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APRIL 9-10, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 127

Santa Monica Daily Press

TEENS THINK BOOZING NO BIG DEAL
SEE PAGE 16

We have you covered

THE RED TIE ISSUE



READY, SET, GO!

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Students from John Adams Middle School take off from the starting line at the fourth annual Rock n' Run fundraiser Friday morning. 'The money raised, $10,000, will be used for school supplies and field trips,' says Becky Turk, PTSA member.

Santa Monica detectives clear rape kit backlog

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY There are no longer unprocessed rape kits in the possession of the Santa Monica Police Department after detectives sent 470 to the crime lab over the last 13 months for processing to see if any critical DNA evidence can be collected, law enforcement officials said this week.

Capt. Wendell Shirley told the Daily Press Thursday that the last rape kit in storage was sent to the Los Angeles County crime lab on Monday, clearing the Santa Monica Police Department's backlog.

The SMPD and other law enforcement agencies came under fire in 2009 when a report by Human Rights watch entitled "Testing Justice: The Rape Kit Backlog in Los Angeles City and County," found that there were more than 12,000 rape kits yet to be tested in the county, with more than 450 in the custody of the SMPD.

Police Chief Tim Jackman changed the department's policy regarding the kits in response to the report. Under the new policy, all rape kits — the physical evidence collected after a sexual assault — are sent to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for processing within 72 hours, whereas before it was left up to the detectives which kits would be sent or placed in storage.

Detectives are also required to periodically check with the crime lab on the status of kits submitted to ensure they are processed as quickly as possible, Shirley said.

"We are pleased to say that we zeroed in, made sure all kits were sent out and now we are clear of any backlog," Shirley said.

Advocates said there was no excuse for any backlog given the relatively low number of sexual assaults in Santa Monica (there were 21 reported rapes in 2008 and 30 the year prior, according to figures released by the SMPD), the amount of resources at the department's disposal and the close proximity to one of the premier rape treatment centers in the nation at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

In prior years, detectives with the SMPD

SEE RAPE PAGE 10

School budget scenario bleak

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS With the possibility of getting education-funding tax extensions on the June ballot remote to the point of futility and other state funding in jeopardy, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District may be in for even deeper cuts than previously thought.

The school district is looking at two scenarios, said Jan Maez, assistant superintendent and chief financial officer for SMMUSD, and both are bleak.

In the best case scenario, the district will lose $350 per student in average daily attendance, a set dollar amount remitted to the schools based on the number of students who show up district-wide.

That equates to a $3.6 million per year reduction in funding, and will decimate the school's $15.7 million reserve fund by the end of the 2012-13 school year if spending does not change.

The worst case scenario assumes that the legislature will vote to suspend Proposition 98, a 1988 measure passed by California voters to ensure a minimum level of funding for

SEE BUDGET PAGE 11

City Hall helping low-income families get back on their feet

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

ANNENBERG BEACH HOUSE Six years ago, Deborah Jackson left a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program with nothing going for her except a referral to St. Joseph Center in Venice.

The 50-year-old Jackson had no place to live, hadn't worked in 15 years and her son and daughter were staying with relatives. She saw her daughter every other week, and only when she could get a

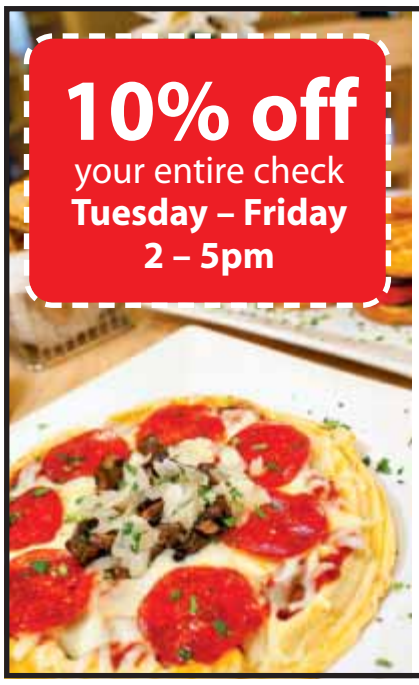
SEE FAMILIES PAGE 11

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- Men's Support Groups . . . . Mondays, 10:30 – Noon
  or Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
  Trusting environments in which men can talk about personal issues.
- Book Discussion Group . . . 2nd Friday of the month
  10:30 a.m. – Noon
- Transitions Support Group for People 50 to 65
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  For people who have reached a crossroad in their lives and are facing uncertainty.

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WISE & Healthy Aging is a nonprofit social services organization dedicated to serving older adults and their caregivers.

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, April 9, 2011

'The Bluest Eye'
Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Catch a performance of this adaptation of the controversial novel by Toni Morrison, "The Bluest Eye." This production also takes place on Saturday and will be at the Miles through April 24. For more information, visit mile-splayhouse.org.

Healthy kids
Saint Anne School
2015 Colorado Ave., noon — 4 p.m.
Santa Monica and Los Angeles area families can receive free school entrance health services for children ages 4 to 6 who will enter kinder-garten or grade 1 at any school in the Fall of 2011 during this health fair. Participating providers include Cedars-Sinai's Coach for Kids and Their Families, Westside Family Health Clinic, UCLA Santa Monica Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital and the Santa Monica Lions Club Eye Mobile.

Temple talk
Beth Shir Shalom Synagogue
1827 California Ave., 7 p.m.
Come to a screening of the documentary "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work." The screening will be hosted by comedienne and temple member Wendy Hammers. The film, an insightful and entertaining documentary covering a 14-month period in Rivers' life, was hailed by the New York Times as "a convulsively funny movie." Donations for the evening are $15 per person. Free childcare is available with reservations, which can be made by phone at (310) 453-3361 or by e-mailing roselee@bethshirshalom.org.

Sunday, April 10, 2011

Art meets music
Bleicher/Golightly & Hamilton Galleries
1431 Ocean Ave., 4 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Bleicher/Golightly & Hamilton Galleries in Santa Monica are pleased to announce "Music At Sunset," an eclectic evening of live music every month, featuring a blend of jazz, classical, and world music acts. This month's event features the Laurel Partin Trio; a live jazz group performing a mix of standards and original tone poems blending influences from world music and post bop. This months event is set to accompany the show "Scapes," in association with, "Month Of Photography LA." Scapes pres-ents a unique dialogue of photography and painting that reconciles contem-porary and traditional aesthetics. Many of the photographers employ approaches more common to painters. For further information, see www.bgartdealings.com, hamiltongalleries.com or call (310) 4519983.

Classics come together
Santa Monica College
Studio Stage, 1900 Pico Blvd.
7 p.m.
Words such as innovative, experimental, deconstructive, avant-garde, and post-modern describe this work of verbal movement art. In this perform-ance art event, the classical story of Oedipus is explored using the lan-guage of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." The resulting impact is powerful. No late seating! Tickets are $10. Visit www.smc.edu/theatre or call (310) 434-4319 for more info.

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

McKinley makes the grade

Students at McKinley Elementary School have performed so well in the classroom that the Title I school has received an academic achievement award from the California Department of Education, school district officials announced Friday.

Title I aims to bridge the gap between low-income students and their counterparts by providing extra funding for programs.

"The Board of Education and I commend McKinley Elementary School for being recognized as a 2011 Title I Achievement Award recipient," said SMMUSD Superintendent Tim Cuneo. "Their hard work and dedication has resulted in consistent gains in student achievement. This award reflects their commitment and support of our district's mission to ensure extraordinary achievement for all while simultaneously closing the achievement gap."

The award criteria can be found on the California Department of Education Title I Academic Achievement Award Web page at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/aa/.

The 2010-11 awardees will be honored at a reception and banquet at the Disneyland Hotel on May 20.

– DAILY PRESS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Senior exemption

School district officials are mailing out senior exemption forms in accordance with a provision of the Measure R parcel tax approved by voters in 2008, which combined two existing parcel taxes (S and Y) that generate roughly $10 million a year.

To qualify for the senior exemption in 2011-12, you must be 65 years old by June 30 and must own and occupy a property within the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

Those seniors who have previously received the senior exemption are being sent renewal forms. The form must be completed, signed and returned/postmarked by July 31, 2011. Those who do not receive a form by the end of May are asked to call the school district at (310) 450-8338, ext. 70-263.

First-time applicants can print out an application form from the district's website at www.smmusd.org/fiscal/senior_exempt.html. Applicants must complete the form, sign it and provide two documents proving age and property ownership.

– DP

LAPD outlines security plans at Dodger Stadium

BY ROBERT JABLON & SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A savage ballpark beating has turned a young baseball season into open season on everything that is wrong with the Los Angeles Dodgers — from the owners, to the stadium, to security, to the storied franchise itself.

For now, it's going to mean more LAPD blue at the ballpark to join Dodger blue.

More officers will be dispatched as part of increased security announced Friday. City officials and the team said the additional officers will stand guard at the next home game on April 14.

They are hoping to avoid a repeat of the season's first game, when two men in Dodgers attire attacked a 42-year-old man wearing rival San Francisco Giants gear in the parking lot. A week later, he is still in critical condition. Police are still looking for the assailants, despite a $150,000 reward and sketches of the suspects.

"These two individuals are not true Dodger fans. They are common criminals," Dodgers owner Frank McCourt said at a news conference Friday, his first public comments on the beating.

The attack, however, has focused attention on security problems at the ballpark, and the intense — sometimes bitter — rivalry among Dodgers and Giants fans.

To fans concerned about their safety, McCourt said: "I hear you loudly and I hear you clearly."

The team turned to Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck for help and hired former police Chief William Bratton and his New York security firm to plot a safe future for fans at one of the nation's most historic ballparks.

McCourt, Beck and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa all promised changes that will ensure a safe, family-friendly, fan-friendly environment. Many of the changes will be in place before the April 14 game against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Among the changes are LAPD officers in uniform who can eject or arrest troublemakers, including season ticket holders, and enforce the ban on tailgating or drinking in the parking lots. The team will pay for the additional police, although the price hasn't been set yet.

Eventually, there will be license plate scanners, observation towers, increased lighting and undercover operations throughout the stadium.

"There will be zero tolerance for misbehavior at Dodger games," Beck said.

Some types of trash talk also will not be tolerated.

"If people are making comments that inherently incite violence, then you've got to go," he said.

That will be good news for Erick Gustafson, 43. He said some fans were out of control. At a game last summer, he and his son were waiting in line for tickets when some fans shouted insults at his 10-year-old boy because he was wearing a St. Louis Cardinals shirt.

"He was all excited, he made some money and bought his own jersey," Gustafson said. He didn't want the boy to face similar taunts on the way out, so "in the sixth inning, I said 'let's go.' It was just for my son's safety."

Radio talk show host Tom Leykis said he stopped going to Dodger games in October 2009 after two fans recognized and taunted him for eight innings with "nonstop vulgarities," then followed him up the stairs.

He called security and two officers arrived and talked to the men, who he called "drunken stockbrockers," but did nothing more because they professed their innocence, Leykis told The Associated Press.

"We've got HDTV. I don't need this and I stopped going," said Leykis, who offered $50,000 to the reward fund to find the men who attacked Giants fan, Bryan Stow, last week.

Stow was bludgeoned and kicked as he left the ballpark after the Dodgers defeated the Giants. He is still in a medically induced coma at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, and his family is accepting emailed well wishes from thousands of baseball fans.

The rivalry is more than a century old, dating back to when they were both still in New York.

The Dodgers moved into Chavez Ravine on April 10, 1962, four years after both the Dodgers and Giants moved to California from New York. Today Dodger Stadium is the third oldest park in the majors.

In the win-loss column, the Dodgers and Giants are almost even. Each team has six World Series titles. Head-to-head, the Giants have won 1,172 games and the Dodgers have won 1,152.

The Dodgers haven't won a World Series since 1988. The Giants are reigning world champs.

On Opening Day, a plane flew over the stadium, trailing a banner that said: "Dodgers still suck ... from SF champs fans."

While losing stings, the public feud between McCourt and his wife, Jamie, over ownership of the team hasn't helped the Dodgers or their fans' image of the team.

"The minute you start hearing news about your favorite team beyond the sports pages, you have a problem," said David Carter, executive director of the University of Southern California Sports Business Institute.

Not everyone is afraid. Sergio Courtney, 38, of Los Angeles, said he's been going to Dodger games since he was 5. He never felt unsafe and he doesn't now, he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Waxman didn't go far enough

Editor:

Last August, the California Legislature passed Ted Lieu's Joint Resolution "AJR 41" calling on the FAA, EPA, DOT, and the members of the California congressional delegation to work collaboratively to review noise levels, safety of flight operations and to examine air pollution impacts on the communities that surround Santa Monica Airport (SMO) including the establishment and implementation of a reasonable minimum distance between aircraft operations at SMO and the neighboring communities.

Following up on the passage of AJR 41, I along with several other representatives of the Santa Monica Airport (SMO) impacted Los Angeles neighborhoods, representatives from the scientific community, and Norman Kulla, representing Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, met with Congressman Waxman on Sept. 1, 2010. I asked Waxman if he would champion legislation that would establish a minimum distance between jet blast and homes. Indeed, if such a standard minimum distance were established, jets would no longer be able to operate at SMO, eliminating the need to argue about class C&D aircraft, saving both time and money and getting to the root of the problem. If Congress goes on record rejecting the establishment of a minimum distance, then the federal government would be held accountable for any deaths and illness that could be attributed to jet emissions.

