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TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 158

Santa Monica Daily Press

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION

PLAYOFF FIELDS SET
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE FINER POINTS ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

JUST RIGHT: **Trapeze School New York instructor Rachael Servello (left) instructs writer Samantha Masunaga through aerial tricks at the school's location on Seventh Street. The studio is the second TSNY location in town with the other one set up on the Santa Monica Pier.**

The hang of things

Writer learns first-hand a few aerial skills

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA
Special to the Daily Press

SEVENTH STREET The young woman struggled to thrust her arm through a narrow gap in the silk curtains hanging from the ceiling — while suspended 5 feet off the ground and secured by a only few loops of that same fabric around her legs.

In another corner of the studio, two girls practiced some sort of double flip, in which one girl was upside down and the other right side up.

This was the aerial silks class I had decided to try.

Best known for its prominent use in Cirque du Soleil shows, aerial silks have become a popular pastime, especially in Santa Monica.

An aerial studio of the Trapeze School New York opened in the middle of January after an increased interest in and demand for classes in aerial silks, said Troy Remelski, general manager of the Trapeze School New York in Santa Monica.

Though the school already owned and operated an outdoor trapeze facility on the Santa Monica Pier for several years, passersby always inquired about the few aerial silks classes they saw.

SEE SKILLS PAGE 8

BBB to cut Downtown, Beach rides

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN The few people who use the Downtown and Beach rides to travel to the Civic Center and Annenberg Community Beach house will have to find another way to get around next month.

The Big Blue Bus plans to no longer operate the two routes in June after a study found that ridership was well below the average for other routes, according to a report to the Santa Monica City Council.

SEE BBB PAGE 7

Huge pot-growing operation found in SM Mountains

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES One of the biggest marijuana growing operations in years has been found in the Santa Monica Mountains.

California State Parks district superintendent Craig Sap tells the Los Angeles Times that 34,000 plants worth an estimated $100 million were found Friday in Topanga State Park. The plants were discovered after park rangers found a plastic-lined earthen dam diverting water from a Topanga Creek tributary to a marijuana cultivation site deep in the park's backcountry.

No arrests were made, but Sap says three men were seen fleeing the scene.

Sap says the growing operation caused extensive damage to the soil, watershed, native plants and animals and it could take years for the environment to recover.

More than 500 pounds of trash and supplies left behind by pot farmers also were removed.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Living the dream
SMC Main Campus
1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m.
The Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute presents its Spring Symposium dubbed "Education and the Pursuit of Happiness." There will be a series of events through May 17 that kicks off with a panel discussion about implementing the California Dream Act. For more information, call (310) 434-3429.

Need to know
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 6 p.m.
Clinical social worker Ariel Shumaker leads a workshop to determine the needs of parents of Santa Monica students. The goal is to generate parental involvement among the city's educational community. For more information, call (310) 395-9747.

May mischief
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St.,
3:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Come on down to the Ocean Park Library and celebrate the very merry month of May with Mr. Jesse and all of his wonderful puppet pals. For more information,
call (310) 458-8681.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Meet at the market
Michael's Restaurant
1147 Third St.,
8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Michael McCarty and Executive Chef John-Carlos Kuramoto lead an exclusive tour of the Downtown Farmers' Market to introduce guests to their favorite farmers, pay homage to ingredients of the season, and show how they pick the best ingredients. Guests will then head back to the restaurant and enjoy dishes specially created by Chef Kuramoto featuring the monthly ingredient, as well as wine pairings and recipes to take home. Cost: $75. For more information, call (310) 451-0843.

Improve your improv
Improv for the People Studio
685 Venice Blvd., Venice,
7 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Join improv pros for a free workshop to help you think on your toes for laughs. For more information, call (310) 576-7561.

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Om
Douglas Park Clubhouse
2439 Wilshire Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Learn the secrets of Tibetan Buddhist meditation during this practice session. There will also be book study during the by-donation event. For more information,
call (310) 451-4368.

Awareness on screen
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., times vary
The FILManthropy Festival is a unique event for instigating and inspiring change by showcasing films that inspire, educate, raise awareness and motivate, so that audiences may open their minds and their hearts to creating a better world. The FILManthropy Festival encourages patrons to not only watch these inspiring films, but to do something — to work for change. For a schedule of films and screening times, visit filmanthropyfestival.org.

Starting fresh
Museum of Flying
3100 Airport Ave., 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
In honor of its 30-year anniversary celebration, the Cancer Support Community–Benjamin Center is bringing together two exceptional artists — Janet Roberts and Billy Zane — for an exclusive gallery event to benefit the organization. Showcasing 15 environmentally-friendly paintings from each artist, proceeds will help sustain free-of-charge programs offered at West L.A.'s CSC-Benjamin Center. For more information, call (310) 314-2555.

To create your own listing,
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For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at
310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Thousands expected for SM Classic

More than 4,000 runners are expected this Sunday for the seventh annual Santa Monica Classic.

The event, which includes both 5K and 10K races, will continue the tradition of raising awareness for the environmental nonprofit Heal the Bay, organizers said in a press release issued Monday.

Runners will race along the streets of Santa Monica on a point-to-point course that ends just steps away from the historic Santa Monica Pier.

Following the event, all participants can visit a finish line expo at the pier that promises to feature nutrition, fitness and health-related vendors, as well as an awards ceremony with eco-friendly recycled class trophies.

New this year is a $1,050 prize purse that will be split among the first three men and women to finish the 10K race.

Organizers plan to grow the prize purse in future years to attract top runners.

There's still time to sign up. Registration and pre-race packet pick-up will be available on Saturday, May 19 at Sports Chalet at 11801 W. Olympic Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or near the start line at 2600 Barnard Way beginning at 6 a.m. on race day.

"The Santa Monica Classic is a great course with fantastic views of the beach, so it's a perfect way for runners to kick off their summer racing season," said Nick Curl, chief operating officer for L.A. Marathon, LLC.

For more about the race, visit www.santamonicaclassic.com

KEVIN HERRERA

NYC firm buys rights to Fred Segal

A New York City firm has purchased the worldwide naming rights for the iconic Fred Segal brand, which over the last five decades has become synonymous with casual chic.

Sandow Media, which announced the acquisition, said the deal will allow it to put the iconic red, white and blue Fred Segal logo on merchandise as well as build Fred Segal stories around the globe. No word yet if the stores will be covered by Fred Segal's trademark ivy.

Not included in the deal are the two retail outlets – one on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles and another on Broadway at Fifth Street in Santa Monica.

Sandow Media did not disclose the purchase price for the naming rights, however, in an interview with the L.A. Times, Michele Caniato, president of Culture & Commerce, Sandow's design management agency division, which will be responsible for expanding the brand, said the company will "see north of $300 million in revenue over the next three years."

Fred Segal, 78, founded the family-run Fred Segal, Inc. in 1961 as a boutique specializing in designer jeans. He is retired and his son Michael Segal currently runs the business, which features in-house salons, a yoga studio and restaurants at its two brick and mortar locations.

Sandow Media was founded in 2002 and creates content, events and services for various design, beauty, luxury and business brands.

KH



Wendy Perl *perlphoto.com*

GOOFING AROUND: **Santa Monica High School's softball team celebrates winning its 12th straight Ocean League title last week. Samohi finished the league season a perfect 10-0. It's the 10th straight year the Vikings have not lost a league game.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Area teams reach playoffs

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CITYWIDE The fields of this year's CIF-Southern Section softball and baseball playoffs include five Santa Monica-based squads, it was announced on Monday.

