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Volume 11 Issue 156

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

REPUBLICANS, PORN STARS ON SAME PAGE?
SEE PAGE 5

THE I WANT MY MOMMY ISSUE

Rent Control changes game for landlords

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Tenants could see their rents increase by 1.54 percent, or $26 a month, under a new formula approved by the Rent Control Board Thursday that landlords are calling "black magic."

The new formula effectively lowers the annual increase by basing it on a higher average rent than in the past, which Rent Control officials say better reflects how much renters are paying as well as how much landlord's are making in profit.

Landlords, however, believe the pro-

SEE RENT PAGE 8

Parcel tax for public schools to increase by 2.1%

Cost of issuing more bonds currently unclear

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Everyone knows that a good education costs, and that expense is going to go up in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District next year.

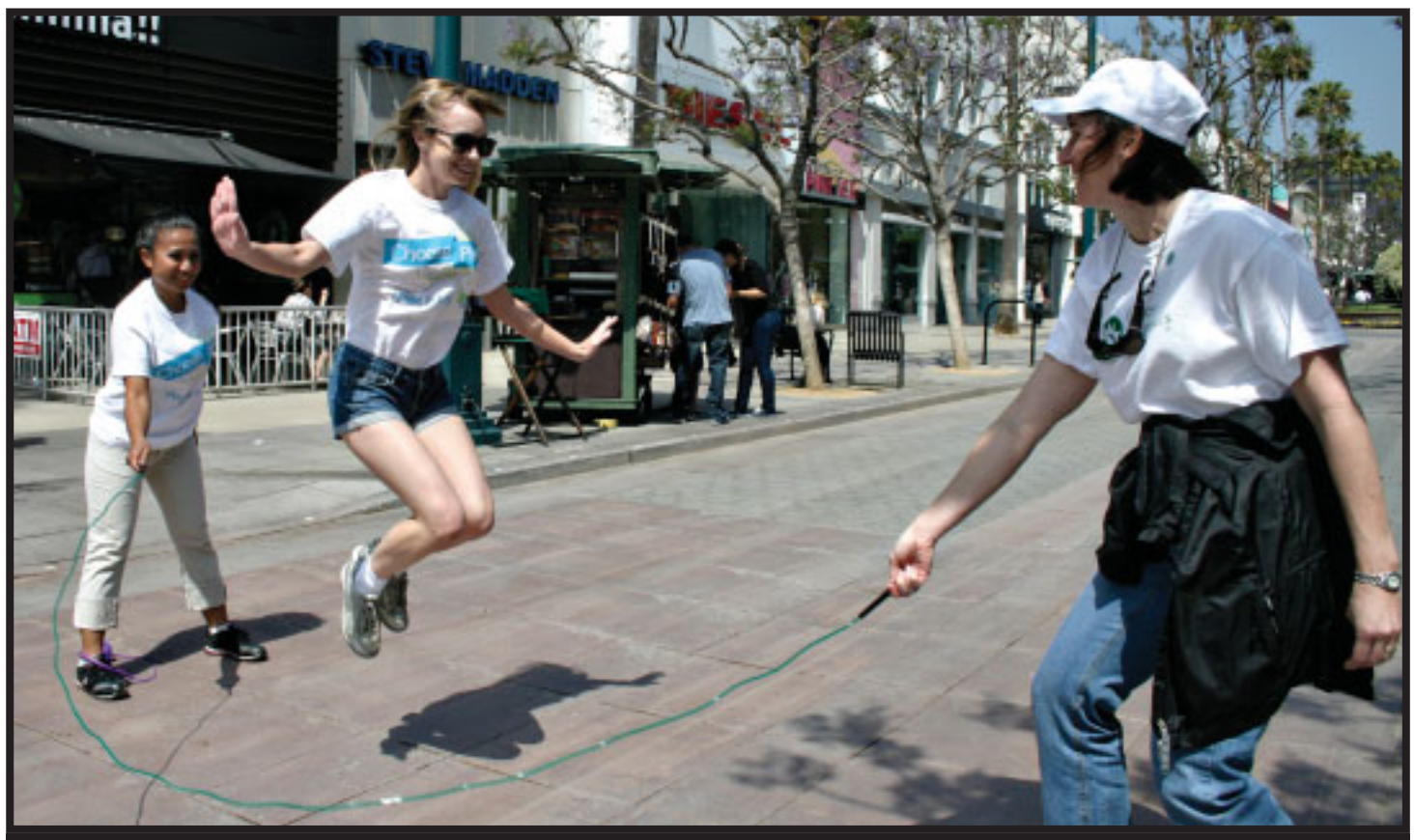
How much, however, is something of a mystery.

Locked in are the inflation-based increases on the Measure R parcel tax passed by voters in 2008, which will likely be set at $366.45 after the Board of Education has an official public hearing on the matter in the coming weeks.

That's up 2.1 percent from the current $358.91 per parcel that was established in February 2010.

Slightly more fluid are the bonds, which district voters dutifully encumbered their tax rolls with in 2006 in the form of Measure BB, a $268 million measure that has slowly but surely begun to make significant changes in

SEE TAX PAGE 9



HOP ON BOARD

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Choose You campaign jump rope on the Third Street Promenade on Friday. The goal of the campaign is to encourage women to exercise for at least 150 minutes each week to help reduce cancer risks. For more information, visit www.chooseyou.com

New developments in death of Malibu woman

BY KNOWLES ADKISSON
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU Authorities have confirmed that the son of Pepperdine University president Andrew K. Benton was the last known person to see 25-year-old graphic designer Katie Wilkins alive.

Wilkins' body was discovered by her brother in the garage of her parents' home in east Malibu April 28, and her car was missing.

Lt. Tim O'Quinn of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau said Wednesday that the last person known to have seen Wilkins alive was 27-year-old Christopher Benton.

The case has been ruled as non-suspicious and toxicology results are currently pending at the L.A. County Office of Coroner's Office to determine cause of death. O'Quinn said the cause of death was "probably an [drug] overdose."

Benton has retained an attorney and has not spoken to authorities, O'Quinn said. Since Wilkins' death has been ruled non-suspicious, Benton is not currently considered a suspect.

Rob Wilkins, the father of Katie Wilkins, told The Malibu Times last week he had unsuccessfully tried to contact Benton.

Pepperdine University issued the following statement Wednesday afternoon in an e-mail from spokesman Jerry Derloshon:

"The university regards this as a personal matter. The event occurred off campus and is unrelated to the university. Law enforcement's investigation is still ongoing. The facts in this terribly sad case will develop over time, but the result will be the same: a young woman lost her life, and her family lost a daughter and a sister. It is tragic for all involved."

Security cameras showed Wilkins picking up Benton at the McDonald's restaurant on Pacific Coast Highway at 8:33 p.m. on the night of Fri., April 27, O'Quinn said. The pair had exchanged text messages earlier that evening and Benton left a voicemail on Wilkins' phone explaining that he did not have a car and needed a ride. The two had apparently been friends in the past but had lost touch before reconnecting about a week prior to Wilkins' death.

"[T]here may have been some narcotics activity between them in the past, from what I'm being told," O'Quinn said. He had been told in the course of his investigation that Wilkins had had substance abuse issues in the past, but that she "had been doing pretty well for the last year."

Other media outlets have reported that Wilkins was staying at her parents home at 23400 Moon Shadow Dr. for the weekend

SEE DEATH PAGE 3


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Edible gardens
Multipurpose Room, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Public Library and the Santa Monica Office of Sustainability and the Environment will host an edible landscaping class to teach students how to incorporate edible plants into their gardens. As part of the monthly Green Garden Academy school of sustainable gardening, this class will teach techniques for best growing results and planting tips for maximizing yields. Classes are free and taught by Russell Ackerman, an ecological landscape designer. For more information, call (310) 458-8972.

Film renaissance
SMC Airport Arts Campus, Room 170
2800 Airport Ave., 2 p.m.
"The Renaissance of Mata Ortiz," an award-winning film about how an American adventurer and a Mexican artist transformed a desert village into a home for world-class art, will be screened at SMC. Director Scott Petersen will hold a Q&A after the showing. Admission is free.

