montana Avenue when they observed two individuals cross the street outside of a crosswalk. When officers stopped the violators, one of the individuals was confrontational. Further investigation revealed that the confrontational individual had a warrant for his arrest. Upon booking the subject, officers observed symptoms of narcotic usage. Symptoms were similar to stimulant use. He was booked for being under the influence of a controlled substance and a warrant. He was identified as Mario Torres, 57, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $3,500.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, AT 12:05 P.M.

Officers responded to the 3200 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a vandalism report. The witness said she saw the suspect write graffiti with a black and yellow pen on a trash bin and parking signs. Officers located the suspect and found the pens and stickers (known as slap tags with the suspected vandal's moniker) on his person. He was booked for possession of graffiti tools. He was identified as Ryder Schinto, 23, of Pacific Palisades. His bail was set at $500.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, AT 7:07 A.M.

Officers responded to the 200 block of Ashland Avenue regarding vandalism that just occurred. Upon arrival, a witness said she looked outside and saw the suspect rummaging through a recycle bin. The witness came out and advised the suspect she would give the suspect some bottles. The suspect asked if it was OK to throw a bottle through the neighbor's window. The witness told the suspect, "no." The witness went back into the house. While inside, the witness heard tapping outside. The witness looked outside and saw the suspect throw a bottle threw the window of the building next door. Officers located the suspect a short distance away. He was booked for vandalism. He was identified as Harry Thomason, 44, a transient in Santa Monica. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, AT 8:54 A.M.

Officers responded to Rite Aid located at 1300 Wilshire Blvd. regarding a strong-arm robbery. Officers were advised by an employee that the suspect took two music CDs and placed them in a newspaper. The suspect exited the business without paying for the items. The employee contacted the suspect outside of the business and demanded the items back. The suspect charged the employee and attempted to strike him with a closed fist. The suspect was unsuccessful and fled the location. The employee then contacted the police. Officers were able to find the suspect a short time later. He was arrested for robbery. He was identified as Jeffrey Johnson, 45, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $50,000.

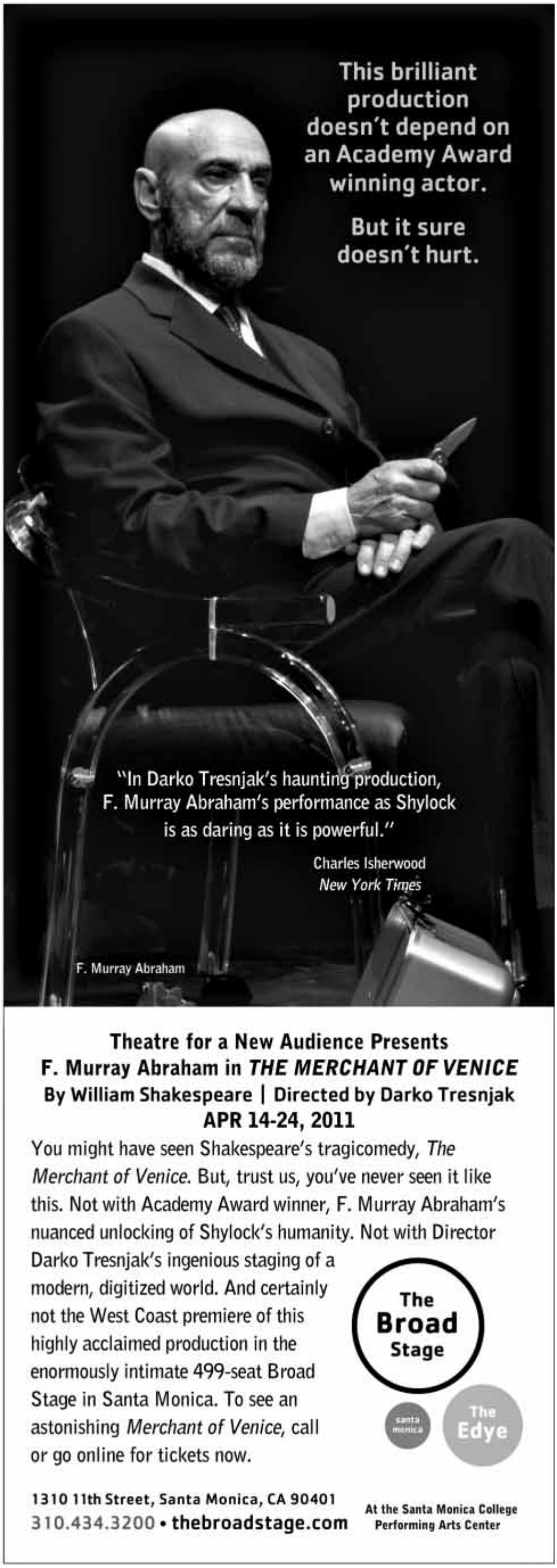
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, AT 3 P.M.