The group is highlighted by Ocean League softball winner Santa Monica High School. The Vikings, two years removed from a CIF-SS title in the sport, are coming off their 12th straight league crown.

Samohi will host La Quinta on Thursday at Memorial Park to open the Division 4 postseason. La Quinta was the third place finisher in the Garden Grove League. The game begins at 3:15 p.m.

"We can't give away free bases," Head Coach Debbie Skaggs said. "We still haven't played our best game of the season. This would be a good time to make that happen."

The Vikings will start Sara Garcia on the mound.

Also in softball, St. Monica will host Marymount in a Division 5 wild card game today at Memorial Park. The game begins at 3:15 p.m.

St. Monica finished third in the Camino Real League.

The baseball playoffs feature a trio of area teams with Coastal League winner New Roads leading the pack. The No. 3 ranked team in Division 7 opens with a home game Friday against the winner of a wild card game to be played today between Southwestern Academy and Public Safety Academy. Friday's game will begin at 3:15 p.m. The location hasn't been announced.

Samohi enters the Division 3 baseball playoffs on the road Friday at San Gabriel Valley League winner Downey. The Vikings, the second place team in the Ocean League, will start Adam Padilla on the mound.

"It's Adam's senior year, so far I've gone with my senior leader to start games," Head Coach Sheldon Philip-Guide said of his pitching choice.

Rounding out the group is Pacifica Christian baseball. The Seawolves finished second in the Heritage league this season. They will host Newbury Park Adventist on Wednesday at North Venice Little League in Division 7 wild card play. The game begins at 1:30 p.m.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Excellence in architecture

Editor:

In his letter concerning the City Council float-up of the Fairmont Miramar project ("Good first step," Letters to the Editor, April 30), Mr. Rosenstein writes that "a surprising number of the 80-plus speakers at the public hearing sounded like amateur architects critiquing the proposed design."

Does he mean to say that only professional architects should be expected to comment on proposals for new building through development agreement in Santa Monica? That would leave little role for most of the citizenry, which is not only not very democratic, but certainly not much in the spirit of the official policy of our Planning Department, which calls for a "community" that is engaged in land-use decision making.

So, I think he must mean, instead, to suggest that only uninformed persons could doubt that the plan we are being offered is capable of producing a "world class" architectural result. The situation seems to me, however, the reverse. Now, taste in aesthetic matters does indeed vary according to social class, level of education, and personal style. And a certain kind of marketing research may indicate that certain aesthetic choices are to be preferred over others for the narrow purposes of certain business propositions.

But to think that what the owners of the Miramar property have in mind will ever qualify as "world class" architecture betrays either lack of acquaintance with what's going on in the field of architecture nowadays, or a lack of genuine interest in the question. I encourage anyone who is curious about this matter to look through some issues of Architectural Record, which is the magazine put out by the American Institute of Architects, and read the articles. (Copies can be found at the Main Library.) Almost all of the many projects they feature in each issue display some sort of actual architectural excellence or other.

David William Martin
Santa Monica

Attack on conscience

Editor:

When the Obama administration's healthcare financing plan was signed into law, President Obama and Congress promised that funds under the new law would not cover abortions.

This has now been proven to be empty rhetoric.

Why? Because the Department of Health and Human Services has mandated that under the healthcare law, private health insurance plans must cover the "full range of FDA approved contraception" – in which category HHS explicitly included the abortion-inducing drug ella.

This mandate includes a so-called "religious employer exemption," yet the exemption is so narrowly defined that most religious schools, colleges, hospitals and charitable organizations serving the public do not qualify. Even an expanded definition of "religious employer" would fail to protect non-religiously affiliated organizations, individuals and even religiously-affiliated health insurers whose pro-life consciences are nonetheless violated.

This is an unprecedented attack on the freedom of conscience of millions of Americans, eviscerating their freedom of choice to purchase private insurance that does not violate their ethical, moral or religious objections. I hope all readers will contact their elected representatives in Washington, D.C. and voice outrage over this anti-life mandate.

Anita C. Cuttler
Los Angeles



What's the Point?

David Pisarra — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

The circus is in town

AFTER A ROUGH WEEK OF FIGHTING for fathers in child custody cases, blogging at my website MensFamilyLaw.com, and arguing over whether or not the yacht club membership is a community asset, I like to relax by walking on the boardwalk and the Santa Monica Pier with my dog. On especially gorgeous days like this past weekend, the crowds are overwhelming but extremely exciting.

I hate the traffic that comes with the better weather and hordes of people, but the awesomeness of the diversity makes it all worthwhile. We are so very lucky to have the parade of people come to us, not only for the money they bring to the local economy, but for the entertainment value.

The grassy patch just south of the jungle gym kids area is a constant source of beautiful bodies practicing acrobatics or gymnastics. Oftentimes in the early morning there is a yogi or two twisting themselves into positions that would make Mitt Romney look like a straight arrow.

For people watching, this area with the rings and the giant ropes is a great place to see examples of physical prowess that make me pine for the days of my youth when I could climb that rope in 20 seconds as a 126-pound wrestler. Those days are long gone and highly unlikely to return.

If you have a dog, bringing them to the beach is great way to meet people, especially those with small children who are always attracted to furry things. My dog is an uncommon type, so he gets a lot more attention than most. As a standard dachshund he elicits lots of comments like "he's so big!" and "I've never seen one so large." At 30 pounds he stands out from your typical purse puppy that many people have. Those miniature dachshunds are convenient for carrying around, but they are a different dog than the standard size. My hound struts along the boardwalk, and as we approach the Hot Dog on a Stick he goes on high alert looking for dropped pieces of wieners and French fries.

Our tour continues along the south side of the pier, which has the best views of the beach and the bay during the day. It also has many fisherman who drop pieces of unidentifiable bait that a certain four legged creature loves to gobble. The catch of the day makes for interesting viewing, as some of the fish that are kept seem like monsters to me.

The circus gets really interesting on the north side of the pier as the street performers take over for the fisherman. From the silver guy, to the cameo maker, there is an endless parade of odd couples that draw my attention. I'm always amazed at the people and the funny clothes they wear to the beach. Men who have no business wearing Speedos and women who don't realize that Spandex is a privilege and not a right make me envious of their self-confidence.

COME ON DOWN, COP A SQUAT ON THE SAND, AND TAKE PART IN THE FUN THAT IS THE BEACH AT SANTA MONICA.

There is an "anything goes" attitude at the beach that I love to see, and occasionally take part in. It's especially evident at sunset, after a long day of tanning and beer drinking for some, the wacky factor kind of reaches a crescendo just as the sun is sinking into the Pacific. I think my favorite sight from this weekend was a miniature poodle with a blue mohawk riding in a basket while her caregiver rode the bicycle. As she's enjoying the wind in her face, her mom is singing. It was quite a sight to behold.

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, which is the traditional start to summer, it's nice to see that the Circus of the Curious is going to be in full force this year, as is evidenced by its presence already.

Come on down, cop a squat on the sand, and take part in the fun that is the beach at Santa Monica.

DAVID Pisarra is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.



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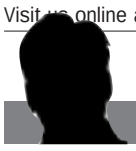
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Your column here

Claudia Espinola
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Head over heels: Pregnant celebrities setting bad example

IT SEEMS NOWADAYS THAT SEEING celebrities walking around the street in sky-high heels while pregnant is the latest trend to hit the streets. Who hasn't seen Jessica Simpson, Victoria Beckham or Kourtney Kardashian strut around town in their sky-high heels weeks before delivery? But that's not reasonable or recommended for the average expecting fashionista.