Strumming the guitar
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Classical guitarist Richard Dawson will perform works from his debut album at the "Make Every Day a Masterpiece" classical guitar concert. Some of these works originate from well-known composers like Johann Sebastian Bach, Francisco Tárrega and Isaac Albéniz. Program is free and all ages are welcome. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Political art
The Studio Gallery
1612 Ocean Park Blvd., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Local artist George Small reviews the state of the U.S. economy and works through his own opinions in this art show, which runs until May 19. Small has been part of the Santa Monica/Venice art scene for over 40 years. For more information, visit www.slamjammedia.com/ecards/georgesmall.

Sunday, May 13, 2012

Happy Mother's Day!

On the water
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 9 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.
Teens and adults are invited to join a new stand-up paddleboarding class on Sundays. Drop-ins are welcome, and full session registration is also available. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Little red
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 4th St., 12:30 p.m.
Moms and grandmas receive free admission this day only to the Rudie-DeCarlo musical comedy version of "Little Red Riding Hood." This family-friendly adaptation features playful costumes, lilting musical numbers and heartfelt romances that develop on the way to Grandmama's house. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2.

Aqualillies
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 4:15 p.m. — 6:15 p.m.
Jump in the pool for a mother-daughter water ballet class on Mother's Day. Over the course of a single two-hour class, participants will learn various synchronized swimming moves. Cost is $35 per person. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Ticket to ride
Pacific Park
Santa Monica Pier, 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Mothers can ride the world famous Ferris wheel for free on Mother's Day. To enjoy the free ride, a mother simply needs to go to the Pacific Wheel entrance and notify the attraction's operator and Pacific Park will provide a complimentary ride for the guest.

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



CORRECTION:

Incorrect information appeared in the May 11 story "Religious groups present proposal to preserve nativity scene displays." Displays may include signs, but they will not count toward the amount of ground area that the display is required to cover.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Bike It! Walk It!

Students in the Santa Monica- Malibu Unified School District will be getting to school a little differently this month.

May marks the school district's Bike It! Walk It! days, during which students are encouraged to come to school via bicycles, scooters, skateboards or sneakers instead of relying on cars. Other forms of transportation, like carpooling and riding the bus, are also encouraged.

Roosevelt Elementary will start the event on May 8, closely followed by Lincoln Middle School and John Muir Elementary/Santa Monica Alternative School House on May 9. The rest of the schools in the district will begin participation May 11.

In addition to the environmental and health impact, the school district also supports this project because of the effect on traffic congestion near schools, according to a statement from SMMUSD.

The first Bike It! Day was held at Samohi four years ago in an attempt to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

– SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

CITYWIDE

Sign up for summer

Enrollment is now open for the 2012 Santa Monica City Camps.

The 28 summer sessions run from June 18 to Aug. 15. Camps are geared toward children ages 2 -14 and are focused around a variety of topics, including rock bands, engineering and math and water adventure clinics. Both full and half day camps will be offered, and financial assistance may be available for those who qualify.

Recent studies have shown that children who attend day or resident summer camps for at least a week show significant positive changes in areas like self-esteem and social skills, according to a statement from City Hall.

"Each summer, Santa Monica's summer camps open up new doors for our youth, helping them build the foundation for bright futures," said Julie Rusk, Human Services Division manager.

–SM

CITY HALL

Keeping culture intact

The arts and culture are now a critical component of City Hall's Sustainable City Plan, a road map adopted in 1994 to measure Santa Monica's progress toward creating a community that meets its current environmental, economic and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

Despite the creative sector employing roughly 43 percent of Santa Monica's residents, the arts and cultural organizations were only briefly mentioned in the Sustainable City Plan. They are now the plan's ninth goal area, which comprise the core of the community vision and represent what Santa Monica must achieve in order to become a sustainable city.

"Adding an arts and culture goal area to the Sustainable City Plan will help us document Santa Monica's ongoing cultural vitality and provide valuable information for policy makers," said Jessica Cusick, City Hall's Cultural Affairs manager.

The new goal area was added Tuesday by the City Council in recognition of the role the arts and culture play in the community, Cusick said.

City officials will work to:

• Retain and nurture Santa Monica's arts community and resources;

• Increase cultural participation and provide greater access to a diverse selection of programs for all ages;

• Enhance the long-term sustainability of Santa Monica's creative sector.

Exactly how they will do that will be determined over the next few months and a plan will be presented to the council in September, along with the update of the existing Sustainable City Plan.

Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson of the Urban Institute, author of "Cultural Vitality in Communities: Interpretation and Indicators," and a leading authority in the field of cultural indicators, is advising city officials.

As of January 2011, Santa Monica was home to 1,763 arts-related businesses that employ 10,579 people, city officials said.

– KEVIN HERRERA

DEATH

FROM PAGE 1

and that they were out of town.

In a series of comments posted on the website websleuths.com, a man identifying himself as Steve Wilkins said his sister had had substance abuse issues in the past with cocaine and heroin.

The person wrote at 9:23 p.m. Sunday, "At this time I believe Katie died of a heroin overdose, the investigation revealed strong indications of this." They also wrote the initial sheriff's investigation "revealed strong indications that the injection was not self administered."

The person also wrote on the website that Katie Wilkins' keys were missing from the home as well as her vehicle, a silver 1998 BMW Z3, and that the sheriff's investigation found no evidence of drug paraphernalia at the home.

O'Quinn told The Malibu Times Wednesday afternoon that "the car appears to have been located. I just got a call a little bit ago."

The car was being held for fingerprints at a tow yard, O'Quinn said, and he did not know what condition the car was in at that point.

O'Quinn said the only connection Benton has with the case is the text messages he exchanged with Wilkins and the security camera at McDonald's.

"That's the only connection I can put him with her at that time," O'Quinn said. "I mean, the logical speculation is that he was with her when she died and that he took the car, but I don't have any confirmation of that."

news@smdp.com

Adkisson is the associate editor of the Malibu Times. This article first appeared in that publication.



SPLIT

Photo by Paul Alvarez Jr.

The Vikings' Dane Keckin spikes a ball against Bishop Montgomery during a playoff game Thursday at Santa Monica High School. Samohi won the contest and advances to play crosstown rival Crossroads Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. in the quarter-finals. Samohi took home the CIF-SS Division 4 championship last season.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In favor of rent control

Editor:

Responding to Mr. Kronovet ("Anchor around the neck," Letters to the Editor, May 2),

Mr. Kronovet, I have lived in Santa Monica for 31 years, 28 of them in the same apartment. I've never met or heard of anyone who turned down a job or rejected a marriage partner to keep their apartment, but I know of those who have moved out for those and other reasons, and bitterly regretted it. Security is one of those things you don't realize how important it is until it's gone.

Anchor around the neck? No, just a safe anchor. Without proper controls, no renter can feel secure. He or she is simply a homeless person with a temporary shelter, at the mercy of their landlord.

As a pre-Costa Hawkins tenant, my low rent enabled me to have financial independence and improve myself from a safe base. Twice I have planned relocations for reasons which fell through. I'm glad I stayed. Thank god for Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR).

I've been a dues-paying member of SMRR since the first effort to evict me 26 years ago. Santa Monica renters, if you don't believe in rent control, just give your landlord the extra money you (or he) feels he is entitled to. I'm serious.

Charles Bennett
Santa Monica

Not a good move

Editor:

Having the City Council close the Senior Center in Palisades Park and move it to the Ken Edwards Center is like taking your elderly parents from their home in Santa Monica and moving them to a rest home in [Rancho] Cucamonga ("Council gives OK to Senior Center change," April 26).

Virginia Isaacs
Santa Monica

Questioning motives

Editor:

One has to wonder why Paul Rosenstein is so blatantly supportive of the redevelopment of the Miramar hotel ("Good first step," Letters to the Editor, April 30). Why does he criticize the speakers at the public hearing for sounding like amateur architects, while falsely asserting that everyone wants a world-class design?

Rosenstein views development as assets, not detriments, to our neighborhoods and falsely claims they minimize traffic density and parking impacts. He also exaggerates neighbors' fears about affordable housing, rather than telling the truth that promises for affordable housing have not been kept, or are located in the basement.

