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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 130

Santa Monica Daily Press

CROSSROADS RALLY COMES UP SHORT
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE HAPPY B-DAY, G ISSUE

Slaying the cookie monster

Cab drivers say doormen demand bribes for fares

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITYWIDE Doormen at some of Santa Monica's most luxurious hotels are continuing to pressure cab drivers to pay them bribes or "cookies" in exchange for more lucrative fares, a long-standing practice that is now illegal under City Hall's new taxi franchise system, according to interviews with drivers and taxi companies.

Cabbies with one of the five franchised companies told the Daily Press this week that they will not jeopardize their careers by paying cookies and now avoid certain hotels where doormen have tried to extort them.

When the drivers refused to pay a bribe, worth roughly 10 percent of a fare, they said the doormen either threatened them not to return or skipped them in the queue, only calling on them when a guest wanted to go a short distance and hence pay a smaller fare.

"It was hurting my pocket book before, but that was the way you did business," a cab driver of 22 years told the Daily Press about paying cookies. He did not want his named used out of fear of retribution by certain doormen.

"Now you can't give cookies. It's the law, and we're getting skipped. We're getting no good fares, which used to make up for paying cookies, and now my pocket is really get-

SEE CABS PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

READY TO ROLL: **Taxis are lined up outside Loews Santa Monica Hotel on Tuesday afternoon.**

Synagogue blast suspect charged with fleeing

BY MEGHAN BARR & THOMAS J. SHEERAN
Associated Press

CLEVELAND A suspect in an explosion at a Santa Monica synagogue was charged in federal court on Tuesday with fleeing to avoid prosecution after the blast last week that shattered windows and punched a hole in a nearby building.

An affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles said Ron Hirsch, 60, violated federal law when he traveled from California to Ohio sometime between Thursday and Monday, when he was arrested in suburban Cleveland Heights.

A Greyhound agent in Los Angeles told authorities that Hirsch bought a ticket to New York — using cash and requesting a senior citizens' discount — using the name J. Fisher a few hours after the explosion, according to the warrant.

Hirsch, also known as Israel Fisher, is a transient known to spend time at synagogues and other Jewish community centers seeking charity.

He was wanted in California on state charges of possession of a destructive device and unrelated local charges.

Federal authorities charged him with flight to avoid prosecution for damaging or destroying a building.

The explosion last Thursday near Chabad House Lubavitch of Santa Monica sent chunks of concrete and a heavy pipe crashing into the roof of a nearby house. Authorities said a child was sleeping almost underneath where the device landed.

Investigators do not have a motive for the blast, and Jewish groups said they did not believe anti-Semitism was necessarily behind it.

Hirsch was linked to the explosion by a mailing label on a box of demolition agent found addressed to him across the street from the site of the explosion, according to the FBI's warrant.

Authorities said Hirsch was arrested in Ohio after a rabbi became suspicious of a man asking for a place to stay.

SEE BLAST PAGE 10

Saint John's nurses petition to hold union election

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAINT JOHN'S Nurses at Saint John's Health Center have formally petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to hold a union election, a step organizers say is a decade in the making.

Representatives filed the petition late Monday evening for the 450 registered nurses at the hospital, which is part of the Catholic Sisters of Charity Leavenworth Health System.

To move forward with the election, 30 percent of eligible nurses need to sign union cards. Those nurses must not hold

SEE NURSES PAGE 3

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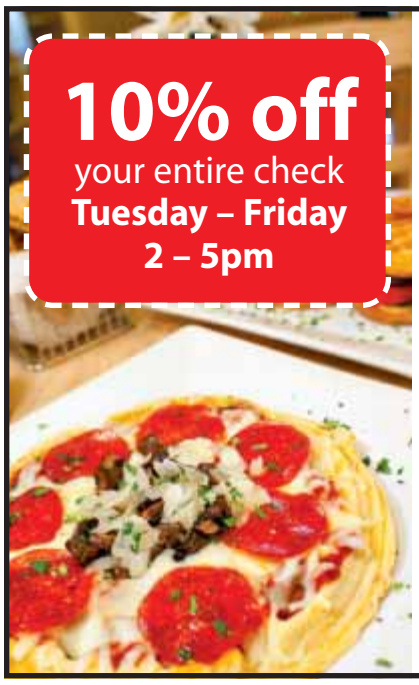
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Movies on the Deck
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 7 p.m.
Catch a free screening of "Shrek" during this week's installment of the mall's Movies on the Deck promotion. For more information, visit santamonicaplace.com/events.

Shopping for Surfrider
Bloomingdale's
315 Colorado Ave., 6 p.m.
Bloomingdale's unveils its new surf shop with a little help from actress Hayden Panettiere and surfer Rob Machado. The event benefits the Surfrider Foundation.

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Opening night: 'The Merchant of Venice'
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Academy Award winner, F. Murray Abraham attacks the role of Shylock in this riveting update of the bard's darkest of comedies, where religion, race and sexuality collide with love, family and justice. The currency of society and humanity has never been so changeable in this Royal Shakespeare Company commissioned production, the first production by an American company to be invited to the RSC's Complete Works Festival. This production runs through April 24. For information, call (310) 434-3200.

Los Angeles Antiques Show
Barker Hangar
3021 Airport Ave., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Sixty prestigious national and international exhibitors presenting an extraordinary collection of rare and beautiful antique furniture, decoration and fine arts reflecting all periods from ancient to the 20th century. For more information, visit losangelesantiqueshow.com.

Water wise
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
Water self-sufficiency by 2020 is a goal Santa Monica has recently adopted. The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica is sponsoring a meeting with city staff to talk about how we can all work to meet that goal. Neal Shapiro, Senior Environmental Analyst and Kim O'Cain, Water Resource Specialist will discuss conservation efforts the city is making and how we can all contribute to these efforts. Gil Borboa, Water Resource Manager, will talk about how the water department is contributing to these efforts. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy FayesVision/WENN.com

WHAT A LADY: **Betty White was honored during the 'Red Tie Affair' on Saturday.**

DOWNTOWN

Red Cross benefit raises thousands

The Santa Monica Red Cross' "Red Tie Affair" held at the Fairmont-Miramar Hotel on Saturday raised roughly $375,000, according to preliminary estimates.

Officials with the local chapter of the Red Cross said a number of celebrities attended, including singer Fergie and her husband, actor Josh Duhamel, who received the Red Cross Spirit Award for helping raise money for Haitian and Japanese earthquake relief efforts.

Actress Betty White was the recipient of the American Red Cross "Crystal Cross Award" for her contributions to animal welfare.

DAILY PRESS

SMC

Teachers pledge support for Japan

Members of the Santa Monica College Faculty Association voted unanimously last month to give financial support to the victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami, pledging $1,000, officials with the college said.

The body, made up of teachers from every department at the college, pledged a $500 donation to Mercy Corps, an organization with relief workers in Japan assisting in rescues and cleanup, and a $500 donation to Disabled Persons International, which gives support to the disabled in need of respirators and other life-saving assistance.

"Helping others is what teachers do," said Faculty Association President Mitra Moassessi. "We give to our communities, we spread our knowledge, and donating to the relief effort is just another way for us to give."

DP

MAIN LIBRARY

Last call for green book submissions

Those who would like to submit entries for the fifth annual Green Prize for Sustainable Literature have until April 30 to do so, city officials said.

The Green Prize is sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library and the city of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. It was created to encourage and commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality books that make significant contributions to, and broaden public awareness of, sustainability. The City of Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan defines sustainability as "meeting current needs – environmental, economic and social – without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same."

Books may be submitted by following the guidelines on the Santa Monica Public Library website at smpl.org/Green_Prize.aspx.

A selection committee consisting of librarians and local authorities on sustainable issues will choose the winning titles that demonstrate outstanding achievement in their respective categories. The winners will be announced in fall 2011.

DP

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Crossroads' league woes continue

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CLOVER PARK A late-game rally fell a run short for Crossroads' baseball team as the Roadrunners remained winless in league play thanks to a 5-4 loss to Alpha League rival Paraclete on Tuesday.

The Roadrunners actually led 1-0 after one inning, but Paraclete was able to pin three runs on Crossroads starter Max Robinson in the second, building a lead the Spirits wouldn't relinquish.

The loss sends Crossroads to 4-6 overall and 0-5 in league. Paraclete improved to 15-3 and 4-1.

"I'm glad we put up a good fight," Crossroads head coach Spencer Kirksey said. "I'm not mad at that effort."

The rally to comeback came in the sixth inning with Crossroads trailing 5-2. With a man on, senior Holden Miller blasted an inside fastball from Paraclete starting pitcher Cade Brummer over the fence in left field for a two-runner homer that brought the Roadrunners to within one, 5-4. Crossroads was unable to continue the rally going down in order following the Miller homer.

Brummer was able to weather the Roadrunners' comeback in throwing a complete game.

"He's an animal," Paraclete head coach Lance Pierson said of Brummer. "The guy just throws strike after strike."

Despite giving up the bomb to Miller, Pierson said he was comfortable leaving in his starter, who has proven to be an innings-eater this season.

These teams don't have long before squaring off again. Crossroads travels to Paraclete on Friday hoping to finally break through and win its first league game of the season.

Miller is expected to start on the mound and said that he took careful notes during Tuesday's home loss.

"They are good hitters," Miller said. "I'll have to keep the ball low and just focus on throwing strikes."

Miller, who helped lead Crossroads deep into the playoffs last season, has begun the year 2-1 and has been able to work through an up-and-down season. He's confident heading into Friday's matchup adding that he'll have to "get ahead early" as the Roadrunners attempt to avenge Tuesday's setback.

Kirksey, who is in his first year as Crossroads' head coach, believes that the key to victory on Friday would have to begin and end at the plate.

"We have to be more aggressive with the bats in our hands," he said. "I always tell the guys to swing at fastballs, that's the best pitch to hit in baseball."

daniela@smdp.com

NURSES

FROM PAGE 1

supervisorial positions, which invalidates approximately 60 nurses, according to the California Nurses Association (CNA).

The labor board will then check those names against a list of nurses provided by Saint John's, said David Monkawa, assistant director of organizing for the CNA.

A pre-election hearing will be held Tuesday, April 19 at 9 a.m. at 11150 West Olympic Blvd., according to the labor board.

Hospital representatives did not respond to inquiries by presstime.

Once the labor board verifies that the petition meets the 30 percent requirement, the two sides have to agree on an election date, as well as which categories of nurses will be allowed to vote in the election to appoint their representatives.

The hospital could choose to drag out negotiations by haggling over the various qualifications of the nurses able to vote, Monkawa said.

"We are hoping that the hospital does not go down that road and allows nurses to express their voice," he said.

Nurses do not expect the hospital administration to allow the process to go smoothly, said Saint John's nurse and union organizer Liz Baker-Wade.

"Nothing would make me happier than to find out I was entirely wrong, and Saint John's allowed this process to be done fairly, morally and ethically," Baker-Wade said.