As it stands, Congressman Waxman's amendment at best will continue the useless polarized discussions between the immovable FAA and the city of Santa Monica ("Congress directs FAA to play nice with City Hall," April 6, page 1). If Santa Monica yields on runway safety, how will that benefit the community? The community continues to be put in harm's way while the two entities responsible for SMO discuss their options. Even if the FAA gives Santa Monica the C & D ban, the problem of jet fumes blowing into the homes and neighborhoods less than 300 feet from the jet blast will remain because thousands of jets will still be able to use SMO.

It is the jet exhaust blowing into homes that is the most morally shocking of the injustices forced on Santa Monica Airport neighbors, violating accepted standards of decency and morality. This is a matter of great concern for the hundreds if not thousands of families who are forced to breathe toxic jet fumes on a daily basis. Let's not argue whether it's a safety or a health concern; it's both. The time is now to enact needed legislation, not just hollow talk, that will truly make it safe for all Santa Monica Airport neighbors.

Martin Rubin
Director
Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

Doing the unsustainable

Editor:

When is City Hall going to get it? City managers and staff come and go, but they all are hell bent on destroying Santa Monica's trees. Santa Monica always manages to hire the anti-environmentalists.

The destruction of 45 well-established mature juniper trees that are drought tolerant and have a life expectancy of 300 years is the latest example of City Hall's anti-tree, anti-environment policy and practice. We need trees. We need to preserve and protect our existing trees and plant more trees. Tree canopy, both in rain forests and urban areas, is a necessity in fighting global warming and preventing stormwater runoff.

Yet, City Hall prefers not to get it. There's more money personally in it for them to ignore the residents yet again and destroy. Sadly, in Santa Monica "sustainability" is doing the unsustainable.

Susan J. Hartley
Santa Monica

On the Beat

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Carting off a fortune

Q: I FREQUENTLY SEE HOMELESS PEOPLE pushing shopping carts filled with personal belongings. Is this illegal?

A: It depends on the shopping cart. Some of the carts are legal and are provided by homeless assistance programs. The programs do this so the homeless have something to carry their belongings in. But the removal of shopping carts owned by markets or other businesses is theft and can fall under one of either two codes, which are both misdemeanors.

Section 22435.2 B&P says, in substance, it is unlawful to be in possession of a shopping cart that has been removed from the business or parking area of the business. In this section the cart must have a permanently affixed sign to it that identifies the owner of the cart or retailer, or both; notifies the public of the procedure to be utilized for authorized removal of the cart from the premises; notifies the public that the unauthorized removal of the cart from the premises or parking area of the business, or the unauthorized possession of the cart is a violation of state law; and lists a valid telephone number or address for returning the cart.

Section 485 PC applies to shopping carts without the affixed sign, it says, in substance, one who finds lost property under circumstances which give him knowledge of or means of inquiry as to the true owner, and who appropriates such property to his own use, or to the use of another person not entitled thereto, without first making reasonable and just efforts to find the owner and to restore the property to him, is guilty of theft.

When officers stop an individual for being in possession of an illegal shopping cart, they can either issue a citation or advise the person about being in possession of the cart. The shopping cart is then picked up by a SMPD park ranger and transported to one of two locations in the city. A cart recovery service then comes and picks up the cart and returns it to the owner.

I recently spoke with a manager at a local major super market who explained the impact of shopping cart theft on the store's business. In November of 2010 the market purchased 100 new shopping carts and by January of 2011 they were down to 40 shopping carts. He explained that it is a huge expense to not only replace the carts, but also to have cart recovery crews find the carts which were taken out of their lot and returned, which is just as draining on their resources. The cost to replace a shopping cart is between $175 to $250 per cart and the cost of a recovery service to return the cart to the business or market is $12 per cart.

If you do see a shopping cart in your area, and want to be a good neighbor, give the market a call and let them know where they can recover their property. It not only cleans up your neighborhood, but also helps businesses save money, which in turn helps the local economy.

Q: PARKING IS VERY LIMITED ON OUR street and there is always a large semi-truck that parks on our block. The truck takes up four to five regular vehicle parking spots and sometimes I have to park several blocks away from my own house. Is there any regulation that prohibits large vehicles from parking in residential neighborhoods?

A: The availability of parking spaces is an ongoing concern in many areas, and I can understand your frustration in having to park several blocks away from your residence. There are two separate codes which apply to oversized vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

The first code is 3.12.860 SMMC, and it states:

Between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on any public street or alley in a residential district, no person shall park any trailer or any vehicle of which any part of the vehicle, together with all fixtures, accessories or property with the exception of a single post radio antennas, measures more than 8 feet in width, or 7-and-one-half feet in height, or 20 feet in length, unless such person shall have a permit for such trailer or vehicle and in no event for a period exceeding two 24-hour periods.

The second code 3.12.870 SMMC states:

No person shall park any commercial vehicle on a public street or alley in a residential district, except in the event of an emergency or for the purpose of loading and unloading, if any part of such commercial vehicle, together with fixtures or property thereon, if any, measures more than 7 feet in width or 7 feet in height.

Should you need the oversized vehicle regulations enforced, you can call the Traffic Services Office of the police department at (310) 458-2226, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. When the Traffic Services Office is closed, you can call our police dispatch at (310) 458-8491.

If you have an oversized vehicle and would like a permit for the vehicle, you should contact the Traffic Services Office. Please keep in mind the permits can only be issued for two 24-hour periods.

This column was prepared by NRO Scott Pace (Beat 2: Lincoln Boulevard to Ocean Front Walk, Interstate 10 to Ozone Avenue). He can be reached at (424) 200-0682 or scott.pace@smgov.net.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
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The Q Line

WE HAVE TO ASK

The Daily Press recently published its annual April Fools' Day edition, something that gives us a chance to poke fun at the things we cover.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What did you think of this year's issue? Anything we missed?
Here are your responses:

"YES, YOU MISSED THE CITY COUNCIL closing down 41 of 43 local cab companies in favor of bringing in three Los Angeles-based cab companies during the second Great Depression. All the while saying 'Buy local, hire local.' They wouldn't reveal who contributed to their campaign. Vote the bums out! As they raised the flat-rate to LAX from $28 to $35 south of Pico Boulevard and $45 north of Pico."

"GOOD ISSUE BUT YOU MISSED THE following:
• That the Daily Press has been acquired by the Huffington Post.
• That Bobby Shriver has agreed to pose nude for Vanity Fair magazine.
• That proceeds from Jerry Rubin's bumper sticker table help fund the Tea Party and Republican Party."

"I THINK THAT ONE OF THE MANY offenses to the taxpaying public is noise. Today, April 7 three helicopters hovered over the city dispersing agitating noise to the public. For what, bomb threat, plastic bag violation, Britney Spears? Really, who cares except Oprah Winfrey. Noise is the number one offense against the public calm. Why not investigate this insidious aggression against the public good."

"I THINK A BIT OF HILARITY IS important. I think the April Fools' edition was great. Let's just keep it coming on down through the pipeline."

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When You Hear About a Personal Injury or a Personal Injury Lawsuit, What Does It All Mean?

A personal injury is a type of harm that an individual suffers as a result of someone else's wrongful act or omission (failure to act when they should have).The types of injuries suffered vary depending on the circumstances and can include, among others, broken bones, lost sight, severed limbs, and death.Also, the wrongful injury causing event could be something caused without fault or intentionally.An example of an unintentional harm is when somebody accidentally rear ends the car in front of them because they simply were not paying attention.This is commonly referred to as negligence. Negligence, in a nutshell, means that a person either did something or did not do something, which resulted in someone else getting hurt.The actual legal requirements are a little more complex, but this simplified explanation will work for now.

Regarding personal injuries caused by the intentional or reckless acts of others, intentional acts include rape, assault, battery, and other types of physical and emotional abuse. Examples of reckless conduct that can cause harm to innocent people are drunk driving, discharging a firearm in public or detonating explosives in public places.

Whether we are talking about personal injuries caused by negligent, intentional or reckless acts, the law generally provides that victims of such conduct who suffer harm are entitled to compensation.And in some instances, victims are also eligible to receive punitive or exemplary damages to ensure that the person or business that caused the harm in the first place does not repeat its bad conduct. More about punitive damages in a minute. For now, let us talk about injury compensation.

What can the law do for you if you have suffered personal injuries caused by someone else? In a perfect world, the need to bring a lawsuit to receive compensation for your injuries would not be necessary because the person who caused the harm would apologize and then endeavor to pay for the damage they caused.The current Court system requires, and actually prefers, that those responsible for harming someone else accept responsibility and pay to the victim reasonable compensation. Reasonable compensation includes such things as lost wages, lost future wages if the hurt person can no longer do their job, the payment of past and future medical bills, and the costs of future and ongoing care if the person can no longer care for themselves.There are additional items that constitute reasonable compensation but the list can be infinite because each person and each harm is unique.

Regarding punitive damages, the imposition of punitive damages is designed to prevent more people from getting hurt.The prevention aspect of punitive damages is to create a "sting" to the defendant. A proper "sting" is only effective if the defendant feels it financially. Stated differently, generally, punitive damages are determined on an ability to pay basis. So do not be surprised when you hear or read about a jury that made a big punitive damage finding because it likely means that someone got hurt real bad or died, the defendant did something really bad, and the defendant has the financial wherewithal to pay the damages.

As a public service announcement, be leery of the argument and those promoting it that customers pay when there are big punitive damages awards. This is not really accurate because safe business practices actually save money in the short and long terms. And do not forget, we live in a civilized society and quick profits should never trump personal safety and well-being. Pass it on.

Why personal injury or victim compensation lawsuits? A lawsuit is necessary because sometimes those responsible for causing harm do not take responsibility for the harm.The Court case is designed to address issues of fairness. If the bad person caused the harm, the jury is empowered by law to tell that bad person to fix it. The concept is simple and injury victims should not be frowned upon because they were forced to file a lawsuit in the first place. After all, they did not ask to get hurt.

One more thing, if you have been hurt be someone else, or you know of someone who has been hurt by someone else, make sure medical attention is the first thing on everyone's mind.Take care of the injuries first.Worry about lawyers and lawsuits as a last resort and trust that the person or business that caused the harm will fix it. If not, then call a lawyer. To ensure that you receive what the law provides for your situation and injuries, be sure to seek the assistance of a lawyer.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY LEGAL GRIND'S PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS. THEY CAN BE REACHED AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields
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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Restaurant Snapshot: Charlie's Kabob

GENERAL COMMENT: The new food court in the Santa Monica Place is a lot of fun. There are two Japanese restaurants, one taco place, a chicken and rib joint that needs improvement, a crepe place, one pizza place (and it was tasty), a typical Chinese, and best of all, Charlie's Kabob. The boss, John Mahgadi is right there to watch over you, and lots of his friends show up.

WHERE: On the third level of the new Santa Monica Place.

WHEN: Seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, 8 p.m. on Sundays.

BEST DISHES: The Persian beef, enough for two, at $9.95 is the best deal. All the kabobs are great, and the portions very generous. But the special treat here is the Persian lamb shank, which is gourmet quality. Good pita bread, pita sandwiches and rice.

BEST FEATURE: Fast service, top quality, good tomato and cucumber salads on the side.

WORST FEATURE: Nothing negative if you don't mind eating in a food court.

WHAT TO DRINK: I had a root beer.

PRICES: Don't even worry about it.

BOTTOM LINE: Worth the voyage. And don't neglect the baklava for dessert.

Merv Hecht, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

Speedy turkey and sides, fresh off the press

BY J.M. HIRSCH

AP Food Editor

Admittedly, I am totally late to the panini press party. But I've totally fallen for mine.

After purchasing one on a bit of a whim, then barely using it, I've suddenly discovered the many and often unexpected ways to use it to make my weeknight cooking faster, easy and less messy.

Boneless, skinless chicken breasts, for example, cooked so quickly and so well, there was no time for them to dry out. Bacon crisped up perfectly in no time. French toast on the panini press totally rocked. And don't even get me started about the hash browns.

So for this recipe, I decided to do the entire meal on the press — meat and a veggie side.

For the meat, I opted for turkey tenderloins sliced into thin medallions. If you'd rather do chicken, just get thinly sliced chicken breasts or slice regular breasts into cutlets. A quick Asian-style marinade effortlessly added tons of flavor and the medallions cooked in no time on the press.

For the side, I went with sliced portobello mushrooms and asparagus, both of which have the heft to stand up to the high heat of the press.

Panini press turkey medallions with mushrooms and asparagus

Start to finish: 45 minutes (15 minutes active)

Servings: 4

1/4 cup seasoned rice vinegar

2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil

2 tablespoons soy sauce

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger

Ground black pepper

1 1/4 pounds turkey tenderloin, cut into 1/2-inch-thick rounds

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon hoisin sauce

1 bunch asparagus, bottoms trimmed, halved crosswise

2 large portobello mushrooms, cut into thick slices

1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

In a medium bowl, whisk together the vinegar, sesame oil, soy sauce, garlic powder, ginger and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. Add the turkey rounds, turning to coat each. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

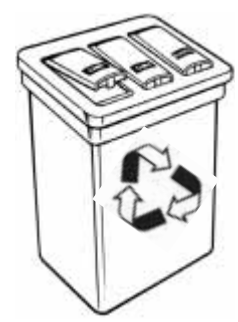
Meanwhile, in a second medium bowl, whisk together the olive oil, hoisin and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper. Add the asparagus and mushrooms, then toss to coat evenly. Set aside until the meat is ready.

