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FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 156

Santa Monica Daily Press

VIKINGS ARE LEAGUE CHAMPS
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE MAKING PROGRESS ISSUE



Stephanie Salvatore *news@smdp.com*

HONORING THE FALLEN

The Santa Monica police and fire departments on Thursday at City Hall hosted a memorial for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives in the line of duty. The ceremony included families of Santa Monica's fallen heroes.





SMPD makes good on OIR suggestions

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica police Chief Tim Jackman released an update on the department's progress in reviewing its investigation and reporting standards in the wake of a botched probe of a school board member accused of child endangerment.

The paper, released on City Hall's website on Tuesday, summarized the actions the police department has taken so far to comply with the seven recommendations laid out by the Los Angeles-based Office of Investigative Review to improve investigative and reporting standards within the department.

The genesis of the issue was a March 16, 2010 fight between two 17-year-olds in an

SEE SMPD PAGE 10

Report: Despite gains, achievement gap lingers on SMMUSD campuses

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Public schools here are excelling in preparing students of color for college, but are failing to make significant progress in closing the achievement gap that exists between white and minority students, according to a report released last month by an educational advocacy group.

The report by Education Trust-West found that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District beat out 136 other districts for its record of putting minority students through the courses required for entrance into state universities.

Over 70 percent of minority students in the district make it through those courses. In the number two-ranked district, Claremont Unified, only 51 percent of those students

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 11

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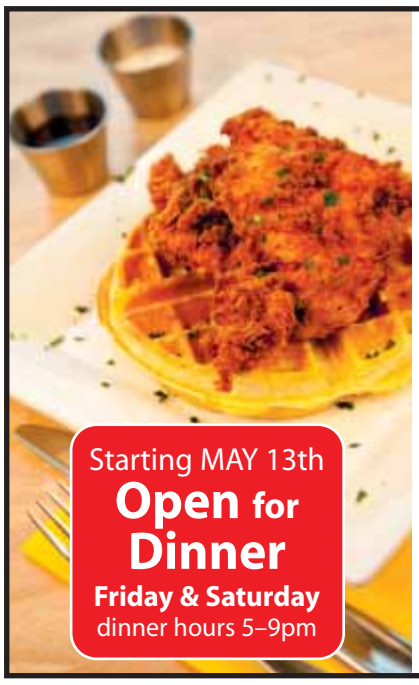
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, May 13, 2011

'Bowling for Benefits'
AMF Bayshore Lanes Bowling
234 Pico Blvd., 5:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Santa Monica-Malibu substitute teachers are sponsoring a night of bowling. They are offering unlimited bowling, free shoe rental, three slices of pizza and all-you-can drink soft drinks for $20. For more information, call (310) 395-1528.

Astronomical talks
New Roads School
3131 Olympic Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club presents this night of cosmic talk. One of the topics will be the salt ring of Saturn. For more information, call (310) 495-7595.

'Locked and Loaded'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
"Locked and Loaded," Todd Susman's first published play, stars stage and screen personalities Paul Linke, Andrew Parks, Tarina Pouncy, Terasa Sciortino and Sandra Thigpen and is helmed by award-winning director Chris DeCarlo. For more information, visit santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Fire Service Day
Citywide
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
The Santa Monica Fire Department will celebrate Fire Service Day by hosting open houses at all its fire stations. Stations will be open to the public for tours. For more information, visit santamonicafire.org, or call (310) 458-8761.

'Bye Bye Birdie'
Lincoln Middle School
1501 California Ave., 7 p.m.
The Lincoln Drama Club presents "Bye Bye Birdie," the Tony-award winning musical about the phenomenal Conrad Birdie, a 1950's rock and roll star who travels to a small Ohio town to bestow "One Last Kiss" on his biggest fan before he is drafted into the army. This production also takes place on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Benefit concert for Elemental Strings
First Presbyterian Church
1220 Second St., 2 p.m.
American violinist Elmar Oliveira and pianist Robert Koenig will perform in this benefit concert for Elemental Strings, a nonprofit organization that provides young string players with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their musical skills and love for music. For more information, visit elementalstrings.com.

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

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

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



CORRECTION

In the article "Big Blue Bus routes to change," which appeared in the May 12 edition of the Daily Press, it should have said that Interstate 10 opened in Santa Monica in the 1960s.

SoCal home sales, median price down in April

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO Sales of Southern California homes last month fell to their lowest level for April in three years, signaling dim prospects for a quick housing rebound, a research firm said Thursday.

Sales of new and resale homes and condos in a six-county region dropped 9.2 percent to 18,344 last month from 20,205 a year ago, according MDA DataQuick.

It marked the 10th straight month that sales slipped from year-ago levels and the lowest April tally since 2008.

Sales in April fell 5.5 percent from 19,412 in March, bucking a seasonal trend. Sales between March and April have increased an average of 0.9 percent since DataQuick began keeping track in 1988.

The median sales price was $280,000 in April, down 1.8 percent from $285,000 a year ago and down 0.2 percent from $280,500 in March.

John Walsh, DataQuick president, said more robust job growth or price cuts might spark a rebound.

"The market's in a rut at a time it would normally be building momentum," he said.

Sales fell in all six counties — Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The median price slipped in all counties except Orange, where it was unchanged.

Distressed sales accounted for more than half of existing-home purchases in April.

Sales of properties that were foreclosed upon in the previous year made up 33.9 percent of existing home sales, down from 36.4 percent a year ago. Foreclosure sales hit a high of 56.7 percent in February 2009 and a low of 32.8 percent last June.

Short sales — transactions where the price was below what the seller owed on the property — accounted for an estimated 17.8 percent of existing home sales, down slightly from 18.1 percent a year earlier.

"THE MARKET'S IN A RUT AT A TIME IT WOULD NORMALLY BE BUILDING MOMENTUM."

John Walsh,
DataQuick president



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HE'S SAFE: **Samohi's Trent Nelson scores ahead of the tag of Culver City's Christopher Caines at home on Thursday. Samohi won the game, 7-3, to secure the Ocean League title.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Samohi secures league title

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The Vikings must have done something big on Thursday to make their usually stoic head coach crack a smile.

Santa Monica High School's baseball team completed a late-season resurgence by defeating arch-rival Culver City, 7-3, at home to finish the season as Ocean League champs.

And Head Coach Sheldon Philip-Guide was all smiles as his team celebrated their league crown.

"Everything that we went through is paying off," Philip-Guide said. "Everything from the preseason to the fall league, everything we've done got us ready for this."

The team's strong finish was difficult to predict as the Vikings opened the season 1-9 in preseason play, looking nothing like a team that would finish the league season 10-0.

But, as Philip-Guide said, all of those hard times helped the team dig deep enough to turn that around and finish the season 13-16 overall.

While the Vikings ended the day as title holders, the game was initially a tough slog.

Culver City struck first with a run in the first inning off of starter Andrew McRitchie. The Vikings responded with two of their own in the bottom half of the inning, but Culver City wasn't backing down. The Centaurs would eventually tie the game in the third inning, but the real scare came in the fourth with the score still tied.