Beckham learned the hard way what happens when celebrities are unwilling to sacrifice fashion for pregnancy. The former Posh Spice, who has been known to tool around town in five-inch stilettos, wore high heels even in the late stages of her pregnancy — but not without cost. Beckham, who gave birth to her fourth child in July, has been seen sporting — gasp — flats around town instead of her usual towering heels after she reportedly suffered a slipped disc. It's presumed that her heels are to blame and that she is now under doctor's orders to wear flat shoes.

Simpson even proclaimed that she would be giving birth in her favorite Claudia Espinola heels, but later in her pregnancy had to give them up because she couldn't do it anymore, joking on Jay Leno that "it's a lot of weight to carry on six inches."

If other stars have taken note of Beckham's or Simpson's predicament, they certainly haven't been letting on. As recently as a few weeks ago, stars like Alyson Hannigan almost fell while she was getting out of her car in NYC, then it happened to Kourtney Kardashian while walking in New York City.

Fortunately for both of the ladies, their entourage was there to catch them before they took a nasty fall. But what kind of example is this setting for women who look to celebrities for fashion trends and styling tips?

Tabloids tell us that the rich and famous are "just like us," running errands and picking up their kids from school, but while they saunter around town in heels right off the runway, how can we believe them? I certainly don't whip out my favorite pair of Prada pumps to pick up milk and eggs from the store. Nor have I envisioned comfortably running after my kids on the playground in Jimmy Choos, at least not while awake.

These unrealistic fashion standards set for expecting moms are just as detrimental as most fashion advertisements are to a young girl's self-esteem. Stilettos have become statements; a bold banner for femininity and womanhood. But unbeknownst to us mere mortals that flip through the style sections, these glowing stars are experiencing the consequences from their stunning heels.

Stilettos for pregnant women are not inherently dangerous, according to doctors. But when a woman's weight and shape changes during pregnancy, so does her center of gravity. Because of this, she may be more prone to falls, which could have dire consequences.

Most pregnant women also tend to have an arched back posture to accommodate their expanding bellies, often leading to lower back pain. Wearing high-heeled shoes and boots can exacerbate those problems, especially as feet start to swell in the later months.

But women don't have to give up their high-heeled, high-fashion tastes just because they're expecting. Some women, especially those who work in the corporate world, do go out of their way to work within their existing wardrobe and not change their basic look or usual fashion sense for as long as possible.

Most obstetricians recommend that patients wear flat shoes or shoes with less than a two-and-a-half inch heel, especially in the third trimester. As pregnancy progresses, among other things, the extra weight puts a strain on your arches, causing many women to go up a half to full size larger during and after pregnancy.

I recommend to my customers, who can't imagine surrendering style to a baby bump, to look for a wider 2 1/2 inch heel vs. a thin stiletto, because this will give you more stability when walking. I also recommend sticking to a more supportive shoe that offers arch support on a daily basis. Here are some things to look for in a shoe when you're expecting so you can continue to be your fabulous and fashionable self.

• Shock absorption: Pregnancy weight gain puts extra strain on your feet. Look for shoes that offer extra cushioning or memory foam to minimize the impact of walking.

• Arch support: Pregnancy can cause painful arches. Look for shoes with solid arch. This will keep you properly aligned while also preventing your feet from flattening or rolling inward.

• Breathability: Pregnant feet will sweat, probably more than usual. Look for shoes made out of natural leather or breathable liners to prevent blisters and regulate your foot temperature.

• Length expansion: Pregnant feet can lengthen, often up to a full size. Look for a shoe that offers some kind of customized fit, either with removable in-soles or length expanding technology. Avoid the temptation of just buying a shoe a size up since improper fitting shoes can cause you to slip and fall.

• Width expansion: Feet will swell. Look for a wider-width shoe or one that has some sort of stretch release in the toe box to safely accommodate foot swelling while avoiding the pain of too tight shoes.

• Proper fit toe box: Excess stress from tight-fitting shoes during pregnancy can cause permanent foot damage and prevent circulation. Look for shoes that provide you with just the right amount of wiggle room in the toe area.

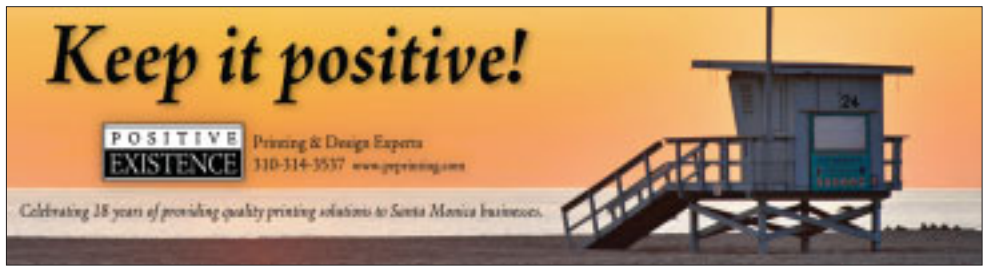
The trend to wear Christian Louboutins to the birthing table might not be such a good idea after all, not even for the bravest of us. You look cute temporarily, but you might end up regretting your decision later. By looking for the right features in a heel that still meets your design aesthetic, you can still have a fashionable and healthy pregnancy your feet and back won't hate you for.

CLAUDIA Espinola is a shoe designer and self-proclaimed "cobblette," having studied shoe design and construction in Milan, Italy prior to founding her company Casa Couture, Inc., a footwear company that meets the needs of expecting moms in their quest to find a fashionable shoe they can wear through their pregnancy and beyond.

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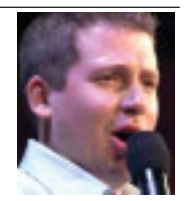
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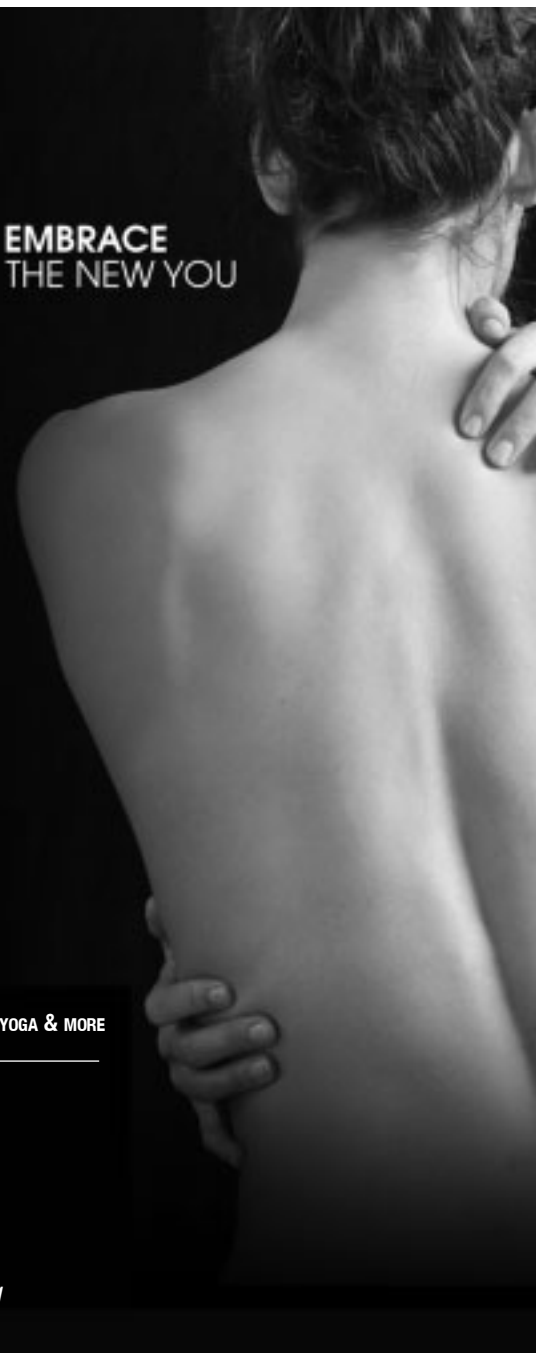
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High-speed rail must hustle to keep funding

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES California will need to build its high-speed train line in record time if it doesn't want to risk losing federal funds — indeed, it will have to be the fastest piece of transportation construction in U.S. history, experts said.