He congratulates the Miramar for agreeing to protect workers during the construction phase, as if they were doing so out of altruistic motives, which is certainly not the case! He also compliments the Miramar for saving the Moreton Bay fig tree, but neglects to mention that that was also negotiated.

Why hasn't Bill Bauer investigated past City Council members (including Rosenstein) who are so hot to see these kinds of developments continue to plague our city? What's in it for them?

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

Barack's bad for America

Editor:

Perhaps the couple that wrote President Obama is "the best thing that's happened to this country" should remove their rose-colored glasses, stop drinking the Kool-Aid and face reality ("Backing Barack," Letters to the Editor, April 27).

Barack Obama has not brought us back from disaster, but rather he has brought us to the brink of an economic, social and moral disaster.

Don Wagner
Santa Monica

On the Beat

NRO Richard Carranza — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rundown for riding on 2 wheels

Q: FOR MANY OF US WHO ARE struggling to make ends meet, and considering the high price of fuel, alternative modes of transportation sound really tempting for making local trips. What are the laws and requirements for motorcycles, scooters and similar vehicles?

A: First, let me define what a motorcycle is:

A motorcycle is a vehicle whose motor displaces more than 150cc (cubic centimeters) and has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider. It is designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and weighs less than 1,500 pounds. A motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle whose motor displaces less than 150cc.

What is a mo-ped or motorized bicycle?

There are two types of motorized bicycles, defined in the California Vehicle Code (VC) Sections 406(a) and 406(b).

Section 406(a) VC refers to a mo-ped or motorized bicycle as any two- or three-wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals if powered solely by electrical energy, has an automatic transmission, and a motor which produces less than 2 gross brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 mph on level ground.

Section 406(b) VC refers to a motorized bicycle as a device that has fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and has an electric motor that:

- Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts;
- Is incapable of propelling the device at a speed of more than 20 mph on level ground;
- Is incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power is used to propel the motorized bicycle faster than 20 miles per hour.

What is a motorized scooter?

- A motorized scooter is any two-wheeled device that has handlebars, has a floorboard that is designed to be stood upon when riding;
- May have a driver seat that does not interfere with the ability to stand and ride and may also be designed to be powered by human propulsion;
- Powered by electricity or other source (gas engine).

DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, motorized bicycle/moped 406(a): Must obtain an M-1 or M-2 endorsement on a driver's license; M-1 allows the driver to operate a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped, while M-2 allows for operation of a moped or motorized bicycle only.

To obtain an M-1 or M-2 endorsement, the driver must pass the appropriate written exam and riding skills test. (DMV will accept certificate of competence from an approved novice motorcyclist training program instead of skills test.)

If the individual is under 21 years of age, mandatory successful completion of a basic rider education course approved by the California Highway Patrol is required.

Motorized Bicycle 406(b)

Driver's license not required but rider must be at least 16 years of age.

Instruction Permit Requirements:

- Operator must be at least 15 1/2 years old;
- Operator must pass automobile written exam;
- Operator must pass appropriate endorsement requirements for an M-1 and M-2 endorsement;
- Operator must have completed an approved automobile driver education course.

Motorized scooter

- Driver must be at least 16 years old;
- Class C driver's license or driver's permit is required;
- Motorized scooter shall at all times be equipped with a muffler;
- A person shall not modify the exhaust system of a motorized scooter in a manner that will amplify or increase the noise level emitted by the motor;
- Speed limit is 15 mph;
- Driver must wear a bicycle helmet;
- Operation permitted on a bicycle path, trail or bikeway, unless there is a local ordinance prohibiting it (Not legal on any bike path in Santa Monica; including beach bike path);
- On the roadway with a posted speed limit of greater than 25 mph, driver must operate in Class II bicycle lane;
- On roads with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less, riding in a bicycle lane is not required;
- Operator shall ride as close to the right curb as possible, except to pass or turn left.

Motorized skateboard

- Operation permitted on private property only;
- Illegal on highways, sidewalks, bikeways and hiking or recreational trails.

Pocket bikes (mini motorcycles)

- Operation permitted on private property only;
- Illegal on all roads, sidewalks, bikeways and riding or recreational trails.

Helmet requirements:

- Motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, motorized bicycles/mo-peds: A helmet meeting Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218, self-certified by the manufacturer and displaying a "DOT" emblem must be worn by all riders of motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, and motorized bicycles/mopeds.
- Motorized scooters: A bicycle helmet meeting the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) must be worn to operate a motorized scooter.
- Motorized bicycles: A bicycle helmet meeting the standards of either the ASTM or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (SPSC) must be worn to operator a motorized bicycle. Check for labeling to ensure the helmet you are purchasing meets the safety requirements.

Although you may meet the listed requirements, none of these vehicles are allowed on the bike path; other than a motorized bicycle being pedaled by the rider. Also, bicycles, roller skates, skateboards and other similar devices with wheels are not allowed on Third Street Promenade, public parks, and other recreational or cultural facilities where necessary for public safety.

Public safety is the mission of the Santa Monica Police Department. That being said, traffic and pedestrian safety is one of our main goals. Besides enforcement, we all need to be aware of others and be sure we all drive, ride and walk cautiously. Carelessness can kill, or ruin the lives of all involved.

This column was written by Neighborhood Resource Officer **RICHARD CARRANZA** (Beat 1: coastal, beach and pier areas). He can be reached at (424) 200-0681 or richard.carranza@smgov.net.

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Modern Times

Lloyd Garver
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Republican Party linked to porn

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS something in common with the porn industry: a lack of enthusiasm for condoms. During the fight for the primaries, the "Condom Question" came up more often than at a senior prom. I guess this is an important issue to the conservative wing of the party. Time and time again, Republicans have voted against programs that would give free condoms to help control sexually transmitted diseases. Now some local governments are forcing the porn industry to use condoms without any thought of the Constitution. I'm sure the G.O.P. feels that those activist judges in black robes should not be telling those active actors in black socks what to do.

Certain communities — including Los Angeles — have passed legislation that says that condoms must be used in any porn movie made in their jurisdiction. Those who make porn are outraged. They say that their profits will become flaccid. Evidently, porn watchers don't think sex scenes with condoms are as sexy as those that are condomless.

This is an issue that must rankle Republicans. Here we go again with governmental interference and over-regulation of free enterprise. These kinds of laws will cost jobs, not create them. There are actors, writers, and dry cleaners who will suffer. Besides, why should we force people to worry about their health if they don't want to? Do we really want the "Nanny State?" (By the way, there might be a porn movie called, "The Nanny State.")

This is a perfect issue for Republicans to embrace — the natural way. I'm sure they can frame it as a religious issue, possibly pointing out that with all the "begatting," the word "condom" is not mentioned in the Bible.

This Anti-Condoms In Porn movement also would be appealing to the Republican base. There was a Harvard Business School survey that studied credit card receipts for online porn and then adjusted those results for population. That survey discovered that those states that consume the most pornography tend to be more conservative and religious than states whose residents watch less porn. Now we know what goes on at Tea Party parties.

Residents of states that have laws banning gay marriage have 11 percent more porn subscribers than states that don't restrict gay marriage. I wonder what passage of the Bible they twist around to rationalize that little hobby.

Adjusted for population, Utah is the biggest consumer of online pornography. Utah! Eight of the top 10 pornography-consuming states gave their electoral votes to John McCain in the last election. The two states on the Top 10 list that went for Obama were Hawaii and Florida. We all know how important Florida is in a presidential election, so I'm sure Republican strategists are keeping this in mind. Don't be surprised if you see Mitt Romney touring the Sunshine State and declaring that his favorite movie is, "When Harry Met Sally … and Kimberly and Zoey."

"THERE WAS A HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL SURVEY THAT STUDIED CREDIT CARD RECEIPTS FOR ONLINE PORN AND THEN ADJUSTED THOSE RESULTS FOR POPULATION. THAT SURVEY DISCOVERED THAT THOSE STATES THAT CONSUME THE MOST PORNOGRAPHY TEND TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE AND RELIGIOUS THAN STATES WHOSE RESIDENTS WATCH LESS PORN."