After retiring the first two batters of the inning, McRitchie walked a pair of runners with another reaching on an error to load the bases. Philip-Guide wasted little time bringing in junior relief pitcher Albert Garcia with the bases juiced.

Garcia calmly induced Culver City's

SEE **BASEBALL** PAGE 8

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi softball finishes unbeaten

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Another season, another perfect Ocean League record.

Santa Monica High School's softball team defeated rival Culver City, 10-0, in a game called after five innings due to the mercy rule on Thursday on campus.

The Vikings, 10-0 in league, already clinched their 10th-straight league crown heading into the game, but the win secured a perfect record for Samohi.

The CIF-Southern Section Division 4 champs have to wait until Sunday to see who and where they will play in the first round of the playoffs. While being a league winner gives the team a good chance of hosting a first round game, it is no guarantee, said a spokesman for the CIF-SS.

PACIFICA CHRISTIAN WINS LEAGUE

Pacifica Christian's baseball team secured its first ever Heritage League title with a 4-0 win over Faith Baptist on Thursday.

The team now awaits the release of the CIF-SS playoff brackets on Sunday.

daniela@smdp.com



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

GETTING IT DONE: **Santa Monica High School's Jamie Hom attempts a bunt against Culver City on Thursday at home.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Treated poorly

Editor:

My wife and I have a finely structured division of labor, which I like to think hearkens back to the concept of "comparative advantage" as developed by the great 19th century thinkers on political economy.

Bringing hazardous waste to the Santa Monica disposal site ("Household Hazardous Waste Center") is one of her jobs. Unfortunately, a few weeks ago she was out of town and this task fell to me. I will admit that my first thought was to simply chuck my hazardous waste into the nearest trash bin. Hopefully no green vigilante would notice me, particularly if I did this at about 3 a.m. (I don't think that sort stays up late. I believe their vegan diets leave them groggy after about 8 p.m.) However, since like all "Westsiders" I know that defiling the Earth is the medieval equivalent of urinating on a holy relic, and I have seen my share of Steven Seagal movies with polluters always suffering some sort of retribution, I thought better of this.

How challenging can it be to take two items to the Household Hazardous Waste Center, I wondered? So off I went, floating on a cloud of self-satisfaction. What an exemplar I was, a steward of our planet. Coming back to Earth, I was very pleased that there was no crowd and that the site was well posted. After signing in and proving that I am a Santa Monica resident (we certainly wouldn't want junk from an out-of-towner) came my first surprise. The city employee at the site, annoyed that I was interrupting his day, launched into a series of insults. In the interval of a few seconds between removing the first item from my car and returning for the second he talked himself into an emotional epiphany: he did not like me very much.

Following this thought, and with insults still flowing, he returned the removed item back to my car and ordered me, and my waste, to leave the facility. In the future I will have to remember to bring flowers or have some jokes handy, as maintaining the emotional balance of the city employees is apparently crucial if you expect them to do their job.

Oh, excuse me but I have to chuck two items into a trash bin.

Lewis Soloff
Santa Monica

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

That was the week that was

IN 1962, A SATIRICAL BBC TV SHOW debuted in England entitled "That Was the Week That Was." Hosted by David Frost, it broke new comedy ground by lampooning events of the week. Here, if there ever was a week that was, it ended two Sundays ago when it was announced that Osama bin Laden had been killed by U.S. Navy SEALs. (Wikipedia lists the cause of death as "ballistic trauma," which I suppose is a another way of saying he "got his head blown off.")

Lately, it seems there's been a whirlwind of events. First, the uprising in Libya, then the royal wedding, and then Obama produced his birth certificate. And then, on that memorable Sunday evening, there was a special bulletin that "the president is going to address the nation." My first reaction was, at 11:30 p.m. eastern time, this better be good. The revelation that bin Laden was essentially swimming with the fishes in the Arabian Sea, I'd say it lived up to expectations. (And yes, grammatically I know it's fish, not fishes.)

But just as there are "truthers" who don't believe the official story of 9/11 (I'm actually one of them) and "birthers" who don't believe Obama was born in the U.S. (two years ago I wrote birthers are bonkers) so are there now "deathers" who don't believe bin Laden is dead.

Among the deathers are anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan and a growing group on Facebook ("Osama Bin Laden NOT dead") which numbers into the thousands. I wouldn't be surprised if Donald Trump jumped on the band wagon (which would be bad news for the wagon).

Fittingly enough Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" was interrupted by Obama's dramatic announcement. Actually, the remarkable success of the raid in Pakistan on bin Laden's "mansion" (the grungiest mansion I've ever seen) has the right-wing bewildered. It pains them to admit anything positive about Obama. (I didn't have that problem with Bush because I don't think he had any successes.)

No one on the right should be more embarrassed than those at the highly conservative magazine The Weekly Standard (edited by William Kristol who not only was shamefully wrong on WMDs and the Iraq war, but is the one credited with insisting that Sarah Palin be the 2008 vice presidential nominee).

During the week before bin Laden's death, The Standard cover featured an unflattering caricature of Barack Obama hiding behind a sand dune next to an equally frightened camel. The title of Kristol's piece was "Leading From Behind." Here's what he had to say about the 2012 election. "All the Republicans have to do is nominate a real leader; a work horse, not a show horse; a steady hand, not a flip-flopper; a profile in courage, not in cleverness; a confident man or woman with strength and confidence in defense of liberty at home and abroad." One word for Kristol, "Oops."

From day one the far right has portrayed Obama as a socialist, a secret Muslim and an indecisive and weak leader. It now drives them crazy that, while it was George Bush who uttered, "Wanted dead or alive," it was Obama who followed through with action.

IF WE HAD CAUGHT OR KILLED BIN LADEN THERE'D HAVE BEEN NO RATIONALE FOR THE IRAQ WAR, WHICH IS WHAT BUSH WANTED LONG BEFORE 9/11.

Speaking of George Bush, before Obama presented a wreath at Ground Zero on the Thursday following bin Laden's death, he invited the former president to join him. Revealing perhaps a sensitive, feminine side (?) W. declined the invitation. Sources close to him reportedly said that Bush was miffed that he wasn't given more credit for bringing bin Laden to justice.

And yet it was Bush who, for some inexplicable reason, outsourced bin Laden's capture at Tora Bora to Afghani warlords, who of course let him escape. Actually, not so inexplicable. If we had caught or killed bin Laden there'd have been no rationale for the Iraq War, which is what Bush wanted long before 9/11. What was curious was Bush's later comment about bin Laden, "Frankly, I just don't think about him that much anymore."

To me there are so many fascinating details of the seemingly near-perfect Navy SEAL raid, not to mention the remarkable poker face Obama kept. In the 72 hours prior to the raid, Obama gave no hint as he consoled tornado victims, toured NASA facilities with his family, met privately with wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) and delivered a college commencement address at Miami Dade College.

Saturday night the president returned to Washington and, only hours before the attack on bin Laden, flawlessly cracked jokes at a black-tie event. (He was hilarious. At YouTube type "Obama at Correspondents' Dinner.")

