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Santa Monica Daily Press
MAY 19-20, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 162

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

KEEP THOSE DOGS ON A LEASH
SEE PAGE 4

THE ANIMAL ISSUE

City Hall may stop funding PYFC

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD City Hall is threatening to pull the plug on one of the few organizations that serves at-risk youth in Santa Monica over problems with financial accountability and oversight.

According to a report, the Pico Youth and Family Center (PYFC), which receives $307,000 in local grant funds, has been plagued by bad accounting practices, volatility in its governing board and a lack of clarity about its mission despite years of direct involvement by city officials.

That's resulted in $30,000 in excessive payments in retirement plans and other extra payments to employees.

As a result, the Human Services Division, which oversees municipal grants to nonprofits, has recommended that the City Council approve a "last chance agreement," which would give PYFC six months to bring in an outside organization to fix its financial and organization.

PYFC Executive Director Oscar de la Torre, a member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education, acknowledged that the small nonprofit has had problems in the past, but that it rectified

SEE FUNDING PAGE 3



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

KEEPING WATCH: **A mother and her ducklings have set up residence in a third-floor courtyard at the Rand Corp. headquarters on Main Street. Employees at the think tank have been feeding and providing water for the mallards since they were discovered May 2.**

Making way for the ducklings

RAND Corp. employees fall for mallards

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA
Special to the Daily Press

CIVIC CENTER The mother duck rose to her feet and ruffled her feathers, prompting shaky imitation from her ducklings.

With that, the family of 10 marched across the third floor patio at the RAND Corp. building toward a shady bench hideout, complete with plastic bowls of water and platters replete with duck mash, mealworms and organic kale.

The unwieldy trek prompted smiles from several RAND employees, who gathered to watch.

Back at the bench, the mother duck watched them.

"Some people are of the mindset that nature should take its course," said Benson Wong, a production editor at RAND, while holding a bag of feed. "It would be a different story if we were on the first floor but they're up here — there's no way for them to get out."

The family of mallard ducks was adopted

SEE DUCKS PAGE 11

Mental health changes come to SMMUSD

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS A change in state law will alter the provision of mental health services to students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District next school year, costing the district more money and altering the kinds of services it will be able to provide.

According to Sara Woolverton, the director of special education in the district, SMMUSD could be on the hook for between $1 million and $1.5 million in the 2012-13 school year for mental health services.

That's up from $106,000 in 2010 and $850,000 in the current school year.

The increases come from a fundamental reorganization of how mental health services are provided as the state government cuts costs in an attempt to balance its ever-worsening budget.

In 2010, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger cut all funding to a 1984 law called Assembly Bill 3632 which mandated that county departments of mental health work with school districts to provide mental health services to students with special education plans, called IEPs, who needed additional support.

At that point, the school district was forced to contract directly with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. That meant a higher bill than in

SEE HEALTH PAGE 7


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, May 19, 2012

Calm and care
Santa Monica Place
395 Santa Monica Place,
7:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Take part in health workshops and yoga classes in this half-day wellness event benefiting the City of Hope. In addition to these activities, guests will also enjoy an opening bell ceremony, live music and yoga instruction from some of L.A.'s premier teachers. For more information, or to register for the event, visit www.yoga4hope.org, or call (800) 266-7920.

Book talk
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St.,
11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
A monthly book discussion group focusing on books that have won the Pulitzer Prize. This time, the group will discuss Willa Cather's "One of Ours." For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Teen thespians
Lincoln Middle School
1501 California Ave.,
2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
A rope swing, sword fights and an on-stage pirate ship will be part of the fun at "The Pirates of Penzance," a musical comedy produced by student actors at Lincoln Middle School. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and children. For more information, e-mail springconcert2012@gmail.com.

Get festive
Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The Santa Monica Festival offers an eclectic mix of live music and dance, do-it-yourself art workshops with recycled and repurposed materials, guilt-free shopping featuring Earth friendly artistic wares and local services offered by a variety of City Hall, environmental and local nonprofit organizations. Admission is free. Those biking should take advantage of the free bike valet. For more information, go to www.smgov.net/festival

Walk the walk
Santa Monica Pier
Lot 1 North, 7:30 a.m.
The Arthritis Walk of Los Angeles will feature live entertainment, a play area for kids, refreshments and food, but first you must walk. The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation's signature event that takes place in communities nationwide to raise funds and awareness to fight arthritis, the nation's number one cause of disability. For more information, call (323) 954-5760 x 250 or visit http://lmt.arthritis.org/

Sunday, May 20, 2012

By the book
Santa Monica Masonic Center, Second Floor
926 Santa Monica Blvd.,
12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Story tellers, refreshments and lots of books will be found at the Santa Monica-Palisades Masonic Lodge #307 Book Fair. Every child aged 3 to 13 will receive a new, free book from Scholastic Books. Book donations are encouraged. For more information, call (310) 804-6646.

End song
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 6 p.m.
Jacaranda, the classical music series known for new and rarely heard music culminates its 2011-12 season Sunday with pieces from Terry Riley and Lou Harrison/Richard Dee. The Jacaranda Youth Chamber Orchestra and Jacaranda Festival Orchestra & Chorus will partner with the Los Angeles Children's Chorus to perform these works. For tickets, call (800) 595-4TIX.

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



FUNDING
FROM PAGE 1

those mistakes and has continued to serve at-risk youth.

"The report says nothing about the impact that we've had," de la Torre said. "It fails to mention that gang violence is at an all-time low and the hundreds of young people that we serve."

The seven-page report details over a decade of history between City Hall and the leadership of PYFC from the days that it was a program under the stewardship of larger nonprofits to the time that it became a stand-alone agency.

According to the report, three outside organizations came in to provide organizational support and structure to PYFC.

Each left within six months to a year of taking over operations because they could not give the program the level of oversight that it needed to be successful, according to the report.

In some estimations, it was when PYFC struck off on its own and incorporated that problems began. The small staff had difficulty balancing the dual responsibilities of working with youth and managing paperwork.

Amanda Seward, chair of the PYFC board, described it as a matter of experience and also of necessity. The small organization has to deal with extreme circumstances like shootings in the community, and it's hard to keep boots on the ground and behind a desk.

"If there's a report due to the city in two days, they might not do that report because they're focused on the shooting," Seward said. "We need someone who's always focused on the administration who doesn't get tied up into all of those things."

It created a barrier between the organization and its critical funding source, City Hall, which hasn't received a financial report since 2004 that was on-time, complete and accurate, according to the report.

The group had gone through four accountants in seven years, financial reports were not making it to City Hall and when they did, serious questions were raised.

City Hall began tightening its oversight of PYFC in July 2011 by attending board meetings and conducting regular reviews of financial controls.