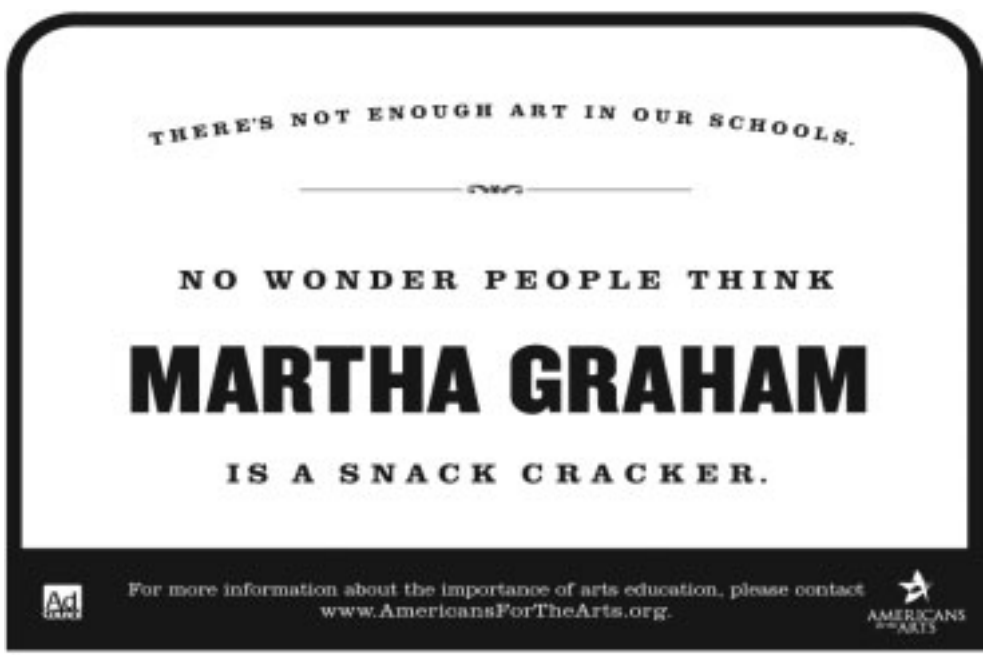
Some people criticize Republicans for often interpreting the Constitution however it suits them. For this issue, there can be no charges of that. It is clear that those who framed the Constitution and were committed to personal freedom were thinking about cases exactly like this. In fact, I believe it was Alexander Hamilton who said that the kind of circumstance that must be protected is the situation in which a lonely housewife in a bikini doesn't have enough cash to pay the pizza delivery guy when her husband's not around. Or was it Madison?

LLOYD Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.









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Suspects in Marine wife's case linked through home

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Property records show that three suspects in the death of a Marine's wife were linked through a home that has been owned by one and listed as the residence of the others.

Dorothy Grace Marie Maraglino, who was arrested late Thursday, owned the yellow stucco home in Fallbrook as of August 2010, records show.

Maraglino was arrested at a hotel in downtown San Diego and booked on suspicion of murder in the death of 22-year-old Brittany Killgore, San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore said.

Maraglino, 36, was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday in Vista. Sheriff's records contained no indication that she had a lawyer.

Tanya Sierra, a spokeswoman for the San Diego County district attorney's office, said Friday that no decision had been made on whether to file charges against Maraglino.

Louis Ray Perez, 45, a Marine staff sergeant, and Jessica Lynn Lopez, 27, have pleaded not guilty to the murder. Prosecutors have said the two lived together at one time but have not said when or where.

Maraglino has had a registered business named Rwayom Minote since July 2008. State records do not describe the nature of the San Diego company.

Authorities have not indicated a motive for the slaying.

Gore said late Thursday that Maraglino's arrest was the result of evidence obtained during the investigation. He did not elaborate.

A sheriff's department spokeswoman, Melissa Aquino, declined to comment on the case Friday.

The house is a mile from Killgore's apartment in Fallbrook, a town of 38,000 people known for its avocado orchards and proximity to Camp Pendleton.

Killgore was last seen April 13 in a purple evening gown, three days after she filed for divorce from Lance Cpl. Cory Killgore, who was serving in Afghanistan at the time.

Prosecutors say Killgore met Perez for a night out but things quickly went wrong.

"She sent a text saying, 'Help,'" Patrick Espinoza, a San Diego County deputy district attorney, said at Perez's arraignment last month. "She was missing from that point on."

Investigators found Killgore's blood and a weapon in Perez's car, according to prosecutors. Perez told investigators he dropped off Killgore in downtown San Diego's bustling Gaslamp District, but investigators concluded that he lied about his whereabouts and stayed about 60 miles north in Fallbrook.

Cory Killgore has not been named as a suspect or person of interest in the killing and has said he is devastated by his wife's death.

The couple married in July 2010.

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Malibu wins legal decision on overnight camping

BY KNOWLES ADKISSON
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU A three-judge Court of Appeal panel on Thursday affirmed a lower court's ruling that voided an agreement between the California Coastal Commission and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to allow overnight camping in Malibu.

Malibu city officials sued to get the agreement tossed out over concerns about camp fires getting out of control, threatening wildlife and residents' property.

"This decision is a very big deal because it puts a limit on the commission's ability to interfere with local planning decisions," Malibu Mayor Laura Rosenthal said in a press release. "In this instance, the commission overstepped its bounds and made planning decisions that are within the city's jurisdiction. We are pleased that the court has held the Coastal Commission to limits of its authority. This case was always about local control and Malibu will never stop defending its right to local control."

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John A. Torribio ruled in July 2011 that the Coastal Commission overstepped its authority when it amended Malibu's Local Coastal Program (LCP), over objections from the city and local residents, to approve a plan by the conservancy that would allow overnight camping on its Malibu properties.

In his decision, which arose from lawsuits filed by the city and Ramirez Canyon homeowners, Torribio wrote, "The court finds that the commission exceeded its authority" when it approved the application by the conservancy against the city's wishes. Torribio also ruled that any subsequent application by the conservancy to the Coastal Commission would have to include specific proposals, rather than general ones as in the current plan, and that the commission must allow 30 days for public review of any proposals.

City officials characterized the decision as a victory, while the state agencies called it a procedural setback.

In a press release, conservancy officials noted that Torribio ruled on the procedure rather than the plan itself.

"We are not going to let the lawyers keep the people out of parkland that belongs to all of the people of California," said conservancy Chair Antonio Gonzalez. "This is a social justice issue, an issue of public access."

The camping issue dates back to 2006, when the conservancy first pitched what it called the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan Overlay, which includes overnight camping at three Malibu canyon parks owned by the conservancy, as well as permission to have a certain number of events at one of the parks, located at what is known as the Streisand property in Ramirez Canyon. After running into resistance to the plan from area residents (and because the camping regulations were not allowed in the city's LCP), the conservancy agreed to negotiate with the city to amend its LCP to allow camping.

However, the destructive Malibu Canyon and Corral Canyon fires in late 2007 raised public sentiment against camping due to fire concerns. When the Malibu City Council backtracked from a tentative agreement with the conservancy that would have allowed camping, the conservancy bypassed the city and proposed its own plan to the Coastal Commission by way of a seldom-used procedure called an "LCP amendment override procedure."

The Coastal Commission in 2009 approved the conservancy's plan, to which camping at Bluffs Park was added at the hearing after public comment, and denied a competing LCP amendment proposed by the city of Malibu. The city then sued, alleging the Coastal Commission had overstepped its bounds and usurped a local city's power, and that the commission did not provide sufficient public notice of its plans under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The LCP override is a rare procedure intended for use when a public works project or energy facility development is being requested that meets "public needs of an area greater than" the local jurisdiction, and if the request was not anticipated by the applicant making it when the LCP was certified by the Coastal Commission.

The conservancy's plan would create a total of 29 overnight camping sites at Ramirez, Escondido and Corral Canyon parks; allow 32 special events (parties of up to 200 people) per year at the conservancy's Ramirez Canyon property (donated by Oscar-winner Barbra Streisand); a 32-space parking lot at the top of Winding Way and improvements to local trails to create the Coastal Slope Trail that will connect the east and west ends of Malibu.

Though the proposed plan would prohibit campfires, residents have expressed doubt in the past over the extent to which that rule would be enforced.

news@smdp.com

Adkisson is the associated editor of the Malibu Times. This article first appeared in that publication.