On Sunday the world's most intense manhunt, which lasted almost 10 years, ended with the violent death of Osama bin Laden, the man responsible for 9/11. And on Sunday evening President Obama informed the nation. Yes, that was definitely the week that was.

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Protests reveal teachers' frustrations

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Teaching was a calling for Jennifer Teguia. She says the long hours she spends grading papers, writing exams and calling parents are worth it to help young minds thrive.

But as she has seen her 9th and 10th grade English classes balloon from 20 students to 36 or 38, she and her colleagues at John F. Kennedy High School in the eastern San Francisco Bay area city of Fremont are getting burned out.

"This year has been by far the most difficult year in my career, including the first couple of years where you don't even know what's going on and you don't know the system," said Teguia, 34, a teacher for 11 years.

"I rarely get any time that I'm not working. I think the first day, including weekends, that I didn't work was in November. ... My parents have helped me score, my husband has helped me score papers. Everybody is trying to help out, and I'm still barely able to still have time to sleep," she said. "The workload is unbelievable."

Teguia was among the hundreds of teachers who converged on the state Capitol this week to press lawmakers for more education funding as schools face the prospect of billions of dollars in cuts to balance California's budget.

Amid frustrations over past and potential budget cuts, another reality has been emerging for many of those in the profession: Teaching has never seemed less appealing.

Prospective candidates are proving it: Enrollment has plunged at teacher colleges in California at a time when the state says it needs more highly qualified educators in the classroom and a wave of baby boomer teachers is getting ready to retire.

Teachers face increasing expectations from the state to boost student performance and must deal with a growing population of non-English speaking students, yet classrooms are being hit hard by the state's ongoing fiscal woes. The budget turmoil of recent years has led to larger class sizes, furloughs, program cuts and the annual threat of thousands of layoffs.

"I think that we can conclude from the drop in the numbers of individuals who are going into teaching that it is, in fact, less attractive. They see the stories in the newspaper about the high numbers of teachers, especially new ones, in the profession that are being laid off," said Margaret Gaston, executive director of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, a Santa Cruz-based nonprofit that studies the teacher workforce.

"The state of California lately has not done very much, if anything at all, to encourage these bright and capable young people into going into the teaching profession."

The center praised state leaders in its annual report last December for engaging in a robust public debate about how to boost teacher performance and match the most qualified teachers with students. But it added that the state "essentially has little capacity to do what is required to build a teaching force able to meet the high professional standards set for them."

> **I THINK THAT WE CAN CONCLUDE FROM THE DROP IN THE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE GOING INTO TEACHING THAT IT IS, IN FACT, LESS ATTRACTIVE.**
>
> **Margaret Gaston,**
> executive director of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning

"Instead, California's fiscal crisis has so severely damaged the pipeline for recruiting and training new teachers, and for supporting existing teachers, that the quality of the teacher workforce is likely to be at risk for many years to come," the report said.

On Thursday, lawmakers in both houses of the Legislature unanimously declared May 11 as the Day of the Teacher.

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, D-Alamo, asked teachers in the gallery to stand, telling them "too often you get blamed for everything that's wrong and don't get credit for everything that's right with our education system."

The state Department of Education says 30,000 teachers and 10,000 teacher aides, clerks and other support staff have been laid off over the past three years. Education spending has declined 9 percent during that period, while school enrollment has fallen by just 1 percent.

The 300,000 teachers who remain are coping with more students in each classroom, more responsibilities, less preparation time, and often, lower pay because of furlough days.

The National Center for Education Statistics, which compiles education data for the federal government, ranks California 47th in the nation in the number of students per classroom teacher as of 2010.

The Q Line

More protection for renters

A bill that extends renters' rights cleared a crucial hurdle at a State Judiciary Committee last week. The bill would allow tenants who have been served a three-day notice to "pay or quit" to keep their homes if they pay back rent, new rent costs and reasonable attorney fees.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the bill is fair, or does it give too much leeway to renters?

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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Census: Rate of empty homes up across state

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Californians saw the rate of empty homes and rental apartments in the state increase during the past decade, census data showed on Thursday in the latest news on the state's battered housing market.

The Golden State's homeowner vacancy rate shot up from 1.4 percent to 2.1 percent, while the rental vacancy rate rose from 3.7 percent to 6.3 percent, according to data from the 2010 census.

At the same time, the average household size in owner-occupied and rental units increased across the state.

Since the economy tumbled, Californians have left the state in search of jobs or doubled up with family members to ride out the storm in the housing market, real estate experts said.

"People are moving out of state or people are doubling up," said Richard Green, director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the University of Southern California.

In addition, developers were too zealous in developing the inland parts of the state, he said.

Dowell Myers, a professor of urban planning at the University of Southern California, said the rental vacancy rate was low in 2000, which prompted the construction increase. But given the severity of the housing crisis in California, the state appears to have fared fairly well, he said.

"There's a lot more stability than you would fear after all the turmoil we've gone through," he said.

Over the past decade, the average household size rose from 2.87 to 2.90. The average family size also rose from 3.43 to 3.45 at a time when a smaller share of households had children, the data showed.

It isn't immediately clear whether household size is increasing because families are moving in together to cut down on costs, or because of growth in the state's Mexican and Chinese communities, where children tend to live with their parents longer, or another explanation, experts said.

The Mexican population grew 35 percent over the past decade to 11.4 million and accounted for 88 percent of the state's population growth. About 82 percent of Hispanics in California identified as Mexican in 2010, up from 77 percent in 2000, the data showed.

While the Hispanic population in California grew 28 percent over the decade and was the key driver in the state's 10 percent population growth, some demographic experts cautioned on reading too much into the country-specific data for Latinos.

Jeffrey Passel, senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center, said the apparent increase in the share of the Latino population that is Mexican stems from the way the 2000 census questionnaire was worded, which prompted more Hispanics to give general, not specific, accounts of their national origin.

The Chinese population — the largest Asian group in California — rose 28 percent over the decade to 1.3 million. While smaller in size, other Asian communities grew more during the 10-year period.

Billboards join hunt for Giants fan attacker

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A billboard company has joined the hunt for attackers who beat a San Francisco Giants fan into a coma at Dodger Stadium.

Lamar Advertising Co. is unveiling signs Thursday with police sketches of two suspects. The billboards note there's a $100,000 reward offered for information leading to arrests.

The company plans to erect 300 billboards in the Los Angeles area.

Bryan Stow, a 42-year-old paramedic and father of two, was wearing Giants orange when he was attacked in the stadium parking lot after the March 31 season opener. He remains in a coma.

The Santa Cruz Sentinel reports that his family is considering moving him from Los Angeles to UC San Francisco Medical Center.

His youngest sister, Bonnie Stow, says her brother is more responsive now and the situation is a little more upbeat.