An October 2011 visit revealed missing grant money tied to three extra payroll checks — two to former Office Manager Yolanda de Cordova and one to de la Torre — and $28,088 in excess payments to retirement accounts.

All but $12,816.80 of that money has been returned, and de Cordova and one

SEE **NONPROFIT** PAGE 7

Middle school parents upset over 'inappropriate' novel

BY MELONIE MAGRUDER
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU When Rebecca Witjas' daughter, a sixth grader at Malibu Middle School, was assigned a book report that had to do with survival, she figured her daughter would pick a familiar title like "The Swiss Family Robinson" from the list assigned by teacher Brigette Leonard.

But after reading 17 pages of the book her daughter selected, Norman Ollestad's "Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival," Witjas said she was shocked.

"It was absolutely inappropriate for children," Witjas said. "I couldn't believe that this book was being suggested to 11-year-old children from a public school teacher."

The book, a New York Times best seller, is the harrowing true story of Topanga Canyon local Ollestad and his complicated relationship with his charismatic father. In 1979, when Ollestad was 11 years old, the plane he and his father were taking to a skiing competition crashed in the mountains at 8,000 feet. The pilot and his father were killed, his father's girlfriend died shortly thereafter, and the boy had to negotiate descending the mountain by himself.

Filled with surf culture lore and riveting detail, the book has received many honors since publication, including "Top 10 Best Books of the Year" by Amazon. But parents say its frankly sexual scenes and pervasive use of adult language should preclude it from a reading list for children barely past "My Little Pony."

"When the teacher gave out the list of suggested books, she said she had read this book and recommended it," Witjas said.

Audrey Ruth, another parent at Malibu High, echoed Witjas' shock. "This book might be OK for college kids, but certainly not for 11-year-olds," Ruth said, whose son is in seventh grade. "I never thought I'd have to vet a book list suggested by my

SEE **NOVEL** PAGE 10



RUNNING FOR CASH

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Students run laps to raise money for their school during the annual John Muir Elementary School Jog-a-Thon on Friday morning. For each lap run, the kids received a donation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Crazy bike path

Editor:

To add another dimension to the bike situation, I try to enjoy the bike path. However, there are days when I seriously wonder if someone went around to all the asylums, picked up the residents and delivered them to the bike path.

Despite the fact that there are numerous signs saying "Bikes Only," the universal sign of a circle with a line through it over a pedestrian, signs with an arrow pointing bikes this way and pedestrians that way, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of pedestrians walking on the bike path. This includes long sections where the bike path is only one foot away from the people path. Yet the people path is barely inhabited and the bike path is crowded with people walking.

Not only are they walking, they are walking two, three or even five across shoulder to shoulder, effectively blocking an entire lane and most of the other lane. And they look annoyed when a bike tries to get by. Especially challenging is anywhere near the Santa Monica Pier. People walk from the parking lot to the sand without even noticing that there are bikes traveling on the bike freeway. They just walk onto the bike path without looking.

A special word to mothers. I have seen a mother stop to tie her daughter's shoelaces. Besides the fact that the daughter looks about 12 and should be able to tie her own shoelaces, the daughter sticks out her foot in a lunge position; the mother bends down with her rear end sticking out. This is across the bike path right next to the pier. Together they were blocking part of the path in both directions. They were both totally oblivious to the large number of bikes traveling the bike path. Similar examples repeat themselves anywhere on the bike path.

I saw a dog trotting down the bike path. The dog wanted to move over. It turned its head around to see what was coming up before it moved over. The dog showed more brains than half the people on the bike path.

There is not a time or a day when this situation doesn't exist. Labor Day is not far away, and the crowds will grow enormously. I add my plea to those who are requesting that the Santa Monica Police Department enforce the laws for the sake of safety.

Jeanne Laurie
Santa Monica

Don't mess with Lincoln

Editor:

I am a tree hugging, artist, environmentalist in a "soft" profession. I have lived in Santa Monica for many years, ever since it was a quiet, pretty small town. I am totally baffled by the crazy idea of making ugly Lincoln Boulevard beautiful at the expense of even more traffic jams than we already have.

As I listen to KCRW I hear the city is inviting even more business and development into our over-crowded city. This is more noise, pollution and road rage as drivers have to navigate beautiful traffic lanes that remove driving lanes.

Stick some flowerpots on the sidewalks and keep the traffic flowing!

Paulette Rochelle-Levy
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Jeff Glaser — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keeping tabs on man's best friend

Q: IS IT TRUE THERE IS A LAW THAT ALL dogs are required to be on leashes when out in public within the city of Santa Monica? Is it also true that you cannot tie up your animal with the leash and leave him unattended?

A: Both questions are true and the purpose of Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 4.04.155 is to ensure the safety of both people and other animals from undue harm. The City Council adopted a "leash law" ordinance on Aug. 10, 2004. The law states that all dogs shall not be allowed on any public property unless it is in both the custody and control of a capable person and is either restrained by a leash that is no longer than 6 feet in length or is confined in a car. (Please note that when an animal is locked in a car there should be proper ventilation and the car's temperature should always be considered. Even with windows partially open, the temperature in a car can easily reach triple digits within a short amount of time, causing heat exhaustion and death for the animal.

Retractable leashes that extend longer than 6 feet are in violation of the law.

Even when a dog is tied up and left unattended, they can become aggressive when frightened or agitated by someone walking by, if someone tries to pet them or another dog tries to attack. The added security of having the owner available to either warn unsuspecting people (especially children) that the dog is not friendly, or to assist if another animal attacks is why the law was enacted. Just because the dog is cooperative for its owner, does not mean it will listen to others and we want to avoid as many unwelcome incidents as possible.

Some other laws pertaining to dogs include:

• Anyone walking a dog must have materials, in plain view, that are sufficient to remove and dispose of any fecal matter deposited on the ground by the dog.

• Dogs are not allowed to be on any school ground, public building, tot lot, playing field, tennis court, basketball court or on the beach. (This rule does not apply to dogs which are being used by the disabled as guide or service dogs.)

• Any dog older than 4 months must have a dog license affixed to its collar or harness.

Failure to adhere to any of those laws can result in a ticket which comes with a fine of not less than $50 for each offense. Citations for these and other animal related offenses can be issued by police officers; however they are usually handled by Animal Control officers.

Animal Control officers are specifically trained and designated to enforce state and municipal codes related to the control of animals and do so with everyone's safety in mind, including both the animals and people. Their other huge responsibility is taking care of the numerous injured and lost animals found throughout our city. Please give them the same respect and courtesy you would give any police officer.

For these and other laws pertaining to animals, please go City Hall's website for more information. Or you can visit the Animal Shelter at 1640 Ninth St.