Under a federal deadline, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has until September 2017 to finish the first segment of the line in the Central Valley. In that time, the project will need to acquire some 120 permits, 1,100 parcels of land and a huge workforce.

At a projected cost of $6 billion, California would be spending $2.7 million a day to finish on time, according to an estimate by John Popov of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a consulting firm working with the rail authority.

The rail authority is considering whether it can legally shift as much as $1.3 billion in work past the deadline, Popov said.

The figure could reach $3.5 million a day when the cost of buying land is added to construction, management and environmental costs, construction experts told the Los Angeles Times.

By comparison, the spending rate for the $6.5 billion Bay Bridge replacement project in Oakland is tagged at about $1.8 million per day.

Construction of the Alameda Corridor freight rail line in Los Angeles, completed in 2002, also ran about $1.8 million per day.

"It is a very aggressive plan," said Manuel Garcia, associate director at the Construction Industry Institute affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin. "It does appear that it will be a challenge."

Delays caused by legal, political or technical problems could leave the first segment uncompleted by the deadline, which potentially could halt the flow of federal money.

The project is nine months behind schedule in securing approval from the Federal Railroad Administration, a consultant for the rail authority said in a status report this month.

Land acquisition also is facing problems, Mark Ashley said.

"It is dicey right now whether that is going to hold up our construction or impact our schedule," he said.

Contractors must submit bids by September to build the first section, from Madera to Fresno. The rail authority contract terms call for builders to face $1 million per day in penalties for failing to meet final deadlines after March 1, 2017.

Documents show negligence at state mental hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORWALK, Calif. Serious lapses in mental patient care at Southern California's Metropolitan State Hospital include workers sleeping on the job and failing to make patient checks with one of the most egregious cases involving a patient found on the floor with a broken neck, according to internal investigative reports obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

In one case outlined by the reports, by the time psychiatric patient Diane Rodrigues, 52, got to a trauma center hours later, she was paralyzed. She died six months later from related respiratory complications.

The reports show employees at the Norwalk mental hospital south of Los Angeles lied to protect themselves and colleagues, The Times said.

The Rodrigues case was among about a dozen detailed by a federal court monitor who cited lax medical and psychiatric care at Metropolitan and Napa state hospitals as part of a petition to extend federal government oversight of the two facilities.

Reports of overuse of medication, restraints and poor patient safety led the federal government to sue California five years ago to force changes in four state hospitals. A Los Angeles judge ruled in November that Atascadero State Hospital and Patton State Hospital in San Bernardino will no longer be subject to a patient care consent judgment reached between California and federal officials.

A judge hasn't made a decision on whether to extend the U.S. Justice Department consent judgment governing Metropolitan and Napa.

State Department of Mental Health officials refuse to discuss the Rodrigues case because of ongoing litigation by her family. But the final internal investigation report and five previous drafts obtained by The Times found evidence of gross negligence involving "incompetence, fraud, dishonesty, along with numerous policy and procedure violations."

Rodrigues was a schizophrenic placed at Metropolitan in September 2009 by a conservator to keep her from hurting herself or others. She was known to hurl herself to the floor, and she was placed under constant one-on-one supervision.

On the night of the injury, the nurse assigned to her dosed off and had to be awakened three times, the report said. Federal court monitor Mohamed El Sabaawi wrote that the on-duty Metropolitan State Hospital doctor "delayed treatment for several hours to a person who broke their spine."

Sabaawi wrote that before the Rodrigues incident, he had told the hospital that the doctor "was failing to provide people with minimally adequate care." But the hospital, he said, "ignored my warnings."

The name of the doctor wasn't released.

BBB

FROM PAGE 1

Ridership on the Downtown Ride, a parking shuttle that has operated since August 2011 to provide monthly parking pass holders free trips to and from the Civic Center, was clocked at just 2.7 passengers per hour, ranking as the least productive service in the BBB system. By comparison, the average ridership per hour in the system is 39.

At an annual operating cost of $210,000, transit officials felt money could be better spent elsewhere, especially since the Downtown Ride uses a fairly similar route to lines 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9. Parking pass holders will still be able to use those lines for free through 2014. Officials said almost 50 percent of the current parking pass holders have used those routes over the last seven months.

The Beach Ride, which was sponsored by BBB and the Department of Community and Cultural Services, actually saw ridership drop by 30 percent in 2011, with 2.14 riders per hour. The shuttle operated on different days and along different routes in June, July and August for approximately seven hours a day. Despite testing several routes and schedules, ridership never picked up. Last summer only 146 people hopped on board.

The changes are part of an overhaul based on an analysis of ridership, BBB officials said.

Other routes to be impacted by the changes include 5, 12, Super 12, Crosstown Ride and the Sunset Ride. Officials said the changes were made following a series of five public meetings held throughout the service area in March, August and September of 2011.

A major reason for the changes is to better link up with the Culver City Expo Light Rail Line station at Venice and Robertson boulevards, and to cut down on redundancy.

Route 5, which currently operates between Downtown and the Rimpau Transit Center via Olympic and Pico boulevards, will be realigned once it hits Pico and Robertson. It will use Robertson instead of Pico and connect with the Expo Line and not the transit center. Service along Pico to the transit center will continue to be provided by Route 7, Rapid 7 and Route 13.

Route 12 service east of National Boulevard will also terminate at the Expo station in Culver City.

There is no financial impact created by these changes, officials said, and they are expected to help improve service so Line 12 and Super 12 buses arrive on time, something which occurs only 60 percent of the time.

Crosstown and Sunset Rides will undergo minor changes, with more running time being added to the Crosstown schedule so that it hits stops every 20 minutes. Sunset Ride hours will be reduced to coincide with a drop in ridership when Santa Monica College starts its summer session.

And to be a better neighbor to those living in and around UCLA, the BBB has agreed to pick up passengers at the Ackerman Transit Terminal instead of the Hilgard Transit Terminal after 8 p.m. on weekdays. The terminals are located less than half a mile apart. Apparently some neighbors were concerned about the noise.

Routes 1, 2, 8 and 12, will continue to serve both terminals from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Weekend service will not change.

The service changes are expected to go into effect June 17.

BBB officials are currently examining more changes to service, particularly for Routes 1, 2, and Rapid 10. Public hearings are currently being held.

For more information on the route changes, and to learn more about the BBB, go www.bigbluebus.com

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MOVING: **Trapeze School New York student Katie Fitzgerald practices moves under the watchful eye of instructor Rachael Servello (right) at the school's studio on Seventh Street.**

SKILLS

FROM PAGE 1

"It looks graceful and it looks easy and people think that they can do it," he said. "They don't realize how difficult it really is."