Heat the oven to 200.

Once the meat has marinated, heat a panini press or other countertop grill.

Arrange the turkey rounds on the panini press, close it and cook for 3 1/2 minutes, or until browned on both sides. Transfer the rounds to an oven-safe platter, sprinkle with sesame seeds, then place in the oven to keep warm.

Arrange the asparagus and mushrooms on the panini press, close it and cook for 3 minutes, or until the vegetables are nicely seared and just tender. Sprinkle them with the salt, then cook for another minute. Serve the vegetables with the turkey medallions.



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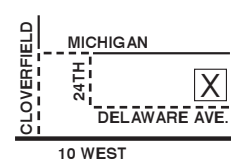
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A dessert take on the ubiquitous tomato bruschetta

JIM ROMANOFF
For The Associated Press

Traditional tomato bruschetta has become so ubiquitous in the U.S. you can even buy jars of prepared toppings and pre-toasted bread. So we decided to reinvent it as a breakfast or dessert item.

Instead of starting with a garlic-rubbed toast, we take slices of baguette and slather them with low-fat, yet creamy part-skim ricotta cheese. If you like, you could vary the recipe by using Neufchatel (reduced-fat cream cheese) or even thick Greek-style yogurt.

We then top them with sliced strawberries and a drizzle of honey — reminiscent of the tomatoes and olive oil from traditional versions. Capping the creamy strawberry toasts is a sprinkle of herbs to add a fresh counterpoint to all the sweetness.

While these strawberry-ricotta bruschetta are a natural fit as part of a breakfast or brunch, they make a fine passed appetizer as well.

For a tart variation, toss the diced strawberries in a sweet balsamic vinegar glaze before assembling and skip the honey drizzle.

Strawberry-ricotta bruschetta

Start to finish: 10 minutes
Servings: 10 (2 slices per serving)

12-inch baguette, cut into 20 slices
1 1/4 cups part-skim ricotta cheese
1 pound strawberries, hulled and cut into 1/4-inch dice
Honey, to taste
20 fresh mint or basil leaves, cut in thin strips (chiffonade)

Lightly toast the slices of baguette. Spread each slice with about 1 tablespoon of ricotta cheese. Divide the diced strawberries among the slices of toast. Drizzle with honey, sprinkle with mint (or basil) and serve.

Nutrition information per 2 slices (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 270 calories; 34 calories from fat (13 percent of total calories); 4 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 10 mg cholesterol; 48 g carbohydrate; 11 g protein; 3 g fiber; 457 mg sodium.

Pizza customers call for online ordering

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

PCs and pizza are a natural pairing. After all, a lot of pizza went into the building of Silicon Valley.

So perhaps it isn't too surprising that a report from Cornell University reveals that online ordering is catching on fast with pizza customers.

In research sponsored by Cornell and the trade magazine Nation's Restaurant News, the electronic ordering practices of the top 326 U.S.-based restaurant chains were analyzed. The results showed that fast-casual restaurants, especially pizza chains, led the trend with just under half now accepting orders online. Sandwich shops also were at the forefront.

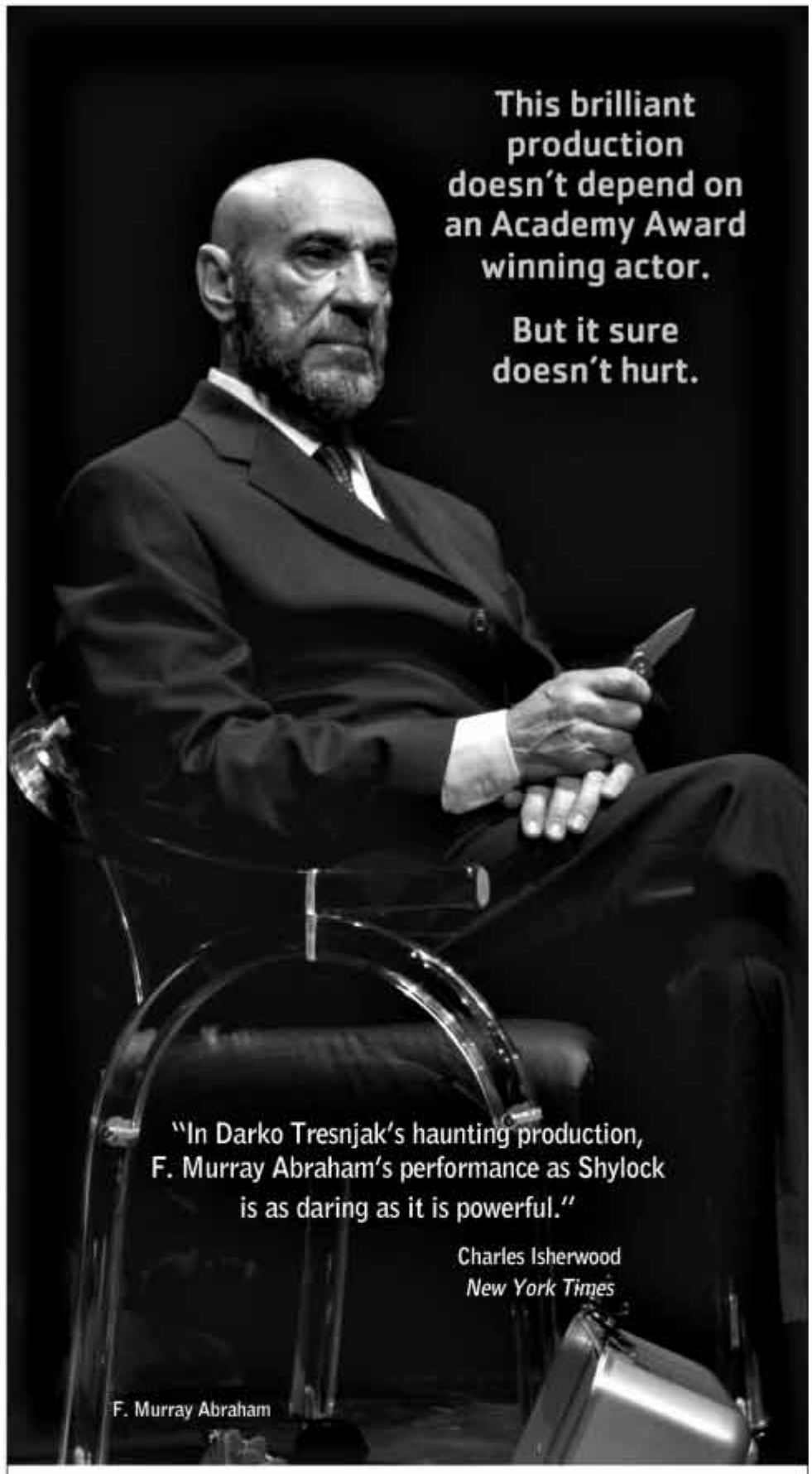
Quick-service restaurants were next, with a little over one-fifth accepting online orders, following by casual-dining chains and midscale full-service chains.

The study was published in the March edition of the Cornell Hospitality Report.

Study co-author Sheryl E. Kimes, a Cornell University professor of operations management, was surprised at the prevalence of online ordering and was particularly interested in the growth of multi-restaurant ordering sites like grubhub.com and snapfinger.com. Also growing are online ordering providers like ONOSYS.

She said earlier research showed that once customers tried online ordering they were more likely to continue to use it, so "it's only going to get bigger."

For restaurants, taking orders online is an additional distribution channel, reduces costs and helps them make better use of their production capacity.



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Hybrids: pros and cons in a backyard garden

BY LEE REICH
For The Associated Press

These days, hybrids are either panned or praised in the world of gardening. Not that hybrids are such oddities. A hybrid is merely the offspring of two parents that are not genetically the same.

You and I are hybrids, as are many wild and cultivated plants soon to be popping up along roadsides and in gardens. In the case of plants, hybrid offspring, each genetically different from their parents, might be better able to tolerate colder temperatures, grow in less fertile soil, or make larger and tastier fruits than their parents. Or not — it's the luck of the draw.

HUMAN HELP FOR MOTHER NATURE?

But why leave such marriages to chance? The mule is a hardy and useful animal, more so than either of its parents, but not one designed by Mother Nature. A human has to bring that horse and donkey together. To guarantee that a hybrid vegetable or flower is imbued with selected traits, those traits must first be isolated by inbreeding the prospective parents for many generations.

Ironically, the effect of this artificial hybridization is opposite to that of natural hybridization. Natural hybridization promotes genetic diversity and better general adaptation of plant populations to existing or new conditions. Artificial hybridization narrows the genetic playing field, yielding homogeneous populations superior only in selected traits.

HYBRID HISTORY

The first artificial hybrids — they were corn — hit the market in the 1930s and have been big hits ever since. And no wonder! Those fields of hybrid corn sometimes yielded twice as much as old-fashioned corn, with ears that ripened more uniformly.

Then, uh-oh, a black cloud moved in over that corn field. By narrowing the genetic palette, some unaccounted-for pest could move in, wiping out all the plants. And that's just what happened when Southern corn blight devastated the commercial corn crop in 1970. A threat of some pest run amok can similarly haunt large plantings of artificial hybrids of any vegetable or flower.

That uniformity could have additional drawbacks for us backyard gardeners. At harvest time, for example. I'd rather pick a few ears a day for a week or two than have to deal with four dozen ears of corn ripening all at once. Or a dozen heads of broccoli. And while rubber-stamp uniformity is a plus in a very formal flower garden, such a trait could be boring in any other flower garden.

HYBRID ALTERNATIVE

The alternatives to artificial hybrids are open-pollinated, or non-hybrid, vegetables and flowers. These varieties generally, but not always, yield less then artificial hybrids. Count among open-pollinated varieties some of the finest-tasting vegetables in the garden: Early Jersey Wakefield cabbage, Brandywine tomato, Sweet Italia pepper, Golden Bantam corn.

Because hybrids yield more and do not "come true" from seed, so must be purchased, seed companies offer fewer and fewer varieties of open-pollinated varieties each year.

Fortunately, you and I can collect seed from open-pollinated varieties for planting in subsequent years. That's how each summer I get to eat Belgian Giant tomatoes, an utterly delectable variety that I originally got from a nursery in Maryland back in 1979. Every year I save seed for replanting.

"The Garden Seed Inventory" by Kent Whealy (Seed Savers Exchange, 2005) lists sources for open-pollinated vegetable seeds, and "Seed to Seed" by Suzanne Ashworth and Kent Whealy (Seed Savers Exchange, 2002) and "Saving Seeds" by Marc Rogers (Storey Publishing, 1991) tell how to save your own vegetable seeds.



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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Design-Build Entities to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Palisades Garden Walk & Town Square Project
(SP2168)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2011, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
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PROJECT ESTIMATE: $39,000,000

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor (Design-Builder) is required to have a Class B license at the time of bid submission. Design-Builders wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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

Critter culture: Whales, dogs are preppy favorites

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK Not all critters are created equal: Dogs and waterfowl are popular, but cats barely make it onto the radar — at least when it comes to creatures featured on the preppy clothes and accessories that seem synonymous with spring.

You also can't go wrong with a whale or crab; girls love their ponies and butterflies; and boys have a thing for sharks.

This is the season animal friends come out of hibernation and land on belts, bags, polos, chinos, bathing suits, flip-flops and anything else in your closet where an embroidered turtle or fish can be placed.

Other motifs work, too, especially easily shrunken flags, sailboats and palm trees, according to Shep and Ian Murray, the brothers who founded the Vineyard Vines brand that even makes fishbone-decorated collars for dogs.

The best critter candidates are things that have a defined silhouette, explains Jim Hauptman, director of design for L.L. Bean. A sea horse, for example, isn't an animal with a huge passionate following, but it does really well as an embroidery because it's instantly recognizable from its shape and it can be done in many color combinations. Whales work for the same reason — there's really no expectation of realism.

Brown and black bears, however, which would seem natural for an outdoorsy brand, are tough because the embroidery can only get down to a certain level of detail. "Bears end up looking like blobs," Hauptman said. A panda is the exception to the bear rule because of its definitive coloring, he adds.

Color can't be underestimated, said Shep Murray. Brights draw in critter fans, while traditional colors, such as navy, khaki and white, suit those less adventurous.

"We find if we put a fish — on khaki shorts with the simple outline of a navy fish — most guys will wear it. You can get those people a little less likely to wear a critter to wear it if you don't color it so brightly," he said, "but the guy who is a 'total prep' wants it pink and green."

Afonso Sugiyama, president of Havaianas, a shoe brand best known for its themed flip-flops, has a theory that shoppers start with more basic colors, then go for bold ones, then ease themselves into mixing patterns with really wild hues.

"It's the search for something to express your feelings," he said.

With flip-flops, in particular, you can go for the fruit pattern or peacock-feather print while keeping it mostly hidden because the foot will cover the bulk of it. But, Sugiyama said, it's the woman or girl who wears those that will eventually graduate to embellished straps or seek out glow-in-the-dark designs.

Most customers want a tropical motif as the season shifts to summer, he said, but nature-inspired and exotic patterns like tribal prints are consistently popular as well.