Q: I'm always afraid of having my identity stolen. What's the latest trend happening in identity theft?

A: We have all been hearing about the importance of keeping our driver's license, Social Security card, credit cards and other forms of identification secure to prevent being a victim of identity theft. Unfortunately, the latest trend for criminals to obtain your information is through social networking sites like Facebook.

THE LAW STATES THAT ALL DOGS SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED ON ANY PUBLIC PROPERTY UNLESS IT IS IN BOTH THE CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF A CAPABLE PERSON AND IS EITHER RESTRAINED BY A LEASH THAT IS NO LONGER THAN 6 FEET IN LENGTH OR IS CONFINED IN A CAR.

Many criminals find an enormous amount of information from the personal information many people divulge on their Facebook accounts. Our recommendation is to limit the amount of personal information that is available on your Facebook profile. Some tips to do this include:

• Never list your full date of birth, phone number or physical address on your profile. Your true friends will already know that information so putting it on your profile will only give the criminals more information to work with.

• Do not list on Facebook, or any other public forum, the fact that you are away on vacation, then confirming that vacation by posting updates while you are away. This again will give criminals the window of opportunity to break into your home while you are gone.

• Use your "Privacy Settings." Only post the most basic information on your public page. If you allow someone to become your "Friend" they can then find out more about you.

• Do not "Friend" someone on Facebook unless you know them or can figure out what the requester's intentions are. Find out why they want to be your friend and when in doubt, tell them, "No thanks."

• Even within your privacy settings, be wary about posting family birthdays, anniversaries, and your pet's names. Criminals often track that type of information as they are commonly used as passwords for bank accounts, e-mails and other secured accounts.

• If you have children on Facebook, share this information with them and always monitor who they are networking with. Too many adults are posing as youngsters to not only steal your children's identities, but to lure your children away.

This column was written by Neighborhood Resource Officer **JEFF GLASER** (Beat 3: Downtown, including the Third Street Promenade). He can be reached at (424) 200-0683 or jeffrey.glaser@smgov.net.

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The Q Line

Quiet skies

There's a proposal making the rounds at City Hall that would pay flight schools to take some of their lessons elsewhere to keep the area around Santa Monica Airport quiet, something residents have been demanding for years.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think it's fair to pay flight schools to limit operations at SMO or is this not the solution for keeping the noise down?

Here are your responses:

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"I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT WANT THEM TO pay flights schools to limit operations at Santa Monica Airport. These people bought their houses after the airport was there. The airport has been there over 75 years. In fact, the city of Santa Monica aggressively enforces one of the most stringent noise ordinances in the nation. These people who live around the airport knew what they were getting into and now their just whiners wanting to change everything to suit them."

"I THINK IT'S A VERY POOR IDEA TO pay flight schools to abate the noise. You do that and everything else will go Cracker Jack. I am a former landlord. I owned a property right near the airport. The flight schools have been there quite a long time. So I think it's a bad idea. Once you do that, all hell breaks loose."

"I DON'T THINK WE NEED FOUR OR five flight schools. I think one or two would be sufficient. Zero would be the best possible solution, but the FAA might require us to have one or two, but I don't think they can force us to have four or five. I think the successful candidate or candidates, one or two, would be the ones that have the newest and quietest planes and would be willing to change their props or prop pitch, or whatever is required, to ensure they are the quietest planes. Secondly, I think they should accommodate their flight paths to fly straight out from the airport, over the golf course and then straight out to the ocean before turning north or south.… And instead of doing touch and goes and flying over Sunset Park. I don't think we have a prayer with the FAA over the jets. But I don't know that we need to pay them because I think when the lease is up we should be able to get rid of three of them at least, if not four, without having to pay them. If we want to go from four or five to zero, then I would suggest we keep one or two on a contingency basis for a year or two, and if we're still not happy then pay those one or two to locate to Van Nuys or some place else."

"FLIGHT SCHOOLS DO NOT BELONG IN A populated area. Besides potential accidents, and there have been plenty, the noise is a detriment to human health, as is the lead in the gas that fuels the training aircraft. Joe (In)Justice should quit before he gets the pants sued off of him. The nerve, the audacity — only in Santa Monica."

"WHEN THE AIRPORT RUNS A DEFICIT, IT'S a shame that we have to pay for some of the flight school operations to go away. In addition, how much do we have to pay, and how much will they limit operations for that amount of money? The devil's in the details."

"ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS IS NOT THE solution, and will cost way too much money. This is just another boondoggle for the owners of the flight schools. What we need is to simply install silencers on the planes, a fraction of the cost and they get better gas mileage and it's better for the passenger and the pilot. We also need to work together to see that this monstrosity is closed down as soon as possible. SMO got to go."

"WHY SHOULD THE FLIGHT SCHOOLS BE paid to do what's right?"

"IS IT FAIR TO PAY FLIGHT SCHOOLS TO fly elsewhere? Is that the solution for keeping the noise down? No, I absolutely don't think that this is the best solution. I really don't think the people of Santa Monica would like to see money going out to pay flight schools to go elsewhere. What a waste of money! This is not a long-term solution. This is just a shot in the dark to possibly try to keep people affected by the airport quiet for a short time. That's like saying to a roommate, 'you can live here and pay rent but I don't want you to hang out here so I'm going to pay you to hang out elsewhere, but you can come back and sleep here until the next day. I'll pay you some more to just keep hanging out somewhere else.' Just get rid of the roommate! Get rid of the flight schools! Why do you have to pay someone to go somewhere else. Just ridiculous!"

"DO I THINK IT IS FAIR THAT WE HAVE TO subsidize flight schools to pattern fly elsewhere? No. The airport loses money and undercharges airport related fees so in fact we are already subsidizing flight schools to destroy our neighborhoods and beaches. I do think it is a step in the right direction to move pattern flying to the desert where it belongs. The steep, aggressive, low altitude Kamikaze-like turns rattle my walls and drive me crazy. It wasn't like this prior to mid 2009. My neighborhood since 1995 was peaceful and quiet. Now 800 planes will circle my home this coming weekend. That's just plain stupid."

"YES. PAY THE BUGGERS TO GO ELSEWHERE. One, we get some peace and quiet. Two, once we get them out it'll be easier to keep them from ever coming back."

"I BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO give the residents adjacent to the airport

SEE QLINE PAGE 6







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QLINE
FROM PAGE 5

relief from the noise and exhaust fumes, resulting from the repetitive activities required by the flight schools, is worth the price. Hopefully all of the flight schools will be eliminated in 2015."