Baker-Wade participated in an effort 10 years ago to organize the nurses at Saint John's. That attempt failed.

Baker-Wade attributes that failure to nurses tiring of conditions at the hospital, as well as intimidation tactics that she described as "so vicious and so awful."

"I think little by little, they got fed up," she said. "It's finding out that five miles west and six blocks east, nurses were getting paid better, had bargaining rights and had something to say when assignments were being made."

Some allegations of wrong-doing by the hospital were substantiated in July 2010 after

SEE **NURSES** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop in the name of the law

Editor:

I [have] a huge bone to pick with cyclists and the city. I have on numerous occasions encountered an angry cyclist who yells at me as I proceed through the intersection, after having come to a complete stop and therefore have the right of way, because they have failed to stop and want to blast through the stop sign as if I should bow to the almighty cyclist who yields to no car. Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals the same as a car. If I stop at a stop sign, and safely and legally proceed through and you, the cyclist, run the stop sign and splat yourself upon my hood and/or windshield, technically, you would be at fault and while it might pain a judge or jury to rule in my favor for the damage you did to my car or the costly clean up of your blood and gray matter from my windshield, legally, you would be at fault and responsible for said damages.

What pains me even more is to see the father or mother riding along with their children who set a horrible example by riding straight through a four-way stop, thus giving their children the impression that is OK to do so. It's not! You may get kudos for having them wear helmets, which is about the only thing our police might ticket you for around here, those flimsy plastic things won't protect them from my 2-ton beast that could plow them down with only a slight bump of my tires. I'm not saying I want to or wouldn't avoid such an incident at all costs, but if people would only ride their bikes in accordance with the law and teach their children to do the same, I wouldn't have had to veer up onto the curb the other day, popping my tire in the process, and have to deal with the ignorant father who had the audacity to yell at me for almost hitting his kid. He was lucky that I am a decent person and had no interest in knocking his teeth out for causing me to almost wreck into another car. And after trying to, as calmly as I could, explain to him that he in fact ran the stop sign and since he had his young daughter riding behind him, I thought they would stop, he says to me, "But we're on bikes. Cars stop at stop signs, not bikes." I tried to reason with him but it was clear that he was just ignorant of the law and did not have the mental capacity to be reasoned with.

Which brings me to my issue with the city and its responsibility. It might help if first I saw the police enforce the cycling laws on everyone, not just those that they want to use the violation for as an excuse to see if they have warrants, drugs, or are doing other deviant acts. This is fine with me. But ticket everyone. Make there be some consequence and people will change their behavior. But also, spend a little bit of money on educating the public on what the bike laws are. Put up small stop signs with bikes on them so cyclists know they need to stop, too. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse in the eyes of the court, but when there are just no consequences, are you not perpetuating this ignorance?

Alex Fieglein
Santa Monica



Your column here



Rick Weidman — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Suffer the little children

WHEN I SERVED AS AN ARMY MEDIC in Vietnam, I often saw a 19-year-old solider whose job was to spray an herbicide called Agent Orange on anything green inside my base. The same was true around the perimeter, to deny cover to any enemy intruders and to ensure a clear line of fire in case of enemy attack.

As I visited numerous American military bases in Vietnam during the war, they all looked like moonscapes. They were stripped of grass and foliage by the same chemical for the same reasons.

Now, more than 40 years after the war, we know that Agent Orange contained dioxin, which is among the world's most lethal toxins. American veterans of Vietnam fought a long, hard postwar struggle to get our Veterans Administration to compensate troops for a dozen diseases associated with Agent Orange/dioxin. But what about the Vietnamese who were also exposed? And what about the leftover "hot spots" of dioxin that still exist there and continue to harm people to this very day?

The U.S. military shipped, stored, and sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange/dioxin over a quarter of the former South Vietnam, both for crop destruction and to deny cover to the enemy. In this country we know from our own experiences with dioxin at Love Canal and Times Beach that these toxic hot spots can cause death and disease to those who come in contact with the chemical. The diseases range from spina bifida to Parkinson's and certain forms of cancer.

However, the political battle still rages in Washington. VA Secretary Shinseki has classified three additional diseases as associated with Agent Orange/dioxin, thereby making veterans with those conditions eligible for compensation. In addition, women who served in Vietnam can receive compensation if their children are disabled with any of 14 birth anomalies. That's because Agent Orange/dioxin can cause DNA damage for generations.

The struggle is far from over. We have reason to believe that many additional adverse medical conditions in Vietnam veterans of both sexes also are caused by these exposures, including possible genetic problems in grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Meanwhile, in Vietnam, Agent Orange/dioxin damage also lingers. While we have made some progress for Americans harmed by these exposures, our friends in Vietnam have a long way to go to match our modest gains. The Vietnamese Red Cross estimates that 3 million people, including more than 150,000 of today's children, are disabled because of the chemical. Former airbases like Da Nang contain dangerous toxic hot spots where Agent Orange was stored and handled and spilled into the ground. Dioxin is hard to break up in the soil and it lasts in human body tissue for years.

Unlike the United States government, the Vietnamese recognized that Agent Orange/dioxin might cause chromosomal damage in the second and third generations of original victims. My own experience is that families of American veterans also suffer. But the VA recognizes no health consequences from Agent Orange/dioxin in disabled daughters and sons of male veterans who served in Vietnam.

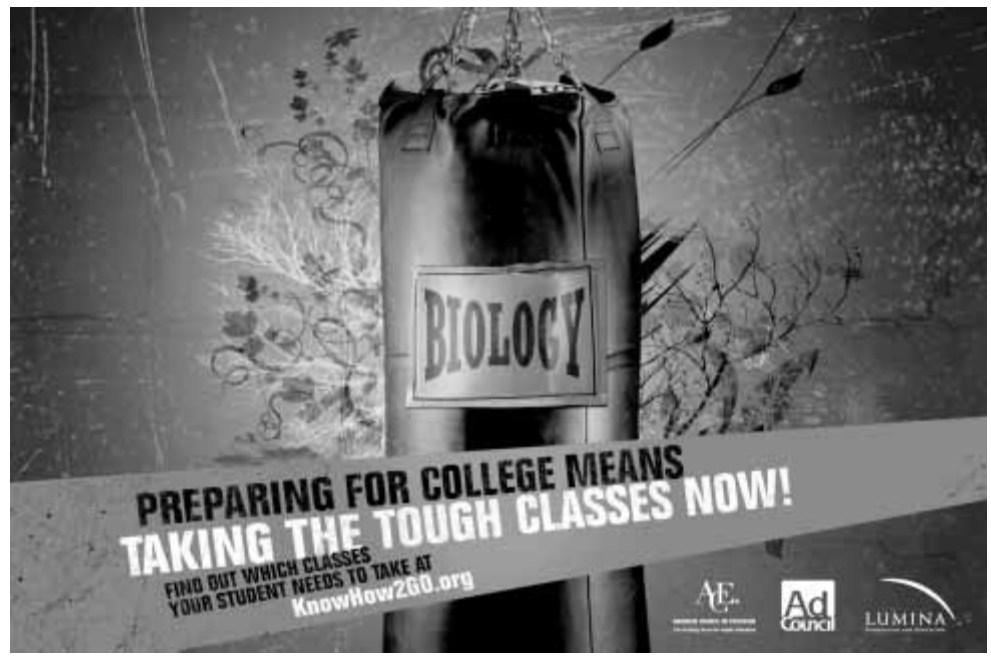
It's time to put this legacy of the war in Vietnam to rest once and for all. A blue-ribbon commission of prominent Americans and Vietnamese has called for a 10-year, $300 million cleanup of Agent Orange/dioxin in Vietnam. The resources would eliminate the hot spots, restore damaged ecosystems and provide humanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese disabled population, including those second- and third-generation children affected by the chemical.

It seems to me that $30 million a year for 10 years, from government, foundation and private sources, is a small price to pay to help remedy the damage caused.

This is a humanitarian concern we can do something about. Recent progress in methods of treating contaminated soils and helping Vietnam's disabled population shows that America is at its best when it steps up to heal past wounds.

If we make progress on nothing else regarding the ravages of Agent Orange and other toxic substances used in Vietnam, we must properly care for our future generations -- on both sides of the Pacific.

WEIDMAN served as an Army Medic with the AMERICAL Division in I-Corps Vietnam in 1969. He currently serves as Executive Director for Policy & Government Affairs on the national staff of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Because everything's better with bacon

LATE LAST MONTH, THE CHAIN OF restaurants whose claim to fame is always being open announced a radical addition to its menu — the Maple Bacon Sundae. Boasting that "bacon makes a classic ice cream sundae even more awesome," Denny's is delighting in the fact that any time of day, customers can now revel in a scoop of vanilla ice cream topped with maple-flavored syrup and a generous sprinkle of diced hickory-smoked bacon, which is then topped with yet another layer of ice cream, syrup and bacon and then a final drizzle of syrup.

The Maple Bacon Sundae is part of Denny's new Baconalia menu, featuring seven new baconlicious selections, which complement their more classic diner fare such as the Meat Lover's Scramble and Moons Over My Hammy omelet.

"Bacon is magical. Bacon transforms classic foods into colossally awesome ones," crows Denny's website.

And indeed, with other innovative dishes such as the BBBLT sandwich (a triple decker made with eight strips of crisp hickory-smoked bacon and creamy mayo), Triple Bacon Sampler (featuring two strips each of hickory-smoked bacon, pepper bacon and turkey bacon and served with two eggs and hash browns made with diced hickory-smoked bacon and shredded cheddar cheese), and Bacon Flapjacks (generous bits of hickory-smoked bacon are baked into pancake batter and then griddled to golden-brown perfection; served with two eggs, two strips of bacon and hash browns), a food revolution is, indeed, underway.

However, in order to get the Food and Drug Administration to approve the Baconalia menu (which is where "bacon isn't just rationed or relegated to a side dish. Bacon is king. And we celebrate it in all its sizzling glory") Denny's had to first agree that all future restaurants would be located inside of hospitals.

"The decision was really borne out of consumer safety," said the FDA's chief health officer. "Our research shows that when two or more of the items from the Baconalia menu are consumed in one sitting, nine out of 10 human beings are advised to seek immediate medical attention. The arteries of the other one human usually close up completely within minutes, which generally results in death."

It's a move that's been met with a mixed reaction across the board, particularly since it will inevitably mean the end to many hospital cafeterias, which will in turn put thousands of people out of work across the country.

"We acknowledge it's a shame that so many hospital cafeteria workers will be out of work," said the president of the Service Employees International Union. "But while it's not good for our members, the upside is the benefit to all other hospital workers and patients. There really was a bacon void in society that's now being filled. We think everyone actually owes a debt of gratitude to Denny's."

The people expecting the most fiscal damage by the addition of Denny's to hospitals are florists.