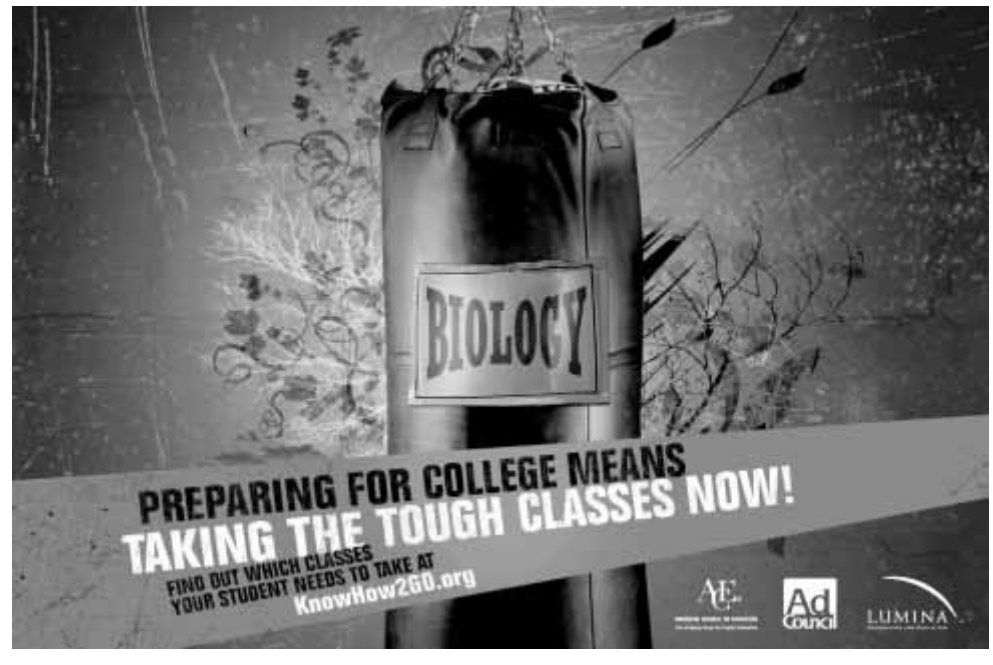
Undercover officers were conducting a surveillance when they spotted a suspect involved in a hand-to-hand sale of narcotics. Officers contacted the suspect and located rock cocaine on him. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. He was identified as Richard Daniels, 52, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $10,000.

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news@smdp.com

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





MARATHON
FROM PAGE 1

hit and exceed that $5 million figure before the end of the weekend, if a conservative projection from the Convention and Visitors Bureau comes true.

That estimate, based on the number of hotel rooms and CVB studies of what visitors spend while in town, puts the economic impact of the race at a cool $4.5 million for Santa Monica alone, said Alison Best, vice president of sales and services at the CVB.

Those numbers account for the 3,000 two-night hotel room bookings and a lower projection of 40,000 visitors on race day to account for the possibility of bad weather, Best wrote in an e-mail.

Although hotels are sure to be flush with customers, other businesses will have to work a bit harder to attract marathon-related customers.

Not all businesses benefited from the 2010 event, in part because of a bottleneck of visitors created by the placement of the finish line at Santa Monica Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, and placing the finish line celebration in the 1550 beach parking lot, distant from many store fronts.

This year, City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Santa Monica Inc. and the CVB collaborated to get more information out to businesses about the race and opportunities to capitalize on the weekend's visiting population.

For instance, hotels were encouraged to sell only two-night stays in order to attract outsiders to the Buy Local Expo, a citywide festival celebrating the wares of Santa Monica's art and business communities, which will be held Saturday.

The CVB created a web page dedicated to promoting deals offered by local businesses to runners, as well as places for race-watchers to see the extended KTLA coverage of the marathon from the comfort of a restaurant booth.

"We want to encourage people to stay dry and eat good food," Best said. "We're also encouraging other businesses to have KTLA on their TVs."

Santa Monica Place, for instance, will host indoor marathon watching on four large flatscreens in its food court, in case rain chases people off of the route. It will also give free post-race champagne to anyone with a runner's placard.

City Hall is doing its part to promote a lively weekend environment by issuing temporary sidewalk permits to businesses to create a visible presence and woo potential customers, Best said.

City staff took lessons from the 2010 marathon to heart, said Andrew Maximous, a city transportation engineer.

"We felt that the outreach to businesses wasn't as good as it could have been last year," Maximous said. "We've had a tremendous push this year to partner with the CVB, business districts and pier to push information out farther."

Businesses won't be the only ones raking it in this year.

Although no one has completed an official economic impact study examining the effects of the marathon on city coffers, staff knows at least one area will pay off: parking.

City lots closer to the end of the race will raise rates to $20, while those further away will actually drop below normal rates to $5, said Don Patterson, business and revenue operations manager for the city.

"On event days, we implement our event pricing strategy where we try to encourage people to disperse to different parking locations by pricing," Patterson said.



Photo courtesy Honda LA Marathon

BIG TURNOUT: **Runners begin the 2010 Honda LA Marathon. Over 20,000 took part last year.**

Staff first used the strategy at last year's marathon, and it worked, bringing in both additional revenue and spreading out the traffic congestion.

This year, parking will bring in an additional $100,000 above and beyond a normal Sunday, Patterson said.

Not all money will go to lining pockets, however.