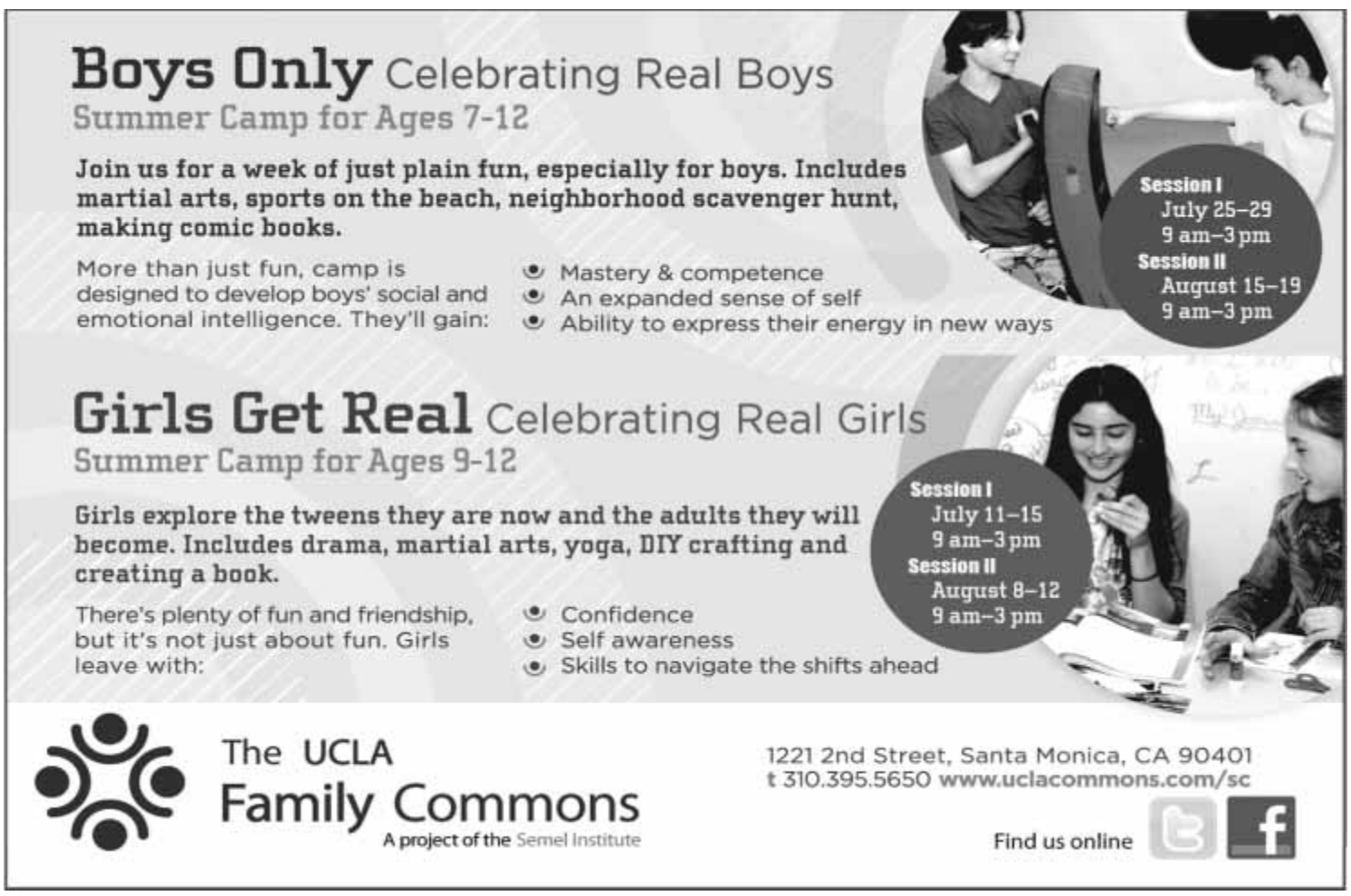
City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: May 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
ARB 11-094, 1251 3rd Street Promenade: Restaurant
ARB 11-110, 2210 Main Street: Mixed Use
ARB 11-148, 1446 3rd Street Promenade: Retail
ARB 11-161, 520 Broadway: Bank
ARB 11-164, 1817 Lincoln Boulevard: Automotive Service

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



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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Santa Monica cops bust sex offender masturbating in front of pilates studio

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

SUNDAY, MAY 8, AT 9:13 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to a pilates studio located on the 1200 block of Second Street regarding a man allegedly exposing himself to women working out. When officers arrived, they made contact with the victims who said the suspect, who was detained nearby without incident, walked into a courtyard and watched them workout through a window. While there, he allegedly squatted and shoved his hands down his pants and left them there for several minutes. He left and returned a short time later, this time though allegedly pulling out his penis and masturbating in front of the victims, who called police. The suspect was booked for indecent exposure. During the booking process, officers learned that the suspect was a wanted parolee out of Orange County who failed to register as a sex offender. The suspect was recently released from prison and fled after removing an ankle monitor, police said. He was identified as John Cole, 54, of Santa Ana. He was held on a $1 million warrant.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, AT 2:13 A.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol in the 2500 block of the beach bike path when they saw a man pushing a Ralph's shopping cart full of his personal belongings. Officers believed the suspect was in possession of a stolen shopping cart and made contact with him. During their discussion with the suspect, officers learned that he was in possession of several IDs and credit cards/debit cards that did not belong to him. He was also in possession of someone else's cell phone and stolen property from a vehicle burglary, police said. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for theft and possession of stolen and lost property. He was identified as James Anthony Moore, 50, a transient. His bail was set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, AT 10:32 P.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol in the area of Bay Street and Ocean Way when they saw a silver Dodge Stratus parked illegally in a red zone. As officers approached, a man standing outside the car walked away. Officers made contact with the driver. As they were speaking to him, the man standing outside the car returned. Officers said he had a knife clipped to his pants. They detained him, searched him and confiscated the knife as well as several rounds of handgun ammunition. At that time, several people inside the car started to shout at the officers, telling them that they needed to "go out and find real criminals," police said. Officers felt the people were under the influence of alcohol or drugs and searched the car. They said they found a handgun on the floorboard where one of the suspects was sitting. Cops also said they found methamphetamines on one of the men. All five suspects were transported to the Santa Monica Jail where they were booked. Martin Cruz-Velasquez, 19, of Los Angeles was booked for possession of a firearm by a gang member. His bail was set at $35,000. Rene Baires, 26, of Los Angeles was booked for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm in a vehicle. His bail was set at $35,000. Tyrone Verdell, 42, of Montebello, was booked for possession of a firearm. His bail too was set at $35,000. Victor Avila, 24, of Los Angeles, was booked for possession of a firearm, meth and bringing a controlled substance into a jail. His bail was set at $35,000. The fifth suspect was described as a 16-year-old male who was booked for possession of a firearm. He was later released to his parents with a promise to appear in court.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, AT 1:20 P.M.,
Officers served a search warrant on a suspect under investigation for dealing drugs. The suspect, a member of a local street gang, was stopped after he left his home, police said. Officers went to the suspect's home and allegedly recovered 2.5 ounces of meth, cocaine and multiple prescription drugs, along with other evidence indicating narcotics sales. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked for possession with the intent to distribute, possession of a controlled substance, participation in a criminal street gang and a probation violation. The suspect was identified as Hector Castillo, 30, of Santa Monica. No bail was set.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, AT 6:36 P.M.,
Officers on routine patrol received a report of a stolen vehicle in the area of Fourth Street and Olympic Drive. Officers were notified that the car's LoJack system had been activated and that the vehicle was stolen out of the LAPD's Devonshire Division. They tracked the vehicle to the 1300 block of Psomas Way near the Penmar Golf Course. Officers detained two suspects at the scene and they were booked for grand theft auto. Police said the registered owner of the car filed a stolen vehicle report after his daughter and her boyfriend, who had priors for auto theft, took the car and refused to return it. The suspects were identified as Jacob Andrew Lara, 19, of Los Angeles, and Alexis Maldonado, 20, of Granda Hills. Lara was held on a felony probation violation. Maldonado's bail was set at $25,000.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, AT 12:50 P.M.
Members of the SWAT team, along with detectives, served a search warrant and arrested a suspect wanted in connection with an armed robbery that occurred in April. Police said the two victims were walking on Marguerita Avenue near Ocean Avenue when they were approached by two men, one armed with a handgun. The suspects demanded their property and told them not call police. The suspects then fled on foot. Detectives were able to identify a vehicle used in the robbery and tracked down one of the suspects, who was later identified by the victims. When officers searched the suspect's home, they said they found a handgun, ammunition and over 100 grams of meth. The suspect, identified as Erik Cadena, 20, of Los Angeles, was booked for robbery and a parole violation. No bail was set and the investigation is ongoing. Two suspects remain at large.