Owls were all the rage at L.L. Bean during the height of the "Harry Potter" craze, and small woodland animals such as chipmunks were part of an enchanted-forest collection a few years ago, Hauptman said.

Vineyard Vines is launching a new Kentucky Derby line this season, so expect a lot of ponies, horseshoes and mint julep patterns.

"We're putting horses on everything," said Shep Murray, "which is not typical for us, but there are horse people like dog people and fish people."

He said he's going to revisit cats at some point since he personally is a cat person, but, again, it's the issue of shape and color.

Ian Murray said he thinks wearers are generally more loyal to their interests and favorite animals than they are fashion trends. Classic silhouettes really complement the most loved critters, he said.

"If we have something new, it will sell best, but year after year, there are the standbys. And while something like whales may not seem like they'd be popular at Christmas — you put a Santa hat on him, or on St. Patrick's Day do a whale with a shamrock tail, and it's a sales boom," he said.

Regionally, New Englanders are partial to golden retrievers, boats and bluefish, while Floridians prefer flamingoes, marlins, sailfish and palm trees, Ian Murray said. Midwesterners like anything that reminds them of a vacation, he added, so the beach motifs do well there.

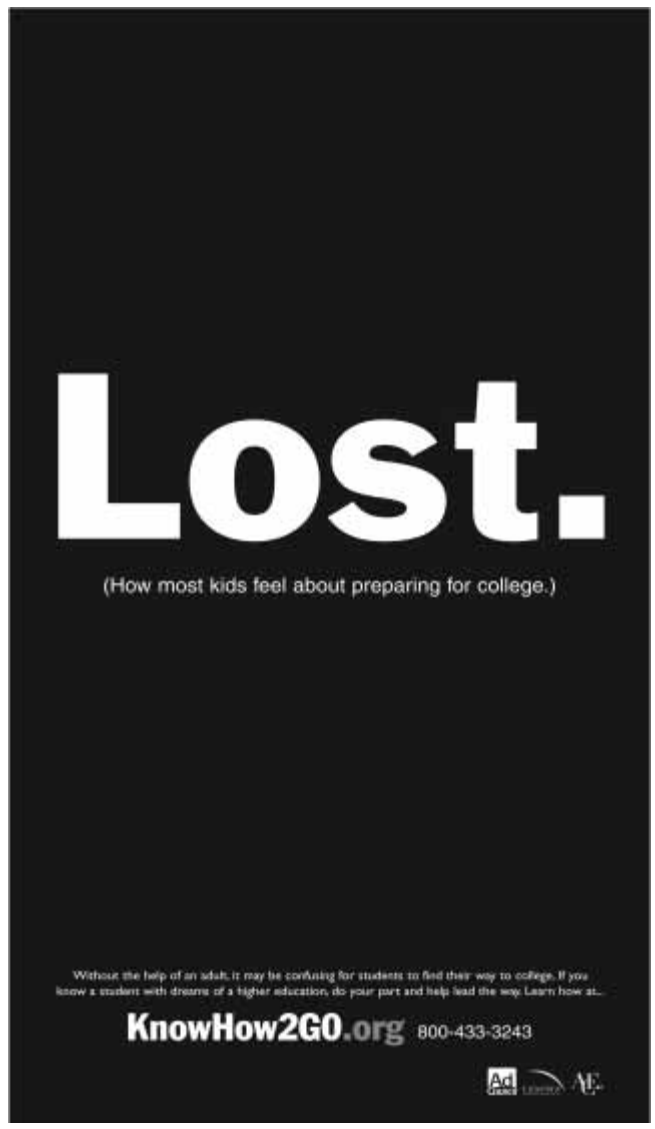
Critters are cheerful, lighthearted and rarely worn to the office — they remind people to have some fun with their wardrobe, said Ian Murray.

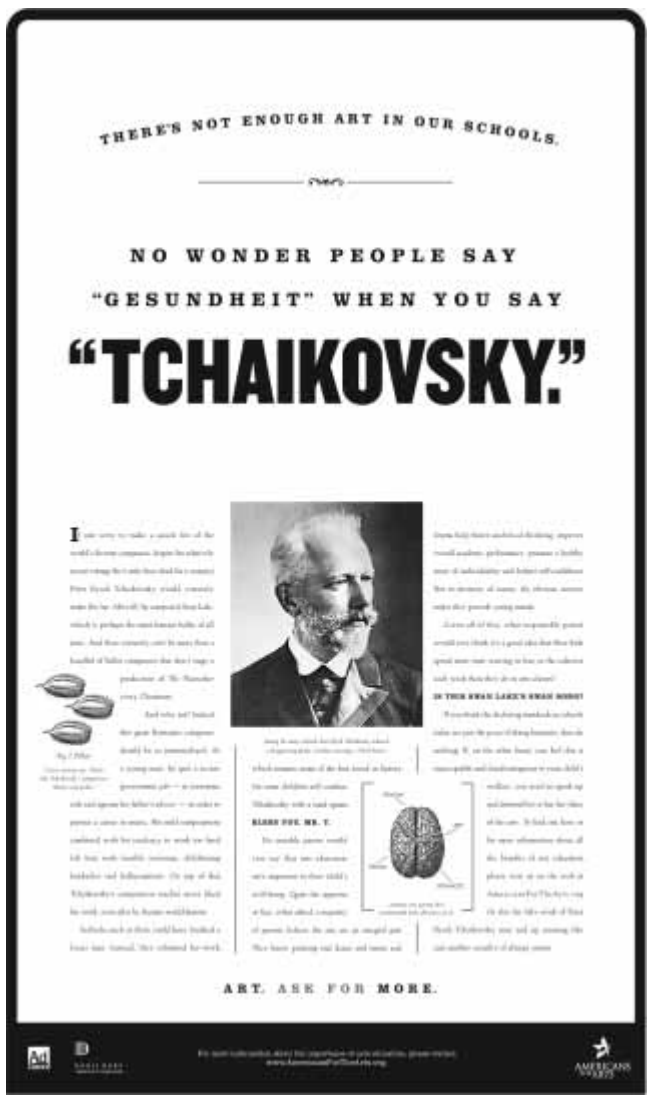
And, adds Shep Murray, they're conversation starters, telling you a little bit about whom you are talking to even before the first word comes out.

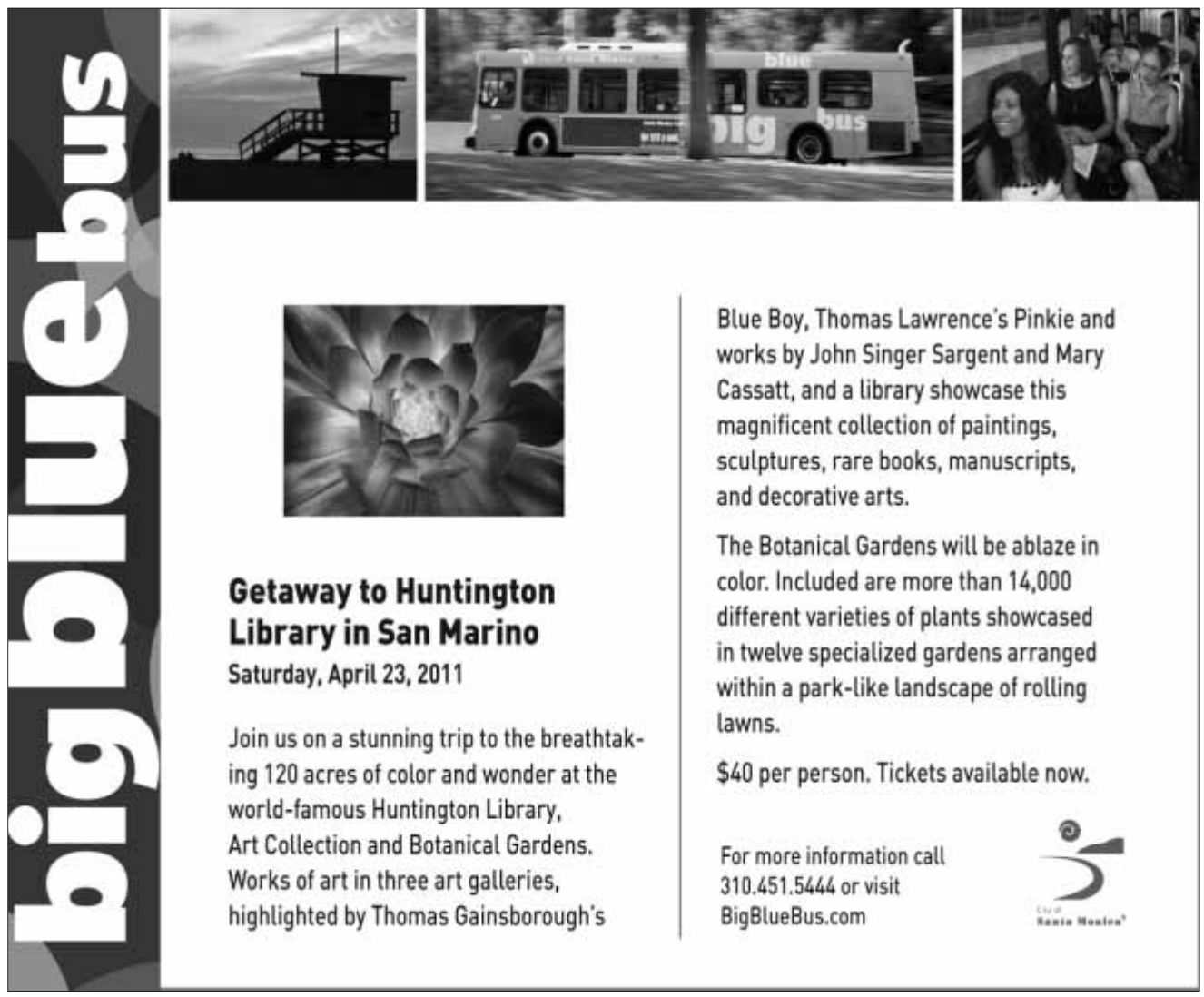
But you don't want to scream "critter," either.

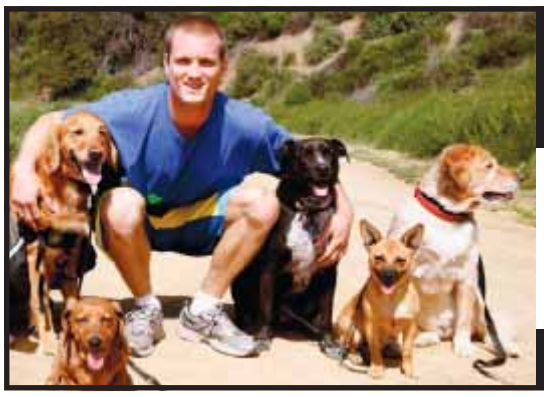
"I don't know about mixing and matching critters. You should pick one for your outfit. The scale is very small and subdued ... even if it's an all-over print. Have fun but don't make too big a statement with it," Hauptman advised. "The beauty of the critter is the subtlety. You sort of have to be talking to someone to notice. You shouldn't see critters from across the room."











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MAKING A SACRIFICE

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

St. Monica's Christopher Meyer lays down a sacrifice bunt to advance a teammate over to second during a game against LaSalle High School at Marine Park on Friday. St. Monica lost the Southern Section game by a score of 8-6.

RAPE

FROM PAGE 1

and other departments had discretion over whether or not to send DNA evidence to the Sheriff's Department for processing. Some rape kits were not processed because the victim did not want to prosecute or the District Attorney's Office would not file a case. Some of the kits were also collected before advancements in DNA technology, which could account for why they were never processed, police said.

Detectives were aware that the Sheriff's Department, which processes kits for free for Santa Monica and roughly 150 other contract cities and agencies, was overloaded, trying to process its own backlog, and therefore did not want to add to their backlog by sending kits that the detectives felt were not of the highest priority.

That was in the past.

The county crime lab has made significant progress in processing its own backlog and is confident it can now take on DNA evidence collected at the scene of property crimes in addition to evidence collected following a sexual assault, said Dean Gialamas, director of the Sheriff's Department-Scientific Services Bureau.

With an influx of funding, new technology and increased efficiency, the crime lab as of April 1 had just 82 kits left to be processed out of 4,763 that needed testing. The final batch of kits was sent this month. The total cost so far to process the backlog is roughly $3.9 million.

"The finish line is right in front of us," said Gialamas, who hopes to be able to begin DNA testing for property crimes in 18 months.

As director of the Orange County crime lab, Gialamas said solving property crimes, or what he referred to as "gateway crimes," often led to the identification of suspects in major crimes, the connection made through DNA evidence.

"Our hope is to get to that point in L.A. County," he said. "The theory is when you are catching a career criminal much earlier … you are potentially preventing serious crimes from being committed in the future and this allows us to have a positive impact

SEE KITS PAGE 11

BUDGET
FROM PAGE 1

all levels of education.

Legislators can vote to stop Prop. 98 payments under certain budget circumstances, but it would deal another $300 blow to the ADA funding on top of the $350 reduction, bringing the total to $650 per student in lost dollars.

The district would lose another $3 million in the first year, putting it over $7 million in the red by the end of the 2012-13 school year if spending doesn't change, Maez said.

Even with drastic cuts to programs and staff, the school district won't be able to stop the downward pressure on its reserves.

Maez presented a list of potential cuts that would lead to $7.8 million in savings, targeting everything from arts programs to extending furlough days for teachers.