"WE DO HAVE TO CUT DOWN ON FLIGHT school activity for safety, noise and pollution reasons. No doubt about that. I don't see why the public should have to pay for it though. Conducting business at our local airport is a privilege that was once extended. Like every contract or privilege, it should be reviewed and periodically re-evaluated and adjusted. There is a groundswell of discontent by local residents and homeowners with the status quo at our airport. Our City Council should take notice. We have to gradually faze out flight school activity and give them time to move their operations to larger, safer airports. But definitely not have the taxpayer subsidize their unsafe business activities."

"I'M DELIGHTED THAT THE CITY IS taking action to keep the noise/pollution/danger down. However, this would seem to be a fragile effort at best and not a real solution. The flight schools should be eliminated completely. They are an abrasive intrusion into our community, creating unacceptable noise, danger, and pollution. Please protect our Santa Monica residents and find a more reliable solution."

"DOESN'T MAKE SENSE AT ALL. SANTA Monica already has limited budget resources. Why should scarce resources be allocated for this purpose? There are so many other important needs facing the city. Paying for the flight schools to go elsewhere sets a very bad precedent."

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"THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE JETS. OUR airport was built back when jets were only in science fiction and it is not designed to handle them. If a jet crashes after taking off full of gas in our town it will be a major disaster. We also need to keep the old flight plan over the golf course to the ocean and not let aircraft fly all over the city. If our city is so rich that we can afford to pay off the flight schools then we don't need all these tax and fee increases we keep getting."

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HEALTH
FROM PAGE 1

years past, but prevented any changes in service.

As of July, that is no longer an option, Woolverton said.

Assembly Bill 114, signed into law on June 30, 2011, dictates that school districts are solely responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities get the services they need after that date. That includes those formerly provided by county mental health agencies.

The money from the state to pay for some of those services will instead flow to the Special Education Local Plan Area, or SELPA based on the number of students enrolled in the SELPA districts.

SMMUSD belongs to the Tri-City SELPA, which includes Beverly Hills and Culver City.

Inexplicably, districts with a lot of students and relatively few with IEPs will see a lot more cash coming their way while others, like the Tri-City SELPA, will have to shoulder major deficits.

Officials already expect a $2 million shortage, at least half of which is expected to be carried by SMMUSD.

Right now, SMMUSD has between 50 and 60 students that are eligible for the program. Of those, 35 to 45 actually use the services, and between 15 and 20 are in residential programs, Woolverton said.

The SELPA will provide and pay for all outpatient services. Residential treatment, where students live at the place that they receive treatment and schooling, will be paid for by the districts.

Any state money not used by the SELPA for outpatient services will help offset those costs, Woolverton said.

The switch in provider does more than shift costs — it shifts the purpose of the therapy.

In the past, the Department of Mental Health was concerned with the mental and emotional health of the student, Woolverton said.

The new question is whether or not the team of people involved in the child's education determine if the student can make progress in school without the services.

If the answer to that question is yes, the student will get treatment. If it's no, then they won't.

"We're changing the focus of how we determine if they need mental health because it has to be in line with the mission," Woolverton said.

The kinds of therapy a student can get will also have to be focused on education.

Under the SELPA-based model, students will focus on the skills they need to manage themselves and get educated rather than a traditional approach that emphasizes the emotional aspect of their problems or family issues.

That raised flags for Boardmember Jose Escarce.

"It doesn't sound like there's a lot of clinical mental health care involved in delivering the services," Escarce said. "What about the people who need those services?"

"That pinpoints our biggest concern," Woolverton replied.

Though the skill-based counseling will address some of the students' emotional problems, the Special Education Department will have lists of resources available to parents who feel their children need more help.

The new SELPA model does have some advantages, however.

Counseling will be provided during school hours, which Woolverton hopes will encourage students to sign up who were eligible but didn't take advantage of the services when they were outside of school hours and potentially less accessible.

The Tri-City SELPA will also be able to provide an extended day program for students who wouldn't have enough time in the school day to get both the education they need and the mental health services.

ashley@smdp.com

NONPROFIT
FROM PAGE 3

accountant no longer work with the center.

The remaining money linked to retirement accounts is still under dispute between City Hall and PYFC.

Most if not all of that money was funded through the municipal grant, which is another point of contention between City Hall and the organization.

Each grant has a 25 percent cash match condition attached to it, meaning that the group has to raise at least 25 percent of its grant in order to be eligible for that money, said Julie Rusk, Human Services manager with City Hall.

According to Rusk, last year was the only time that PYFC has met its cash grant.

Other issues, like inconsistent hours of operation and working with a wider range of youth, also drew the eye of City Hall, according to the report. City officials want PYFC to be leaner and get back to its roots by focusing on the population that is most at risk of joining gangs. That means focusing on local youth aged 16 to 24 who have either joined gangs, have served time in jail or juvenile hall, or dropped out of local high schools.

The organization has six months beginning July 1 to get its house in order with the help of the organization Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE).

It will also refocus its attention on its target population, she said.

"Serving this population is such an important and unique mission," Rusk said. "That's why we're going to such lengths to make it a success."

In de la Torre's eyes, the additional oversight is welcome, but it would be an overstep to say that the organization had failed.

"In our 10 years of service, we have supported many young people and are proud of our work. We are always willing to improve and strengthen ourselves in the areas where we have not been so successful," de la Torre said. "But no one can make the case that we are a failure."

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Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photos by Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

DYNAMIC DUO: **Mercado co-owner Jesse Gomez (right) and Executive Chef Jose Acevedo.**

No need to run south of the border

L.A.'S APPETITE FOR MEXICAN FARE IS as old as the city itself. From the hole in the wall taquería to the corner taco truck, it's pretty easy to score some good Mexican grub. And for a culture that has worked its way up the restaurant ranks from dishwashers and line cooks to managers and executive chefs, it can be argued that the cuisine has been raised a few echelons as well.

Mercado is Mexican food at its finest. Or perhaps it is fine food that happens to be Mexican? Regardless, co-owner Jesse Gomez has pieced together one of Santa Monica's newest hot spots. (Mercado is in the same family as El Arco Iris in Highland Park and Yxta Cocina Mexicana in Downtown L.A.)

The menu is pretty basic and quite familiar to even a gringo like myself. On it you will find Mexican mainstays like tacos, tamales, carne asada, and enchiladas. So why all the fuss?

Perhaps it has to do with Executive Chef Jose Acevedo's unique twist on seemingly standard offerings such as carnitas. The braised pork, about the size of a fist, plated on a bed of roasted cauliflower and escabeche, and served with guacamole and chile sauce, is one of the restaurant's benchmark dishes for good reason. Effortlessly breaking into the sizable hunk of meat with a fork and knife, you will realize how tender the carnitas are. Wrapping the shredded pork in a tortilla and biting into it is truly achieving some sort of slow-cooked nirvana.