news@smdp.com



BASEBALL

FROM PAGE 3

Lucas O'Conner to fly out harmlessly to left field to end the threat.

On the heels of Garcia's hold, the Vikings erupted for four runs in the bottom of the fourth highlighted by third baseman Danny Galvan's RBI-double to left field that scored Trent Nelson, who doubled the previous at bat.

Garcia said the insurance runs helped him stay composed as he went on to complete the game, earning the win in the process.

"I was just trying to get ahead in the count," Garcia said of his approach. "I was just glad to be out there throwing strikes."

In defeat, Culver City's longtime head coach Rick Prieto said that his team did a few things right, but ultimately let a lack of execution cost them a potential league title.

"[Samohi] came to play and we didn't," Prieto flatly said. "They played hard, they have a lot of talent.

"But, the thing is, they always play with a little swagger."

Samohi junior outfielder/pitcher Adam Padilla couldn't help but crack a smile when told of what Prieto said, nodding his head as if to acknowledge that his team carries themselves with a little something extra.

"We're just more confident now," Padilla said. "I think we finally have some chemistry."

The Vikings must wait until Sunday to find out who and where they will be playing in the playoffs, but Philip-Guide said that he just wants his players to savor the championship for the time being.

"The kids deserve it," he said.



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

TOO HAPPY: **The Samohi Vikings celebrate winning the Ocean League title on Thursday.**

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SMPD
FROM PAGE 1

alleyway near Santa Monica High School. School Board member Oscar de la Torre broke up the fight, but video evidence caused some to question whether or not he had waited too long to do so.

An investigation was launched by Sgt. Dave Thomas that resulted in no charges being filed.

Although the OIR report, ordered by City Manager Rod Gould at the behest of some community leaders, confirmed that the SMPD was right in pursuing the investigation, the agency questioned the method by which it was carried out, raising concerns about the motives behind the investigation. The report said Thomas included in his report "an unusual mix of facts and advocacy."

It made seven recommendations to improve the police department, specifically developing a detective's manual, more training on interviewing witnesses, establishing a standard report format, creating a report writing manual, considering witness bias in investigations, being cautious when offering advice to witnesses and implementing a more robust review process.

Gould and Jackman committed to a progress report on those seven goals within 90 days of the Feb. 22 City Council meeting.

Since that time, the department formed two committees — an investigative best practices committee and a report writing committee — to search nationwide for manuals and procedures that the SMPD could adopt.

The department took the counsel of experts from within the department, state and federal resources as well as the RAND Corp. and Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to find the best materials, said Sgt. Richard Lewis.

"In that process, we were meeting and surpassing some of the standards set forth by other departments," Lewis said.

SMPD plans to use its existing resource, the Lexipol System, which aggregates the latest laws, case decisions and law enforcement best practices, as its detective's manual by breaking out a chapter as a standalone for officers that conduct investigations.

Those officers will receive a copy by Oct. 1.

The department also plans to host extra training in order to improve officers' skills on interviewing witnesses.

It plans to keep its current style of report-writing, which is done chronologically through the incident, but will be reinforced in ongoing training that the department hopes will be completed by Oct. 1, according to the report.

That training will also include a section on witness bias.

Using the Palo Alto report writing manual as a guide, the department created a standalone report writing manual to help with consistency.

The department also uses an electronic service called the California Peace Officers Legal Sourcebook, which makes report-writing instructions available at any work station.

> **"IN THAT PROCESS, WE WERE MEETING AND SURPASSING SOME OF THE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS."**
>
> Sgt. Richard Lewis
> SMPD

The department will also work to put better oversight on its Audit and Inspection Unit.

That unit is staffed by one detective and one sergeant, and the reports do not receive the same level of scrutiny as the other reports in the department, Lewis said.

Shuffling management staff to put an extra set of eyes on those reports may be a solution, Lewis said.

All costs for the proposed trainings and manuals are expected to be kept within the training budget for the year.

Although the work is not yet complete, Gould said he was pleased with the progress made by the police department.

"We took the Office of Independent Review report very seriously," Gould said. "We're committed to exposing our officers to more training in investigative technologies and report writing and the like."

The changes didn't satisfy the object of that original investigation, however.

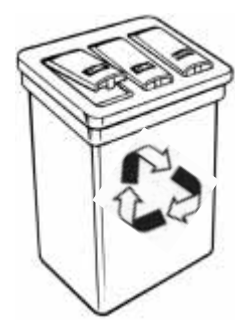
"A deliberate abuse of police powers cannot be remedied with training, or changing reporting practices," de la Torre said.

Revealing the results of a promised internal investigation into the investigator, Thomas, would be a step toward making amends, de la Torre added.

"More is needed to restore the public trust that has been lost due to the unethical behavior of Sgt. Dave Thomas and his supervisors," de la Torre said.

The city manager has already stated that the inquiry into Thomas will not be made public.

ashley@smdp.com



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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

graduated with the required courses.

SMMUSD schools use those courses as base requirements for graduation, unlike other schools in the state which do not have as high standards, said Carrie Hahnel, director of policy and research for Education Trust-West.

"What we find appalling is that rates of eligibility across the state are so low," Hahnel said. "The reason Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District rises to the top at that measure is that its rates are quite high. The district is to be commended for achieving that."

School officials were pleased that the standards had yielded such results, crediting a network of teachers, administrators and support staff that help ensure students excel in advanced coursework.

"I turned to page 7 of the report and got rather excited," said Superintendent Tim Cuneo.

The report relies on numbers from 2010. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District had a total enrollment of 11,723 students, a quarter of whom were low-income, 6 percent African American and 27 percent Latino.

The district's biggest failure lay in the gap between white and minority students for the Academic Performance Index, which is used by the state to measure how well students do on state tests, according to the report.