"Ninety percent of my business is arranging flowers for sick people. But now visitors will just bring them Denny's Bacon Meatloaf instead," said one floral shop owner who is located across the street from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in Manhattan. "I mean, if someone is already gravely ill, why not give them what will really make them feel better, like the Bacon Meatloaf that's made with diced bacon baked inside and topped with more diced bacon on the outside. How does a bouquet of lilies or even roses compete with that?"

But the reality is that even some hospital workers are eagerly anticipating the change.

"Yeah, I'll lose my job and all of my benefits and, almost immediately afterwards, my house as a result. But the closest Denny's to home right now is 11 blocks away. Once they demolish the cafeteria at the hospital and put a Denny's in there, I'll only have to walk five blocks to get my fix," said a cashier at the cafeteria at The University of Chicago Medical Center who spoke on the condition of anonymity because his wife isn't aware of his impending unemployment. "Go pig or go home, is what I say. If I can't bring home the bacon, I'll just go to it."

With 1,500 current locations across the U.S., Denny's is projected to add another 750 restaurants to its portfolio before the end of 2012 thanks to the addition of lots and lots (and lots) of bacon to its menus.

As part of the Baconalia agreement with the FDA, existing Denny's are grandfathered into their locations and will therefore not have to worry about relocating to hospitals, but they are now required to staff a cardiologist and EMT at each restaurant.

"It's a win-win-win situation," said a Denny's spokesperson. "The patients, visitors and doctors will have new and tastier options than the same old cafeteria food, the doctors will moonlight outside Denny's locations, and fast food lovers will have even more locations from which to choose, and can follow up their meals immediately afterwards with a convenient — and strongly recommended — angioplasty. Bacon is making our world a better place, one strip at a time."

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

The Q Line

Show a little hospitality

Saint John's is requesting a modification to its development agreement so that it will not have to build a new parking garage at the hospital. Residents have complained about hospital employees and visitors taking up all of the street parking, as well as raw sewage spills.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
How can Saint John's be a better neighbor?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102**.


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Deuces wild at the box office

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES In real life, hangovers make us promise to be good and never do it again, until the next time. In Hollywood, fans have been anxious to do it again ever since they walked out of the surprise comedy blockbuster "The Hangover" two years ago.

As the posters proclaim: the wolf pack is back, with Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis reuniting for another clueless morning after in "The Hangover Part II," which leads a big summer lineup of comedy, romance and family fun.

Two animated tales also are in follow-up mode. Jack Black, Angelina Jolie and Dustin Hoffman again lead the voice cast for the martial-arts comedy "Kung Fu Panda 2," while Michael Caine joins returning voice stars Owen Wilson and Larry the Cable Guy for the racing adventure "Cars 2."

The laugh list features Kevin James' talking-animal romp "Zookeeper"; Jim Carrey's family story "Mr. Popper's Penguins"; the return of beloved animated creatures with "Winnie the Pooh" and "The Smurfs"; Steve Carell's marital-crisis romance "Crazy, Stupid, Love"; and a couple of titles that say it all: Cameron Diaz's "Bad Teacher" and "Horrible Bosses," with Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston.

There's also a rush of wedding and engagement romances: Kate Hudson and Ginnifer Goodwin's "Something Borrowed"; Kristen Wiig's "Bridesmaids"; and the ensemble tale "Jumping the Broom," with Angela Bassett, Paula Patton and Mike Epps.

But the nuptial bash of the season is the next chapter of "The Hangover." This time, Stu (Helms) is getting married in Thailand, where he and his buddies (Cooper, Galifianakis and Justin Bartha) aim for a quiet pre-wedding brunch to avoid repeating the mistakes they made in Las Vegas.

Instead, they manage to pack another lost weekend into a single night, one guy awakening with a new hairdo, another with a tattoo, and all of them with hurting heads and mysteries from the night before to solve on the streets of Bangkok.

Why Bangkok this time? Same reason as Vegas the first time.

"Vegas for me is like the fifth character in the first 'Hangover.' It's so important, the location of these movies. When you say Las Vegas, it means something," said Todd Phillips, writer-director of "The Hangover" flicks. "When I say Las Vegas, it means bad decisions. When I say Bangkok, I think of trouble. ... The environment is a huge problem for the guys in this movie. The language and customs."

Dealing with exotic ways also is at the heart of "Cars 2," in which Wilson's Lightning McQueen heads out on an international racing circuit, where rickety tow-truck buddy Mater (Larry the Cable Guy) is mistaken for an undercover agent and pressed into service by a slick British spymaster (Caine).

Having a buck-toothed jalopy as his vehicular alter-ego delights Larry the Cable Guy.

"When I first saw it, my wife said, 'It looks just like you. They couldn't have found a better voice. It's just like you,'" he said. "I can't imagine Mater having another voice. That's exactly what I would look like if I was a truck. I really think it would be. Because at the time, I had really bad teeth, and now I've got new ones."

In "Kung Fu Panda 2," Black's tubby hero Po has settled in as head of a martial-arts team that includes a menagerie of experts voiced by Jolie, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan and Lucy Liu.

Gary Oldman provides the voice of a villainous peacock aiming to unleash a terrible new weapon in the ancient Chinese realm that Po and his gang are sworn to defend.

There's talk of turning the franchise into a trilogy, Black said.

"I'm on board for that. Sometimes, you click with a cool character that has life beyond just one film," Black said. "It's kind of like doing a TV series. I'd be really bummed if 'Dexter' stopped after their first season. It's like I'm on my second season of 'Kung Fu Panda.' As long as it's kick-ass, why stop?"

While Po was destined to lead, Diaz's character in "Bad Teacher" was never meant for the classroom. She's rude, raunchy and boozy, with a lesson plan mainly aimed at hooking a rich substitute teacher (Justin Timberlake) while fending off advances from a nice-guy gym instructor (Jason Segel).

Diaz gets to cut loose with profanity playing a woman whose life she describes as "one big F-bomb."

"Usually, when you swear on set, they're like, 'Oh, we're not going to be able to use that one,' or 'We only get one of those, so let's pick where it goes,'" Diaz said. "That's not fun, picking where you're going to swear. Who wants to do that? You don't want to use it judiciously. You want it to be liberal, and you want to sort of pile it on. Slather it on."

Bateman and his co-stars are similarly unrestrained in "Horrible Bosses" and a second comedy he has this summer, "The Change-Up," with Ryan Reynolds.

"Horrible Bosses" features Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as underlings who take bad advice from an ex-con (Jamie Foxx) about how to do away with their awful overseers (Aniston, Kevin Spacey and Colin Farrell).

"The Change-Up" stars Reynolds and Bateman as old friends with drastically different lives — one's a stressed out lawyer and family man, the other's a laid-back slacker — who wake up after a drunken night to discover they've switched bodies.

While studios often soften comedies to get a PG-13 rating that allows younger viewers in without an adult, "Horrible Bosses" and "The Change-Up" — as with "Bad Teacher" — take full advantage of the R rating for language and tone, Bateman said.

"I think the whole strategy of trying to edit certain things out of a movie in order to get a PG-13 rating in hopes of getting a wider audience seems like a pretty antiquated strategy considering the amount of money R-rated comedies have made," Bateman said. "What we're trying to do is replicate real life. Real life is pretty R-rated."

Other comedy highlights:

• "Bridesmaids": Even as her own life is falling apart, a maid of honor (Kristen Wiig) aims to lead a pack of bridesmaids on a grand wedding ride for her best friend (Maya Rudolph).

• "Something Borrowed": Romance and friendship collide after a woman (Ginnifer Goodwin) spends the night with the fiance of her best pal (Kate Hudson).

• "Crazy, Stupid, Love": Steve Carell goes awkwardly back on the dating market after his wife (Julianne Moore) gives him the boot, and a smooth operator (Ryan Gosling) takes him on as "wing man."

• "Zookeeper": A lonely animal tender (Kevin James) gets lessons on courting women from his charges — a menagerie of talking critters.

• "Jumping the Broom": Two families from wildly different worlds converge for a wedding weekend on Martha's Vineyard. With Angela Bassett, Paula Patton, Laz Alonso and Mike Epps.

STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Dem leader challenges GOP to produce budget

One of the state's leading Democrats is challenging Republican lawmakers to come up with their own budget plan that can get Democratic support by the end of the month.

Assembly Speaker John Perez on Tuesday said Republicans have run out the clock on Gov. Jerry Brown's plan for a June special election on tax extensions.

The Los Angeles Democrat says a budget that closes what had been a nearly $27 billion deficit entirely with spending cuts is not a viable solution. So he is challenging GOP lawmakers to come up with a comprehensive plan of their own or work with their Democratic counterparts to produce a balanced budget proposal.

The governor and Democratic lawmakers want to extend temporary tax increases, but no Republicans have supported that plan so far.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Stadium planner slams sports venue skeptics

The CEO of the company seeking to build an NFL stadium in downtown Los Angeles is lashing out at skeptics who express doubt about the value of such venues to their regions' economies.

AEG chief Tim Leiweke said at a conference on sports arenas Tuesday that it was time for the stadium industry to fight back against politicians and academics who cause the public to fear stadium projects.

He says big arena projects can't expect public funding in the United States so officials need to be cheerleaders for private sector players who want to build them.

AEG has promised to foot the entire bill of at least $1 billion for its proposed Los Angeles venue. Some City Council members and others have been skeptical of the plan.

AP

LOS ANGELES

McCourt lawyer blames Boston law firm

A lawyer for Frank McCourt said Tuesday that his client is disappointed about that a Boston law firm "is unwilling to accept responsibility" for a marital property agreement draft that was invalidated during the Los Angeles Dodgers owner's divorce proceedings.

Bingham McCutchen LLP had sued McCourt on Monday, asking a Massachusetts state court to declare that the firm met its obligations and caused him no loss when the draft was invalidated in a California court.

Steve Sugarman, a spokesman for McCourt, said the suit was unfortunate.

"Bingham McCutchen drafted an agreement the Court found did not comply with applicable California law and was invalid because of the conduct of the Bingham firm's lawyers," Sugarman wrote. "Mr. McCourt is disappointed that the Bingham firm is unwilling to accept responsibility for its actions and is instead now trying to defend conduct that is indefensible."

McCourt had tried to use the 2004 draft agreement to establish his sole ownership of the Dodgers. A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge threw out the agreement in December, clearing the way for Jamie McCourt to seek ownership of half the team.

Bingham McCutchen said it has been the target of allegations by the McCourts and their counsel that have been critical of its work. The firm's lawsuit sought "a declaration that the allegations are without merit."

AP

CORONA

2 hurt as small plane crashes at area airport

Authorities say a small plane has crashed into a hangar at Corona Municipal Airport, injuring a flight instructor and a student pilot.

Ian Gregor of the Federal Aviation Administration says the single-engine Cessna 150 was trying to take off when it crashed at around 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Gregor says it's unclear who was at the controls.

There's no word yet on what caused the crash or how badly the two occupants were injured. Both were hospitalized.