Charities like Sojourn, a program within OPCC for battered women and their children, are benefiting from runners and other volunteers who pledged to raise funds for specific miles.

Sojourn will get proceeds from mile 25. Participants fundraise by getting people to pledge money through individual websites and personal outreach. So far, the charity has raised $50,000, five times the size of their next-largest campaign.

"We started a little after Thanksgiving and we've been raising money from then," said Michael Pegues, the development operations manager at Sojourn. "We've had multiple events, like lasagna parties and things like that. It's part of an ongoing effort to get people to band together and raise this money for the organization."

Sojourn attracted 146 fundraisers from the marathon alone.

Organizers hope to raise $4 million for charity this year, double the $2 million the 2010 race brought in.

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MALIBU
FROM PAGE 1

and nurses become the first line of defense for health care.

"When kids aren't healthy, they can't learn," Ernst said.

Ernst said eight nurses received pink slips, up from the 5.6 nursing positions that the board of education had approved for cuts.

The district is looking for creative solutions to the health care problem, including reaching out to local partners, Patel said.

"St. John's gives a $75,000 grant for health care," Patel said. "We're always looking for those kinds of partnerships."

Part of the solution may be bringing in Licensed Vocational Nurses, which receive less training than a registered nurse, but more than a health clerk, Allen said.

A special committee was formed to examine the options. It will be reporting back to the board in coming months.

In the meantime, Allen acknowledged, the pink slips that the board approved are a painful, but necessary, step to give the board flexibility to solve the district's budget problems, as 72 percent of district expenditures go to personnel.

"Everyone gets stressed, it hurts morale and long-time employees feel disrespected," he said. "It's a terrible system."

On a more positive note, parents concerned about dwindling class choices were relieved to hear that the district is making inroads on teleconferencing classes between Samohi and Malibu High in an effort to consolidate small but valuable classes like advanced placement courses that may only have a few students.

A successful test of the system took place in February, and teachers have signed onto the project. It's unclear exactly when the first class out of Malibu or Samohi will be conferenced.

"We lost an AP chemistry teacher, and that's another whole class," said Fiona Corrigan. "We don't want the choices to get less and less."

Finally, PTSA representatives from the various schools in Malibu met Wednesday night with Patel and Allen in an effort to plant seeds for a Malibu version of Community for Excellent Public Schools, or CEPS, an advocacy group in Santa Monica.

Allen strongly supported the concept, which he felt would help keep lines of communication open between the district and the entire school population, rather than just isolated school sites.

"There aren't a lot of places for the Malibu community to get together and talk about school issues," Allen said.

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Mervyn Hecht
Mervyn Hecht was a lawyer in the small town of Pacific Palisades California from 1964 to 1989. Here he recounts several of his disparate cases, in turn funny (fighting over the custody of a French poodle), surprising (you have to read it), and profound (a firstdegree murder case). They give insight into the life of a lawyer, how lawyers view their clients, and the legal profession. Some of the cases are heart-warming, but most are just very funny. The book is available only as a Kindle e-book from Amazon. But you do not need a Kindle to read the book. The Kindle reader is free and available for download from Amazon.com. Once installed, you can download and read the book on your smartphone, your computer, or your iPad.
To buy the book, go to Amazon.com and enter "Mervyn Hecht" in the search box

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Yale lab tech admits to killing female graduate student

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW HAVEN, Conn. A former animal research technician pleaded guilty Thursday to killing a Yale University graduate student days before her 2009 wedding, and prosecutors revealed that he left behind evidence of a sexual assault and desperately tried to cover his tracks.

Raymond Clark III pleaded guilty to murder and entered an Alford plea to attempted sexual assault of 24-year-old Annie Le under an agreement with prosecutors that calls for a 44-year sentence. Under Connecticut's Alford doctrine, the defendant agrees that the state has enough evidence to likely get a conviction and a guilty finding is entered on the record.

The sex charge and related DNA evidence offered the first official revelation of a potential motive in the case.

"We believed all along that was the motivation," said Joe Tacopina, attorney for the victim's parents.

Clark, 26, was accused of strangling Le, of Placerville, Calif. Her body was found upside down stuffed behind a research lab wall on Sept. 13, 2009, five days after she was last seen inside the Yale medical building. It would have been her wedding day in New York.

Prosecutor David Strollo said there was evidence that Clark tried after the killing to generate an alibi, scrub the crime scene and even fish evidence out from behind the wall.

Clark appeared happy in surveillance video taken before the killing, but later he was alone with his face in his hands at a time authorities believe was after the killing, Strollo said.

Strollo said Thursday that Le had a broken collar bone and jaw, injuries suffered while she was alive, and that her underwear had been disarranged. He noted that the victim was 4 feet 9 inches tall and weighed 89 pounds, while Clark was 5-foot-9 and 190 pounds.

He also cited DNA evidence including Clark's semen and a green-ink pen under Le's body that had her blood and Clark's DNA. Police have said Clark signed into the secure building with a green pen the day Le disappeared. DNA from Le and Clark also was on a bloody sock found hidden in a ceiling.

Court papers describe a bloody crime scene and Clark's efforts to scrub floors. Investigators say Clark tried to hide a box of cleaning wipes that later was found to have traces of Le's blood.