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RENT
FROM PAGE 1

posal is retaliation for a lawsuit they won last year that forced the rent increase higher than what Rent Control officials put to the board.

Last year's increase was 3.2 percent for all those in rent-controlled apartments.

"They're coming up with a way to take back increases that we are entitled to under the [city] charter," said Wes Wellman of the Action Apartment Association, which represents landlords in Santa Monica.

The new formula used to calculate the annual general adjustment, the maximum percentage by which landlords can raise rents under law, is based on the median cost of a controlled apartment in Santa Monica, which is $1,395 a month.

That $1,395 is cut into "slices" that represent the costs landlords pay to keep up an apartment. Some of those slices, like property taxes and business license fees, are fixed.

Others, like labor and cash flow, which in most cases is profit for the owner, are percentages of rent.

If they hadn't made the switch, the calculation would have used a base rent of $829.45 — the average rent when rent control first came into effect in 1979, which was $300, plus the approved annual rent increases across the last 30 years.

That hurts landlords by lowering the amount of the "pie" that's taken up by the fixed costs, making it look like there is more money from the rent to pay for other things like electricity, insurance and maintenance, which are all costs estimated using percentages.

In effect, the new formula assumes that landlords are making more money than they did in the past and don't need help from the Rent Control Board to make a fair return on their property, lowering the annual general adjustment.

What landlords are calling voodoo math, officials feel is a more accurate reflection of rent control reality.

The $829.45 figure didn't take into account the effect of rent decontrol which, for the last 13 years, has allowed landlords to raise rents on controlled apartments to market rate when the previous tenant moved out, said Tracy Condon, Santa Monica's Rent Control administrator.

"This is appropriate now because 60 percent of the units have been rented at market rate," she said. "Using that old rent doesn't reflect that."

The change could hurt some landlords far more than others.

Those who attended the meeting Thursday invoked a hypothetical owner named "Ms. Jones" who had 20 units, 18 of which were rented out below the $1,395 median figure.

Staff attorney Stephen Lewis assured board members that there was a "safety valve" built into the proposal to protect landlords like "Ms. Jones."

"If someone is not achieving the mandated fair return, we will address that through that process," he said.

It's the second assault on landlords'

SEE INCREASE PAGE 11

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TAX
FROM PAGE 1

the district.

Measure BB's millions, which promised to charge property owners under $30 for every $100,000 that their property is worth, will be going to improvements at almost every campus in the district.

Construction is under way at Santa Monica High School to build the new Science and Technology wing. Edison Language Academy will have a brand new campus come 2014 and expect to see new classrooms and technology at Lincoln Elementary.

At the last Board of Education meeting, held at Malibu City Hall last Thursday, board members laid the groundwork for the final $83 million in bonds that officials hope will be out on the open market by the end of the year.

That's expected to pay for a new library, administrative building, general education classrooms and science and computer labs, estimated to be completed by the end of 2014.

While the new issuance will filter down to taxpayers eventually, how much it will impact tax bills is uncertain, said Jan Maez, chief financial officer with the district.

"Until we really go out there and sell those bonds and work up the actual financing of them when they occur, we're not going to know," Maez said.

The single BB bond is not supposed to exceed that $30 per $100,000 limit, but that's not a hard cap and the district wouldn't be penalized for going over that amount.

What is legally mandated is a requirement that bonds imposed by school districts not exceed $60 per $100,000 in assessed valuation.

The district is getting close, according to figures from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller's office.

In the 2011-12 property tax year, taxpayers were looking at a $14,467,188 in principal plus $19,320,503 for all bonds issued by SMMUSD, including BB.

That came out to approximately $53 for every $100,000.

Running concurrently to plans to issue additional bonds is an attempt by schools in Malibu and the unincorporated portions of Los Angeles to split away from SMMUSD and form a separate school district.

The bonded indebtedness of the current district is a big part of those negotiations.

Malibu properties constitute 30 percent of the assessed value of the district, and if those schools were to leave, all of the bond debt would be squarely on the shoulders of Santa Monica taxpayers and the remaining 70 percent.

According to a presentation by Gene Yee of Keygent, the company that helps SMMUSD structure its bond deals, losing Malibu would push current debt levels above the $30 per $100,000 promised by BB and make it significantly more difficult to cash in on the remaining $83 million in bonds.

Any split with Malibu is uncertain, and possibly two years away by even optimistic standards, so the additional bonds would likely be issued and construction under way by the time the district had to take a hard look at its bond debt.

At this point, Malibu education advocates behind the split have expressed a willingness to come to the table to negotiate a work-around that would require Malibu property owners to continue paying off the existing bond issuances.

"If it works out the way we hope, the only bond-related change in (the new Santa Monica District) would have related to the split would be a slightly lower capacity to issue bonds based on a lower assessed value in the new, smaller district (and lower needs for the same reason)," wrote Craig Foster, member of Advocates for Malibu Public Schools, in an e-mail.

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The Q Line

Pulling Away

There's a movement gaining speed that is calling for Malibu to pull away from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.
This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you oppose the district splitting up, or do you think it's time for Malibu to break off?
Here are your responses:

"MALIBU SHOULD BE VERY careful about splitting off from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. They have no idea all the problems they are going to encounter as far as payroll and all the numerous things and requirements that school districts have to comply with as far as the state and local and federal governments. They probably wont be able to sustain their district independently from Santa Monica and they would lose the parcel tax money. I don't think they should split off."

"I WENT TO A TONY PRIVATE SCHOOL in Monterey, but my son, who just graduated from Pepperdine, I think that maybe it should be separated. But on the other hand, maybe it's a good idea to have the income from Malibu. Whatever. It's just my thoughts."

"WHAT A MESS. ALL OF THIS nonsense can be attributed to the incompetence of the school board. This situation has a lot to do with class envy. Most of the board members are not really successful people, no matter how many letters are after their names. Many people in Malibu have made fortunes in different businesses, so sadly you have a slick talking, but lackluster school board that detests successful people because that is an affront to their progressive philosophy. Malibu residents need to better support independent candidates. The number one problem facing Malibu is the lack of loyalty by a school board that supports egotistical bias over fairness and loyalty. The result is the confusion and anger we now have."

"IT'S THE RIGHT MOVE. LONG OVERDUE. And the Malibu group should be commended for initiating it. Malibu can well afford to pay for its own schools, and Santa Monica money should go to Santa Monica schools – period."

"MALIBU, BREAK OFF. AND WHO CARES? I'm sick of all this children – 'oh there's not enough money, oh we have to split up because the money issues, there's never enough money, there's not enough chairs, there's too many kids in the class, there's not enough this and not enough that.' Come on people. Illegal immigrant children – anchor babies – have stolen your schools. That's it. And what about all of us who don't give a flying lemur about children, whatsoever? We chose not to have them, we are paying taxes for them and, you know what, take all your little precious children, who dictate every little decision you make all day, that you helicopter over, and seem to be ruled by, put them in a closet and put a lock on it. I couldn't give a flippin' a about children, schools or any of this BS. At the end of the day the problems of the schools can be boiled down to two things: all the money goes to the top administrators, and illegal immigration has ruined this country and our schools."

"I THINK MALIBU SHOULD BREAK AWAY to form their own school district. Malibu is tired of Santa Monica's constant politicking and messing around with untruths concerning the ever escalating taxes and fees to fund schools with no end in sight; of administrators that are incredibly overpaid and schools which are brimming with racism, crime and student unrest. To make matters worse, it seems to me Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and the master manipulator Denny Zane and company is something Malibu is anxious to get rid of. There was a time when former mayors retired in quiet dignity, instead of, it seems to me, being able to manipulate for self gain behind the scenes!"

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ROAST
DELI & MARKET

INCREASE
FROM PAGE 8

profits, Wellman said.

According to the staff report, the Rent Control Board changed the formula in 2011 to reduce the "cash flow" component of the rent increase, which means that landlords' profits could not keep up with the rate of inflation.

Rather than use the rate of inflation, also called the CPI-U, the Rent Control Board chose to apply 75 percent of that increase to the profits portion of the "pie."

If approved, both changes are violations of the Rent Control law, Wellman said, but no real action has been taken yet.