The airport is in Riverside County, about 35 miles east of Los Angeles.

AP

WEST HOLLYWOOD

2 injured in Sunset Strip violence

Los Angeles County sheriff's detectives say a man who was pummeled outside a Sunset Strip nightclub and a pedestrian run over as the attackers tried to flee are in critical condition.

Two men are in custody after the Monday night fight outside West Hollywood's Whisky A Go Go. Others hit and kicked the victim on the ground.

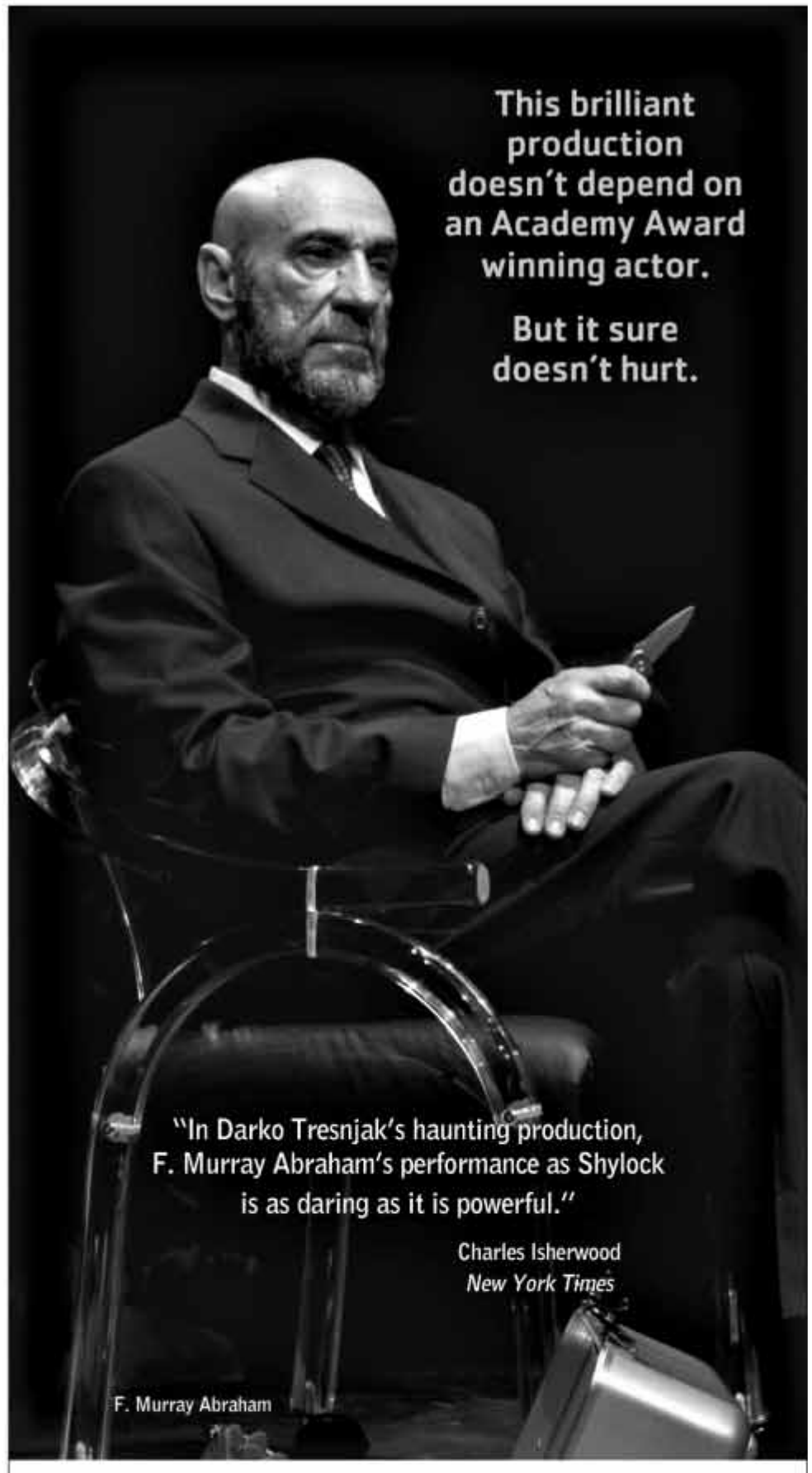
Two men fled in a car, hitting two pedestrians.

Detectives say the driver stopped after a short chase, pointing a dark object at a deputy. The deputy fired once, but no one was hit, and the men were arrested.

Detectives say 20-year-old Eduardo Gomez was booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon and driving under the influence causing injury and 18-year-old Jesus Gomez was booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon.

AP





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New Bell leaders make debut during City Council meeting

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

BELL With his first Bell City Council meeting as an incumbent under his belt, one of the most outspoken critics of government in the blue-collar Los Angeles suburb had a lingering question.

"What does the watchdog do when he becomes a member of the group he's supposed to watch," quipped Nestor Valencia, a newly elected councilman in this city whose name has become synonymous with municipal corruption. "I don't think there's a guidebook for that."

For years Valencia was one of a handful of people who hounded elected officials relentlessly, suspecting something was afoul in a city so poor that one in six people live in poverty but whose homeowners were paying property taxes higher than those in Beverly Hills.

After it was revealed last summer that those taxes were paying the city manager a salary and benefits package of $1.5 million a year and that four of Bell's part-time City Council members were pulling down annual salaries of $100,000, residents revolted.

Another longtime critic, Ali Saleh, helped organize a recall that culminated with last month's election in which the entire City Council was thrown out of office and a slate of political newcomers was elected in their place.

With the former city manager, four members of the old City Council and three other former Bell officials now awaiting trial on dozens of felony fraud charges, the new council members met for 90 minutes Monday to elect a mayor and vice mayor and listen to what residents had to say.

"We're new at this," Saleh, the new mayor, said with a grin at one point as fellow council members fumbled with microphones and struggled to master council rules.

Only Valencia, a health care administrator, and Saleh, a local businessman, had sought public office before, in a council election two years ago that the Los Angeles County district attorney's office is now investigating for possible voter fraud.

Both lost and both were targets of scurrilous political hit pieces they suspect were circulated by the previous council members. This time they were among the top vote-getters and they vowed to remake their city of 40,000 people into a model of good government.

Others elected with them last month were attorney Ana Maria Quintana, a former Bell High School student body president and homecoming queen; Violeta Alvarez, a social worker; and Danny Harber, a retired baker.

Harber, 66, was elected vice mayor. He could have been mayor himself, but he voted for Saleh, breaking a 2-2 tie among council members. His election as vice mayor was unanimous.

"We have a long road ahead of us. There's a lot of challenges," Saleh told some 200 people who crowded into Bell's community center for their first meeting. "We want to be the model city, not only to the southeast side (of Los Angeles County) but to the nation."

More than a dozen people spoke briefly, most to wish the new council good luck and to implore its members to be honest.

Los Angeles museum to get retired space shuttle Endeavour

ALICIA CHANG & SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES NASA's space shuttle Endeavour will land in Los Angeles after it is retired.

The 13-year-old California Science Center in Exposition Park was named Tuesday by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden as one of four institutions nationwide that will receive orbiters for permanent display.

The center's president, Jeffrey N. Rudolph, called the decision a "distinguished honor" that recognized the importance of returning the Palmdale-built shuttle to its home in California.

"The Endeavor will provide an educational platform for the public to celebrate California's long time leadership in science, technology, mathematics and engineering," he said in a statement.

The California Science Center opened in February 1998 and hosts 1.4 million visitors a year.

Located south of downtown near Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the admission-free Science Center includes the Sketch Foundation Air and Space Gallery, which combines items owned by the Science Center and loans from the Smithsonian Institution.

It is impossible to miss the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter supersonic jet, the Douglas DC-8 airliner and A-12 Blackbird — a trainer version of the SR-71 spy plane.

Space capsules on display at the museum include the Mercury capsule, which carried Ham, a chimpanzee, on a sub-orbital flight, and the Gemini 11 capsule flown by astronauts Pete Conrad and Dick Gordon on an orbital flight.

Endeavour was the final shuttle built, replacing Challenger, which was destroyed on launch in 1986. Endeavour was delivered to NASA in May 1991 from the facility where it was built in Palmdale, north of Los Angeles. It is now waiting for launch on its final mission, scheduled to begin April 29. The shuttle program will end with a flight by the orbiter Atlantis this summer.

The admission-free Science Center is a major draw for schoolchildren — about 360,000 a year, according to the center.

Its $165 million Ecosystems Experience opened a year ago. Plants, animals and do-it-yourself science fill the two-story, 45,000-square-foot exhibit, which guides visitors through 11 environments including an aquarium.

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Hollywood


Kissing frogs bad all around

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES In the world of make-believe, kissing a frog could turn him into a prince. In real life, touching them can kill the creatures and cause serious problems for humans too.

April is National Frog Month, and while most people probably know that touching frogs and toads won't give you warts, frogs can transmit diseases. They can give humans tapeworm cysts and salmonella poisoning, said Jeremy Goodman, director of the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, N.J. Both can cause serious complications if not treated immediately, he said.

Human hands have natural salts and oils that can irritate a frog's skin, so handling the animals with dry hands can cause severe problems for them, even death, said Devin Edmonds of Madison, Wis. Edmonds is the author of "Frogs and Toads," a handbook for pet-owners released in March by TFH Publications, Inc.

But frogs can be good pets for the right type of person. They don't provide the same type of enjoyment and interaction that you get from a dog, cat or even a parakeet, Edmonds said, but if you like aquariums, you will probably like frogs and toads.

"The most a frog will interact with its keeper is possibly eating a cricket from your hand," Edmonds said by email from Madagascar, where he is working on an amphibian conservation project.

"All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads," his book explains.

There are frogs big enough to eat snakes and birds and small enough to hide behind a grain of rice.

"They are a look-but-don't-touch pet. Keeping them in captivity provides a glimpse into the life and behavior of an animal you may otherwise never get to know," he said. Many of the most common species are surprisingly colorful and will rival the average tropical fish in an aquarium, he said.

Some hardy types of frog, like the marine toad and White's tree frog, can tolerate short periods of handling, but it's always good to wet your hands, use a moist fish net or small container, or wear moistened vinyl gloves without powder, Edmonds advises.

Frogs and toads are amphibians that start life as tadpoles. "Their skin is permeable, allowing them to both breathe and drink through it," Edmonds wrote.

Their skin is kept moist by mucous glands. Other glands hold defensive poisons in some species.

"Oriental fire-bellied toads are perhaps one of the best-suited species to captivity," he said, because they are diurnal, active, colorful, hardy and their behavior is so interesting.

"Horned frogs are also a lot of fun to keep and are a great first frog," he said. "They are ambush predators and are essentially structured as giant mouths with eyes that sit on the forest floor waiting for prey to walk by."

There is a bright yellow version that's often called the Pac-Man frog because of its resemblance to the popular video game character.