The district received failing grades for performance gaps comparing white students to both Latino and African-American students.

API scores range from 200 to 1,000, and the state Department of Education created a goal for all students to achieve an 800 or better.

While white students in SMMUSD averaged an API of 887, Latino students got 763, with low-income and African-American students lagging at 741 and 720 respectively.

Districts received a failing grade if the gap in those scores exceeded 120 points.

"The area that stood out for us was the achievement gap," Hahnel said. "In peer achievement, there's still a gulf."

The disparity has long been noted, said Board of Education member Oscar de la Torre, and the district's attempts to fix it have had limited success.

"Shamefully, there have been many promises made, but not all have been realized," de la Torre said. "We need to hold ourselves accountable."

SMMUSD has produced reports on equity and equality in education, as well as created a taskforce meant to address problems in education for students of color. Efforts have also been made to infuse more resources into classrooms through the district's Equity Fund to keep kids from falling behind. The Equity Fund was adopted in 2004 and requires that 15 percent of certain donations and gifts given to individual schools be pooled together and distributed based on a weighted formula, with the goal of eliminating funding disparities and closing the achievement gap.

"Part of the solution is a reflection on our culture as an institution," de la Torre said. "Do we have a public education system that lifts up students that come from challenging backgrounds, or students with a different culture from white middle class America?"

> **"WE WANT EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS, WHILE CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, AND WE'RE COMMITTED TO IT."**
>
> Tim Cuneo
> SMMUSD Superintendent

The school district recognizes the disparity, and is working to fix it through programs like the Young Collegians, which helps minority high school students attend classes at Santa Monica College to acclimate them to college life, Cuneo said.

"We want extraordinary achievement for all students, while closing the achievement gap, and we're committed to it," Cuneo said.

Beyond problems in achievement, the district is actually falling behind state averages in improving test scores for minority and low-income students.

"The overall state average is a 59 point increase," said Lindsey Stuart, the data policy analyst with Education Trust-West that helped compile the report. "The district is not meeting the state, and the performance grades should be higher."

Latino students actually beat the state average with a 63-point increase, but African-American and low-income students failed to meet that mark with a 41- and 38-point increase respectively.

Overall, the district received a C-minus for its work educating minority and low-income students.

The majority of districts graded received a similar score.

"In a minority-majority state like California, where Latino and low-income students comprise more than half of the student population, these statistics are downright dangerous to the state's future prosperity," the report reads.

The report stresses that SMMUSD is not alone in its struggles to reduce the achievement gap. It's actually a state-wide problem, with huge implications for minority students.

"Every time we fail to educate a child, it's an opportunity lost for upwards social mobility, and not just for that individual, but for the family," de la Torre said.

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

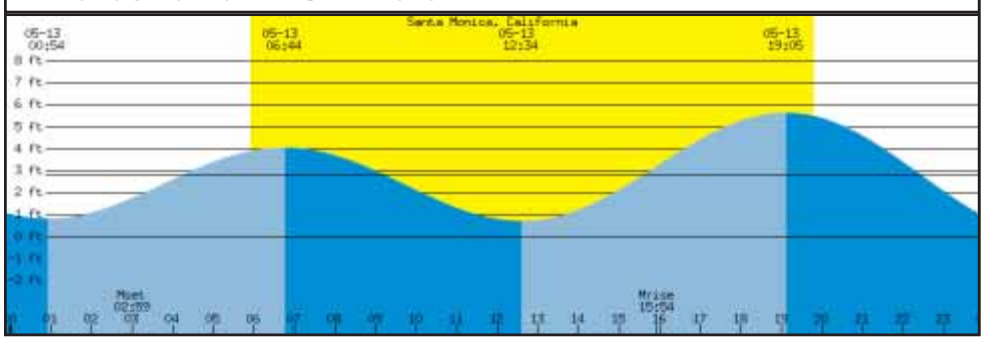
Swell Forecast

Should see a slight drop in SW swell, with waist max waves at south facing breaks, and once again nearly no NW at west facing spots

Long Range Synopsis

Should see a slight pulse of SW come ashore, around waist high or slightly better at south facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation
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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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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Public hearings will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

1685 Main Street, 11CA-005, Zoning: CC (Civic Center). The Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of Appropriateness application 11CA-005 for design approval for the redesign of the front portion of the City Hall site in conjunction with the Palisades Garden Walk/Town Square park project. The proposal includes the installation of new landscaping, hardscaping, a water feature and trellis structures. The Landmarks Commission will be reviewing whether the proposed improvements are appropriate and compatible with the Landmark City Hall structure and site and its character defining features. Applicant: City of Santa Monica/Jean Bellman. Owner: City of Santa Monica.

When: **Monday, May 23, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

Where: Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, East Wing
1855 Main Street, Santa Monica

Questions/Comments
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment on the application at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter addressed to Scott Albright, AICP, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, California, 90401-3295. Or, you may contact Mr. Albright by phone at (310) 458-8341 or by email at scott.albright@smgov.net.

More Information
The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation requests, please contact (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Bus Lines 1, 2, 3 and 7 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the Challenge may be limited only to those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

Espanol
Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica para considerar la designación de una propiedad en la ciudad como un monumento histórico. Para mas información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

City of Santa Monica

Notice Of Availability Of A Draft Environmental Impact Report For 1907-1929 Lincoln Boulevard Walgreens Project

OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given on the completion and availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Walgreens project located at 1907-1929 Lincoln Boulevard.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would involve the construction of a one-story, Walgreens store measuring 12,041 square feet, including 2,201 square feet of basement space for storage and the building's electrical room, and 9,840 square feet of ground floor retail space. A surface parking lot providing 30 parking spaces and 7 bicycle parking spaces would be located to the east of the building. Implementation of the proposed project would require demolition of the existing on-site buildings.

The applicant has applied for the following discretionary permits: Development Review Permit (09DR001) for a structure over 7,500 square feet in area, Deed Restriction (09DED005) to tie the four parcels into one, a parking Variance (10VAR021) to reduce the number of required parking spaces by one and Conditional Use Permit (10CUP023) for alcohol sales.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: The Draft EIR determined that implementation of the proposed project will result in the following significant and unavoidable impacts:

- Transportation/Traffic

The Draft EIR also analyzed shadows, air quality, cultural (historic) resources, construction effects, greenhouse gas emissions, neighborhood effects, and noise and determined that impacts will be less than significant with respect to these issue areas.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A 30-day public review period will be provided for all interested persons to submit comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. **The comment period will start on May 13, 2011 and end at 5:30 p.m. on June 13, 2011.** Written comments should be sent to:

Lily Yegazu, Associate Planner
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Fax: (310) 458-3380
Lily.Yegazu@smgov.net

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Draft EIR and background materials may be viewed at the following locations:

City Planning Division public counter
Room 111
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Office of the City Clerk
Room 102
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Main Branch
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

Santa Monica Library
Ocean Park Branch
2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA

MOVIE TIMES

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

Beetlejuice (PG) 1hr 32min
Multiplicity (PG-13) 1hr 57min
7:30pm
Discussion between films with actor Michael Keaton.