"I am not suggesting that we cut these things," Maez said. "Before any decisions are made, we'll need a lot more detail."

The first $2,816,250 in cuts came by axing programs saved from elimination by one-time payments from the successful Save Our Schools campaign and federal jobs money.

Those two sources paid for smaller elementary and secondary class sizes, school counselors, elementary-level library coordinators and music programs, college counselors, reading specialists and professional development for staff.

Other cuts from the regular budget included Samohi site administration, district security officers, nurses, library services, elementary music, counselors and $520,000 that kept elementary class sizes small.

Another $3 million in proposed cuts can't come from the board of education — extending furlough days for teachers past the 2013-14 school year and freezing step increases in pay must be voted on by unions.

That money was left out of the final accounting, which spreads the reductions over the course of two years.

Without touching the furlough days and step increases, the district will lose $7.1 million between school years 2011-12 and 2013-14 under the best case scenario, and $16.1 million under the worst case scenario.

It's unclear at this point which budget situation the school district should focus on, Maez said.

"We could run with 'A,' but the county wants a backup plan," she told school board members on Wednesday night.

School board members were literally left holding their heads.

"We can hope that a local contingency measure will kick in if the state measure fails," said Vice Chair Ben Allen.

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FAMILIES
FROM PAGE 1

weekend pass from rehab and make it to the bus.

On Wednesday, Jackson, now employed as a case manager at OPCC and getting an AA degree in women's studies at Santa Monica College, told her success story to a group of graduates of the service that she credits with having turned her life around — Santa Monica's Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program.

"I want to say that it's all been easy, but it hasn't been," Jackson said in an interview Friday.

Jackson was one of 12 individuals graduating from the FSS program at a ceremony at the Annenberg Beach House this week.

FSS, a mandated but unfunded program of the federal Housing and Urban Development department, targets people in subsidized housing — called Section 8 — to help them get a job and begin accruing savings in a tax-free escrow account, which the program partially matches.

Participants receive access to their escrow account when they graduate.

Wednesday's graduates had saved up over $150,000 between them through the program.

The program currently serves 50 Santa Monica families and 77 low-income households that are served with FSS funding, according to Paul Rubenstein, development director at the St. Joseph Center.

The center has provided case management services for City Hall since 1997, and helped 160 households through FSS.

"It's a unique program in that it looks at the individual and assesses what the person needs to break through to employment," said coordinator Jody Gilbert.

Once enrolled, a counselor will help his or her charge to narrow down what that person wants to do, and what barriers stand between them and success.

When Jackson got involved with FSS, she was "hostile, bitter and angry." She'd just been fired from a job at the Union Rescue Mission, and she felt that she was out of options.

"My case manager didn't put up with my nonsense," Jackson said. "She made me feel worthwhile because she listened."

Jackson became a certified alcohol and drug addiction counselor, and began work at OPCC, helping people who find themselves caught in a position that she recognizes all too well.

She's now 21 units away from graduating SMC with her AA degree, and plans on acquiring a BA in African American studies at Antioch College.

Her two children moved into the Santa Monica apartment in which she lives, and although their lives are busy — her son is attending culinary school and her daughter now touring colleges — they always manage to sit down every Sunday for a family breakfast, church and dinner.

"It's given us stability in our lives, and enabled me to do more since I was stable and didn't have to worry about food and where I was going to lay my head," Jackson said. "It gave me stability and made me want to become a productive member of society."

There are no typical stories for people who take part in this program, said Julie Lansing, Santa Monica's Housing Authority administrator.

"People think that they're lazy, or they're criminals and don't want to work," Lansing said. "These are very motivated families that need some support. They need someone to help them understand how to access these services."

The economic downturn sent clients to FSS that many counselors wouldn't have expected — people with master's degrees and professionals who lost jobs and needed help.

The program provides budgeting and money management classes. It helps people overcome individual hurdles, which can range from lacking education to needing one nice set of clothes to go to a job interview.

For Jackson, it was the turning point that sent her on a better path.

"I just really like to thank all the FSS staff, and the city of Santa Monica and St. Joseph Center for allowing me to have a chance to become a productive member of society, and giving someone like me a place to stay," Jackson said. "For believing in me and dealing with me. They worked with me and helped me overcome a lot of barriers that I had."

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KITS
FROM PAGE 10

on public safety."

Shortening the amount of time it takes to process a kit and upload a hit onto a national database called CODIS, or Combined DNA Index System, is critical. With new procedures in place and more staff on hand, the county crime lab has been able to do that. Gialamas said the time to process a kit has been trimmed considerably, with kits being returned in 30 to 60 days instead of several months.

Santa Monica detectives have noticed a difference.

"We've been seeing returns as early as 30 days," said Lt. Mike Beautz, executive officer of the Criminal Investigations Division. "Their capacity now is considerably greater than it was even a year ago."

This helps cut costs, as detectives have reduced the number of kits they send to Orange County for processing. While the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department processes kits for free for law enforcement agencies operating within the county, Orange County's crime lab charges those agencies a fee. Gialamas said the county crime lab pays on average $850 for an independent laboratory for processing.

But just because a kit is submitted doesn't mean a match will be made on CODIS. In February of 2010, the SMPD said of the 347 kits submitted and processed, there were 26 cases entered into CODIS. Of those, 10 had been uploaded but the suspect had not been identified. Thirteen additional profiles were uploaded and a match was made to a person, providing a lead. Three cases were resolved when the evidence was immediately examined and DNA samples from a named suspect were compared to DNA recovered from the victim, police said at the time.

One case was resolved with the suspect being connected to a series of rapes in Los Angeles, detective said. That suspect was sentenced to 149 years to life in prison.

Gialamas said there have been 483 CODIS matches as of April 1 involving cases handled by the Sheriff's Department, with 59 resulting in criminal filings. Two of the cases were related to the backlog elimination project.

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center said news that the SMPD has submitted all of its kits is encouraging, however, what is critical is getting those kits that result in DNA matches back into the hands of detectives as soon as possible so that they can take action.

"All of this progress is great, but we need to get to a place where kits are done in a timely way and we'll save a lot of people from being hurt," she said.

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2 LA building inspectors accused of taking bribes

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The FBI on Friday arrested a pair of building inspectors for the city of Los Angeles, alleging the men accepted thousands of dollars in bribes to approve construction work without conducting inspections.

Federal prosecutors said that among the payments taken by Hugo Gonzalez, 49, and Raoul Germain, 59, were ones from undercover agents, which led to the two men's arrests.

Germain was being released on $100,000 bond. Gonzalez was ordered held without bond. They are set to be arraigned later this month.

Criminal complaints alleged that the men accepted payments to approve construction projects in South Los Angeles, even though they had not completed inspection and, in some cases, had never visited the sites.

They caught the attention of the FBI after the bureau received a tip from an informant who was a work site supervisor for a residential property developer.

Authorities alleged that during the probe, Gonzalez accepted $9,000 in bribes from the informant and the agent, and that Germain accepted $6,000 from the undercover agent.

Gonzalez's attorney, Deputy Federal Public Defender David Sutton, declined comment when reached by phone. A message left for Germain's lawyer, Steven Michael Cron, was not immediately returned.

The criminal complaint contains transcripts of conversations about exchanging money involving the inspectors, the agent and the informant.

In one conversation, the informant asks Gonzalez to shift $500 of an expected bribe from himself to the undercover agent, and Gonzalez agreed, according to the affidavit.

"I'm going to charge this fool two grand," Gonzalez said, according to an English transcript of the Spanish conversation. "You don't owe me anything anymore, I'll take, uh, I'll nail this guy."

In another conversation with the undercover agent, Germain describes one of the inspections: "I drive by every once in a while, take a look, I won't even stop and get off."

"In this case, two government employees directly threatened an important public safety mission by exploiting their positions to line their own pockets," said U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr.

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, which employs the two men, said it began its own preliminary investigation of 53 department projects handled by the men in February. It said it put them on administrative leave and referred the case to the City Attorney's Office, all before it learned of the FBI investigation.

"We appreciate the involvement of the FBI, but we were already far down the road on this investigation before we learned of the FBI's involvement," the department's general manager, Bud Ovrom, said in a statement.

The two men had to surrender their badges and computers and remain home during work hours while they were on leave, Ovrom said. The city attorney's office passed the case to the LAPD; the status of that probe was not immediately known.

"Because of the economy and budget cuts, we laid off 49 inspectors during the last eighteen months," Ovrom said. "These former employees and others would certainly want these excellent city jobs. This department has many good people and we are not going to put up with any employee who does not meet the Department's standards of professional conduct."

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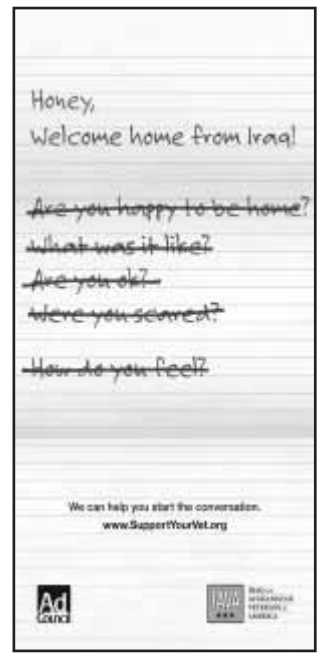

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CA trial wrapping up in spat over Bratz copyright

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. The design of the popular, multi-billion dollar Bratz doll was conceived and developed in the studios of toy giant Mattel Inc. before the idea was stolen by rival MGA Entertainment Inc., then a relatively new company that went on to build a thriving, competitive business built on the dolls, an attorney for Mattel told jurors Friday.

The allegation came during closing arguments in the three-month copyright infringement and trade secrets trial pitting Mattel against Los Angeles-based MGA, which exploded onto the toy scene in 2001 with the hip hop-inspired dolls marketed to the "tween" generation.

Mattel claims in its lawsuit that MGA conspired with Bratz designer Carter Bryant to steal the idea for the dolls while Bryant worked for Mattel.

Mattel attorney Bill Price told jurors the company that makes the iconic Barbie doll was "burned by an opportunist with no fashion doll designers" of its own.

"The case really is about transforming a company and building a brand by using another company's confidential information and ideas, and that's wrong," Price said. "If you can use another company's confidential designs and innovation, competition will die."

Attorneys for MGA were expected to deliver their closing arguments later in the day.

The company has denied wrongdoing and countersued Mattel, claiming the El Segundo-based company engaged in unfair business practices and sent gumshoes to spy on MGA at toy fairs after realizing Bratz dolls were siphoning sales from Mattel's flagship Barbie line.

The toy giant only sued when it realized it could no longer compete, MGA alleges.

A jury awarded Mattel $100 million in 2008 and found that Bryant had developed the Bratz concept while with Mattel. But the verdict was overturned and the case sent back for retrial.

On Friday, Price told jurors that Bryant developed the idea for the sexy, urban dolls while working for Mattel in 1999 then continued to use Mattel's design studio to complete doll body sculpts, fashions and other features before he left Mattel.

MGA has countered that Bryant designed the dolls during a narrow window when he did not work at Mattel. Attorneys for MGA have also challenged the wording of an invention agreement Bryant signed with Mattel.

Both toymakers have a lot on the line in the spat over Bratz.

MGA's CEO Isaac Larian said his company has spent $150 million on legal fees and been forced to lay off 300 employees as a result of the litigation. If jurors decide Mattel owns Bratz, it could create critical problems for MGA, which built its fortune on the line targeting 9- to 11-year-old girls.

Price said in his closing argument that Mattel lost $323.7 million in profits because of Bratz.

Mattel first sued Bryant in 2004 then settled with him on the eve of the first trial for $2 million while continuing to pursue its case against MGA.

The first trial was limited to copyright issues, but this time jurors are being asked to determine the scope of Bryan's invention agreement at Mattel and to decide on MGA's counterclaims that Mattel engaged in unfair business practices.

In its countersuit, MGA accuses Mattel of using fake identification to spy on MGA at trade shows and threatening retailers and distributors who did business with MGA.





Calif. gov takes tax pitch to Republican district

BY AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown took his budget message on the road Friday to a Republican district with the hope of winning support for a special election that's key to his plan to mix taxes and spending cuts to close California's remaining $15.4 billion deficit.

The Democratic governor told school officials and residents at Arlanza Elementary School in Riverside that the stakes are too high to let lawmakers decide what to do without consulting voters.

Brown said he envisioned a "federalist-style" civic debate before a measure on extending tax increases would go to voters who are often bombarded with competing messages from Democrats and Republicans on what needs to be done to close the budget shortfall.

"The only way you break the logjam is to go back to the people and say, what do you want," Brown told an audience of about 100 people in the school cafeteria. "There's no absolute right answer here. It's what kind of a state we want and what will get us there."

Brown plans more appearances throughout California to spell out the consequences of a budget that solves what was once a $26.6 billion deficit through cuts alone. Democrats have taken steps to reduce the original deficit by $11.2 billion, mostly by cutting spending but also by transferring money between some government accounts.

Brown wants to turn up the pressure on GOP lawmakers to support his push for a special election.

In Riverside, Brown got support from school administrators and teachers who hope the Legislature will spare education from billions of dollars in spending cuts. An all-cuts budget could mean a shorter school year, teacher layoffs and lower salaries in districts where employees already have taken pay cuts.

Brown faced criticism from some residents who said they cannot support more taxes while the economy continues its slow pull out of the recession. California's unemployment rate is among the highest in the nation and has remained at or above 12 percent since August 2009.