"It's too early to say what they'll actually do," Wellman said. "Right now, this is a recommendation. As the rent increase theater plays out, it's just as likely they may reduce it more, or increase it or even accept this amount."

If the 1.54 is accepted, it still won't be as dramatic of a change as landlords make it out to be considering the vastly higher rents they're getting, said Patricia Hoffman, co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the leading tenant advocacy organization in Santa Monica.

"If they were restricted to the old formula with no vacancy decontrol, then it would be a realistic argument," Hoffman said.

A hearing on the matter will be scheduled for the board's June meeting. The public will be able to comment on two proposals — a 1.54 percent increase, and a 1.54 percent increase with a cap of $26.

IN THE RED

Landlords may be crying poverty, but not more loudly than the Rent Control Agency itself.

The agency had a $520,000 deficit for the year, which it managed to whittle down to only $27,000 with the help of $400,000 from a settlement with landlords over past-due registration fees.

That won't save it for next year.

Despite a 4 percent reduction in spending between 2011-12, the board is expected to face a $362,000 deficit in the 2012-13 fiscal year. It will pay for that out of its reserves.

The Rent Control Agency gets most of its money from registration fees paid each year by landlords. Currently, that's $156 per unit, per year.

The board may need to consider raising those fees in the 2013-14 fiscal year to cover ongoing deficits, Condon said.

That means higher rents as landlords are allowed to pass on the registration fee to their tenants.

ashley@smdp.com



GOING GREEN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Visitors check out the ecological landscape display by Larry Santoyo of Earth Flow, a permaculture design company, during the Ninth Annual AltBuild Conference and Expo at the Civic Auditorium on Friday afternoon. The expo, which features green building materials, runs through Saturday, May 12.

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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 65.5°

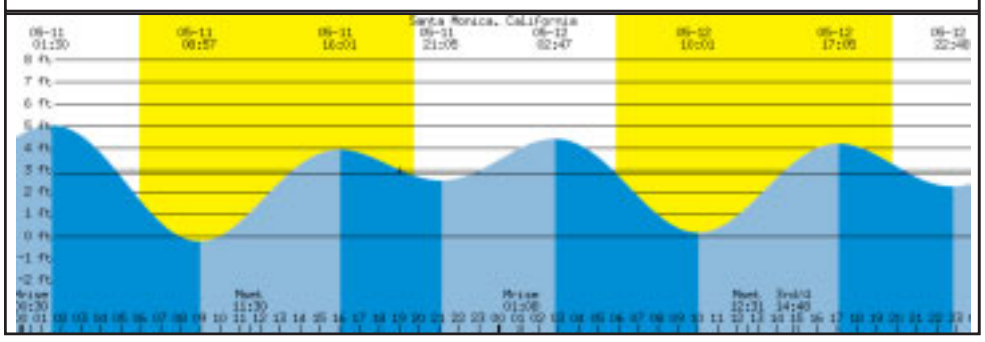
Swell Forecast

looks weaker, around knee to waist high most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

LOOKS SMALLER, ALTHOUGH SOME FORERUNNERS FROM THE NEXT SOUTHERN HEMI SWELL COULD ROLL THROUGH FROM TIME TO TIME AT SOUTH FACING BREAKS.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 9, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 37
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Offer -- von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A+
Malo Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 18640 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Point Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Topanga Canyon.	A+	A+
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.	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Potrero Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	D
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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

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

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Expungements: Burying Those Skeletons In Your Closet

Have you ever applied for a job, professional license, and/or school application where they asked if you have ever been convicted of a crime? If so, did you get nervous and distraught at the thought of having to circle "yes" and then explaining the circumstances of what happened years and years ago with your minor run in with the law? If this is a likely scenario for you or someone you know, help make those skeletons in the closet disappear by filing an expungement/dismissal motion. California Penal Code Sections 1203.3 and 1203.4 set forth the basic rules for expungements. This article focuses on some need to know legal rules and consequences with regard to expunging your record in California. Please note that this article examines the basic elements and procedures of expungements. If you or someone you know is filling out an application or reporting a past conviction to anyone in an official capacity it is advisable to speak with a criminal attorney about whether you must report the past conviction, even after the expungement process.

In terms of filing an expungement and clearing up your record, there are a couple preliminary questions that must be answered. First, was your past conviction for a felony or misdemeanor crime? Second, was probation granted and if so have you successfully completed probation? And lastly, once you have determined that you are eligible for expungement, what do you do?

If the answer to the first question is a misdemeanor, then you're on the right path! If the answer to the first question is felony, then there is another step that must be completed prior to filing an expungement. In order to expunge a felony conviction or have it dismissed from your record, a motion must be made pursuant to Penal Code Section 17(b) to first have the conviction reduced to a misdemeanor. Certain felony crimes, however, are never capable of being reduced to a misdemeanor and can never be expunged. Convictions that cannot be expunged or dismissed by law include any misdemeanor listed in Vehicle Code section 42001(b), any violation of P.C. 286(c), 288, 288a(c), 288.5, or 289(j), a felony under P.C. 261.5(d), and any infraction. Moreover, if you were never granted probation and instead went to State Prison, although there are options for clearing your record, the basics of expungements as explained in this article will not apply to your given scenario.

Once you have determined that your past conviction was a misdemeanor or capable of being reduced to a misdemeanor, move on to question number two: Was probation granted and have you successfully completed all the terms and orders of your probation? Typically, in misdemeanor cases, courts order that a defendant be placed on 1-3 years of probation and to follow all rules and regulations. If the court does not order probation, you're ready to file the motion! If probation was granted, the time period is over and done with, and you have fulfilled all the terms of the probation (including completing any classes, service work, and/or paid all fines) then you are also ready to file the motion! If probation is still open and has not been completed, a separate motion for early termination of probation must first be filed. If granted, and probation terminated early, then you are ready to file the motion! In sum, before a motion for expungement/dismissal is filed, probation must typically be successfully completed either by the passage of time or by early termination from the court.

Now that the motion is ready for filing, what do you do and how do you do it? California courts vary in terms of requirements for expungement/dismissal motions. For instance, some courts require a filing fee (usually around $60) and attached declaration (preferably by an attorney). All courts, however, require that a P.C. 1203.4/1203.4(a) Petition For Dismissal be completed and filed. In order to fill out this form correctly, a petitioner needs to obtain the case number, date of conviction, conviction charges, date of birth, driver's license number, last four digits of social security, and if possible the Criminal Identification and Information (CII) number. After entering the requisite information simply check the applicable boxes and sign/date the form. Additionally, along with the Petition, you should also attach a Court Order. The same information must be filled out on the Court Order; however, this form is for the judge to review and then sign/date. The signed Court Order is then stamped and recorded by the clerk certifying that a judge has ordered the case dismissed/expunged. Expungement/Dismissal Petitions typically take anywhere from one to three months for the court to review and complete.

Avoid the headaches and problems associated with explaining away your past minor run-ins with the law and get rid of skeletons in your closet today by filing an expungement! Call the Legal Grind to schedule an appointment to meet with a skilled and experienced attorney to help you navigate through this tricky process and answer any questions that you might have.

This column was prepared by Jacob Glucksman, a Criminal Defense attorney. He can be reached through the Legal Grind at 310-452-8160 or referral@legalgrind.com

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

www.LegalGrind.com

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@ THE NOVEL CAFÉ, located at 2127 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica
Although our doors are closed during construction, we're still open!
CALL 310.452.8160 TO CONFIRM TIMES
Info@legalgrind.com

MONDAY
4:00-5:00 pm (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman

TUESDAY
9:00am-12:00pm Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)

4:00pm-5:00pm (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month). Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, fraud, personal injury and employment law.

5:00 - 7:00 pm Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumler. (Call for Appointment)

WEDNESDAY
11:00am-3:00pm Special Education Law (By appointment only. Also available by appointment on Mondays or Fridays from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm) Attorney Alison Arkin has extensive experience working with parfents of special needs children with a wide range of disabilities, and can help them obtain appropriate services from both school districts and regional centers. She has experience with every level of the process including obtaining appropriate assessements, representation at IEP meeting, mediations, settlement negotiations and hearings.

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

THURSDAY
12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)
4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

FRIDAY
4:00-5:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only

4:00-5:00pm (1st & 3rd Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.