Most of the dishes (or at least ones that I tried) followed the simple concept of taking good ingredients, cooking them properly, and essentially letting the food and flavors speak for themselves. A plate of roasted purple and yellow cauliflower with carrots and broccolini from the Downtown Farmers' Market is not exactly breaking news, but accompanied by a perfectly grilled, perfectly marinated skirt steak warrants a big nod of approval.

Whether it is a simple kale and arugula salad or the spit roasted pastor tacos, everything across the board at Mercado is on point. Chef Jose did not reinvent the wheel, he just made it much more delicious to eat.

While the menu is manageable, the tequila list is enough to make your head spin without even taking a single shot. The tequila labels (over 70) are broken down into Blanco, Reposado and Añejo varieties. If you can, try to catch Marco managing the floor. His knowledge of tequila is comparable to a master sommelier's knowledge of wine and he can easily tell you more than you have thought you ever needed to know about the agave-based spirit. It is an impressive and the most extensive collection I am aware of in Santa Monica. Salud!

Drinks and dinner aside, Mercado offers a contemporary casual dining atmosphere. Service is helpful but not overbearing. It can get pretty packed, especially on the weekend. Prices are comparable to well established Border Grill down the street. And according to OC Weekly, they have "The best flan in the universe." High praise for caramel custard, but after trying it for myself, it is indeed the best I have ever had.

Two thumbs up, five stars, perfect 10, however you want to break it down, Mercado is easily my favorite new restaurant here in town. Order the carnitas and for God's sake try the flan, if it is not the best you have ever had, you could club me over the head with one of Chef Jose's pavo en mole Oaxaqueño (whole turkey leg).

If you go

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Michael can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.



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A little heat adds a lot of flavor to a milkshake

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

A hot skillet might seem out of place in a recipe for an icy, creamy milkshake. But stay with me on this one, because it turns out to be an amazing way to add tons of flavor.

It's pretty simple. There's nothing all that unusual about adding fruit to a milkshake, especially bananas. But what makes this recipe different is that we brown the bananas in a skillet before adding them. This quick and easy step caramelizes the natural sugars in the bananas and gives them a serious flavor kick.

To help the caramelizing along, I added butter and a bit of brown sugar to the pan. The result is a rich, caramel banana sauce in the skillet, as well as deliciously browned fruit.

And this technique can be applied to other fruit, as well. Pineapple rings, apple wedges, halved strawberries, strips of mango, even pitted cherries. If you use apples, just be sure to brown them slowly over low heat until they are quite soft.

Caramelized brown sugar-banana milkshake

Start to finish: 25 minutes (10 minutes active)
Servings: 2
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 bananas, peeled and halved lengthwise
2 cups milk
1 cup vanilla ice cream
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch of salt

In a medium skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. Sprinkle in the brown sugar and stir until bubbling. Add the bananas, then reduce heat to low and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until evenly browned. Use a spatula to carefully turn the bananas and brown on the other side for another 2 to 3 minutes.

Remove the skillet from the heat and let cool for 15 minutes.

Once the bananas have cooled, use a silicone spatula to scrape them and any liquid and caramelized bits in the skillet into a blender. Add the milk, ice cream, cinnamon and salt. Puree until very smooth.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 490 calories; 190 calories from fat (390 percent of total calories); 21 g fat (13 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 70 mg cholesterol; 68 g carbohydrate; 12 g protein; 4 g fiber; 280 mg sodium.

Hirsch is author of the cookbook "High Flavor, Low Labor: Reinventing Weeknight Cooking." Follow him to great eats on Twitter at http://twitter.com/JM_Hirsch or e-mail him at jhirsch@ap.org.

Calif. city puts soda tax on Nov. ballot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Calif. Voters in Richmond are set to decide whether to make the San Francisco Bay area city the nation's first municipality to tax soda and other sugary beverages to help fight childhood obesity.

The Richmond City Council voted 5-2 on Tuesday to place the soda tax measure on the Nov. 6 ballot, despite opposition from grocers and soda drinkers. The tax would apply to soft drinks and other beverages with added sugar such as Snapple. Diet sodas and most juice would be exempt.

The money from the penny-per-ounce tax would go to soccer fields, school gardens and programs to treat diabetes and fight childhood obesity. It's projected to raise between $2 million and $8 million.

Other cities around the country have considered soda taxes as a way to reduce obesity and its related health effects. But Kelly Brownell, director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, said no city has gotten as far as Richmond.

"If these products are causing damage to the community, the community has a right to recoup those damages," he told the San Francisco Chronicle. "I think Richmond's action is quite forward-looking. The science is solid linking soda to obesity."

Councilman Jeff Ritterman, a doctor who proposed the measure, said soda is a prime culprit behind high childhood obesity rates in Richmond, where nearly 20 percent of residents live below the poverty line.

"Even a Twinkie has some nutritional value. But soft drinks have none. They're poisonous," Ritterman said. "I think other cities are going to follow our lead."

But Councilman Corky Booze, who voted against the measure, said it would hurt Richmond merchants and soda drinkers.

"This is a tax on poor people. That's all it is," Booze said. "People are going to drink soda anyway. But people who can't afford cars are going to end up paying more."

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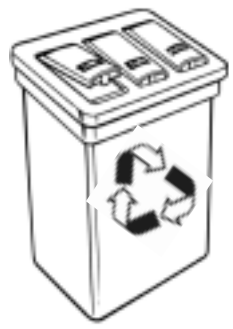
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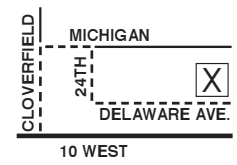


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NOVEL
FROM PAGE 3

child's teacher, but I will have to now."

Dr. Annie Thiel, a clinic al psychologist practicing in Malibu for nearly 40 years, said she was dumbfounded when she read the book and heard it was being assigned to sixth graders.

"It is well known that until children can think abstractly, they just can't handle certain information properly," Thiel said. "That's why they don't teach algebra until eighth grade. This book has very abstract viewpoints of a complicated bond between an extraordinary father and his extraordinary son. And the plane crash, watching the dad's girlfriend die, the sex scenes … these can be very damaging verbal imagery for children of this age."

Witjas said she spoke with Principal Mark Kelly at the school, who read passages from the book and agreed with Witjas that it was inappropriate for the grade level.

"But he never said that any other steps would be taken and I never received any kind of e-mail communication that the book would be removed from the reading list," Witjas said.

Kelly acknowledged that the book was inappropriate for the grade level, but said that the teacher had not actually read the book at the time it was put on the list.

"This was an outside reading assignment and the students weren't required to choose specifically from this list," Kelly said. "Other students had read and described the book to Ms. Leonard so she added it to the list."