Clark had a scratch on his face and left arm that he said came from a cat, investigators said.

Investigators found two notes in Clark's sock after he was arrested in which he had reached out to co-workers to provide an alibi for him, Strollo said. He also said they found a backpack with Clark's DNA that contained fishing line and a lure that authorities believe he intended to use to try to retrieve the pen in the wall.

Investigators also believe an air freshener was used to hide the smell of the body, Strollo said. An air freshener cover was found near the ceiling and Clark's fingerprints were on the canister's cover, he said.

The victim's body was moved to various rooms before it was placed in the wall, Strollo said.

Clark previously had been charged with murder and felony murder, each carrying a possible sentence of 25 to 60 years. He appeared in court Thursday with his fiancée and father seated nearby.

His father, Raymond Clark Jr., said outside of court that his son has repeatedly expressed remorse and has sobbed uncontrollably over the crime. Raymond Clark Jr. says he's proud of his son for taking responsibility for his actions and that his son has told him "his heart is tortured by the reality that he caused the death."

Sentencing was scheduled for May 20.

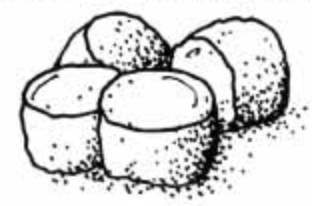
Le was a doctoral pharmacology student who worked on a team that experimented on mice as part of research into enzymes that could have implications for treatment of cancer, diabetes and muscular dystrophy.

At her memorial service, family and friends remembered for her academic success, sense of humor, ambition, love for shoe-shopping and love for her fiance, Jonathan Widawsky.

Tacopina said the family is satisfied with the plea deal. He says Le's mother did not attend the hearing because it would be too painful.

"Every day has been a tough day," Tacopina said. "It's a tough day because there's been a public acknowledgement that somebody murdered and attempted to sexually assault this poor young sweet girl for no reason."

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Obama reassures: Japan's radiation won't reach U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama, trying to reassure a worried nation, declared Thursday that "harmful levels" of radiation from the Japanese nuclear disaster are not expected to reach the U.S., even as other officials conceded it could take weeks to bring the crippled nuclear complex under control.

The situation remains dangerous and complicated at the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors in northeastern Japan, U.S. officials said.

"We've seen an earthquake and tsunami render an unimaginable toll of death and destruction on one of our closest friends and allies in the world," Obama said in brief remarks at the White House after a visit to the Japanese Embassy to offer his condolences.

Obama said he had asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to conduct a "comprehensive review" of the safety of all U.S. nuclear plants.

"When we see a crisis like the one in Japan, we have a responsibility to learn from this event and to draw from those lessons to ensure the safety and security of our people," Obama said.

There are 104 nuclear reactors in the United States, providing roughly 20 percent of the nation's electricity. "Nuclear energy is an important part of our own energy future," Obama said.

Meanwhile, the first evacuation flight of U.S. citizens left Japan, the State Department said.

In the U.S., Customs and Border Protection said there had been reports of radiation being detected from some cargo arriving from Japan at several airports, including ones in Chicago, Dallas and Seattle.

Radiation had not been detected in passengers or luggage. And none of the reported incidents involved harmful amounts.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the agency was screening passengers and cargo for "even a blip of radiation."

Obama said he knows that Americans are worried about potential risks from airborne radiation that could drift across the Pacific. "So I want to be very clear," he said. "We do not expect harmful levels of radiation to reach the United States, whether it's the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska or U.S. territories."

Obama defended the recommendation of federal nuclear safety officials for a 50-mile evacuation zone around the crippled nuclear power plant for American troops and citizens in Japan, even though that is far larger than the zone spelled out by Japanese officials.

"This decision was based on a careful scientific evaluation," Obama said. "Beyond this 50-mile radius, the risks do not currently call for an evacuation."

At the same time, he said it was important to evacuate Americans "who may be endangered by exposure to radiation if the situation deteriorates."

Japanese officials have established a 12-mile evacuation zone and have said that people living 12 to 20 miles from the plant should stay inside.

Gregory Jaczko, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, told reporters at a White House briefing it could be some time before the crisis is brought under control as crews work to cool spent-fuel rods and get the damaged Japanese reactors under control. The activity could continue for days and "possibly weeks," Jaczko said.

He said the U.S. recommendation that American troops and citizens stay 50 miles away from the nuclear complex was "a prudent and precautionary measure to take." But he also said "basic physics" suggested there was little risk to anyone in the United States or its Pacific territories.

Daniel B. Poneman, deputy secretary of energy, told the briefing that a "very dangerous situation" remains in Japan. Information at the nuclear plant is "genuinely complex and genuinely confusing," he said.

As the officials spoke, Japanese emergency workers sought to regain control of the dangerously overheated nuclear complex, dousing it with water from police cannons, fire trucks and helicopters to cool nuclear fuel rods that were threatening to spray out more radiation.

The U.S. Energy Department said it had conducted two separate aerial tests to measure how much radioactive material had been deposited in Japan. Those data, Poneman said, were consistent with the recommendation for Americans to evacuate a 50-mile radius around the plant.