Greg Kraft, a board member at the Alvord Unified School District, said he would welcome a statewide vote on Brown's plan but would not support an extension of the tax hikes himself.

"I support him. I just disagree," said Kraft, who wore a "no tax" sticker on his lapel.

Brown ended talks with Republican lawmakers last week over his proposal to hold a June special election on extending for five years the temporary increases enacted two years ago involving the vehicle, sales and personal income taxes.

Brown needs two votes in each chamber of the state Legislature to set a special election. No one knows when such an election could be called, even if he gets the needed votes.

The next regularly scheduled statewide election is the presidential primary next February.

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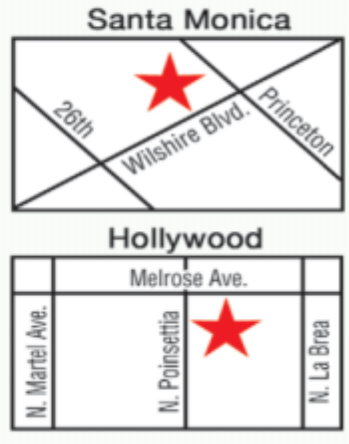


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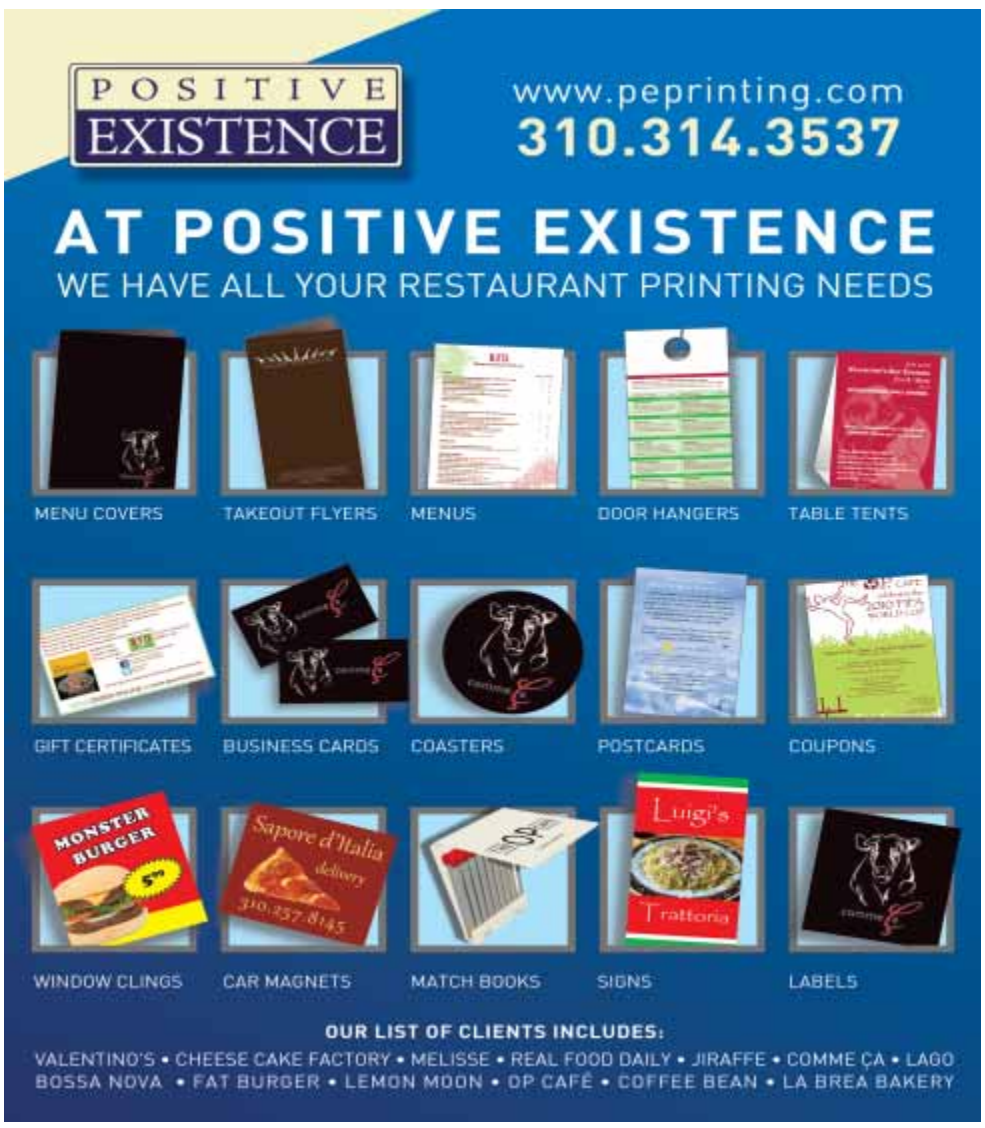
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Study: Teenagers see 5 drinks a day as no biggie

BY JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Downing five or more alcoholic drinks nearly every day isn't seen as a big problem for many of the nation's teens, says a new report.

When asked if they see "great risk" in drinking that much, almost half the teens questioned — 45 percent — didn't see it as a big deal.

The study released Wednesday by The Partnership at Drugfree.org also showed upward trends in marijuana and Ecstasy use among young people in grades 9 through 12.

"You're seeing this weakness in this generation of teens' attitudes around drug and alcohol use," says Steve Pasierb, president of the partnership. "It's not like this generation of kids thinks they're more bulletproof than others, but they really don't see any harm in that heavy drinking."

And while the numbers suggest many teens do not perceive significant harm in heavy drinking, the percentage of teens drinking is down.

"It's important that we not lose sight of the progress our country has made in fighting underage drinking," says Dr. Raymond Scalettar, former chairman of the American Medical Association and a medical adviser to the Washington-based Distilled Spirits Council. "U.S. government data shows underage drinking and binge drinking are at record low levels."

The partnership study also shows the percentage of teens drinking alcohol in the past month declining, down to 35 percent last year from a high of 50 percent in 1998.

Among teens, the average age when they had their first drink was 14, the study said.

Overall, 68 percent said they had consumed alcohol in their lifetime. Of those, one quarter of teens had their first drink at age 12 or younger.

"It is much more terrifying these days than it was when we were younger," says actress and mother Melissa Gilbert, national spokeswoman for the partnership.

Gilbert, the former "Little House on the Prairie" star, is herself a recovering alcoholic who at one time was drinking two bottles of wine a night but has been sober now for six and a half years. She has faced drug-abuse struggles with one of her four sons, and she says she is doing everything in her power to make sure her youngest, now 15, knows the drama and pain addiction can bring.

"The most important thing is to get to know his friends and stay in constant communication with the people that are around him all day — his teachers, his counselors at school," Gilbert told The Associated Press in an interview from her Los Angeles home.

Being sober, she says, is the best way to live. "It's not the easiest, but it's definitely the best," she said.

According to the study, teens said the top reasons for drinking were "because it is fun" and "so they won't feel left out."

Pasierb says early drinking can often signal deeper problems. "It's about that vulnerability," he said, "Why is a 12-year-old drinking?"

Gregg Aguero of Houston, Texas, says he started drinking regularly at 13 after his parents split up. That led to cocaine and other drugs and eventually landed him in rehab for several stays.

Now 22 and in college, Aguero says he's been sober for 4 months and is trying to help teenagers avoid the mistakes he made.

"It's never too late," he tells them. "That's the most important thing. It's never too late to turn and get help."

Other findings in the study:

■ Twenty-five percent of teens said last year that they had smoked marijuana in the past month. While that number is unchanged from the previous year, it is higher than 2008 and confirms an upward trend that ended nearly a decade of declines in pot usage among teens.

■ Ecstasy abuse also continued an upward trend, with six percent of teens reporting past-month use — up from four percent in 2008.

The Partnership's "attitude tracking" study was sponsored by the MetLife Foundation. Researchers surveyed 2,544 teens with anonymous questionnaires that the youngsters filled out from March to June of last year. The study has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

SC teen killed on highway named in father's memory

BY JEFFREY COLLINS & MITCH WEISS
Associated Press

WELLFORD, S.C. Aaron Hill knew the road well, and not just because it was the route he took to high school every day. The five-mile stretch of highway was named in memory of his father, a soldier killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2008.

But on his way to class Thursday morning, the 18-year-old senior was killed when a pickup truck crossed the center line and smashed head-on into his car, authorities said.

Now the Hill family — and many others in this town of nearly 2,300 — are grieving again.

"It's tragic. No one should have to go through this. They've been through so much," said Sheriff Chuck Wright, a friend of the family. "It's just unreal that he died on the same highway named after his father."

The younger Hill was going to graduate in a few months and had talked about joining the military just like his father.

"Even after his father's death, he kept a positive attitude. He kept that smile," the sheriff said.

The teenager was pronounced dead at the scene along the section of two-lane Highway 129 known as the Sergeant Shawn F. Hill Memorial Highway. The driver of the pickup, Michael Blake White, 27, was taken to the hospital along with three students who had been in Hill's car. Their conditions were not released.

The cause of the crash was under investigation and no immediate charges were filed. But state officials said the other driver did not have a valid driver's license, having lost it nearly a year ago for speeding.

Boeing 737s around the world face new scrutiny

BY BOB CHRISTIE
Associated Press

PHOENIX The crown prince of Thailand has one. So do the presidents of Peru and Chile. The Chinese Air Force relies on it, as do airlines in Russia, Indonesia, Australia and Romania.

The Boeing 737 is a workhorse of international aviation. And the accident in which the roof of Southwest Airlines jet ripped open at 34,000 feet has brought scrutiny to the hundreds of older-model 737s around the world that could be similarly vulnerable because of tiny, hard-to-find stress fractures in the aluminum skin.

The planes will now be subjected to repeated examinations as the problem revealed by the fuselage crack on the Southwest flight resonates through the world's 737 fleet for years to come.

Many of their owners are now giving the planes a closer look after what happened April 1 in Arizona when a 5-foot section of the fuselage tore apart and forced pilots to make an emergency landing at a desert military base. Light-headed passengers were banged around the cabin and had to quickly put on overhead oxygen masks as pilots made a rapid descent.

The incident has forced airlines and governments around the world to take swift action.

The governments of Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and others ordered airlines to beef up inspections. Scandinavian airline SAS is performing similar checks on some of its 737s. Qantas Airlines in Australia is checking four of its planes and Air New Zealand is looking at 15. Airlines said the inspections have not disrupted air travel.

Southwest and Continental Airlines have the most planes on the list of 737-300s, 737-400s and 737-500s prone to the fuselage ruptures, but a large number of the planes are owned by overseas carriers. UTAir in Russia, Garuda Airlines in Indonesia, Air New Zealand and three major carriers in China are among the biggest. Alaska Airlines has 17.

Southwest finished inspecting all of its affected planes by Tuesday. They found five that had cracks in the same lap joint that tore open during last week's flight, and were working with Boeing to make repairs. Alaska Airlines is going a step beyond a Federal Aviation Administration directive this week that ordered inspections when the planes reach a 30,000 takeoffs and landings; the airline will inspect all its planes in the coming weeks.

"We're not required to inspect them right now, but we felt it was the prudent thing to do, and to help the industry determine the proper interval," spokesman Paul McElroy said.

There are about 6,000 737s in operation worldwide, and an emergency FAA order on Tuesday only covers 579 that have the type of "lap joint" that failed during last week's flight. Lap joints are used in many places on an aircraft fuselage and get their name because it is the spot where the aluminum skin of the aircraft overlaps and is secured with rivets. The FAA order focuses on a Boeing joint design on planes made between 1993 and 2000.

Kennedy Senate Institute in Boston breaks ground

BY STEVE LEBLANC
Associated Press

BOSTON Members of the Kennedy family gathered with former staff members and elected officials on a blustery stretch of Boston's oceanfront Friday to break ground on the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

The institute will feature a replica of the Senate chamber where the Massachusetts Democrat served for 47 years until his death from brain cancer in 2009. It will be located adjacent to John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in the city's Dorchester section.

Kennedy's widow, Victoria Kennedy, said it's fitting that the two centers will be set next to each other, because it was John Kennedy who inspired his younger brother Edward's enduring love of the Senate and public service.

She said she hopes the institute will do the same thing for future generations.

"My husband didn't want a memorial to himself or his achievements," she said. "He wanted to create a place that would spark an interest and nurture the belief that public service can be a noble endeavor."

The groundbreaking comes as the Kennedy family's future political legacy is up in the air. There are no members of the family serving in Congress now. Edward Kennedy's son, former U.S. Rep Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island, chose not to seek re-election last year.

Patrick Kennedy attended the groundbreaking, but did not speak publicly. The late senator's two other children, Edward Jr. and Kara, also attended.

Planning for the center had begun before Kennedy's death. Organizers have already raised $60 million in private donations and pledges, and $38 million more will come from federal funds.

The institute is intended to offer an interactive experience, according to planners.

Visitors will be offered a virtual chance to participate in the effort to break a Senate logjam over the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They will also learn the consequences of what would have happened if the bill had not become law.

Edward Kennedy gave his first speech on the floor of Senate in support of the bill.

In a testimony to Kennedy's long reach, more than 100 of his former staff members attended the event.

Among the elected officials on hand were Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and former Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd.