A few weeks ago, I wandered down to the aerial studio and inquired about taking one of their classes so I could write about it. I had no idea what would be offered and only insisted on something for beginners. I chose aerial silks over lyra simply because I didn't think I could handle balancing in an aerial hoop.

After making arrangements, instructor Rachael Servello warned me that I should get plenty of rest the night before, and be ready for a good workout.

Though I wasn't scared before, I became a little more nervous.

When I arrived on May 9, I was ushered into a four-person class, the typical size at the studio, Servello said.

It was a mixed-age class, and though we were all together in the same half of the studio, we were all working on similar, but different, tricks. Katherine Fitzgerald, a Santa Monica native, was high in the air while performing a maneuver that wrapped both of her legs in the silks, as they crossed at her back. She would later progress to an intermediate move called the candy cane, which involves a one-leg wrap, body inversion and more abdominal strength than I could even imagine. This was only Fitzgerald's fifth class.

After seeing my shocked expression, she informed me, with a laugh, that the learning curve for aerials was relatively small.

"You start picking up a lot in your first few classes," she said.

The foundation of these more advanced moves is a footlock, a one or two foot wrap maneuver that secures your feet at a specific point on the silk. At times, it's the only thing keeping you up in the air.

Servello taught me the basics and gave me a practice set, which involved actually relying on the footlock to suspend myself in midair.

At first, I found myself spinning around the silk because I forgot to keep a tight hold with my left foot in a type of yoga tree pose. But after a few times, I finally got the hang of it, and Servello moved me along to bending backwards and forwards, all while suspended by my

SEE **SKILLS** PAGE 9

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"IT LOOKS GRACEFUL AND IT LOOKS EASY, AND PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN DO IT."

Troy Remelski,
General manager of the Trapeze School New York in Santa Monica

SKILLS
FROM PAGE 8

footlock.

I wouldn't generally consider myself very graceful, so the feeling of hanging from two silks in a C shape, with one leg outstretched was exciting.

My experience would have been complete with that final move, but Servello decided to have me try a double footlock that would eventually result in me hanging upside down.

As I started to get into the footlocks, I had a few reservations, but as soon as I got into position, Servello called, "Now, flip over!"

So I did as I was told.

It was worth it.

With the blood rushing to my head and Servello on hand to make sure I was holding up, I had a huge grin on my face. Though it took considerably more abdominal strength to pull myself out of the move, it was enough to know that I could do it.

I won't be trying out for the next Cirque du Soleil audition, but I now have greater respect for those aerial artists.

The Trapeze School New York Aerial Studio is located at 1207 Seventh St. The silk classes start at $35 for an hour.

news@smdp.com



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

FUN TIME: **A pair of young Trapeze School New York students spend down time practicing their moves. They were part of a small class that consisted of just four students.**

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Obama trying to undermine Romney's record on jobs

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama tried Monday to tarnish Mitt Romney as a corporate titan who got rich by cutting rather than creating jobs, opening a new effort to undercut the Republican's claims that his background of business success is just what America needs in a time of deep economic uncertainty.

At the center of the Obama campaign effort are a new website, TV ad and online video including interviews with onetime workers at a Kansas City, Mo., steel mill that Romney's former private equity firm failed to successfully restructure. Workers lost jobs and health care benefits. Pensions were reduced.

"It was like a vampire. They came in and sucked the life out of us," says steelworker Jack Cobb. Add John Wiseman: "Bain Capital walked away with a lot of money that they made off this plant. We view Mitt Romney as a job destroyer.

Countering the criticism, Romney's campaign said the former Massachusetts governor welcomes an election-season conversation with Obama about jobs. Romney's campaign has argued that he helped spur tens of thousands of jobs in the public and private sectors and pointed to a net job loss during Obama's presidency, most of which occurred during the first few months of his administration. Obama has touted the creation of 4.2 million new jobs over the last 26 months as his policies took hold.

Both candidates are seeking to pivot to voters' No. 1 issue, the economy, and away from the social issues that dominated after the president announced his support for gay marriage last week.

Obama steered clear of criticizing Romney during a commencement speech at Barnard College in New York though he included a passing reference to nearby Wall Street, saying: "Some folks in the financial world have not exactly been model corporate citizens." He left the more direct skewering to surrogates and dispatched Vice President Joe Biden to Ohio to castigate Romney over his record at Bain. That was one of several events planned to highlight the Republican's role in the company he founded.

Romney, meanwhile, prepared to deliver a speech Tuesday in Iowa on reducing the huge federal debt.

Monday's dreary global financial backdrop set the stage for a sharp debate in the coming weeks between the candidates over their competing economic philosophies, and it highlighted the public's unhappiness with big business and government institutions alike.

JPMorgan Chase's disclosure that it lost more than $2 billion on bad trading bets renewed calls for tighter oversight of the nation's biggest financial institutions, a position that Obama has supported and Romney has opposed. And world markets were tenuous as Greece weighed whether to renege on the terms of its painful austerity program and leave the Euro currency bloc. That could hurt Obama's attempts to accelerate the limping U.S. recovery.

Romney and Obama alike contend that in a nation where unemployment is hovering around 8 percent, voters will choose a president based on economic arguments. Obama is trying to persuade voters to stick with him as he heralds an economic rebound, as sluggish as it is. Romney counters that only he — with his deep background in business — knows how to jumpstart the nation's job market.

The two men have little in common in their views of how to get the country moving.

Obama has pumped money into the economy to stimulate growth and has cut some taxes though he also advocates raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans. Romney argues that lower taxes across the board and fewer government restrictions are the answer. Both are trying to win over an electorate that is furious with Wall Street and distrustful of corporations, and Obama's new campaign effort was squarely aimed at working-class voters, a group that has been reluctant to support the president in the past.

Obama's TV ad was scheduled to run in five battleground states — Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Colorado — and was part of a larger $25 million, month-long campaign. But it was limited in scope.

Republican officials tracking the ad buy said the Obama team was airing the 2-minute spot only on Wednesday in the five states. The ad was expected to run during the evening news, directing viewers to an Obama website about Romney's economic record and a longer, 6-minute version of the ad appearing online.

As Obama's campaign was raising Romney's record in private equity, the president himself was heading to two fundraisers, including a $35,800-per-person dinner at the home of Hamilton "Tony" James, the president of Blackstone Group, the nation's largest private equity firm.

Romney's campaign, meanwhile, aggressively worked behind the scenes to counter the Obama campaign's Bain message.

It released a Web video about a successful steel company that Bain invested in called Steel Dynamics. The video shows steelworkers describing the company as the embodiment of the American dream, noting that the company grew from a workforce of 1,400 to more than 6,000. That video was not immediately planned for television.

Romney also dispatched Ed Gillespie, a senior campaign strategist, to a conference call with conservative bloggers on Monday to respond to the Obama ad. The campaign planned to frame the attacks on Romney's record at Bain as an "attack on free enterprise," and to cast the auto bailout as an example of private equity at work.

Romney advisers predicted the attacks on the presumptive Republican nominee's record at Bain would backfire because most voters understand that some business ventures succeed while others fail.

"This is someone who understand how the economy works, and I think most Americans also understand that there's never guaranteed success," Gillespie said.

Earlier this year, Romney previewed his counterattack, saying of Obama: "He's now been a venture capitalist at Solyndra, Fisker, Tesla; and he's been a private equity guy at General Motors and Chrysler. So I'll be talking about his record when I'm facing him."