The U.S. officials declined to criticize the Japanese call for a smaller evacuation zone.

"We're analyzing the information, and we're sharing it with the Japanese," said Poneman. "The preliminary look has indicated that the measures that have been taken (by the Japanese) have been prudent ones. And we have no reason to question the assessment that has been made or the recommendation that has been made by the Japanese authorities."

At his visit to the Japanese Embassy, Obama signed a condolence book and said: "We feel a great urgency to provide assistance to those ... who are suffering."

In the book he wrote, "My heart goes out to the people of Japan during this enormous tragedy. Please know that America will always stand by one of its greatest allies during this time of need."

"Because of the strength and wisdom of its people, we know that Japan will recover, and indeed will emerge stronger than ever," he wrote.

The crisis has been complicated by the spare and often contradictory information issued by the Japanese government and the Tokyo Electric Power Co., heightening a sense of uncertainty about what's happening in the reactors.

"It's not easy to get information from the site," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

Carney said the fact that Obama had taken the rare step of asking the NRC — an independent regulatory agency that is not under the president's control — to undertake a review of U.S. reactor safety in light of the Japanese disaster "only adds to the urgency of that mission."

Representatives of the nuclear energy industry said Thursday that operators of U.S. reactors already had begun taking steps to better prepare for an emergency in this country.

While it will take some time to understand the true dimensions of the nuclear disaster in Japan, "we will learn from them, we will get that operating experience, we will apply it and try to make our units even safer than they are today," said Anthony Pietrangelo, senior vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute, a Washington-based industry lobbying group.

Some lawmakers, including Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, have suggested the administration should do more to re-examine the nation's aging network of nuclear power plants with an eye toward making them more accident-proof.

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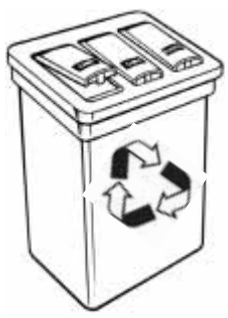
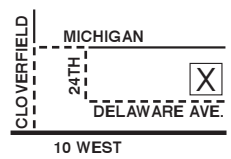
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New Bible draws critics of gender-neutral language

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. In the old translation of the world's most popular Bible, John the Evangelist declares: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar." Make that "brother or sister" in a new translation that includes more gender-neutral language and is drawing criticism from some conservatives who argue the changes can alter the theological message.

The 2011 translation of the New International Version Bible, or NIV, does not change pronouns referring to God, who remains "He" and "the Father." But it does aim to avoid using "he" or "him" as the default reference to an unspecified person.

The NIV Bible is used by many of the largest Protestant faiths. The translation comes from an independent group of biblical scholars that has been meeting yearly since 1965 to discuss advances in biblical scholarship and changes in English usage.

Before the new translation even hit stores, it drew opposition from the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, an organization that believes women should submit to their husbands in the home and only men can hold some leadership roles in the church.

The council decided it would not endorse the new version because the changes alter "the theological direction and meaning of the text," according to a statement. Similar concerns led the Southern Baptist Convention to reject the NIV's previous translation in 2005.

At issue is how to translate pronouns that apply to both genders in the ancient Greek and Hebrew texts but have traditionally been translated using masculine forms in English.

An example from the translator's notes for Mark 4:25 to show how the NIV's translation of these words has evolved over the past quarter-century.

The widely distributed 1984 version of the NIV quotes Jesus: "Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

The more recent incarnation of the NIV from 2005, called Today's New International Version, changed that to: "Those who have will be given more; as for those who do not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

The CBMW had complained in 2005 that making the subject of a verse plural to convey that it could refer equally to a man or a woman "potentially obscured an important aspect of biblical thought — that of the personal relationship between an individual and God."

The NIV 2011 seems to have taken that criticism into account and come up with a compromise: "Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

While the translators' former grammar teachers may not like it, the translators offer a strong justification for their choice of "they" (instead of the clunky "he or she") and "them" (instead of "him or her") to refer back to the singular "whoever."

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: March 21, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
ARB 09-303, 1320 Sunset Avenue: Residential
ARB 11-047, 2450 Broadway: Commercial
ARB 11-069, 2929 31st Street: Commercial
ARB 11-070, 1631 Santa Monica Boulevard: Automobile Dealership
ARB 11-074, 1540 2nd Street: Commercial
ARB 11-081, 2438 Ocean Park Boulevard: Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, & 9 and the Tide Ride serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.

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NFL

Budgeting is players' big concern during lockout

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. Managing money when no checks are coming in is the main topic among NFL players early in the lockout.

Several members of the NFL Players Association's board of directors — called player reps before the union dissolved last week — say they are fielding many questions on benefits and money issues. For example, paying for health insurance, which the teams were no longer obligated to provide when the contract expired.

Pittsburgh Steelers tackle Max Starke says he's gotten questions from vets and rookies alike.

Players normally receive paychecks each of the 17 weeks of the regular season and have been urged for two years by the union to start saving in preparation for a labor stoppage.







Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

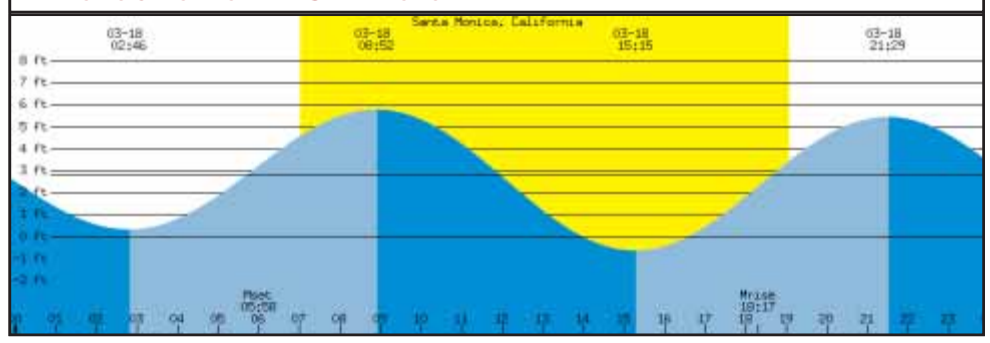
Swell Forecast

NW swell should even-out with surf at least head high, likely 1-3' overhead at most west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

A combo NW wind/ground swell comes ashore, with most west facing breaks head high, but with questionable conditions.

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 **March 9, 2011**

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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 14
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groundwork 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
Los Cerrillos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	F	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alins creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rominer Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	D
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	D
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	A
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	B	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
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	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
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+	A+

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. Our lawyers are happy.

MOVIE TIMES

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

From Russia with Love and Diamonds are Forever
7:30pm

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

Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:10pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

Unknown (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:35am, 5:00pm, 10:25pm

Hall Pass (R) 1hr 38min
2:20pm, 7:45pm

Lincoln Lawyer (R) 1hr 59min
10:15am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Kill the Irishman (R) 1hr 46min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:25pm, 10:10pm

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

Rango (PG) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:15pm, 10:05pm

Paul (R) 1hr 40min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:25pm, 2:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 7:00pm, 7:45pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 1hr 56min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 1hr 46min
12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Mars Needs Moms in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 28min
10:15am, 12:35pm, 3:00pm, 5:25pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

Red Riding Hood (PG-13) 1hr 40min
10:15am, 12:40pm, 3:10pm, 5:40pm, 8:10pm, 10:40pm

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

Desert Flower (Wustenblume) (R) 2hrs 00min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Barney's Version (NR) 2hrs 12min
1:20pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Cedar Rapids (R) 1hr 26min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

I Am (NR) 1hr 16min
1:30pm, 3:40pm, 5:50pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Rango (PG) 1hr 47min
10:05am, 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 1hr 56min
12:30pm, 3:25pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Limitless (PG-13) 1hr 45min
10:45am, 12:00pm, 1:45pm, 2:45pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm, 10:05pm, 10:50pm

Lincoln Lawyer (R) 1hr 59min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

I Will Follow (NR) 1hr 28min
10:30am, 12:40pm, 2:50pm, 5:10pm, 7:30pm, 9:45pm

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

Hang with friends, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Focus on details, and don't skip any steps. Follow-through counts more than you can imagine. When you finish up and look the weekend in the eye, you will feel good. A partner could be difficult. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are encouraged to go within and become more creative. No matter what you approach, you revitalize the situation or a project with a more innovative sense. Your touch of ingenuity can make all the difference in the outcome of a situation. Tonight: Fun and games.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Remain centered, no matter what goes on. You are able to see a child or new love interest perhaps in one of his or her most negative lights. Help this person see life in a more upbeat way. Avoid making a snippy comment or two. Tonight: Homeward bound.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Say what you feel, though it could be difficult to get the words out. You might be hard-pressed to find the right words. Pressure builds when new information points to the fact that you might have made an improper judgment. Tonight: Hang with friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Be sensitive to spending. You could go way overboard without meaning to. Understand where someone is coming from, but know that you don't have to go along for the ride. Expenses could be extreme and difficult. Don't spend money out of frustration. Tonight: Try to avoid going overboard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your energy multiplies as long as you alternate activities. How you handle someone and the decisions you make could be quite startling to many people. You might feel insecure about your finances. Tonight: Don't push too hard, for your sake.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Much goes on behind the scenes. You could be overwhelmed by insecurities and doubts. Get past the issue, whether it means speaking to someone or talking yourself past your resistances. Tonight: Easy works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ No one can undermine you like you, the Scorp, undermine yourself. Stop it! Center yourself; take a walk. A meeting could be more instrumental than you realize. Be positive, and good results will come forward. Examine your abilities carefully. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ All eyes look to you, forcing your hand. Take a stand, and someone might quickly detach and no longer be a quiet supporter. You are juggling different concerns and might be overly worried about their impact. Careful. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Stretch mentally and see what is happening with someone else. You can never really relate to someone until you come to a more complete understanding of what that person goes through. Open up and think positively. Tonight: Sort through mixed messages and decide to do only what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your abilities to move forward and perhaps come to a better understanding emerge. You might want to rethink a situation openly with the parties involved. Your ability to relate to one specific individual might need to emerge. Tonight: An important discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others could steal your thunder. That type of behavior could be most upsetting. Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a key person in your life. Go forward and gain a better understanding. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

Happy birthday

Remain optimistic and forthright this year. Often you might want to take off and not deal with certain situations. You can also choose to not respond, and opt to not run away. Sometimes it seems impossible to find a meeting point on key life issues. You often might not see eye to eye with others. If you are single, you might meet more suitors than the mind can imagine. Choosing the right one takes talent. If you are attached, work on understanding and mutual respect. Choose to accept rather than fight. VIRGO can be challenging at best.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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.