SATURDAY
10am-11:30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday/month) Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Will Contests, Probate, Elder Law Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, Construction Contracts Family Law including Divorce, Child/Spousal Support, Prenuptial Agreements, Personal Injury, Accidents, Premises and Product Liability, & Legal Malpractice with Attorney Richard Ruman. (By appointment only-Please call Call Dick at 310.273.7474)

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney SandeepAgarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528
Charlotte's Web - 1973 (G) 1hr 34min
4:00pm

Pickpocket (NR) 1hr 15min
L'Argent (NR) 1hr 25min
7:30pm

Sunday, May 13
Yellow Submarine (G) 1hr 25min
3:00pm

Au Hasard Balthazar (NR) 1hr 35min
Mouchette (NR) 1hr 22min
7:30pm

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

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Hick (R) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hr 23min
11:30am,1:00pm, 4:30pm, 8:00pm

The Cabin In The Woods (R) 1hr 35min
2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm,10:00 pm

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

Chimpanzee (G) 1hr 18min
2:20pm, 4:45pm

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
10:30am, 2:00pm, 8:50pm, 11:00pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG)
1hr 28min
1:30pm, 6:00pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) 1hr 28min
11:00am, 3:50pm, 8:30pm

Think Like a Man (PG-13)
2hrs 02min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
10:45am, 11:30am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm, 10:45pm

Five-Year Engagement (R)
2hrs 04min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Jiro Dreams of Sushi (PG) 1hr 21min
11:10am

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
5:30pm

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:55pm

Monsieur Lazhar (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11:20am

Elles (NC-17) 1hr 36min 11:00am

Under African Skies (NR) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Darling Companion (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:30pm, 7:10pm

Marley (PG-13) 2hrs 25min
4:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Intouchables (Intouchable) (NR) 1hr 52min
7:00pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:50pm

Safe (R) 1hr 35min
4:30pm, 10:00pm

Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

Lucky One (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:25am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Girl in Progress (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Home is your castle, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You know exactly what to do. Find your friends, let your guard down and relax. Once you start indulging, it might be difficult to stop. Listen to someone who often has many funny jokes. Tonight: Go, do and be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Clearly someone could be pushing your buttons. You might not be as free as you might like. An older friend or relative could act in the most unpredictable manner. Tonight: Don't think you're not noticed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for a friend or loved one at a distance. Even if you cannot see this person right away, it doesn't mean that you do not want to in the near future. Let him or her know how you feel. Tonight: Reach out for a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deal directly with others. You know how to handle a personal matter better than a partner or friend, or so you think. Perhaps you need to observe the other person's style. Give up "right and wrong" thinking. Look to the long term. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others in order to have a happier day. It might be momentarily beneficial to be right or to have things go your way, but ultimately you are only hurting yourself. Lighten up, and enjoy a loved one's desire to be with you. Tonight: Be with that special person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ An even pace works, especially if you throw an unpleasant chore or two into the mix. You will maintain your budget, so worry less about joining in with a friend or two. Get into the fun of the moment. Tonight: Put your feet up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ How you handle a close friend or associate could change because of how you see this person at the moment. Are you being a little negative? Let go of judging everyone, including yourself, and accept the people in your life as they are. Tonight: Go out and live it up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Invite a friend or two over for a meal or a mutually enjoyable pastime. You might want to stay at home, yet you also want to see a loved one or friends. There is no reason you can't do both. You often live in the black-and-white territory of your mind. Tonight: Home is your castle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You could be stunned by a friend's seriousness. Find out what ails this person, and demonstrate your support. Be willing to help him or her work through the issue. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Be aware of what is happening behind the scenes. At the same time, you could be making plans for the near future. Be aware that the costs could be much higher than you'd anticipated. Tonight: Go over plans with a friend.

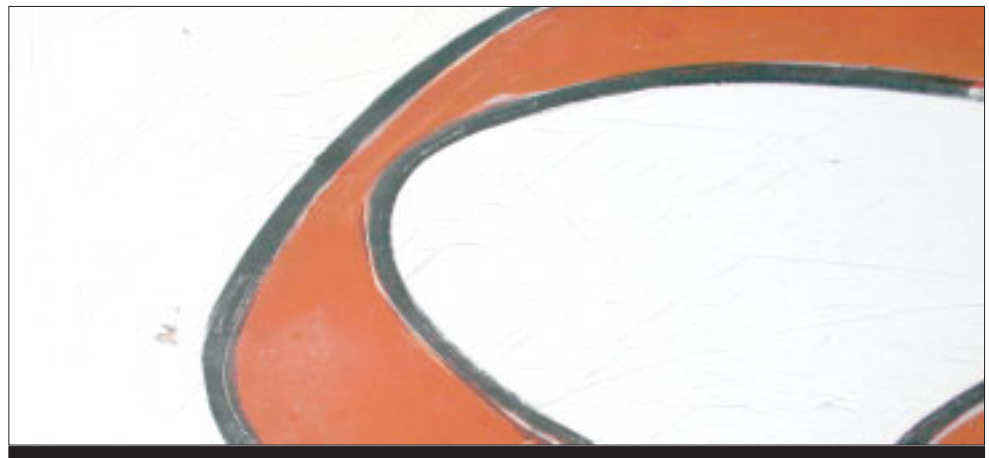
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Understand how difficult it can be to resist you when you are vulnerable. Someone might detach, partially out of envy. This person might need a special indulgence or some time with you. Tonight: Say "yes" to living. Decide where and with whom.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Keep the pace nice and easy. News surrounding your home or a family member could be very exciting. A serious talk also might be the result of new information. Tonight: Choose a quiet and cherished pastime with a special person.

Happy birthday

This year you often give off mixed vibes. You might say one thing but do another. Others might start reflecting this behavior, or at least talking about it. You might not see it at first, but observe closely, and you will. Life feels abundant in many ways, and you'll greet growth with a smile. You could get a pay raise, but do not spend funds until they arrive. If you are single, you might enjoy several potential suitors; one in particular could be quite significant to your life history. If you are attached, your relationship is stable and extremely caring. Let in more fun. AQUARIUS can push you.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

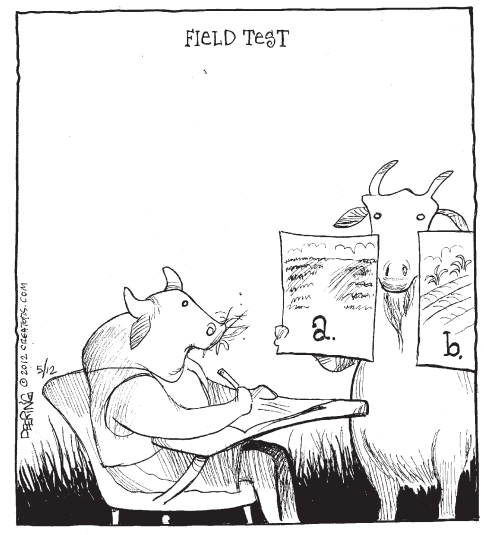
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

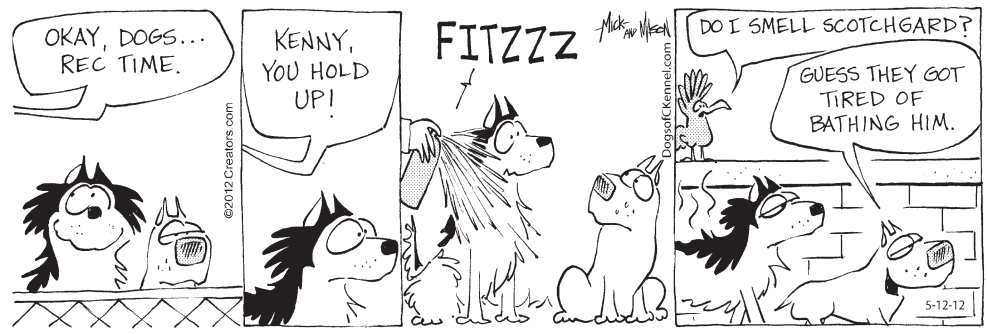


Strange Brew By John Deering



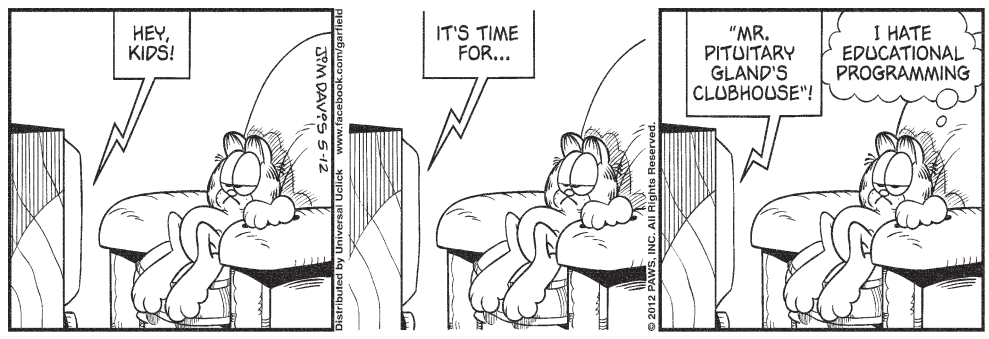
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