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

Thor (PG-13) 1hr 54min
9:30am, 12:20pm, 3:10pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

Hesher (R) 1hr 42min
9:35am, 12:05pm, 2:35pm, 5:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

African Cats (G) 1hr 29min
9:45am, 12:10pm, 2:30pm, 4:55pm

Source Code (PG-13) 1hr 34min
7:20pm, 9:50pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
9:50am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Fast Five (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
10:20am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 6:10pm, 7:20pm, 9:10pm, 10:15pm

Everything Must Go (NR) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:50pm

Soul Surfer (PG-13) 1hr 45min
10:15am, 12:50pm, 3:25pm

Rio 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Priest 3D (PG-13) 1hr 27min
10:00am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:05am, 1:05pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 10:05pm

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

Last Night (R) 2hrs 00min
3:10pm, 7:40pm

Princess of Montpensier (La Princesse de Montpensier) (NR) 2hrs 19min
1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm

Forks Over Knives (PG) 1hr 30min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

13 Assassins (R) 2hrs 06min
4:00pm, 9:20pm

Exporting Raymond (PG) 1hr 26min
1:00pm, 5:30pm, 10:00pm

I Am (NR) 1hr 16min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:50pm

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

Something Borrowed (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Jumping the Broom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Water for Elephants (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Priest 3D (PG-13) 1hr 27min
11:50am, 2:05pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:50pm

Go for It! (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

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

Relax tonight, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might start the day in work mode, but by noon, many of you are thinking of the upcoming few days. Realistically, there is a lot to be done, and you see that clearly. Dig in now. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You can express a lot of creativity. You draw more work because others appreciate your gift. Understanding will evolve in a new direction if you can relax with someone you consider to be rather highbrow. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be surprised by a friend and his or her ideas. At the same time, you start looking forward to the weekend even more. You might need to disappoint a friend or loved one in order to complete what you feel is necessary. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Talk about what is on your mind, and learn more about where others are coming from. You easily could over-react to someone's statement, making a situation more difficult. Try to detach. Tonight: Home is where your heart is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Don't hold back. You might be surprised by what you really want to say. When you turn on the tap, you'll gain an unexpected insight -- perhaps into yourself. A change in plans might not be desired but is inevitable. Once decided, other opportunities float in. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Try to indulge and relax a little. Often, because you are so practical, you can get wound up about a money issue. Let go and enjoy what is happening with a close friend. Accept an invitation even if you need to make an adjustment. Tonight: Don't be surprised when a loved one throws a tantrum.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Move with your feelings. You could see a situation topple over when you least expect it. Open up to new ideas and preferences. You might feel like a domestic matter is dragging you down. Try to rethink your perspective. Tonight: Do your thing. Know, however, that sooner or later a discussion will be necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Know that you might need some time alone, especially if you feel your nerves tightening over an unexpected development. Though you might disappoint someone by changing your plans, it could be very necessary. Don't allow someone to bully you into doing what he or she wants. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You gravitate toward groups, and today is no exception. A child or new attachment could create an uproar when you least expect it. Honor who you are, but know that you cannot tell this person how to feel. Go where you are comfortable, for now. Tonight: Use care with your finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Try to avoid making commitments or plans until later today. Many unanticipated surprises could surround you. Turn away from an investment for now if it involves property. Honor your needs first. Tonight: Choose what's most relaxing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep a conversation open. You might be startled by what someone shares and have a strong reaction. Your ability to detach counts, allowing greater give-and-take. Honor who you are more openly than in the past. Don't let a fear or an automatic reaction ruin the moment. Tonight: Meet friends where there is music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others seem to possess the control you seek. A meeting exposes some issues, perhaps in a manner you had not yet considered. Tonight: A welcome break with a friend or loved one.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you express your feelings much more. The end result will be that many people are more comfortable and open with you. Insights that come forth will surprise you. You also might change your perspective about different issues. Travel, in-laws and education could come to the forefront as a priority. If you are single, a relationship could be a bit rocky until next winter. You could meet someone quite special at that time. If you are attached, your openness adds to the interaction between you as a couple. You will smile more often. LIBRA has a similar attitude but is more cerebral.



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.

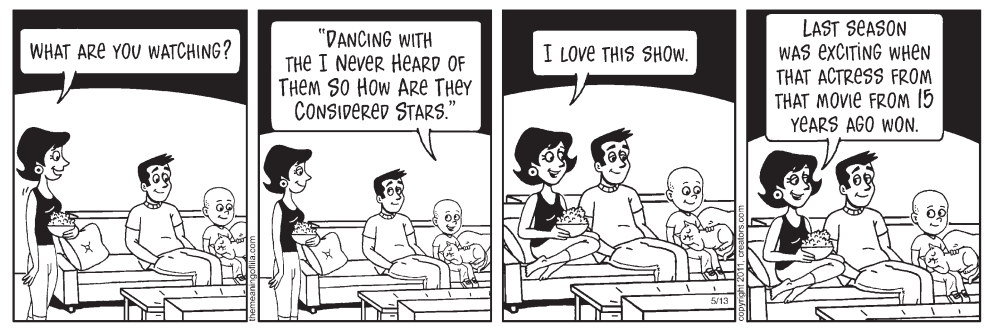
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Handled
6 Plant pest
11 Hawke of films
12 Tolkien's ring bearer
13 Ham it up
14 Locker room need
15 Swear
17 "Get lost!"
18 Small mass
20 One of a bear trio
22 Baseball score
23 Report-card signers
26 Suspect's defense
28 Ordeal
29 Senses
31 Book jacket item
32 Bear in the air
33 Trapper's item
34 Taj Mahal setting
36 Greek letters
38 Some change
40 Peer
43 Partners
44 Clinic worker
45 Undermine
46 Ocean trenches

DOWN

1 Bishopric
2 It's pressed for cash
3 Tony Bennett song
4 Ryan's "Paper Moon" co-star
5 Bills from tills
6 Back at sea
7 Do well
8 Young Rascals song
9 Notion
10 Pinhead
16 Place to relax
18 Diploma holder
19 Hold power
21 Fine study
23 Snaps
24 Kite part
25 Mailbox feature
27 Chided
30 Spigot
33 Vexed state
34 High point
35 Bike part
37 Dispatch
39 Compass dir.
41 Pharaoh's symbol
42 Guitarist Paul

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

Yesterday's answer

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

5-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 16 34 40 51 Meganumber: 34 Jackpot: $27M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 27 31 34 39 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5: 11 13 32 34 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 4 9 EVENING: 1 9 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 10 Solid Gold 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1:48.96

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

■ Local councils that govern life in the United Kingdom seem overly frightened of liability lawsuits -- even from criminals who might get hurt while committing crimes. London's Daily Telegraph and the Surrey Mirror reported in February that police in the counties of Kent and Surrey had been advising homeowners and merchants to avoid using wire mesh on windows because burglars could seriously gouge themselves while climbing through. Also, electrical engineer David Bishop said police seemed especially concerned that burglars could be electrocuted if they broke into his workshop and thus advised him to post a warning sign outside that could be seen in the dark.