Kelly said that, in general, teachers try and put together reading lists of books approved by the state Board of Education and that they try to update the lists annually for summer reading assignments.

He also said there was no plan to send out any further communication to parents about the book since he believed "the number of readers to be very low."

Leonard was unavailable for comment.

"At this point, we will have to work carefully with our librarian and the state board for future lists," Kelly said. "The teacher felt really bad about it."

The author himself, however, feels differently about the book's effect. In an e-mail, Ollestad wrote, "My son has not read the book, but not because I don't think it's appropriate — he knows the whole story and says he'll read it some day.

"Several of his 10-, 11- and 12-year-old friends have read it and none have suffered any psychological damage or been traumatized by the language or the crash imagery.

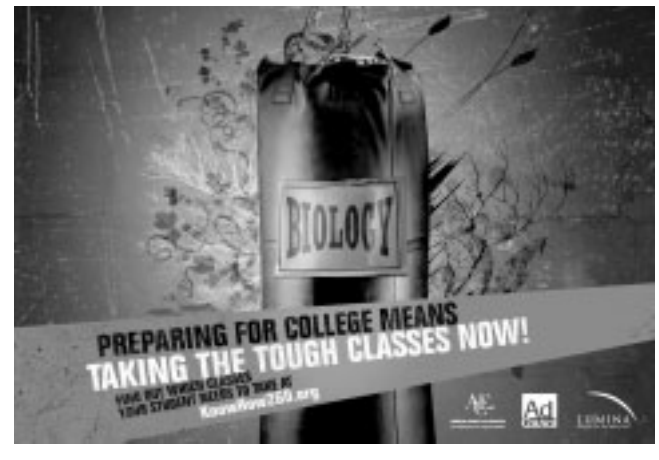
"What your child is exposed to is, of course, a personal choice but if the assignment was to explore survival, in all its facets… then a true account of an 11-year-old boy's survival, written from his young point of view, seems like an appropriate choice," he added.

Peggy Harris, the director of curriculum and instruction with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said that there is a rigorous process of checks and balances in submitting titles to be considered for school reading lists. Proposed submissions are entered as information items for discussion on school board agendas. If the title is deemed appropriate, it is then listed as an action item, to be voted on in a future meeting.

"There are many steps in deciding if a book conforms to proper usage, including age appropriateness, themes, messages and images," Harris said. "Normally, the teacher must read the book, share it with the principal and they submit a request to the district. We read it and decide if it is something to be placed on a board agenda. We are extremely conscientious on vetting reading lists."

news@smdp.com

MAGRUDER is a freelance writer. This article first appeared in the Malibu Times.



DUCKS
FROM PAGE 1

by numerous RAND employees since Amy Clark, an information services and technology application administrator, found them on May 2. Some employees have speculated that nearby construction drove the ducks to RAND, located on Main Street in the Civic Center.

"I looked out, and my jaw dropped," Clark said. "I've been at RAND for 18 years and this has never happened."

Clark's first step was to call the Santa Monica Animal Shelter, where Animal Control informed her that moving the ducks would be illegal based on their federal protection. She was then referred to the California Wildlife Center, which gave her information on how to best care for the ducks.

Normally, wild ducks should be left alone, since they are very mobile and can usually find insects for food, said Shawn Oldenburger, an environmental scientist with the waterfowl program at the California Department of Fish and Game.

He added that leaving food and water for ducks can often create more of a problem since it can attract predators.

But this situation is different, said Dina Smith, animal care coordinator for the California Wildlife Center.

Since the birds are so high up in the building, they wouldn't be able to leave to get food on their own, she said.

So each day, at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., employees like Wong and Lynn Rubenfeld bring food and fresh water to the ducks. Others have helped with donations, or printed signs explaining the best method of co-existence with the family.

In total, eight to 10 employees dedicate a portion of their time each day to the ducks, coordinating shifts and sometimes coming in on the weekends.

Though the patio is relatively protected from ground predators, the team watches for predatory crows, which used to circle around the patio when the ducklings were smaller.

"When you're an animal lover, that's what you do," said Rubenfeld, a business administrator for the publications department.

Tragedy already struck the duck family when two ducklings fell under the railing of the patio's balcony a few weeks ago. Since then, Wong and Rubenfeld have put up mesh and art board to block the openings at the bottom of the railing.

As a whole, the ducks have not hindered research operations at the think tank — in fact, they offer a welcome break from the high powered environment, said Warren Robak, deputy director of media relations for RAND.

"This is a place where people are really driven," Robak said. "It's nice to have a little diversion that's life-fulfilling. My heart just melts."

With this kind of relationship, it's difficult for the employees to think about a time eight weeks from now when the ducklings will learn to fly and move on. But there's a chance that the mother duck, or the female ducklings may return to care for subsequent flocks.

"I don't know if we could take care of 30 ducklings," said Laurie Rennie, an administrative assistant, with a laugh.

"We'd make it work," Rubenfeld said.

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

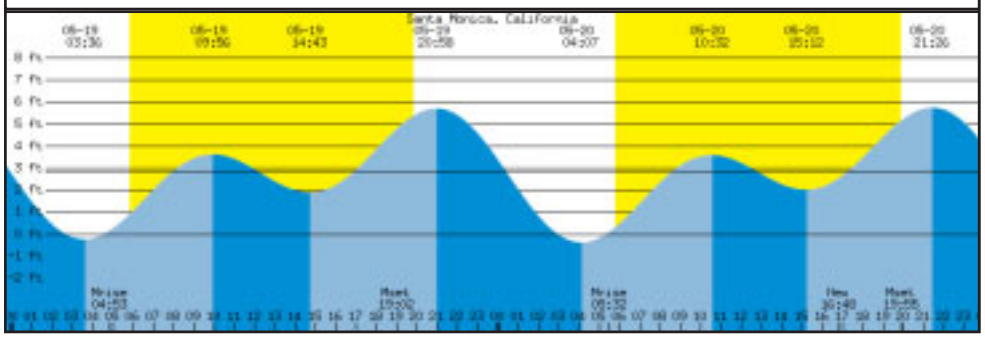
Swell Forecast

Looks like a waist to chest high day most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see waist to chest high sets at south facing breaks, knee to waist at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 16, 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 -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alitos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	B	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17300 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	C
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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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, contract disputes, commercial disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, personal injury medical malpractice, and wrongful death.