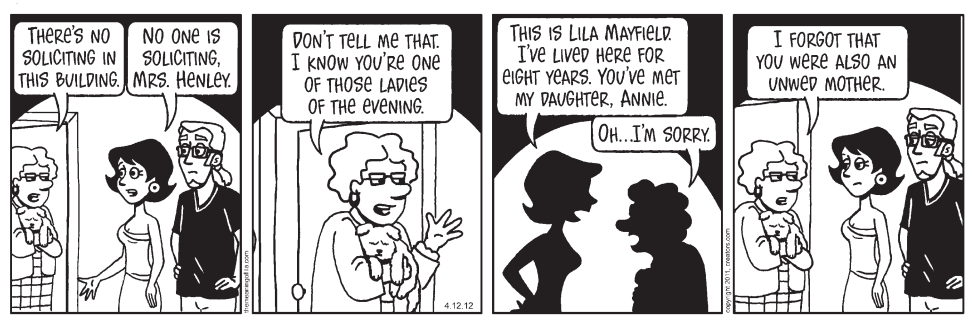
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Deep ravine
6 Pass
11 Nametag word
12 Cover words
13 Portion out
14 Spotless
15 Metal workers
17 Canyon carrier
18 Course start
19 As a group
22 UFO pilots
23 Andy Hardy's portrayer
24 Pic
25 Conrad or Cotten
27 Imitating
30 Party's choice
31 Marks a ballot
32 Saloon supply
33 Empties out
35 Quasi-modo's concern
38 "Salome" author
39 Cager Shaquille
40 Wastes time
41 Veronica's rival
42 Sign of sorrow

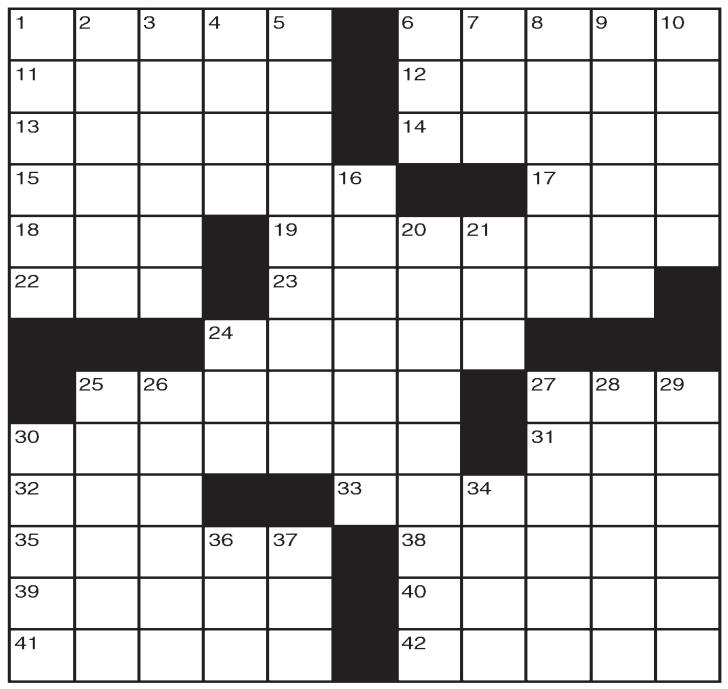
DOWN

1 Pure
2 Tackle's topper
3 Axis foes
4 Mailbox feature
5 Protective sort
6 Catchall abbr.
7 Goose egg
8 Relaxed
9 Elegant
10 Keyed up
16 Was nosy
20 Common sense
21 "I'll take that as ___"
24 Letter before omega
25 Dolly Parton hit
26 Frittata
27 Armpit
28 Bank, at times
29 Evaluate
30 High-muck-a-muck
34 West Wing worker
36 Back muscle, for short
37 Cunning

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

Yesterday's answer

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5-12

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

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

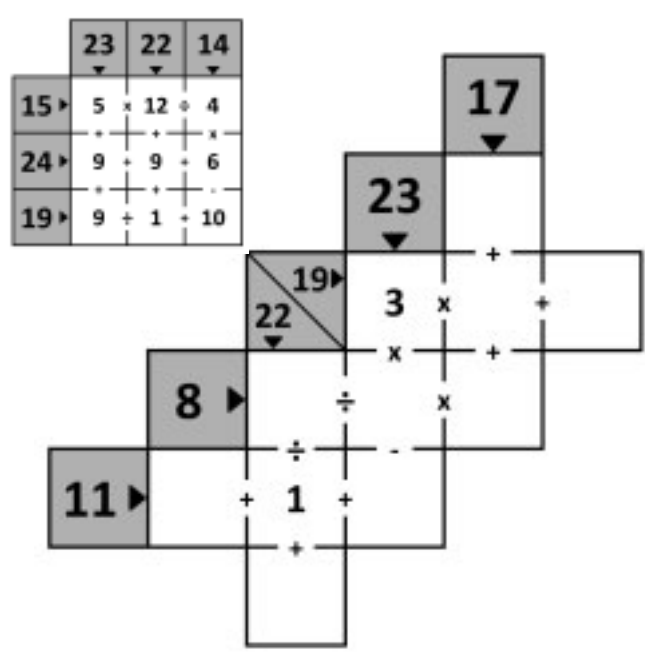
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

3, 4, 5, 7, 7, 8, 10, 10, 12

Solution for Task 1285





NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Amateur Hour: (1) CVS supervisor Fenton Graham, 35, of Silver Spring, Md., was arrested as the inside man (with two accomplices) in two drugstore robberies in April. Surveillance video showed that in the second heist, the nervous perp evidently failed to take the money with him, and Graham (the "victim") was seen taking it out to his forgetful partner. (2) Kyle Voss, 24, was charged with four burglaries in Great Falls, Mont., in April after coming upon a private residence containing buckets of coins. According to police, Voss first took the quarters and half-dollars ($3,000), then days later he returned for $700 in dimes and nickels. By the third break-in, the resident had installed surveillance video, and Voss was caught as he came back for a bucket of pennies.

■ Federal court documents revealed in March that AWOL Army Pvt. Brandon Price, 28, had convinced Citibank in January that he spoke for Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen (one of the world's richest men) and convinced the bank to issue Allen (i.e., Price) a new debit card and to change Allen's address from Seattle to Price's address in Pittsburgh. Price/Allen shopped decidedly downscale, running up charges only at Gamestop and Family Dollar, totaling less than $1,000.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2002 - Former US President Jimmy Carter arrives in Cuba for a five-day visit with Fidel Castro becoming the first President of the United States, in or out of office, to visit the island since Castro's 1959 revolution.

2003 - Fifty-nine Democratic lawmakers bring the Texas Legislature to a standstill by going into hiding in a dispute over a Republican congressional redistricting plan.

WORD UP!

sibilant
\ SIB-uh-luhnt \ , adjective;
1.
Hissing.

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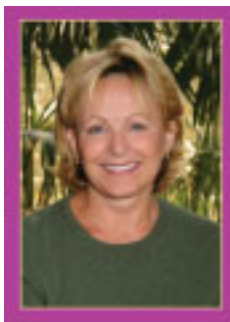
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