■ Carelessness sometimes begets tragedy, as when motorists survive terrible accidents but then, while awaiting help, they are hit and killed by emergency vehicles. In December, near Ocala, Fla., a 39-year-old driver survived a rollover but was accidentally run over and killed by a responding Marion County sheriff's deputy, and in April in Baldwin Park, Calif., an arriving ambulance fatally struck a 22-year-old accident victim who was, until that moment, not seriously hurt.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1846 Mexican-American War: The United States declares war on Mexico.

1848 First performance of Finland's national anthem.

1861 American Civil War: Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom issues a "proclamation of neutrality" which recognizes the breakaway states as having belligerent rights.

1861 The Great Comet of 1861 is discovered by John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.

1861 Pakistan Railways opens the country's first railways line, from Karachi to Kotri.

WORD UP!

Zeitgeist
\TSYT-guyst; ZYT-guyst\ , noun;
1. [Often capitalized] The spirit of the time; the general intellectual and moral state or temper characteristic of any period of time.

ARITHMO™
CrossMath + × − ÷

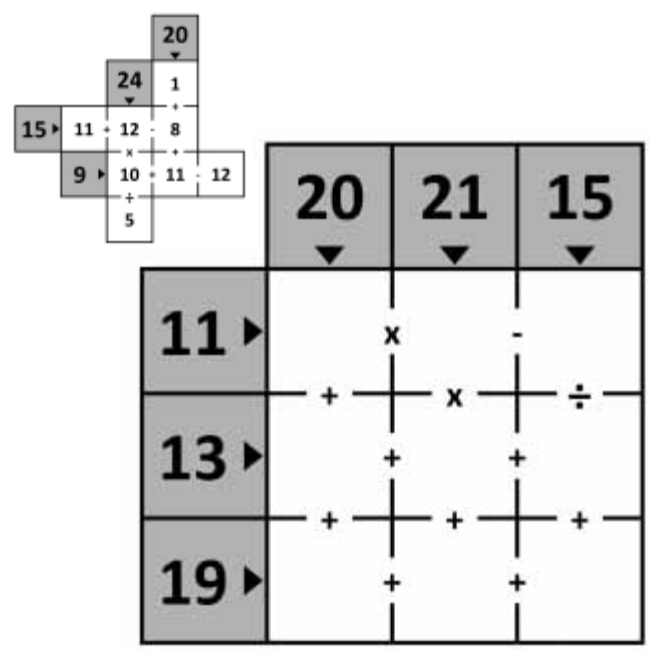
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand 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, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

Solution for Task 743



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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HOUSEKEEPING
Immediate positions available in the Saint Johns Health Center
All shifts available
Hospital housekeeping preferred.
Call 310/829-8431 for interview

Upscale assisted living community is looking for PT and FT cooks to prepare meals for our elderly residents. Must have a good attitude and have a love for seniors. Experience required and must have good sanitation practices. Schedule includes weekends and pre-employment drug test and criminal background check is required. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405. EOE

Help Wanted

ACT NOW! New Pay Increase! 37-46 cpm. New Trucks in 2011. Need 2 months CDL-A Driving Experience. 1-877-258-8782. www.MeltonTruck.com (Cal-SCAN)

COMPANY SOLOS & TEAMS - Western US! $300 Bonus after 30 days. Excellent Pay. CDL-A, 1-year OTR or recent grad. Hazmat required. 1-888-905-9879 or www.AndrusTrans.com (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER - MANY CHOICES: Part-time, Full-time, Casual, Express Lanes, Dry Van, Refrigerated. Weekly or Daily Pay. Local Orientation. CDL-A, 3 months recent experience required. 800-414-9569. www.DriveKnight.com (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVERS - No Experience - No Problem. 100% Paid CDL Training. Immediate Benefits. 20/10 program. Trainers Earn up to 49c per mile. CRST VAN EXPEDITED. 1-800-326-2778. www.JoinCRST.com (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVERS/CDL TRAINING - CAREER CENTRAL. No MONEY Down. CDL Training. Work for us or let us work for you! Unbeatable Career Opportunities. *Trainee *Company Driver *Lease Operator Earn up to $51k *Lease Trainers Earn up to $80k 1-877-369-7091. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (Cal-SCAN)

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE Representative: Earn supplemental income placing and supervising high school exchange students. Volunteer host families also needed. Promote world peace! 1-866-GO-AFICE or www.afice.org (Cal-SCAN)

LIVE WORK PARTY PLAY!! Play in Vegas, Hang in LA, Jet to New York! Hiring 18-24 gals/guys. $400-$800 wkly. Paid expenses. Call 1-800-457-8528. (Cal-SCAN)

LOAN OFFICERS- TIRED of WORKING For A BROKER- Work with a Mortgage Banker FHA, VA, Jumbo, Reverse- excellent commissions- Ray-800-429-5000 visit www.OakTreeFunding.com click Virtual LO (Cal-SCAN)

ADVERTISE! CALL US **(310) 458-7737**

Help Wanted

SEEKING MATURE woman for weekends, live-in, experience only need apply. Light cleaning, experience in cooking, sense and awareness of security while in residence, driver license, own car, verifiable references, and legal documents a must. Read, write and speak the English language properly and clearly, an absolute must.E-mail resume to susieblue007@hotmail.com (805)300-9825 between 10am - 3pm weekdays only

TECHNICIANS FOR SATELLITE TV Installation. Work as Independent Contractor. Knowledge of low voltage electronics. Reliable truck, ladder, hand tools. Lift 50+ lbs. $600-$1200wkly. 602-769-6472. (Cal-SCAN)

Adoption

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? You choose from families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6292, 24/7 Void/Illinois

Education

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Wanted

WANTED MARVEL/DC Superhero Comic Books. Especially 1960's. Collector/ Investor, paying cash. And ALL Marvel stuff, posters, pins, t-shirts & original art. Call Mike: 800.723.5572. (Cal-SCAN)

Instruction

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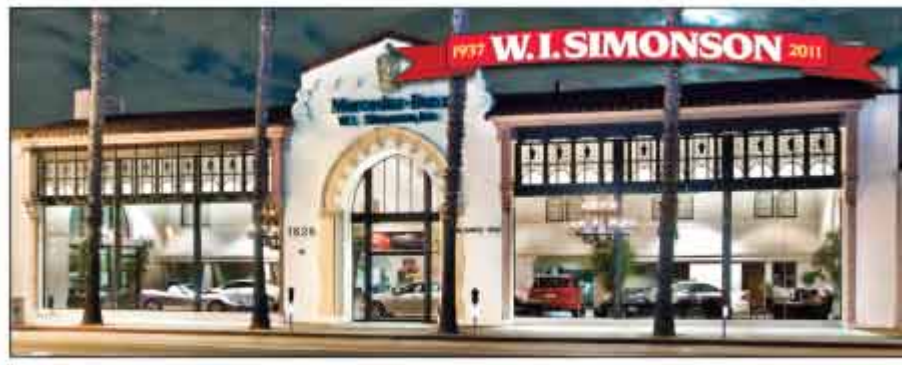

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