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. Nina Baumler comes on Tuesdays at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café)

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

Saturday, May 19
Une Femme Douce (NR) 1hr 28min
7:30pm

Les Anges du Peche (NR) 1hr 36min

Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne (NR) 1hr 23min

Sunday, May 20
Lancelot du Lac (NR) 1hr 25min
7:30pm

The Trial of Joan of Arc (NR) 1hr 5min

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Girl in Progress (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Battleship (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
10:35am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) 1hr 28min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:30pm

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
11:00am, 1:20pm, 3:40pm, 6:00pm, 8:20pm, 10:40pm

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

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

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

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
1:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

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

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

First Position (NR) 1hr 30min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:35pm

Monday Morning (NR)
11:00am

Samaritan (NR) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Manzanar Fishing Club (NR) 1hr 14 min
11:00am

Mansome (PG-13) 1hr 24min
1:20pm, 3:30pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

Bill W. (NR) 1hr 44min
11:00am

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

Battleship (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:50pm, 10:00pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:55am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:40am, 12:40pm, 2:30pm, 3:35pm, 5:25pm, 6:30pm, 8:15pm, 9:30pm, 11:00pm

Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

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

Take a risk tonight, Scorp

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Whether you are involved with planning an event or buying a special gift, you are spending money. At one point, you might veer off in a different direction. You also could decide to spruce up your wardrobe. This behavior is so unlike you. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Everyone will know that your old spunk has returned. You reach out to friends and loved ones, make plans and above all, decide to opt for something fun. Invite a friend or two to join you. Tonight: You can have it all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Sometimes by pulling back and doing your own thing, you feel more resilient and ready to deal with the many people in your life. A discussion with a partner has to happen, but there could be some fireworks as a result. Tonight: Play it as you like.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Be grateful for your friends. In some regard, they make your day very special, even if it is simply the fun you have together. Curb a tendency to be sarcastic. That tone easily could be misread. Tonight: Only where the action is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Stay in tune with others, as you might need to step in and take a leadership role. Many of you will be in contact with older friends and relatives. Make plans accordingly. If you do not offer suggestions, what results might not be as rewarding. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Honor your need for a break in patterns and/or a change in scenery. Everyone needs to pull out of his or her routine occasionally. Whatever you choose needs to involve an outlet for your energy, whether it is hiking or walking around an airport. Tonight: Try something different.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Go along with someone's suggestion. This person will be pleased, and the outcome will make your life easier. You might want to stay closer to home, but you will like what occurs if you can break past mental barriers. Tonight: Visit over a great meal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others come to you with ideas, invitations and a need to be with you. Slowly but surely, you'll realize that your plans might need to be changed. Make it your pleasure. Be willing to walk into a new situation or scene. Tonight: Take a risk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Dedicate some time to finishing up a project that has been on the back burner too long. You might have to revise your budget, as factors or elements of your life change. A parent or an authority figure could be very challenging. Tonight: Make it easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Do you realize how moody you have become? Still, a loved one or child puts his or her best effort forward to include you in plans. Hop in the car and take off. In the moment, you will relax. Tonight: Try a cuisine you have never tried.

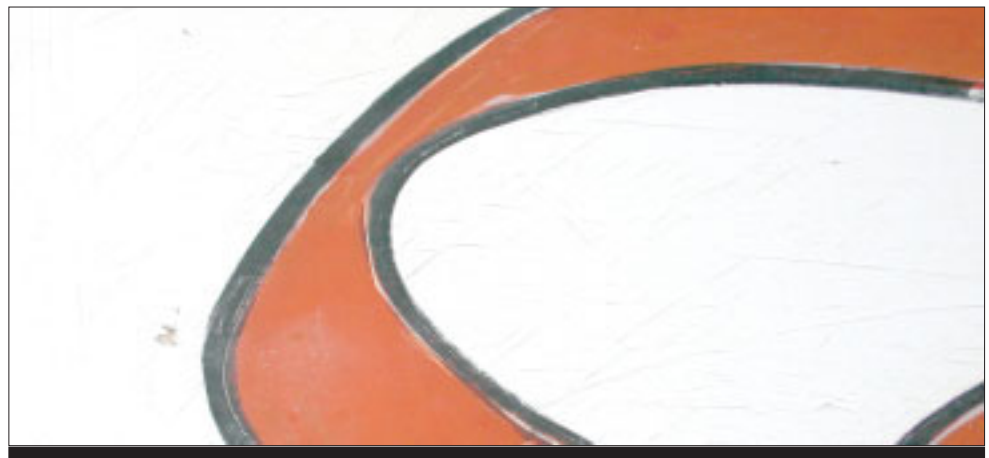
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ It appears you have some plans that could keep you quite busy at home. On some level, you are making an assumption and following that hunch. Do not get upset with a close friend or loved one, should there be a last-minute adjustment. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Return calls and finish an errand or two. Join friends for a mutually favored pastime, be it the movies, a baseball game or making dinner. Once more, you note how much a friend is changing. You do not need to comment, but you do need to respect this person's process. Tonight: Close to home.

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 become more centered and caring. Others -- even friends -- cannot get enough of you. If you are single, this newfound popularity could be wonderful. If you are attached, be careful, as you do not want your sweetie to become jealous. Make sure you give him or her your time and a lot of say in your mutual life. You'll see the world with new eyes. Travel, a foreigner or more education could play into this change. A fellow TAURUS is stubborn but does not show it.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

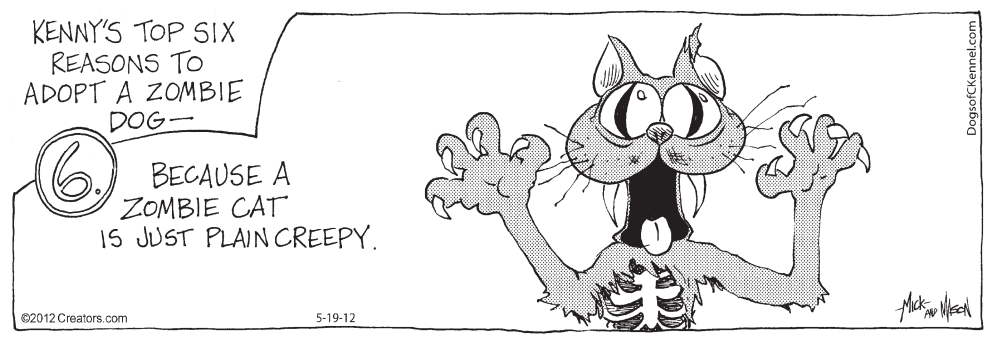
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