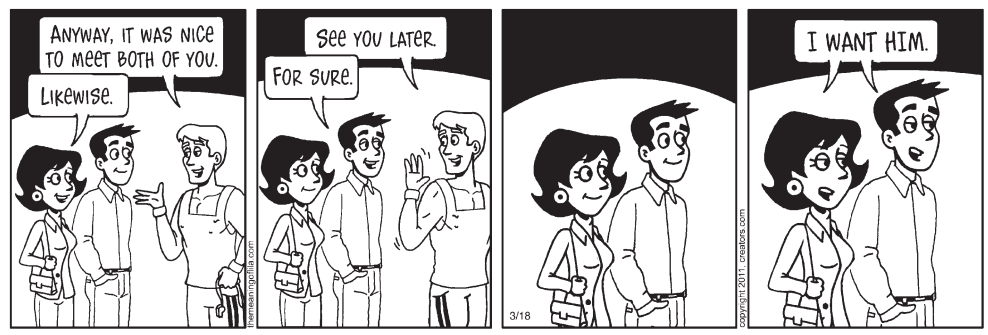
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By Jim Davis



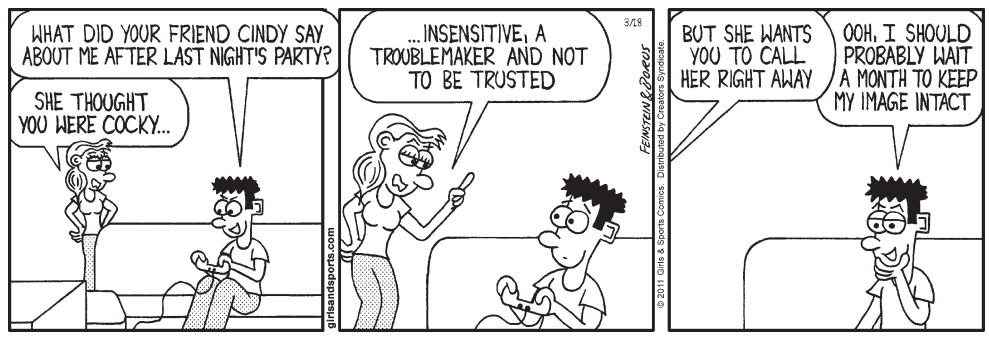
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

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Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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

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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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Goggles
6 Burning
11 Sneeze sound
12 Knight wear
13 Yarn
14 Makes better
15 José's home
17 Qualified
18 Custard pie
20 Norse trickster
22 Charged atom
23 Brisk tempo
26 Religion basis
28 Poet Guest
29 Distraught
31 Road hazard
32 Crib occupant
33 Bothers
34 Aid illegally
36 Countess's husband
38 Boom type
40 Bocelli, for one
43 Bakery output
44 Battery end
45 Blackout lack
46 Manila Bay admiral

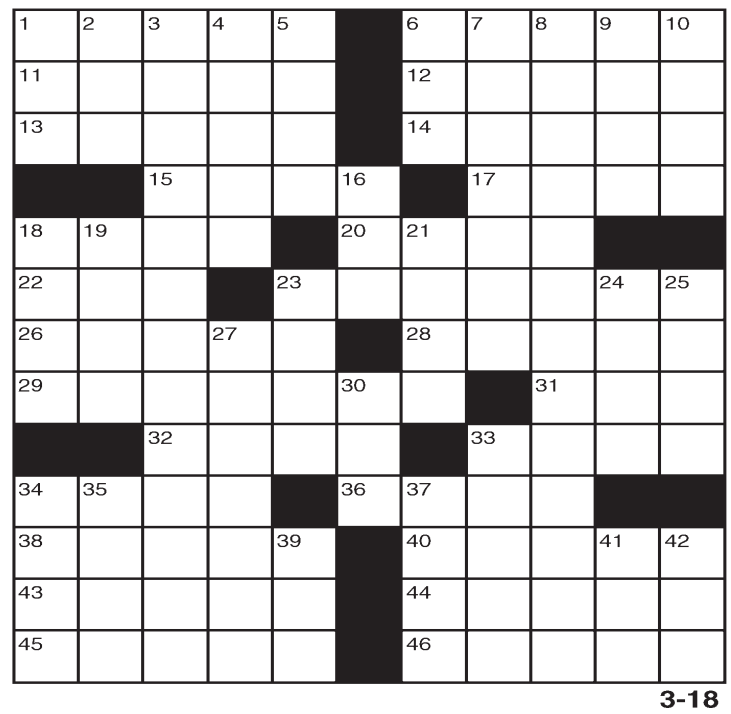
DOWN

1 Oven fuel
2 Join a cast
3 Men at Work No. 1 song
4 Mosque text
5 Tofu beans
6 Checkup sound
7 Lost one's cool
8 Sammy Kaye No. 1 song
9 Bakery buy
10 Gaelic
16 Maximum amount
18 Name for a poodle
19 Bank offering
21 Corrida cries
23 Role for Peck
24 Pool tool
25 Valuable rocks
27 4:00, perhaps
30 Reuben base
33 Marie Curie's daughter
34 Pronto
35 Township, for short
37 Somewhat
39 Train unit
41 Keats creation
42 Spanish king