"I was given one at age 11 and now almost 16 years later he is still alive, eating a worm or two a week and providing an interesting and unusual pet which has required little work to care for over the years," Edmonds said.

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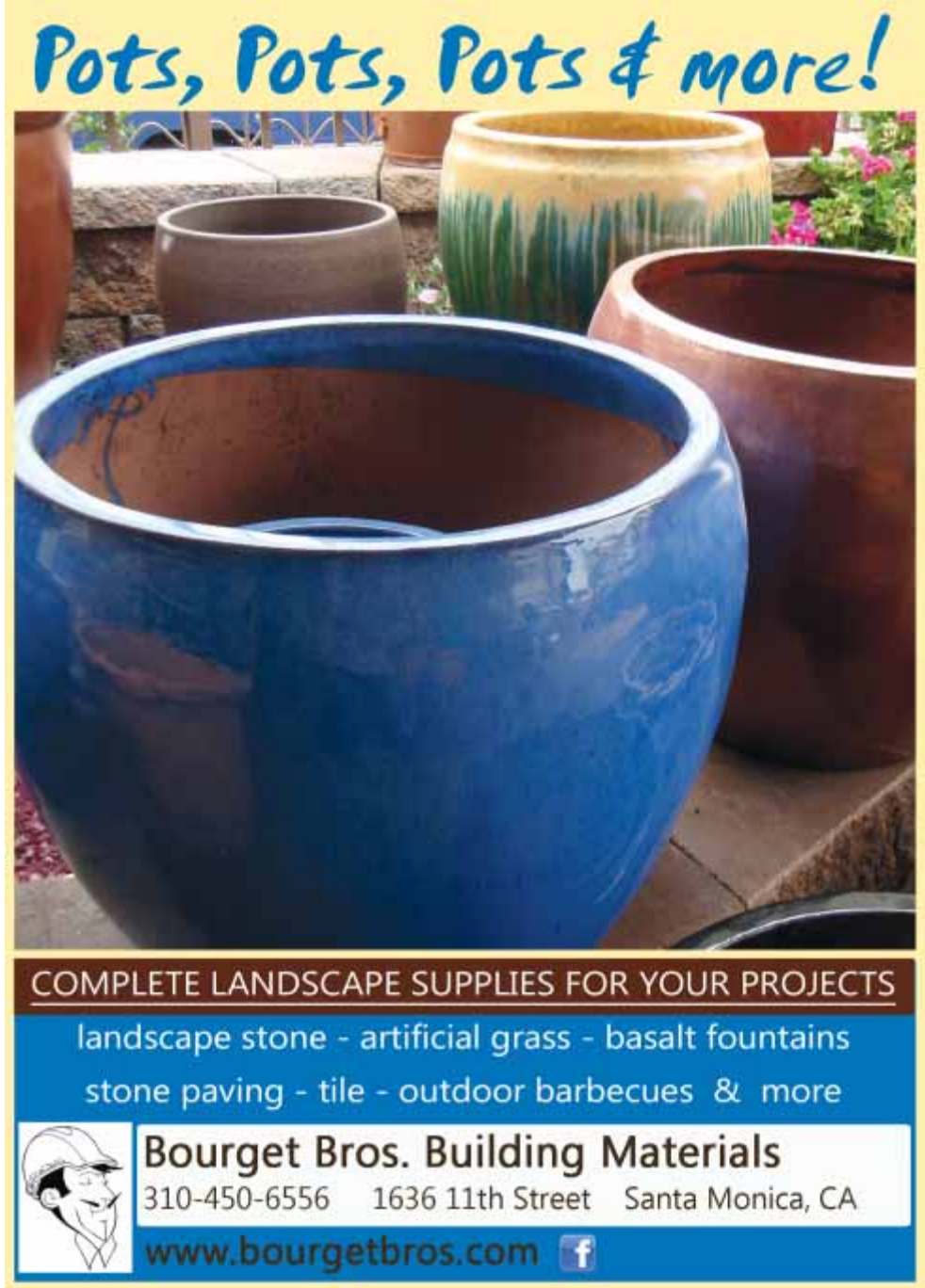
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CABS
FROM PAGE 1

ting hurt."

Under the taxi franchise system, it is illegal for a cab driver or cab company to pay out cookies or enter into any exclusive agreement with a hotel, restaurant or other business in an effort to gain exclusivity, said Don Patterson, City Hall's business and revenue manager. If caught, a driver and the company they work for pay fines (as much as $2,500 for the company per violation and $1,050 from the driver for a third offense) and could lose their right to operate in Santa Monica.

There are no penalties mentioned in the franchise law for those accepting cookies.

"We have received comments and complaints from taxi drivers," Patterson said. "At this point we are investigating those complaints and also exploring other avenues … to regulate this activity."

That includes possibly amending the franchise law to include penalties for businesses caught taking cookies, as is done in other cities, Patterson said.

A taxi franchise coordinator was recently hired by City Hall to be responsible for the day-to-day management of the system, which should help with enforcement, Patterson added.

The franchise system, which dramatically reduced the number of cabs operating in the city, placing a cap of 300, went into effect on March 1. It was intended to cut down on traffic by reducing cabs, help create a uniform fare system and feature taxi companies with well-trained, safe drivers and cabs that were more environmentally-friendly. Another goal was to reduce competition and in exchange help drivers earn a decent living.

Patterson said March was all about introducing people to the new taxi system and helping them adjust. Now, it's time to crack down. He said the Santa Monica Police Department, specifically the Traffic Services Division, enforces the franchise law and is responsible for investigating cookie complaints.

"For the franchise system to be successful, it is important for people to follow the rules," Patterson said.

SMPD Sgt. Jay Trisler confirmed officers are investigating complaints, but that didn't put drivers who spoke with the Daily Press at ease. They said they have seen no enforcement so far and believe City Hall should dedicate more resources to catch those paying and those receiving bribes. Drivers said doormen are not subtle and could easily be caught.

"The city is ready to swoop down on us if they see us giving a bribe but at the same time they are not doing anything about the doormen," said a cab driver who has been working in Santa Monica for two years. He did not want his name published for fear of losing his job.

"We want this franchise system to work and it will if it is run how it was designed," he said. "The hotels should be doing stings of their own and say to their employees that if any of them are caught, they are going to be fired. That would help send a message."

Ash Alkishawi, CEO of Metro Taxi, which has a Santa Monica franchise, said the company has a strict policy against paying cookies.

"We talked to all of our drivers and made it very clear that if we catch any of them giving cookies, they will be fired," he said. "Our drivers are suffering because others are still paying cookies."

The owner of another franchise taxi company who did not want his name revealed said doormen can make a "pretty decent living" off of the cookies and tips received and won't give up that cash without a fight.

"They've gotten used to this income and to all of a sudden see it disappear, they're not going to be happy about it," he said.

Wolfgang Jonas, the general manager of the Fairmont-Miramar Hotel, said he was not aware of any of his employees asking for cookies and said since the franchise system was put into action he has noticed better service provided to his guests by the companies with franchises.

"If drivers are willing to come to us we'll speak with them and are happy to address anything that is wrong," Jonas said. "So far this hasn't come up."

kevinh@smdp.com

BLAST
FROM PAGE 1

When approached by police, he offered his actual name, birthdate and social security number, and he told officers that he had come to Cleveland Heights from California for kidney surgery.

Hirsch is scheduled to appear in court Wednesday, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cleveland said. Authorities did not say whether he had an attorney.

Authorities initially believed the blast was an industrial accident, but they now say the device was deliberately constructed and items found at the scene were linked to Hirsch. The FBI said the confusion came from the device's strange construction — explosives inside hundreds of pounds of concrete and poured into a trashcan.

Investigators believe Hirsch boarded a New York-bound Greyhound bus after the blast. He is believed to have family in New York.

Surveillance cameras captured him getting off the bus in Denver on Friday evening, going to the ticket counter and then boarding another eastbound bus, FBI spokesman Dave Joly in Denver said.

On Monday night, Rabbi Sruly Wolf said another rabbi, who didn't want to be identified because he was apprehensive, called him and said he thought he recognized a visitor to the Agudath Israel graduate study program near a synagogue. The man had asked for a place to stay Sunday night and was put up in a hotel because he didn't provide appropriate identification to allow him to stay at a guest apartment, Wolf said Tuesday.

Wolf advised the rabbi to call police, and he did.

Neighbors near the site of the Santa Monica explosion described Hirsch as a quiet man who sometimes slept by the side of the synagogue. In Ohio, he seemed to go to a familiar locale for help.

"He felt comfortable enough to come into a community that offered him shelter and offered him money because the Orthodox community is very hospitable and takes care of its own," Wolf said.

Jerry Elliot of Cleveland Heights said he saw the suspect taken into custody at a study hall for a Hebrew school.

Elliot said the man believed to be Hirsch was wearing a blue jacket and jeans, unlike most of the people who come to study who dress in suits.

"His clothes were rather unconventional. He looked like he came from the beach," Elliot said. "He just looked like an innocent old soul."

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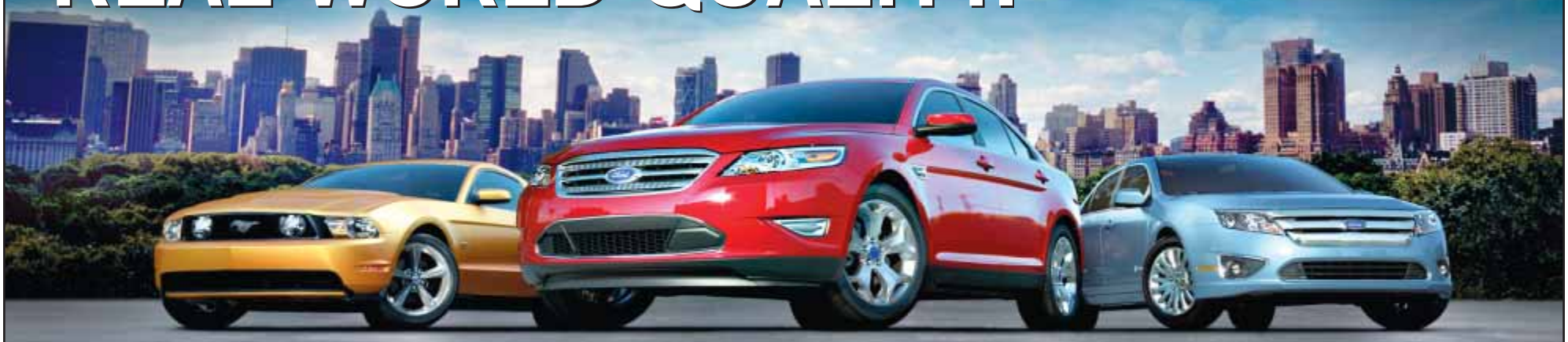
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File photo

WAY BACK: **Saint John's nurse Lori Hammond addresses a rally in support of unionization in 2008.**

NURSES
FROM PAGE 3

the labor board prosecuted the hospital, claiming that two managers had interrogated nurses about a petition presented to Chief Executive Officer Lou Lazatin as well as attempts to organize into a union in 2008.