Romney, a multimillionaire, left Bain in 1999 to run the Salt Lake City Olympic Games but maintained a financial interest in the company after departing. He has said that his firm had a strong overall track record, creating jobs in prominent companies like Staples and Sports Authority, while acknowledging that some companies Bain invested in were unsuccessful.

The Obama ad, which reprises criticism leveled at Romney during the Republican primaries, focuses on one of those unsuccessful companies, GST Steel.

Bain was the majority shareholder in GST beginning in 1993. The company eventually filed for bankruptcy in 2001, a period in which the U.S. steel industry was roiled by a flood of cheap steel imports. About 750 workers lost their jobs, and were left without health benefits and with reduced pensions.

NBA

Griffin says he'll play despite knee injury

BY PAUL J. WEBER
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO Blake Griffin woke up Monday with his sprained left knee not feeling worse, but not really much better. Rest is the only remedy, a luxury the Los Angeles Clippers don't have, and doctors guess he might miss two weeks if this were the regular season.

Griffin? He says he will play in Game 1 on Tuesday night against the San Antonio Spurs.

Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro is making no such guarantees.

"I don't know yet," Del Negro said Monday. "I'll make that decision tomorrow after shootaround, after I talk to the trainer."

Griffin doesn't think that conversation will be necessary.

Griffin said there is "no doubt" about his availability for the start of the Western Conference semifinals, which start two days after the hobbled All-Star played fewer than two minutes in the fourth quarter of a Game 7 win at Memphis. His injury is the most worrisome for the banged-up Clippers: All-Star Chris Paul said Monday that his bothersome right hip is OK, and forward Caron Butler is expected to play despite his broken left hand.

Following a light shootaround and film session Monday, Griffin put his health between 75 percent and 80 percent.

"Hopefully more than that, but realistically, probably about that," he said. "But my knee hasn't gotten worse. That's the encouraging thing. It just needs time, and we haven't had much of it."

They've barely had any at all.

The Clippers flew straight to Texas from Memphis on Sunday night, leaving them little time to savor one of the biggest wins in the woeful 41-year history of the franchise. Never had the Clippers won a Game 7 before Sunday, and this marks only the third time they've advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Then there are the Spurs.

Few things about the No. 1 seed in the West could be more different than the Clippers, and not just in terms of franchise history. While the worn-out Clippers are facing their sixth game in 11 days, the Spurs haven't played for eight days since sweeping Utah in the first round.

That the Spurs are not the most hobbled team in a playoff series is a refreshing change of pace for them. Winners of 14 in a row — one of the NBA's six-longest winning streaks sustained in the playoffs since 1986 — the Spurs are not just well rested but also in unusually good health for this time of year.

They're also in a good mood: After the Clippers won Sunday, Spurs guard Tony Parker sent Paul a text message.

"See you soon," Parker wrote.

What took the Clippers so long, anyway?

"I was kind of expecting to play on Sunday," Manu Ginobili said. "The uncertainty is not always good. I came here (Saturday) thinking I was going to know, and then I didn't. It's demotivating. Because you can't prepare for nobody."

The Spurs won two of three meetings with the Clippers this season, their only loss coming when Parker sat out with a sore thigh. That was March 9; the Spurs have lost only three more times since then, and once was when coach Gregg Popovich didn't play Parker, Ginobili and Tim Duncan so his stars could rest.

By Monday afternoon, the Clippers were so starved for rest that Griffin was talking about the Game 7 afternoon start almost as though it were a blessing, because it gave them another precious half-day to recover.

"Going through a seven-game series is definitely exhausting," Griffin said. "We may have some guys that are a little beat-up. That's how it is. But a lot of teams have that, and we can't use that as an excuse."

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SURF REPORT



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1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64.8°

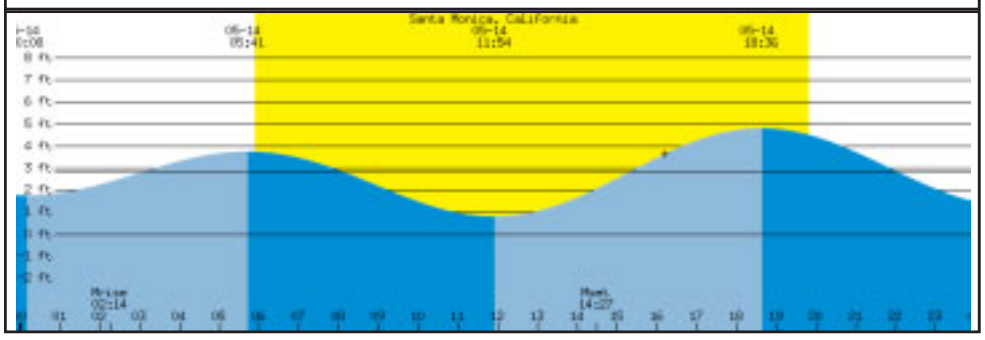
Swell Forecast

sees southern hemi swell build into south facing breaks, running chest to at times head high at south facing breaks. West facing breaks look small, around knee to waist, bigger though at dual exposure spots.

Long Range Synopsis

THE SOUTHERLY SWELL SHOULD FADE TO CHEST MAX, WITH ONLY KNEE TO WAIST HIGH SETS EXPECTED 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 -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- 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 -- 8 / 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 Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Pearco State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	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 19848 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+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel 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 DBW 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

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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Justice Served Daily®

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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

Drivers in Santa Monica might have noticed some recent changes to many intersections around town that have people wondering if they are headed down the Champs Elysees towards the Arch de Triumph or perhaps lost on an English country road. The roundabout intersection has made a roundabout trip across the world to Santa Monica with the hopes of easing traffic congestion and making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers here in Santa Monica must be aware of the traffic rules and regulations that govern roundabout driving so that motorists are not stranded like foreigners in a foreign land. Here are some basic rules and explanations about roundabouts that will hopefully help you on your way around town.

The basic definition of a roundabout is a circular junction in which road traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Roundabouts increase safety in the community by requiring drivers to both decrease their speeds and in turn increase their awareness upon entering the intersection. Roundabouts also increase a neighborhood's aesthetic appeal by creating charming and unique architectural designs. Neatly landscaped circles or placement of a statue, monument, or flagpole give roundabouts a homely and suburban feel despite their very urban purpose. Pedestrians are often prohibited or discouraged from entering the center circle of a roundabout, but pedestrians and drivers can nonetheless enjoy the visual charisma that the intersection adds to a community. Roundabouts facilitate motorists, bicyclists, runners, and dog-walkers in an efficient and competent manner.

Roundabouts have some negative drawbacks as well. Larger vehicles and trucks may find it difficult to navigate through narrow roundabouts that are not built to handle such vehicles. The recent implementation of roundabouts in Santa Monica has also caused some backup and unwanted traffic delays at roundabouts where drivers are not familiar with the traffic laws and traffic flow. On the same note, there is a greater risk of traffic collisions and accidents from drivers who are simply not paying attention to their surroundings. Roundabouts require far greater concentration and awareness than do conventional squared intersections.

Upon entering a roundabout, drivers should first notice a sign or traffic indicator alerting the driver to slow down and prepare to yield. A painted dashed line will also alert drivers that they are entering a roundabout intersection. Unless otherwise indicated, drivers do not have to come to a complete stop; however, the situation may require a complete stop depending on traffic conditions at the time. Remember, pedestrians always have the right of way! So, if you see a bicyclist, jogger, or walker you must stop in order to allow that person safe passage. If there are no other cars in the roundabout and no pedestrians, the driver can then safely enter the roundabout. Most Santa Monica roundabouts are one-way, meaning a driver can only make a right turn to enter the roundabout and a right turn to exit the roundabout.