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-18

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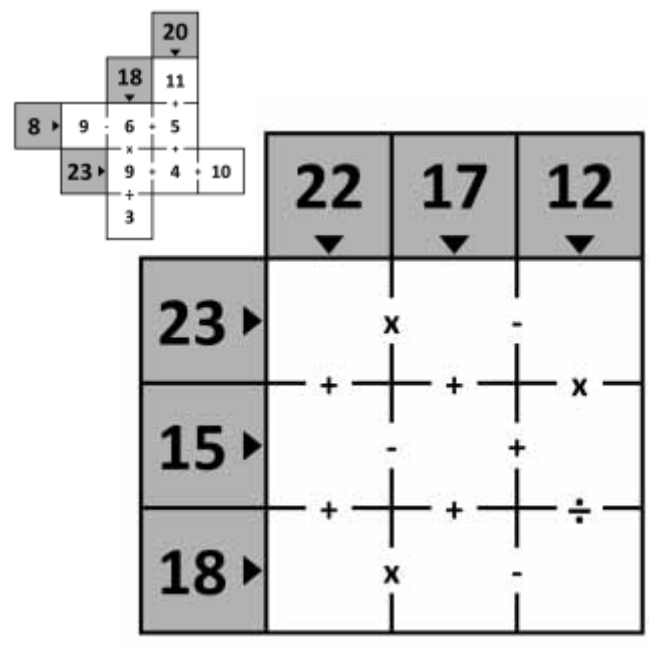
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 12

Solution for Task 735



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Fantasy 5: 3 6 14 15 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 4 8 EVENING: 3 5 4

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Mental health practitioners, writing in the January issue of the journal Substance Abuse, described two patients who had recently arrived at a clinic in Ranchi, India, after allowing themselves to be bitten by cobras for recreational highs. Both men had decades-long substance-abuse issues, especially involving opiates, and decided to try what they had heard about on the street. One, age 44, bitten on the foot, experienced "a blackout associated with a sense of well-being, lethargy and sleepiness." The other, 52, reported "dizziness and blurred vision followed by a heightened arousal and a sense of well-being," and apparently was so impressed that he returned to the snake charmer two weeks later for a second bite.

■ Recurring Theme: Another "negative cash-flow" robbery occurred in February, in Kansas City, Mo., as an unidentified man tried to distract the clerk at a gun store by laying $40 on the counter to buy a box of bullets, then pulling a gun and demanding all the store's money. The clerk thwarted the robbery by pulling his own gun (not surprisingly, since it was a gun store) and scaring the robber off -- while the $40 remained on the counter.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1921 The second Peace of Riga between Poland and Soviet Union.

1922 In India, Mohandas Gandhi is sentenced to six years in prison for civil disobedience. He would serve only 2 years.

1925 The Tri-State Tornado hits the Midwestern states of Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, killing 695 people.

1937 The New London School explosion kills three hundred, mostly children.

1937 Spanish Civil War: Spanish Republican forces defeat the Italians at the Battle of Guadalajara.

WORD UP!

quaff \ KWOFF; KWAFF \ , verb; 1. To drink a beverage, esp. an intoxicating one, copiously and with hearty enjoyment. transitive verb: 1. To drink (a beverage) copiously and heartily

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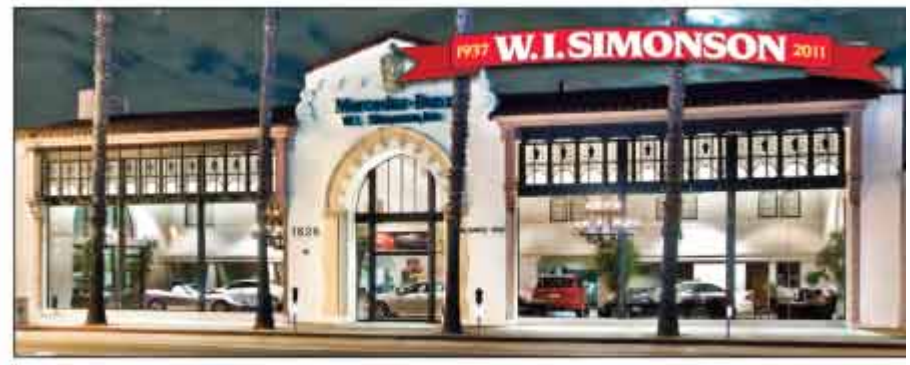
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