A federal administrative law judge ruled in favor of the labor board and nurses, saying that Saint John's violated federal labor laws by intimidating nurses.

At the time, the hospital defended itself in a written statement, saying that officials had merely tried to encourage nurses to find less disruptive ways to gather support for the union movement.

Nurses report that other intimidation efforts by the hospital have occurred in recent weeks.

CNA attorney Jane Lawhon filed two complaints against Saint John's on behalf of the nurses last week.

In one instance, a pro-union nurse returned to the hospital to pick up a pair of eyeglasses, and a supervisor allegedly followed her around the building and "aggressively questioned" fellow nurses after she left, Monkawa said.

The hospital also allegedly sent a security guard to watch union organizers who were canvassing nurses on a public sidewalk outside of the hospital.

The hospital's actions are "puzzling," Monkawa said.

"We have asked them to have an organizing agreement, so that the hospital would be neutral and not intervene, to let the nurses decide on their own," Monkawa said. "They have ignored it for two years. We believe that they should be complying with Catholic social teachings."

Catholic tradition, codified in the Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church, which can be found on the Vatican website, is expressly in favor of labor organizing.

"Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life," it states.

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Racial divide persists 150 years after Civil War

BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. Booming cannons, plaintive period music and hushed crowds ushered in the 150th anniversary of America's bloodiest war on Tuesday, a commemoration that continues to underscore a racial divide that had plagued the nation since before the Civil War.

The events marked the 150th anniversary of the Confederate bombardment of Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, an engagement that plunged the nation into four years of war at a cost of more than 600,000 lives.

Several hundred people gathered on Charleston's Battery in the pre-dawn darkness, much as Charleston residents gathered 150 years ago to view the bombardment of April 12, 1861.

About 4 a.m., a single beam of light reached skyward from the stone works of Fort Sumter. About a half hour later, about the time the first shots were fired, a second beam glowed, signifying a nation torn in two.

Nearby, a brass ensemble played a concert entitled "When Jesus Wept" as hundreds listened, some in folding chairs, others standing.

Fifty years ago during the centennial of the Civil War, there was a celebratory mood. But on Tuesday, the 150th anniversary events were muted. Even the applause seemed subdued.

Of about 1,200 people attending two main commemorative events, only a handful were black. One man whose Confederate ancestor is credited with firing the first shot of the war acknowledged his family legacy as a "mixed blessing."

"I think it signifies the mood of the nation. I think we're much more sensitive to other people and the diversity in this country," said Linda Marshall, a 58-year-old registered nurse from Charleston as she waited for the second beam of light as dawn creeped up.

A little over two hours later, as a red sun rose on James Island across the harbor, Confederate re-enactors fired an authentic 1847 seacoast mortar, signaling about 30 other cannons ringing the harbor.

Those cannons quickly thumped and smoke rose in a re-enactment of the Sumter bombardment.

In a dispatch to The Associated Press in 1861, an unnamed correspondent observed the fort's parapets crumbling under the pounding of artillery. He wrote of gun emplacements being "shot away" and shells falling "thick and fast."

"The ball has opened. War is inaugurated ... Fort Sumter has returned the fire and brisk cannonading has been kept up," the dispatch said.

Sumter fell after a 34-hour bombardment.

One of those on hand on James Island was John Hugh Farley of Roswell, Ga. Many historians credit Farley's ancestor, Lt. Henry Farley, as firing the first shot at Sumter.

"It's a real big honor. We are very proud of our family," said Farley, who had two other ancestors fight for the South. "It certainly is a mixed blessing because it's bringing back a memory from way back but it also helps us to look at history and learn from history."

Later in the morning, Danny Lucas, 53 and black, was walking out after visiting Charleston's Old Slave Mart Museum, where the history of Charleston's role as an urban slave trading center is recounted.

"I have no problem with the Civil War being honored as long as it is inclusive," said Lucas, a Ridgeland, S.C. resident. "I don't think whites should be so defensive and I don't think blacks should feel they are unwelcome to these kinds of things. I think it will fade over time."

Lucas does think last December's secession ball in Charleston, during which South Carolina's leaving the Union was commemorated, may have soured some blacks on the 150th events.

"The secession ball discouraged them because in their minds, they saw the ball as a celebration," he said. With other events they may decide "I'm not going to go because there will be a whole lot of rebel yelling and carrying on."

"In this moment of remembrance, let us all do the tough truth telling necessary for our nation to finally heal from the sins of slavery and fratricide," said Benjamin Todd Jealous, the president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a statement released by the civil rights group.

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St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASEBALL				
Apr 13	V	Bishop Amat	Marine Park	3pm
Apr 18	JV	Bishop Amat	Bishop Amat	3:15pm
Apr 18	V	Brentwood	Brentwood	4pm
BOYS GOLF				
Apr 16	V	St. Paul	St. Paul	3pm
TRACK				
Apr 16	V	Camino League Prelims	TBA	9am
Apr 19	V	Camino League Prelims	TBA	4pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Apr 14	JV/V	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	5/6:30pm
Apr 18	JV/V	CSHM	SMCHS	5/6:30pm
GIRLS SOFTBALL				
Apr 14	JV/V	Mary Star	Memorial	3/3pm
Apr 18	V	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	3:15pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASEBALL				
Apr 14	JV/V	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	3/3:15pm
Apr 16	V	Redondo Tournament	Harvard Westlake	11am
GIRLS SOFTBALL				
Apr 13	JV/V	Hawthorne		4/2:30pm
Apr 14	JV/V	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	3:15pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Apr 16	JV	JV North Tournament	(scrimmage)	TBA
BOYS GOLF				
Apr 13	All	Mira Costa	Chesterwashington	2:30pm
BOYS TENNIS				
Apr 14	V	Inglewood		3:00pm

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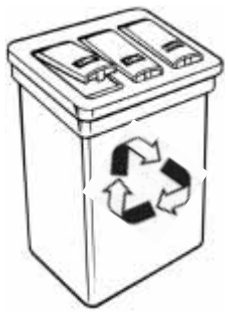
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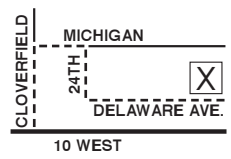
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Fracking shale for gas has environmental consequences

DAVID B. CARUSO & MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

Hydraulic fracturing is a drilling process that blasts large amounts of water deep into the earth to fracture dense shale and allow natural gas to escape.

The water — from a few hundred thousand to several million gallons — is mixed with sand and chemicals — some of them toxic or potentially carcinogenic. Some of that fracking liquid then gushes back to the surface, often with natural underground brine, in a brew that is intensely salty and often contains barium, strontium and sometimes radium from the earth.

In Texas and other states, the liquids are disposed of in deep injection wells; Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that routinely allows fracking wastewater to be partially treated and dumped into rivers and streams from which communities get their drinking water.

Researchers have been examining whether the discharges might be dangerous to humans or wildlife.

Industry officials, some scientists and Pennsylvania officials insist the practice is safe, if controlled properly, because the relatively small amounts of drilling wastewater discharged are diluted by the state's rivers.

They also argue that many of the most common pollutants in the waste aren't very dangerous, even when ingested, and that people would need to drink large amounts over a very long period to become ill.

Several studies are under way.

At least 269 million gallons of wastewater went to treatment plants in Pennsylvania for river discharge in the 18 months ending Dec. 31, according to an Associated Press review of reports filed with the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Millions more gallons of wastewater went unaccounted for because of weaknesses in the state's tracking system.

DEP records also show some public water utilities downstream from plants treating wastewater have struggled with unacceptable levels of trihalomethanes, carcinogens sometimes linked to drilling waste.

Most of Pennsylvania's largest drillers say their river discharges are safely diluted but are taking steps nonetheless to reuse the waste liquids and end the partial treatment and river discharges. Despite those recycling efforts, treatment plants that discharge into rivers were still accepting a large volume of drilling wastewater late last year.

The Environmental Protection Agency, citing the potential danger to human health and aquatic life, asked last month that Pennsylvania regulators begin water sampling for radium and other contaminants. The agency plans a major national study looking at how fracking in the Marcellus, Barnett and other shale regions may already have affected drinking water — and at potential impacts.

Pennsylvania announced last week that it will expand the scope of water tests to screen for radioactive pollutants and other contaminants, but state officials insisted they aren't doing it because federal regulators prodded them.

Stocks fall after Japan raises crisis level

MATTHEW CRAFT & STAN CHOE
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 100 points Tuesday after Japan raised the severity of its nuclear crisis and Alcoa Inc. reported disappointing sales. A drop in oil prices pulled down energy stocks.

Markets also fell in Asia and Europe after Japan said the crisis at its crippled nuclear plant was as serious as the 1986 Chernobyl accident, though much less radiation has leaked.

The plant in northern Japan was damaged in the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disaster.

"It means slower growing coming out of Japan in the short term, and that's going to weigh on global growth," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners Inc.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 117.53 points, or 0.9 percent, to close at 12,263.58. That's the largest drop since March 16, when the Dow lost 242 points on fears of a nuclear meltdown in Japan.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 10.30, or 0.8 percent, to 1,314.16. The Nasdaq composite index fell 26.72, or 1 percent, to 2,744.79.

The situation in Japan and an unexpected drop in U.S. exports sent bond prices sharply higher and their yields lower. The yield on the 10-year note fell to 3.49 percent from 3.58 percent late Monday.

The Commerce Department said in its monthly trade report that exports fell 1.4 percent in February, more than economists had expected and a worrisome sign for U.S. economic growth. Exports had climbed 2.6 percent in January to an all-time high.

Alcoa dropped 6 percent to $16.70 after the aluminum maker's first-quarter revenues fell short of expectations. Alcoa, one of the 30 companies that make up the Dow average, is the first large company to report quarterly earnings.

Other big companies reporting results this week include JPMorgan Chase & Co., Google Inc. and Bank of America Corp.

The energy industry lost the most of the 10 that make up the S&P 500 index. Oil prices slid 3 percent to settle at $106.25 per barrel, the lowest price this month.

Goldman Sachs, which had expected higher oil prices, surprised oil traders with a report early Tuesday saying it now expects a "substantial pullback." Chevron Corp. lost 3 percent and Exxon Mobil Corp. 2 percent.

Slot machine makers dropped after WMS Industries Inc. warned that its latest earnings will fall short of expectations. WMS sank 17 percent. International Game Technology dropped 3 percent.

Three shares fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume was 4.4 billion shares.

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Diaper debate rages on

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK Disposables, cloth. Cloth, disposables. Fifty years after Procter & Gamble introduced affordable throwaway diapers, dubbing them Pampers, the battle over baby's bottom rages on.