Republican Sen. Scott Brown, who won the seat held by Kennedy during a special election last year, said he keeps a picture of Kennedy on his office mantle. Brown had run for office promising to block the health care bill that Kennedy supported.

Despite their differences, Brown said he admired Kennedy's work ethic.





City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council at the Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 10, 2011 for patrons of the Big Blue Bus.

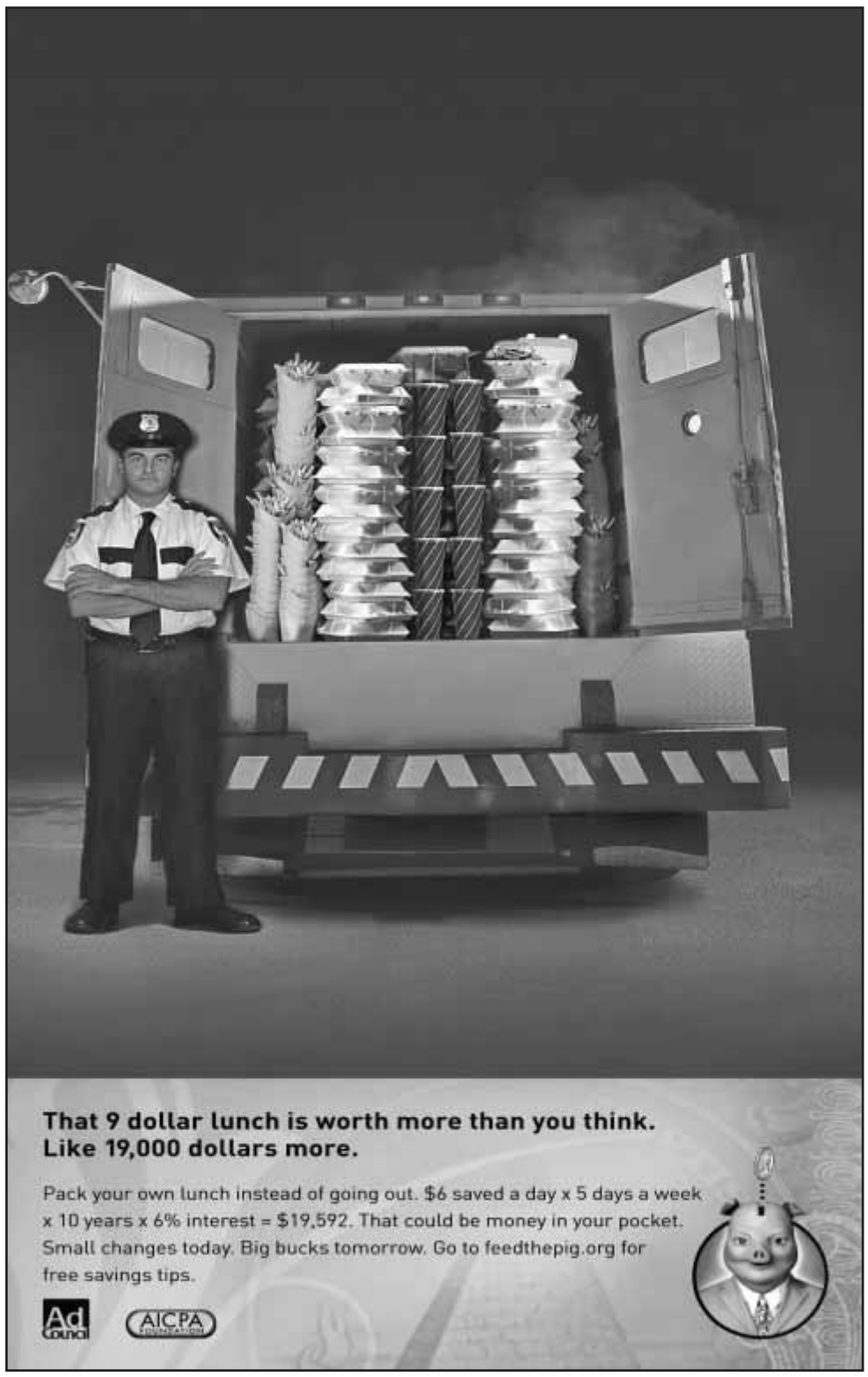
The hearing will be held as an agendized part of the City Council meeting, which starts at 6:45 p.m. The City Council will consider proposals to change the following Big Blue Bus services:

- Route 2: discontinue service south of Main St. at Hill St.
- Route 1: operate select trips along an extend route from Ocean Ave. at Windward Ave. eastbound to Walgrove Ave. (instead of current Route 2 service)
- Route 7: decrease frequency between 2-5 minutes depending on time of day Mondays-Fridays
- Rapid 7: increase frequency to 8 minutes during peak hours and 15 minutes during midday; add service every 15 minutes until 9p.m. and ever y 30 minutes from 9-10p.m.; add a stop on Pico @ 28th St.; delete a stop on Pico @ S. Beverly Dr.; extend service to Purple Line on Wilshire Blvd. @ Western Ave.
- Route 10: convert to a Rapid service by removing stops that are less than 0.25 of a mile from each other and/or have low usage
- Route 13: decrease overall service to provide approximately 50% fewer trips and discontinue Saturday service
- Downtown Ride: add new service between Civic Center and Santa Monica Blvd. from 7-10a.m. and 3:00-7:30p.m.

Details regarding all proposed service changes are available for viewing at www.BigBlueBus.com. Anyone may comment in person at the hearing, or prior to the meeting by:

- Submitting written comments to: Big Blue Bus, 1660 7th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attn: Dan Dawson
- Emailing comments to Bus-Info@BigBlueBus.com

For additional information, contact Dan Dawson, Customer Relations Manager, at (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831. City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Disability-related accommodation requests should be made at least 3 days prior to the hearing by calling (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831 or TTY (310) 395-6024, or email: Bus-Info@BigBlueBus. City Hall can be reached by riding Big Blue Bus Routes 4, 8, and 9.



Syrian protests turn deadly; 32 reported killed in clashes

BY BASSEM MROUE & ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT Mass protests calling for sweeping changes in Syria's authoritarian regime turned deadly Friday, with the government and protesters both claiming heavy casualties as the country's three-week uprising entered a dangerous new phase.

The bloodiest clashes occurred in the restive city of Daraa, where human rights activists and witnesses said Syrian security forces opened fire on tens of thousands of protesters, killing 25 people and wounding hundreds.

At the same time, state-run TV said 19 policemen and members of the security forces were killed when gunmen opened fire on them. It was the first significant claim of casualties by the Syrian government, which has contended that armed gangs rather than true reform-seekers are behind the unrest — and it could signal plans for a stepped-up retaliation.

The protests were in response to calls by organizers to take to the streets every Friday to demand change in one of the most rigid nations in the Middle East. Marches were held in cities across the country as the movement showed no sign of letting up, despite the violent crackdowns.

At least 32 protesters were killed nationwide, according to human rights activists. The bloodshed lifted the death toll from three weeks of protests to more than 170 people, according to Amnesty International.

The calls for reform have shaken the regime of President Bashar Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for more than 40 years. Assad, a British-trained eye doctor, inherited power from his father 11 years ago and tried to help the country emerge from years of international isolation and lift Soviet-style economic restrictions.

But despite early promises of social and political change, Assad has slipped back into the autocratic ways of his father.

As the wave of protests have gathered steam, Assad has offered some limited concessions — firing local officials and forming committees to look into replacing the country's despised emergency laws, which allow the regime to arrest people without charge. On Thursday, he granted citizenship to thousands of Kurds, fulfilling a decades-old demand of the country's long-ostracized minority.

But those gestures have failed to mollify a growing movement that is raising the ceiling on its demands for concrete reforms and free elections.

"The protests are about Syrians wanting freedom after 42 years of repression," said Murhaf Jouejati, a Syria expert at George Washington University. "Mr. Assad may fire all the people he wants, this still doesn't touch on the basic issues and the basic demands of the protesters."

Witness accounts out of Syria could not be independently confirmed because the regime has restricted media access to the country, refusing to grant visas to journalists and detaining or expelling reporters already in the country. Daraa has largely been sealed off and telephone calls go through only sporadically.

But residents, who spoke to The Associated Press independently of each other, said mosques were turned into makeshift hospitals to help tend to hundreds of wounded.

One man who helped ferry the dead and wounded to the city's hospital said he counted at least 13 corpses.

"My clothes are soaked with blood," he said by telephone from Daraa. Like most activists and witnesses, he requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Italy, France to work together to block Tunisian immigrants

BY COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN After days of fierce sparring, Italy and France patched up their differences Friday over the fate of thousands of Tunisian migrants, avoiding a major rift over European Union border control rules.

The two neighbors agreed to joint sea-and-air patrols to block any new North African migrants from sailing to European shores.

France also promised to honor temporary residency documents that Rome plans to issue to Tunisian migrants who have already flooded Italy in recent months. But Paris insisted the migrants must be able to prove they can financially support themselves — a condition that could prove insurmountable to thousands hoping to live in France, Tunisia's former colonial ruler.

Top security officials from Italy and France sought a conciliatory tone as they struggled with the crush of more than 20,000 Tunisians who sailed on often rickety boats to Italy's southernmost point, the tiny Mediterranean island of Lampedusa.

On Friday, Italy deported the first 30 Tunisians under an accord it reached with the government in Tunis earlier in the week, the Tunisian Interior Ministry reported. At the same time, though, a boatload of an estimated 500 migrants, believed to be mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, arrived on Lampedusa from Libya, state-run RAI television reported.

On the eve of the meeting, Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni had threatened to have France thrown out of the Schengen agreement — the border rules that link much of Europe into a visa-free travel zone — if it did not allow the free circulation of Tunisians carrying temporary Italian residency permits.

France, for its part, had vowed to tighten border controls against an influx of Tunisians — moves that could have violated Europe's visa-free border arrangement.

Italy has complained bitterly that it has been stuck with the logistical and financial nightmare of accommodating the illegal migrants, most of them from Tunisia and hoping to reach relatives already in France. While a few claim they are fleeing political instability, Italy says most aren't seeking asylum but a better life in Europe.

At the same time Italy has been coping with the exodus, it has been participating in the NATO-led enforcement of the no-fly zone over Libya and working diplomatically to end the conflict.

MLB

Rays slugger Ramirez announces his retirement

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Tampa Bay Rays slugger Manny Ramirez told Major League Baseball on Friday that he is retiring after being notified of an issue that arose under MLB's drug policy.

The commissioner's office announced Ramirez's decision in a statement, but did not say whether he tested positive for a banned substance. Ramirez previously served a 50-game suspension for violating the drug policy while he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Major League Baseball recently notified Manny Ramirez of an issue under Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program," the statement said. "Rather than continue with the process under the Program, Ramirez has informed MLB that he is retiring as an active player. If Ramirez seeks reinstatement in the future, the process under the Drug Program will be completed."

MLB said it would have no further comment.

"The Tampa Bay Rays were informed today by the Commissioner's Office that Manny Ramirez has decided to retire after being informed of an issue under the Drug Program," the Rays said in a statement. "We are obviously surprised and disappointed by this news. We will have no further comment on this matter, and our fans and organization will carry on."

The 38-year-old outfielder-designated hitter left the team earlier this week to attend to what the Rays called a family matter. Manager Joe Maddon said on Thursday that he expected Ramirez to be available for Friday night's game at the Chicago White Sox.

The 12-time All-Star agreed to a $2 million, one-year contract with the defending AL East champions in the offseason, hoping to re-establish himself as one of the game's feared hitters.

Ramirez hit .298 with nine homers and 42 RBIs in 90 games for the Dodgers and White Sox last season. He's a career .312 hitter with 555 home runs in 18-plus seasons, including some of his best seasons with the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UCLA to hit the road for home basketball games

LOS ANGELES UCLA will play most of its home basketball schedule at the Los Angeles Sports Arena next season while Pauley Pavilion is being renovated.

The Bruins will play 14 regular season games at the downtown Sports Arena, with four others being played at Honda Center in Anaheim. Their lone exhibition game will be at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

Among the four games at Honda Center will be the John R. Wooden Classic. But instead of the annual doubleheader involving four teams, UCLA will play Arizona on Jan. 5.

UCLA said the Wooden family would work with Honda Center in the future to restore the event to its previous stature.

The Bruins will return to the Sports Arena, which they called home from 1959-65 before moving into Pauley on the Westwood campus for the 1965-66 season. The Sports Arena was the site of the 1968 and '72 NCAA Final Four, both won by the Bruins.

Athletic director Dan Guerrero says UCLA will bring its 11 national championship banners to the Sports Arena. The school will paint the team colors inside the aging arena that was home to the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers and rival Southern California before the Trojans opened a new campus arena in 2006.

UCLA is working on plans to bus season ticketholders to home games, similar to how students are bused to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena for home football games.

The women's team will play its home games on campus at the Wooden Center next season.

Pauley is set to re-open in time for the 2012-13 season.

The Bruins had considered playing at the Forum in nearby Inglewood, but the Los Angeles Lakers' old arena became unavailable after it was sold to Madison Square Garden.

Staples Center, home of the Lakers and the Kings, was ruled out because the NBA and NHL schedules aren't released until mid-July, and it would be too late in the decision process.

A survey of season ticket holders said the majority preferred playing games in the Los Angeles area, with some in Orange County if they were played on weekends.





SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 61°**

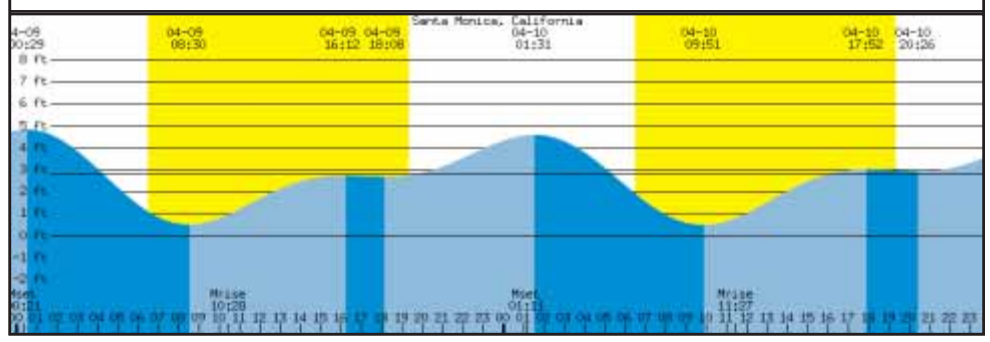
SWELL FORECAST

Weekend SW should stick around with at least chest high waves for south facing breaks. NW wind swell is expected to fade to chest max at west facing spots.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

MONDAY LOOKS SMALLER, ABOUT KNEE TO WAIST AT WEST FACING BREAKS AND WAIST+ AT SOUTH FACING BREAKS.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 6, 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 -- 10
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 12
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 32

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	F	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	F	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	B
Tuna Canyon.	ns	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.	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F

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

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

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.

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, April 9
The Godfather (R) 2hr 55min

Sunday, April 10
The Godfather Part II (R) 3hr 20min
7:30pm

Call theater for information.

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

Rango (PG) 1hr 47min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Paul (R) 1hr 40min
11:45am, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Insidious (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:05pm

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

Sucker Punch (R) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:05pm

Hop (PG) 1hr 30min
11:25am, 2:00pm, 4:35pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 1hr 46min
12:10pm, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG) 1hr 36min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Hanna (PG-13) 1hr 51min
10:55am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Source Code (PG-13) 1hr 34min
10:30am, 12:40pm, 2:55pm, 5:15pm, 7:40pm, 10:10pm

Soul Surfer (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:40am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

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

Certified Copy (Copie conforme) (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

Of Gods and Men (Des hommes et des dieux) (R) 2hrs 00min
3:00pm, 8:00pm

Trophy Wife (Potiche) (R) 1hr 43min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Win Win (R) 1hr 46min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Super (NR) 1hr 36min
4:10pm, 9:40pm

I Am (NR) 1hr 16min
1:00pm, 5:50pm

Lunch Line (NR)
11:00am

Fat, Sick & Nearly Dead (NR) 1hr 37min
11:00am

Desert of Forbidden Art (NR) 1hr 20min
11:00am

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

Your Highness (R) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Limitless (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:10am, 1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Jane Eyre (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
10:10am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

No eres tÃº, soy yo (PG-13) 1hr 45min
12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Lincoln Lawyer (R) 1hr 59min
10:40am, 1:25pm, 4:15pm, 7:10pm, 10:05pm

Arthur (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

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

Out and about tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ An issue that might involve you and others could have you wondering which way to go. Ask questions, but also be observant. Zero in on what counts. Tonight: Know that you can, if need be, reverse gears.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Whether you hear news that forces your hand or you suddenly have a key insight makes no difference. Once more, your mental filter drops. Look at what you can understand now. Your instincts might want you to stay with what is known and comfortable. Tonight: Relax to great music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You are all smiles as you pursue a new course. A partner or associate could cause a strong reaction with his or her attitude. Relax and know that as easily as a situation could change one way, it can reverse itself. Tonight: Curb a tendency to go overboard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be a touch lazy this morning, but by the afternoon, others could find it difficult to keep up with you. Feeling empowered, zoom in on what works. Your lunar magnetism draws admirers, for now. Tonight: Be open to everything!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You need more information than you have. The unanticipated opens up an unanticipated chasm. You might wonder what to do when dealing with a key person. Your sense of humor comes forth when you realize how self-evident the answer is. Tonight: Happily vanish with a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to approach a friendship on a new level. You could be, at best, stunned by the nature of another person's response. Think long and hard about the best way to pursue this goal. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds around an older friend or loved one. You must meet the demand, but it could cost you. A close associate just will not understand, as much as you try to explain the hows and whys. Accept what isn't changeable. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You are hard-pressed to visualize a situation differently. An incident in your daily life points to another direction, and probably consumes your attention. Be ready to adjust to a quickly changing situation. Tonight: Let your mind wander and choose!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal directly with key associates involving funds and perhaps your money! For some, it might look like getting your taxes done or filing an extension. A risk could be a very bad idea in present circumstances. Tonight: Be wild. Blow off some steam.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You feel as if you are no longer in sync with yourself. You might question how you can be with others, especially a key person. Be ready to change and let go of the status quo. Honor who you are first. Tonight: No longer cower at the unknown!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Use the morning in a fun way. A responsibility or project calls in the afternoon. You will feel as if you have little choice. Some physical exercise could prevent you from going over the same scenario again and again in your mind. Tonight: Don't push.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Once you get past a personal or domestic matter, you are on cruise control. A child or, if single, a new person in your life draws your attention. You might wonder exactly how to make your goals and this situation friends. Tonight: Let go and just be.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you begin new life and luck cycles. In fact, you probably are already feeling the impact. Greater financial security also appears in the wind. You will naturally achieve a lot more. Not only is communication imperative, but this year security also is a big issue. If you are single, a person you meet during this cycle might not be a forever lover (but could be), yet you count on this person's significance in your life and friendship.



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.

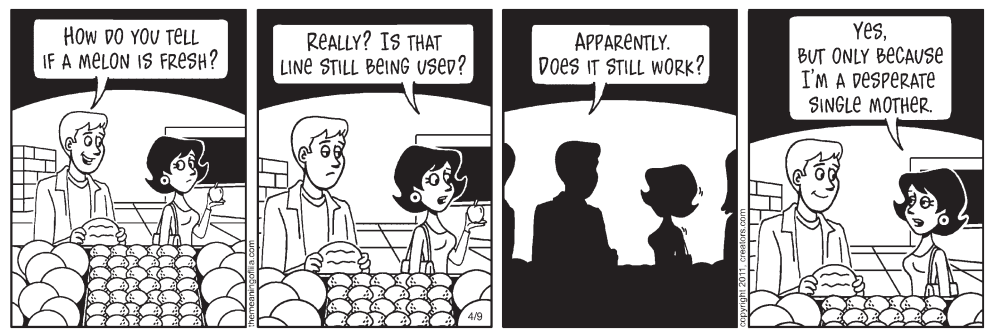
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Disgraced
7 Head light?
11 Target at a party
12 Sooner city
13 Stuck
14 Karaoke need
15 Plumed bird
16 "Speed-the-Plow" playwright
17 GOP rivals
18 Walk-up dweller
19 Stadium section
21 Course start
22 Soon
25 Copying
26 Capital on a fjord
27 Little wave
29 Dell
33 Partners
34 Middling card
35 Tag sale proviso
36 Clumsy person
37 Movie fish
38 Queued up
39 Midmonth day
40 Boss

DOWN

1 Spotted
2 Door part
3 Cost — and a leg
4 Royal address
5 Coup target
6 Block
7 Macho sort
8 Lively, in music
9 Perfectly restored
10 "Swan Lake" character
16 Jack's "Ironweed" co-star
18 Rib
20 Pop stars
22 Not smoothed, on a PC screen
23 Kid's afternoon break
24 Short book
25 Designer Giorgio
28 Cuban cash
30 Skirt
31 Director Sergio
32 Door sign
34 All there
36 Jazz composer Evans

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

4-9

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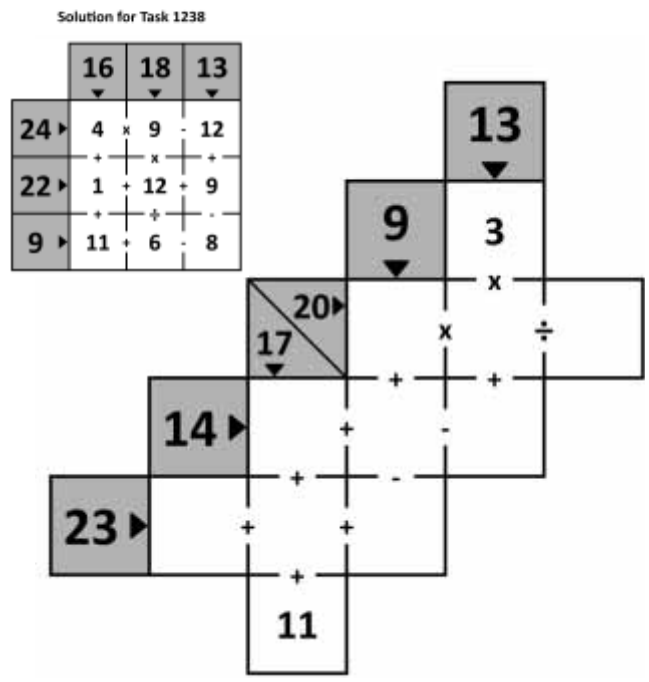
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand 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.

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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, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 10, 11, 11

Solution for Task 1238



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Fantasy 5: 3 22 30 34 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 6 6 EVENING: 9 6 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1:46.40

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Not Ready for Prime Time: (1) Arkeen Thomas, 19, broke into a home in Port St. Lucie, Fla., in March, but the residents were present, and the male resident immediately punched Thomas in the mouth, sending him fleeing. (Minutes later, a woman identified as Thomas' mother arrived, picked up her son's gold teeth that had been knocked out, and left.) (2) In March, Briton Luke Clay, 21, was sentenced to eight months in prison by a Nottingham Crown Court judge for a home invasion. Luke and his brother fled the home empty-handed after the resident, Joan Parmenter, 79, knocked Luke down with one punch to the jaw.

■ Another "Sovereign" Citizen: In February, the Sarasota (Fla.) Police Department fired veteran homicide detective Tom Laughlin, almost a year after he had filed formal papers identifying himself as part of the "sovereign" movement, whose members believe they are beyond the control of any government and can establish their own financial system (which usually makes them much richer -- on paper), among other assertions. (The U.S. Constitution is cited as their authority, but only the original and not the popular version, which is a sham secretly switched with the original by President Abraham Lincoln.) In a subsequent interview with the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Laughlin, who had a strong record as a detective, acknowledged that maybe he had gotten carried away.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1916 World War I: The Battle of Verdun – German forces launch their third offensive of the battle.

1917 World War I: The Battle of Arras – the battle begins with Canadian Corps executing a massive assault on Vimy Ridge.

1918 World War I: The Battle of the Lys – the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps is crushed by the German forces during what is called the Spring Offensive on the Belgian region of Flanders.

WORD UP!

futz \ FUHTS \ , verb;
1. To pass time in idleness (usually followed by around).
noun:
1. A fool; a simpleton.

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$1,299,000
Please Call for Private Showing

Rare Find in Ocean Park!



2226 6th Street # A
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath + Loft
$1,199,000
Open Sunday
April 10th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contemporary Light & Bright!



401 California Ave. # 7
3 Bed, 2.75 Bath
$1,279,000
Easy to Show!
Call for Private Showing

Perfect Home to Expand in Sunset Park!



2310 31st Street
2 Bed, 1 Bath
$795,000
Open Sunday
April 10th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Vintage Vibe w/ Modern Updates!



948 16th Street # A
2 Bed, 1.5 Bath
$ 699,000
Open Sunday
April 10th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Looking for Back Up! Amazing Value! $825,000!



1520 16th Street #101
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath + Loft
$825,000
Easy to Show!
Call for Private Showing!

For More Pictures & Virtual Tour of Our Properties Visit www. SantaMonicaListings.com

Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from ALL Agents from ALL Companies Listed for Sale As of Early April 2011

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,100,000	$2,850,000
North of Montana	$2,862,500	$1,369,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,400,000	$799,000
South of Wilshire	$699,000	$499,000
Sunset Park	$998,000	$625,000
Ocean Park	$1,224,500	$1,048,000
Statistics Updated Every Monday		

Visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com

Proud Supporter
of
Franklin & Roosevelt Elementary School
Lincoln Middle School

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Roosevelt Elementary School

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

Open Sunday!



2415 33rd Street
4 Bed, 3 Bath
$1,595,000
Open Sunday
April 10th 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Ocean & Park Views!



515 Ocean #605 South
2 Bed, 2 Bath
$1,399,000
Ocean Park Plaza
Please Call for Private Showing

Ocean & Park Views! Pool, Spa, Gym, Valet, & Much More!



515 Ocean #507 South
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$1,629,000
Ocean Park Plaza
Easy to Show!
Please Call for Private Showing

More Pictures and Virtual Tour at www.SantaMonicaListings.com

Four New Construction TownHomes!



1814 12th Street

Unit 1	$859,000
Unit 2	$839,000
Unit 3	$839,000
Unit 4	$799,000

All Units have 3 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths

Rooftop Decks & Custom Kitchens



Open Saturday & Sunday
April 9th & April 10th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

More Pictures and Virtual Tour at www.SantaMonicaListings.com

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