A driver that is already in the roundabout has the right of way over a driver that is entering the roundabout. Thus, if you are the car that is approaching the roundabout and slowing down getting ready to turn into the roundabout, do not expect another car that is already in the roundabout to stop or slow to let you in! This area tends to be one of the most confusing aspects of roundabouts, but if you remember that the car already in the roundabout has the right of way…you should be alright. Regardless of who has the right of way, drivers should nonetheless always remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings to prevent any kind of accident. Keep a slow to moderate speed while circling depending on the traffic at the time. Also, it is very important that drivers remember to use their turn signals. Turn signals alert circling drivers inside the roundabout and allow other drivers to adjust speeds based on turns. Moreover, a turn signal also notifies drivers waiting to enter the roundabout that the path is clear for them to safely make the maneuver.

Avoid unnecessary traffic citations, accidents, and congestion by following these simple roundabout rules. Remember to be aware, vigilant, and attentive to your surroundings at all time. Adjust to a roundabout way of thinking and enjoy the ride around town!

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

Live Talks L.A.: An Evening with Gregg Allman
8:00pm
Tickets only available at www.livetalksla.org

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

Cabin in the Woods (R) 1hr 35min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
1:15pm, 4:30pm, 8:00pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Hick (R) 1hr 35min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Chimpanzee (G) 1hr 18min
2:15pm, 4:30pm

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

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

Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) 1hr 28min
11:15am, 3:50pm, 8:30pm

Think Like a Man (PG-13)
2hrs 02min
1:00pm, 4:10pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 1:15pm, 4:15pm, 6:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm, 10:15pm

Five-Year Engagement (R)
2hrs 04min
12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
1:45pm, 5:15pm, 8:30pm

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

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:15pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:55pm

Bolshoi Ballet: The Bright Stream
ENCORE (NR)
7:30pm

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

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

Marley (PG-13) 2hrs 25min
10:10pm

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

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

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:55am

Safe (R) 1hr 35min
2:40pm, 5:20pm, 7:50pm, 10:25pm

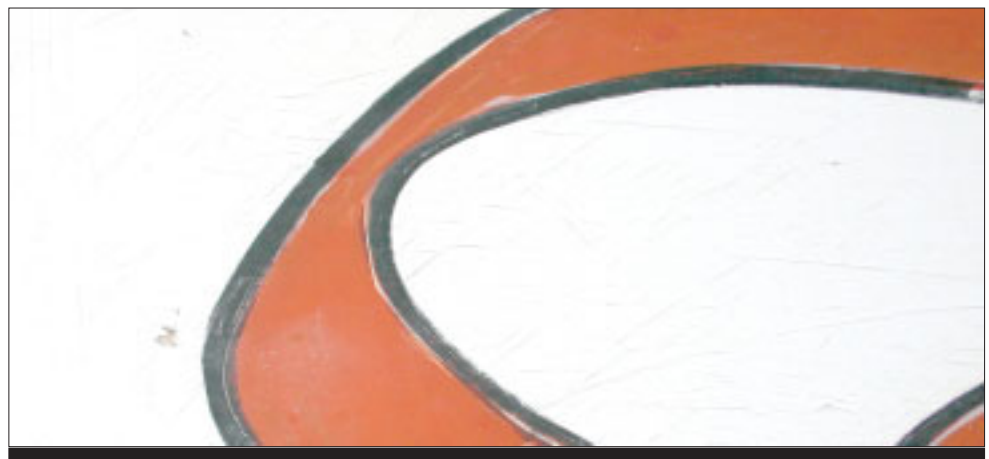
Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

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



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.

Get some quiet time, Cappy

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Much more can be accomplished when you are upbeat. Others tend to work with you, with the exception of a key person who cares a lot about you and vice versa. Strap on your seat belt, as this person enters a period of the grumpies. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You have an enormous wealth of information and a well of creativity. Mix these traits together, and you'll seem unstoppable. You could feel let down in some odd way. Stay nonreactive. Tonight: Do for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Handle a personal or domestic matter first. Make sure you do not overspend, especially in an effort to appease someone or appeal to others. Tonight: Act like a kid again.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are likely to speak your mind, and you'll be heard, up to a point. Someone makes an implicit demand that you play his or her game, or else he or she might not "get" your method of communication. Think carefully about this first. Tonight: Mosey on home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You recently have been skimming through your life when dealing with various people. Somehow you manage to get your message across and receive their responses, but at what cost? Tonight: Allow your mind to drift. You can decide whether to follow it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others recently have played a dominant role in your life. You wonder when you need to say "enough." Perhaps you have been too receptive. A partner needs and wants more of your time. If you said "no" more often to others, you could say "yes" with greater frequency to this person. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Plunge into each task at hand. You might note that someone or something could be pulling you back. Honor that restriction now and for the next few weeks. On some level, you might subconsciously be working through the issue. Tonight: Decide to visit with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Enjoy the people you encounter. Though you might not want to start a new relationship, a proclivity to revamp a current one or to work through a problem emerges. Go with this inclination. Tonight: Let the fun and games begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You move from a place of concern or feeling a bit off to a great sense of self and a source of creativity. A meeting might appear to be going in one direction, but it actually could flip and point to a new path. Plan on flying solo at the present moment. Tonight: Act like it is the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Sometimes you feel as if you must make the first move, but how many times must you? Clearly this activity brings you some happiness, or the result makes it worthwhile. Be careful with a touchy elder or boss. Tonight: Get some quiet time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might want to indulge someone but feel like you can't because you will want to go overboard. Know that you can stay within your budget -- you just have to be creative. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your magnetism attracts many people and results in odd reactions. Do not be surprised if you suddenly have difficulty relating to a loved one. Let this person know how much you care. Tonight: Your treat.

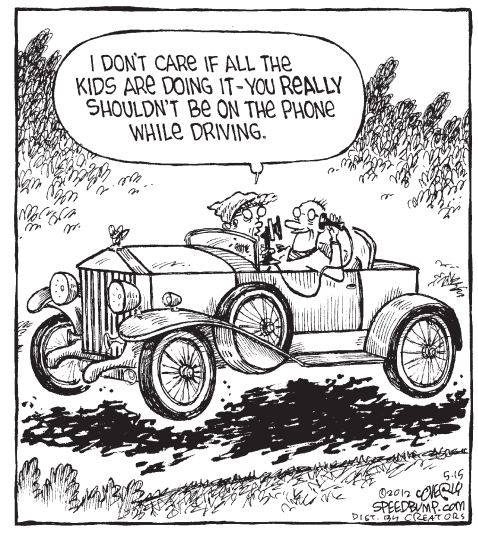
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

Happy birthday

This year you have two different themes running through your life. The first few months, you focus on expanding your horizons and realizing an important goal. In this same time period, you also could meet someone significant to your life history. The second period will start in the summer. You will tend to go within more to process your thoughts. If you are single, you meet people whom you carefully want to check out. If you are attached, the two of you will want more time alone as a couple. ARIES knows how to trigger a reaction from you.