The brand brought on a revolution in baby care, obliterating safety pins, soaking pails and diaper delivery trucks. But reusables have been slowly inching back into the mainstream, with the predictable faceoff among parents choosing one or the other — though some families use both.

In 1958, with other disposables already out, P&G's version was a "fortunate failure" during a summer test run in Dallas, according to a company history. Consisting of pads and plastic pants, it made babies uncomfortable in the heat.

The company tweaked the invention into a one-piece and went calling on parents again in 1961. They played in Peoria, Ill., one of the markets chosen, but customers said the cost of 10 cents each was too high. More tweaks followed and the price went down to 6 cents. By 1979, Pampers was a billion-dollar brand.

The disposable diaper industry, now worth more than $25 billion, crushed the cloth market. But wait. After the save-the-planet zeitgeist of two decades ago failed to produce a blockbuster comeback, reusables have become de rigueur in certain circles, and to some parents who lack money for disposables.

The new cloth diapers are hardly a threat to the big guys in throwaways, but in crunchy enclaves like Portland, Ore., and Northampton, Mass., it's a rare parent worth his yoga mat who would dare consider disposables, at least out loud.

Reusables can be had in big box stores and discount houses. Stashes are sometimes passed on to friends. They're still roughly 5 percent or less of the diaper market, but it was the other way around in 1956 when disposables accounted for about 1 percent. That's when P&G chemical engineer Vic Mills went in search of a better alternative to cloth for his newborn grandchild.

Disposables have been around since at least 1935, primarily as a niche item for trips away from home, but they never broke through to overtake cloth until Pampers hit, tapping into the postwar fervor for all things new, convenient and timesaving — especially among women setting up house in suburbia.

"Empowerment of women was a big piece of what was behind that," said Jodi Allen, general manager for Pampers. "Offering conveniences, offering more options, was clearly part of the culture at that time."

Today, saving the environment — and keeping anything that isn't "green!" away from baby — is driving interest in reusables. The green question is especially vexing as both sides bandy scientific studies involving so many variables that the Natural Resources Defense Council considers the issue a wash when it comes to disposables in a landfill versus reusables in the laundry.

"We don't recommend one over another," said Allen Hershkowitz, a senior scientist at the environmental action group and director of its solid waste project.

"A compelling argument for getting rid of disposable diapers absolutely does not exist. It's a personal choice, but it really can't be made on environmental grounds. There are costs both ways," he said.

Cloth advocates are scrappy. They have a public education arm, the Real Diaper Association, which is not to be confused with a trade group, the Real Diaper Industry Association.

Reusable diapers come in cotton, hemp, bamboo, wool and less organic forms. The flat cloths of old have been reinvented in prefolded, fitted, pocketed and all in one "systems" that offer breathability, expandability, leak control, Velcro, snaps and a three-armed fastener called a Snappi. There's also a cuteness factor in brightly decorated covers, many from mom-grown businesses fueled by Internet interest.

"Even if there really are no indications that future generations of humans will be able to survive our mistakes, I can wash load after load of dirty diapers with some trite optimism," said cloth-user Thomas Chang, the stay-at-home dad to year-old Olive in Northampton.

Shhhh: He and his wife use disposables at night.

In Portland, 20-month-old Alexander's mom, Kris Vockler, went for disposables all day long after she worked out a metric carefully weighing the pros and cons — the big pro being she travels a lot and decided they were hassle-free when her son was along for the ride. He's mostly potty-trained now but Vockler's memories are fresh.

"We live outside Portland, where, if you know the place, picking disposables and saying so would give us funny looks," she said.

There are a lot of "what abouts" in the cloth versus disposable debate. There's the cotton, pulp, petrol and industrial agricultural complexes to contend with on both sides. And what about the landfills, a subject that comes up a lot.

Disposable diapers, according to Hershkowitz, comprise about 1.5 percent of all municipal waste generated in the United States, and municipal waste makes up about 2 percent of all waste from all sources. As someone who cares, he's been looking for answers to the diaper dilemma for decades, "and there's just no clear position to take. I wish it was that easy, but it's not."

P&G's Allen, a believer in "giving babies the best, most comfortable experience," is no cloth-basher. "I certainly don't want to downplay the cloth diapering options and the fact that parents are looking for options that are also good for the environment," she said.

In his enlightened western Massachusetts town, Chang notes that few day care centers support cloth, though that's changing.

Most states allow child care providers to decide for themselves whether to accept reusable diapers. Generally, day care centers are not terribly receptive, said Heather McNamara, mom of two in San Diego, Calif., and executive director of the Real Diaper Association.

The group maintains a searchable database of cloth-friendly day cares and massive amounts of other information at Realdiaperindustry.org. McNamara sees a steady stream of cloth converts there.

"There's a large silent population of cloth diaper users," she said. "People come to us almost daily and say I can't believe I didn't know about this before."

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SURF REPORT

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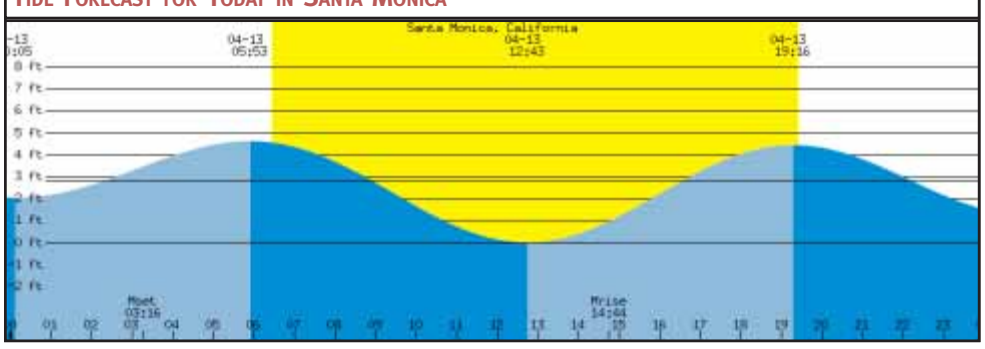
Swell Forecast

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

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 6, 2011**

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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

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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'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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NBA

Kings finale may be last game in Sacramento

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO Some will cry. Others will protest. There will be signs of support and banners expressing anger. And in the end, no matter the score, everyone will say goodbye.

Maybe for the last time.

The deadline so many fans here have dreaded finally arrives tonight night when the Kings host the rival Los Angeles Lakers in what might be the final game in Sacramento. With the Kings mulling a move to Anaheim, "Fan Appreciation Night" suddenly feels like farewell.

"It's going to be a basketball funeral," said Robert Crashner, a Kings season-ticket holder for almost a decade. "Unless a miracle happens, I guess it's going to be over."

The outlook in California's capital city certainly seems gloomy.

Kings fans, most already talking about their team in the past tense, are still organizing for what will surely be an exhausting regular-season finale. Social-networking efforts have sprouted up and a sellout crowd is expected, with everything from a sit-in afterward to a boycott beforehand among the possibilities planned.

Signs reading "Save Our Kings" and billboards across town plastered "It's Not Over" have been the widespread themes thus far, and there will surely be countless posters — maybe even a few cowbells — at the finale.

For most, the Lakers game offers a chance to vent any feelings — frustration, anger, joy, whatever — one last time.

"It's a Hail Mary pass, it's the bottom of the ninth, it's the 15th round, whatever sports analogy you want to use," said Carmichael Dave, a Sacramento sports-talk host who helped form the group "Here We Build," a grass roots initiative aimed at raising funds for a new arena.

"We're going down with a fight."

Hours after the final buzzer sounds, the NBA Board of Governors will begin meeting a continent away in New York to start deciding Sacramento's basketball fate.

Kings owners Joe and Gavin Maloof, who are not expected to attend the season finale, are scheduled to make a pitch to fellow owners to move the franchise to Anaheim next season, and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson — a former NBA All-Star — also will attend the meeting to plead the city's case to keep the franchise.

The Maloofs have until Monday to officially file for permission to relocate, and a vote would likely come within weeks of that request. All that's required is approval by a simple majority of the owners, and no NBA team has ever been denied permission to move in the 27 years under Commissioner David Stern.

The only thing guaranteed for Sacramento is 48 more minutes of professional basketball.

"The not knowing part — it stinks," Kings forward Donte Greene said. "I don't know what I'm going to do if we leave. I know the fans are going to be hurt, and I feel for them."

Only a few years ago this scenario wouldn't have seemed possible.

Sacramento was a thriving NBA franchise that produced sellout streaks of 497 and 354 straight games. The building formerly known as Arco Arena provided one of the most notorious home-court advantages in the league, a place where fans clanked cowbells so loud opposing coaches and players pleaded to have the noisemakers banned.

The Kings won an NBA-best 61 games in the 2001-02 season behind Chris Webber and Vlade Divac, losing to the eventual champion Lakers in the Western Conference finals at home in a decisive Game 7.

"This was a special city when I was here," said Rick Adelman, the coach of those memorable Kings teams. "The fans were incredible. It would be sad to see them leave. It is hard for me to believe there won't be a team in Sacramento."

Sacramento, with budget deficits and heavy job losses during the economic downturn, has turned down initiatives for years to contribute public dollars to replace or upgrade the aging arena. The Kings have steadily declined, and so has fan interest.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #3036 – PROVIDE REPAIR SERVICES TO TRANSIT & FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS
BID #3044 – PROVIDE LNG TANK REFURBISHMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS

Submission deadline for bids listed above is April 26, 2011 at 3:00PM Pacific Time.

BID #3047 - SUPPLY AND DELIVER BIODIESEL FUEL AS REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Submission deadline for the bid listed above is April 27, 2011 at 3:00PM Pacific Time.

Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2201, ext. 5898, or by e-mailing your request to **thomas.poon@smgov.net**. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at **http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/**

MOVIE TIMES

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

The Gambler (R) 1hr 51min
7:30pm

Call theater for information.