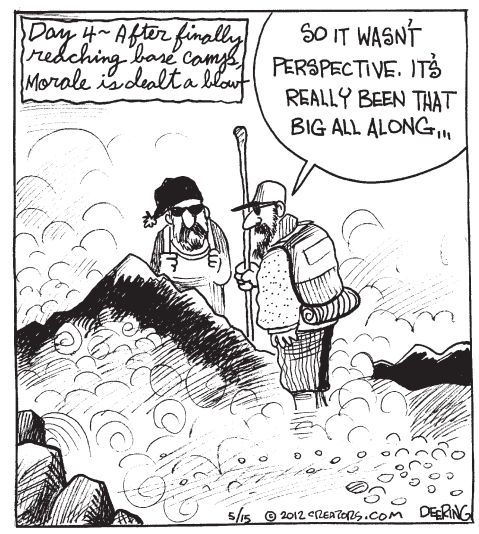
Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew

By John Deering



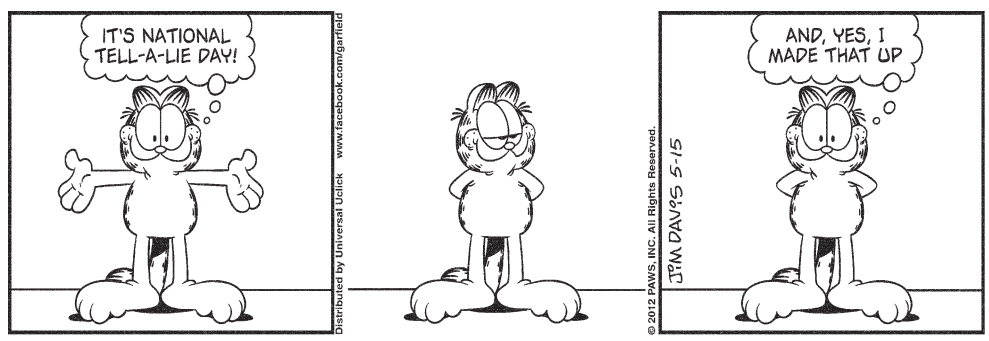
Dogs of C-Kennel

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 ★★

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

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

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70 cents
stays right here - supporting our schools, services and the community.

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SANTA MONICA
It makes a difference!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

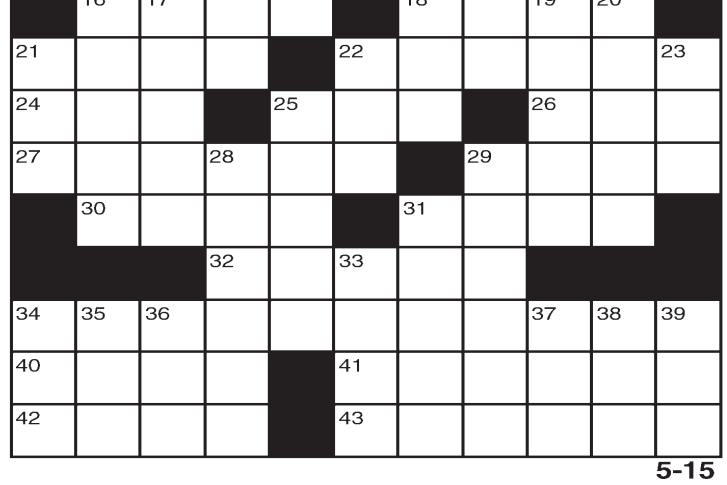
ACROSS
1 Lady of Spain
7 Heaps
11 Middle East language
12 Take the bus
13 Anne Rice novel
15 Top players
16 Not that
18 Moral no-nos
21 "Fargo" director
22 Mississippi explorer
24 Ornate planter
25 Cacao holder
26 Travel aid
27 Battle ploy
29 Pucker-inducing
30 Zeus' wife
31 Go-aheads
32 Burger topper
34 Anne Rice novel
40 Golf goal
41 Cosmetician Estée
42 Holler
43 Unwavering

DOWN
1 Pouchlike part
2 Mess up
3 Yea opposer
4 Get
5 Anarchic events
6 Massage target
7 Friend of Athos and Porthos
8 Tyler of "The Lord of the Rings"
9 Keats poem
10 Kayo count
14 Moved slowly
16 Temple text
17 Ergo
19 Wanderer
20 Flag features
21 Barber's offering
22 Clinic nickname
23 Make a choice
25 Recital sight
28 Mason's tool
29 Taste-bud setting
31 Jack Sprat's restriction
33 Miseries
34 Belonging to thee
35 Garden tool
36 Annex
37 Writer Tarbell
38 Nourished
39 Attempt

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

Yesterday's answer

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



5-15

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

• 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.

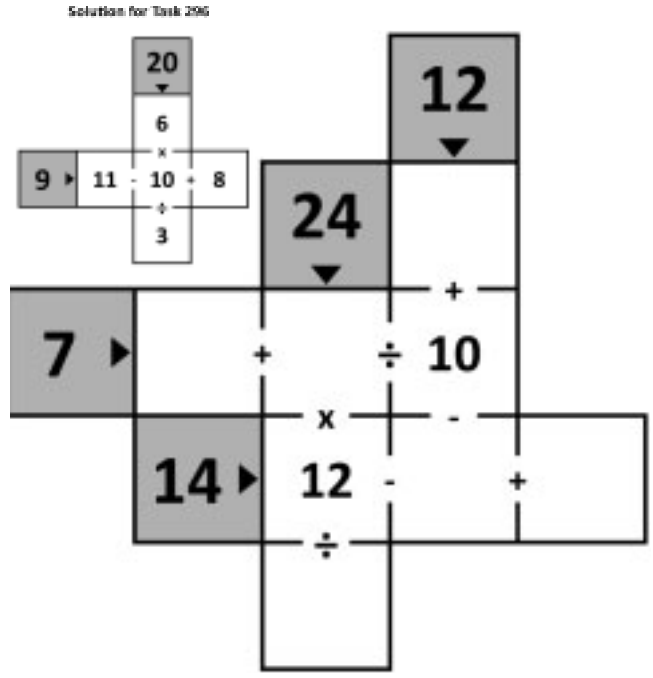
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.

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

5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 11

Solution for Task 296



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: May 11
3 15 29 35 54
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: May 12
10 24 26 30 35
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $16M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: May 14
1 11 19 24 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: May 14
MIDDAY: 4 8 0
EVENING: 5 7 1

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: May 14
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 05-CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 03 - HOT SHOT
RACE TIME: 1:46.38

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In April, Arizona (recently the home of cutting-edge legislation) almost set itself up for the impossible task of trying to prohibit any "annoy(ing)" or "offen(sive)" or "profane" language on the Internet. The state House passed the bill, which was endorsed 30-0 by the state Senate, ostensibly to make an anti-stalking telephone regulation applicable to "digital" communications. (Just as the bill was about to go to the governor for signature, sponsors suddenly realized the futility of the bill's directives, and on April 4th, withdrew it.)

■ With only 30,000 hotel rooms in Rio de Janeiro, and 50,000 visitors expected for the June United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, officials persuaded owners of many of the city's short-time "love hotels" (typically renting for four hours at a time) to change business plans for a few days to accommodate the delegates. A BBC News stringer reported that the hotels will remove some special fixtures and furniture, such as "erotic chairs" and velvet wall coverings, but that the large, round beds would stay. Fortunately, the conference does not begin until June 13. The night of June 12 ("Lovers Day") is a big income-producer for short-stay hotels.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1957 – At Malden Island in the Pacific, Britain tests its first hydrogen bomb in Operation Grapple. The device fails to detonate properly.

1958 – The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 3.

1963 – Project Mercury: The launch of the final Mercury mission, Mercury-Atlas 9 with astronaut L. Gordon Cooper on board. He becomes the first American to spend more than a day in space.

WORD UP!

intromit
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1.
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