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

Rango (PG) 1hr 47min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:35pm, 9:15pm

Paul (R) 1hr 40min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:10pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Insidious (PG-13) 1hr 42min
2:05pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

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

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

Win Win (R) 1hr 46min
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

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
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

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

Lincoln Lawyer (R) 1hr 59min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:25pm, 10:15pm

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

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

Exercise tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Follow your intuition. Nothing too bad can happen, as you are wearing a cosmic lucky rabbit's foot wherever you go. You also will be gaining a lot of insight through your acute observations. Not everything is happening as you would like it to. Tonight: Be ready to say that you need to cancel plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Slow down and take another look, even if you're revving to go. One friend who is close to you acts quite shocked and stunned. Others are more supportive. You know what to do and where you are going. Tonight: Be willing to change your plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You might think that another person is pushing the line. There is more to the story that's forthcoming. Your flexibility will be tested. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to others, especially as no matter what you do, it could go wrong. Don't be responsible for what starts today. Detach and understand what is happening on a deeper level. You might need those insights. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Stay focused on and honor your priorities. You will be a lot happier that way. Examine alternatives presented by key people. Some of the issues you deal with could involve finances and personal matters. Keep your cool. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Allow problems to be the key to new perspectives. Gain an understanding of what really might be going on behind the scenes. Your caring evolves to a new level, though you feel this bond could be risky. Use care, please. Tonight: You might be more upbeat than many.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Stay sensitive to a developing domestic or personal situation. Just because you might have hit an impasse doesn't mean you will be stuck for long. People revise their thinking when they see they are not achieving the desired results. Tonight: Head home. Smile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ What might feel like a stalemate or uncontrollable is not. You simply are understanding the limits of your own power. By accepting the fact that you can only control yourself, you open an unforeseen door. Stay open. Tonight: Chatting up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Use wisdom with your finances. If you don't, what might be only a bump in the road could evolve into a major hill. You don't want that, do you? Build security rather than destroy it. A family member acts most unpredictably. Tonight: Fun doesn't necessarily have to cost.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ The spotlight is on you. A Solar Eclipse in your sign signals strong changes ahead. Don't consider change to be anything but beneficial. Sometimes we need to release certain issues in order to move forward. If you are drained, stop and do what is appropriate. Tonight: Be unavailable to a boss ... just for now!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Sometimes you need to pull away from everyone. Everyone, especially you, needs private time. You have such a gang of friends and loved ones that sometimes you get exhausted. Think about ways to better conserve your energy. Tonight: Continue the vanishing act.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be disappointed with what is going on, and frustrated as well. The immediate set of events is not the final story. You can expect a lot more to happen in the next few moments. Don't remain vested in the outcome. Tonight: Having fun.

Happy birthday

This year, when you have hit smooth sailing, other events force you to restructure another segment of your life. In some ways, your perspective is myopic, and you cannot see the big picture or the ramifications. Perhaps one of the reasons this "blindness" exists is to help you get into the process. If you are single, your charisma sings to many. You decide who will put words to your tune. If you are attached, the two of you might go through some changes. You could be unusually me-oriented. CAPRICORN could be difficult at best.

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



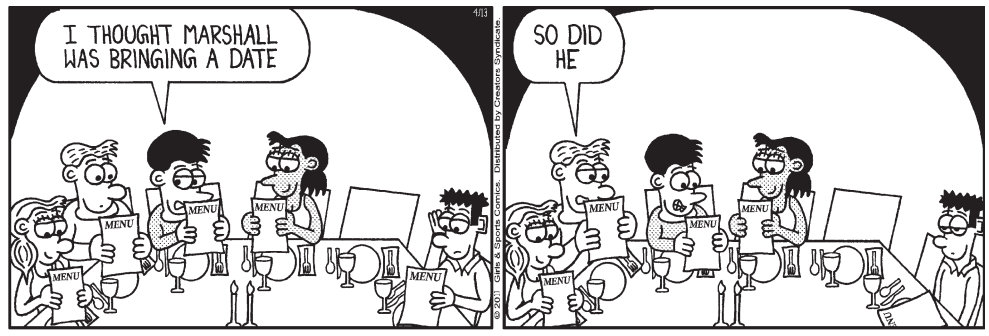
MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



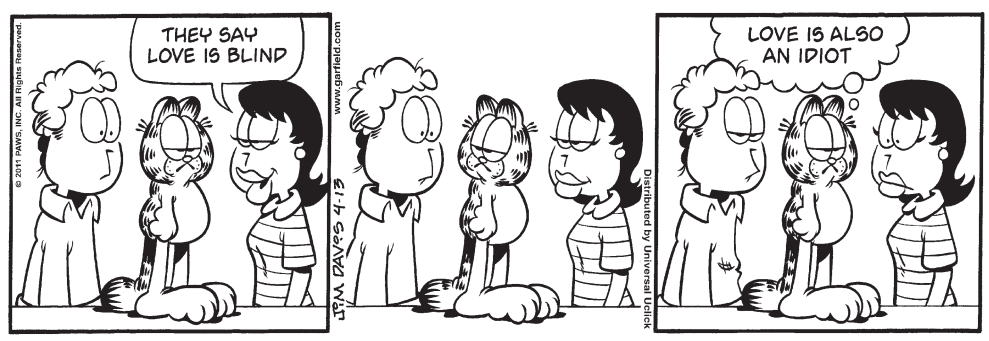
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



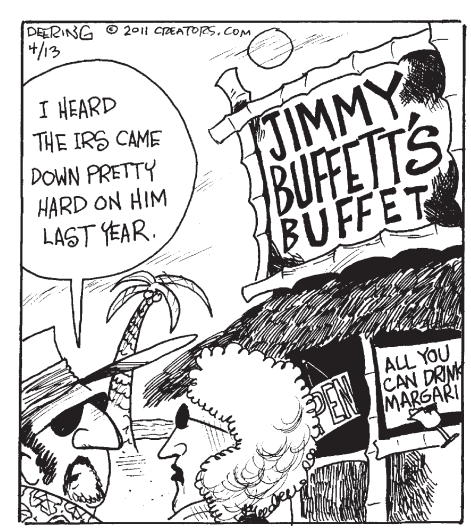
Garfield

By Jim Davis



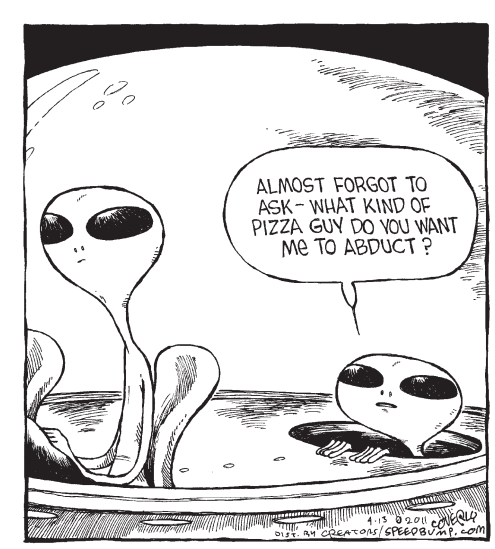
Strange Brew

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 ★★★

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

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Like a cliff
6 Rorschach test item
10 Singer Chrissie
11 Fancy flapjack
12 Surprise win
13 Safe spot
14 Ala. neighbor
15 Moolah
16 Olympics jersey letters
17 Silent
18 Galloped
19 Comes to an end
22 Office helper
23 Soaks up
26 Louisiana counties
29 Pester
32 Soup buy
33 Uncooked
34 Freeway entrance
36 Diamond corner
37 One of the strings
38 Count of music
39 Colorado resort
40 Put in office
41 Spots
42 Office fixtures

DOWN

1 "Can it!"
2 Like magazine copy
3 Trap
4 First place
5 Parrot or puppy
6 Fiber source
7 Jimmy, e.g.
8 Sung story
9 Mortise's mate
11 Interjects
15 "Well, that's obvious!"
17 1980s arcade game
20 Little devil
21 Mayday call
24 Puts into words
25 Queasy on board
27 Kanye's music
28 Candy
29 Exploding stars
30 Ouzo flavor
31 Feel blindly
35 Pub choices
36 Hay bundle
38 Garden plot

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

Yesterday's answer

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

4/11/11 answer

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

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

1-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 40 45 50 56
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $58M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 15 25 30 42 46
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 10 11 13 22 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 7 9
EVENING: 0 0 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:41.90

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Until recently, many pregnant women at risk of delivering prematurely could be aided by an obstetrician-recommended workup of a chemical compound, at a cost of about $10 to $20 a dose. However, in February, the Food and Drug Administration approved a specific commercial version, K-V Pharmaceutical's Makena, which K-V began pricing at $1,500 a dose (citing its need to recoup "research" costs). K-V also began threatening dispensers of the workup compound, since FDA had anointed Makena with "market exclusivity." (Update: FDA changed its mind in March and announced that providers of the workup compound could continue to offer it.)

■ (1) The manager of the Channel Islands Co-operative store in the British territory of Jersey acknowledged to BBC News in November that a shopper's complaint was justified and that refunds would be made. The customer believed she had been overcharged by about five pounds (about $8) because, while weighing fruits and vegetables, the clerk had been leaning over so that her breasts accidentally increased pressure on the scale. (2) Britain's Border Agency announced the firing of an immigration officer in January. The man had apparently turned sour on his marriage, and while his wife was on holiday with her family in Pakistan, he quietly added her name to the terrorist list of people not allowed into the country.

WORD UP!

oppugn \ uh-PYOON \ , verb;
1. To assail by criticism, argument, or action.
2. To call in question; dispute.

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CrossMath + × − ÷

• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.

• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.

• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.

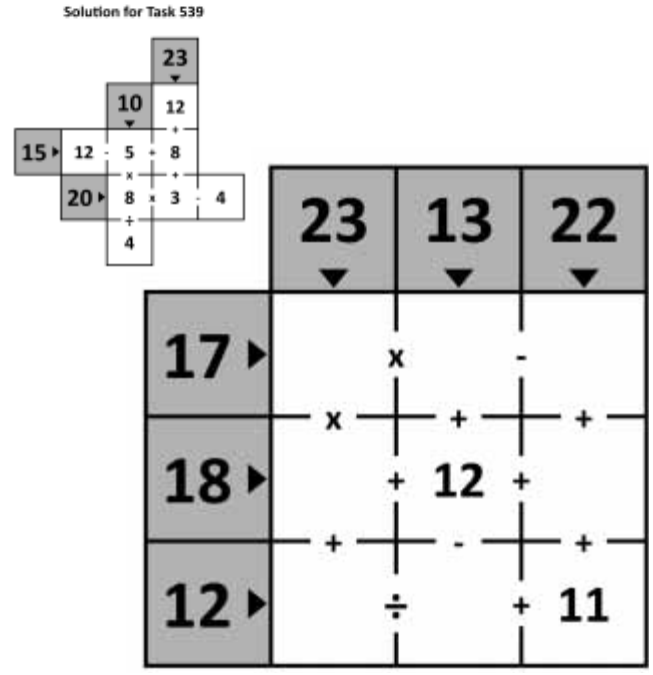
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 3, 5, 8, 8, 9, 10

Solution for Task 539



Santa Monica Daily Press

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20110345332 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/07/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH RESALE. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: DANELLE SHERIDAN 10601 WILSHIRE BLVD, STE 1601 LOS ANGELES, CA 90024. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:DANELLE SHERIDAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/07/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/06/2011, 04/13/2011, 04/20/2011, 04/27/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20110402647 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/16/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CHAIN REACTION AGENCY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: CHELSEY HUFFMAN 1800 EL CERRITO PL #18 LOS ANGELES, CA 90068. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:CHELSEY HUFFMAN; OWNER . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/16/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/13/2011, 04/20/2011, 04/27/2011, 05/04/2011.

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From ALL agents in ALL companies
Listed for Sale As of Mid - April 2011

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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,717,500	$799,000
South of Wilshire	=	$737,000	$499,000
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