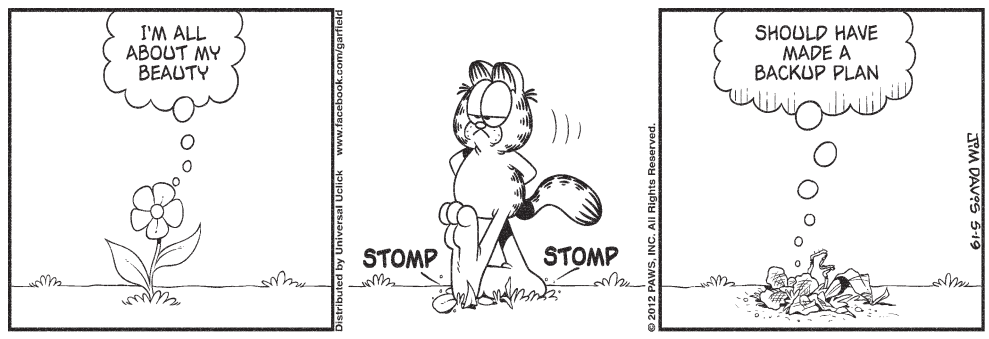
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Aspiration
5 Kick back
10 Rap sheet info
12 Polo's home
13 Under-handed
14 Caravan critter
15 Longoria of TV
16 2016 Olympics setting
18 Forest feller
19 Begins
21 Hat part
22 Store-keepers
24 Hand costs
25 Lawyer's fees
29 Kevin Kline movie
30 Shrewd
32 Bar need
33 RN's forte
34 Mis-behaving
35 Asian assassin
37 Mosey
39 Door sign
40 Candidate of 2008
41 Takes ten
42 Stock holders

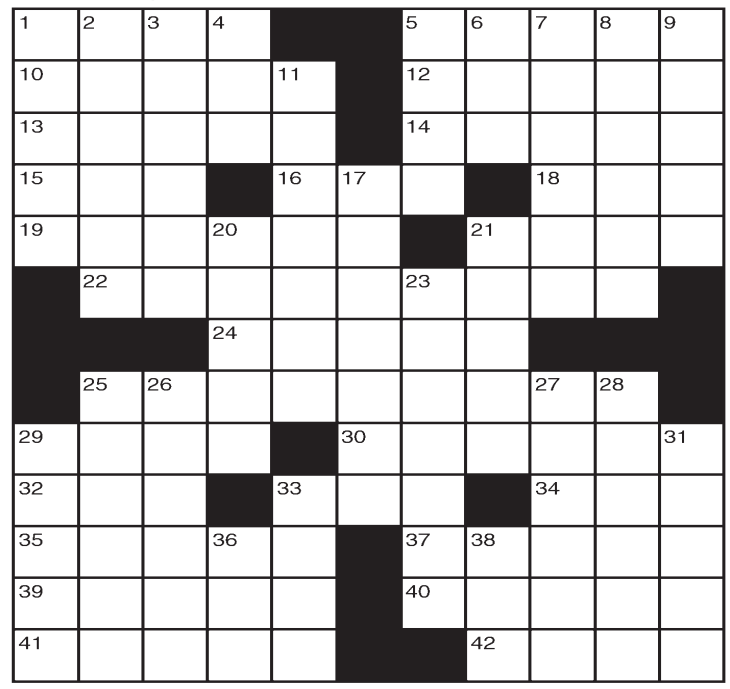
DOWN

1 Pluto's realm
2 Twist of fiction
3 Free-booter
4 Corrode
5 "Little Caesar" role
6 LAX guess
7 Hedy of "Algiers"
8 "Dynasty" role
9 Tree tissue
11 2005 George Clooney movie
17 First
20 Declare
21 Plague
23 Camera accessory
25 Wisconsin city
26 Calendar items
27 Post-quake sight
28 Russian tyrant
29 Comfort food source
31 Utopian spots
33 Sea dogs
36 Fast flier
38 War-room feature

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



5-19



– 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.

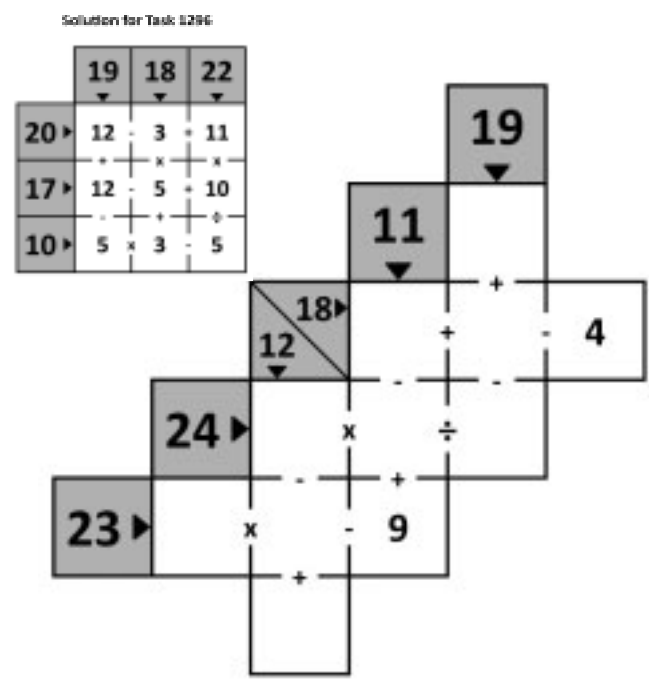
• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

• 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:

3, 4, 8, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11, 12





NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ At the 10th Arab Shooting Championships in Kuwait in March, as medals were presented and winners' national anthems were played, officials were apparently ill-prepared for medalist Maria Dmitrienko of Kazakhstan. Consequently, her "national anthem" was, inadvertently, the humorous ditty from the movie "Borat." (Instead of such lyrics as "sky of golden sun" and "legend of courage," the audience heard "Greatest country in the world / All other countries are run by little girls" and "Filtration system a marvel to behold / It removes 80 percent of human solid waste.") Dmitrienko reportedly kept a mostly straight face throughout, although Kazakhstan later demanded, and received, an official apology.

■ Clumsy: (1) In March, Germany's celebrity rabbit -- the genetically "earless" bunny Tiny Til -- was accidentally crushed to death in a zoo in Limbach-Oberfrohna when a cameraman accidentally stepped on it while setting up for a news conference. (2) In 2011, a photographer snapping pictures for an art magazine moved a 2,630-year-old African sculpture to get a better shot, and accidentally smashed it ("to smithereens," according to the owner, Corice Arman, who filed a $300,000 lawsuit in April 2012 against the photographer and his magazine).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 - A birthday salute to U.S. President John F. Kennedy takes place at Madison Square Garden, New York City. The highlight is Marilyn Monroe's rendition of "Happy Birthday".

1971 - Mars probe program: Mars 2 is launched by the Soviet Union.

1991 - Croatians vote for independence in a referendum.

WORD UP!

pip
\ pip \ , verb;
1. To peep or chirp.
2. (Of a young bird) to break out from the shell.

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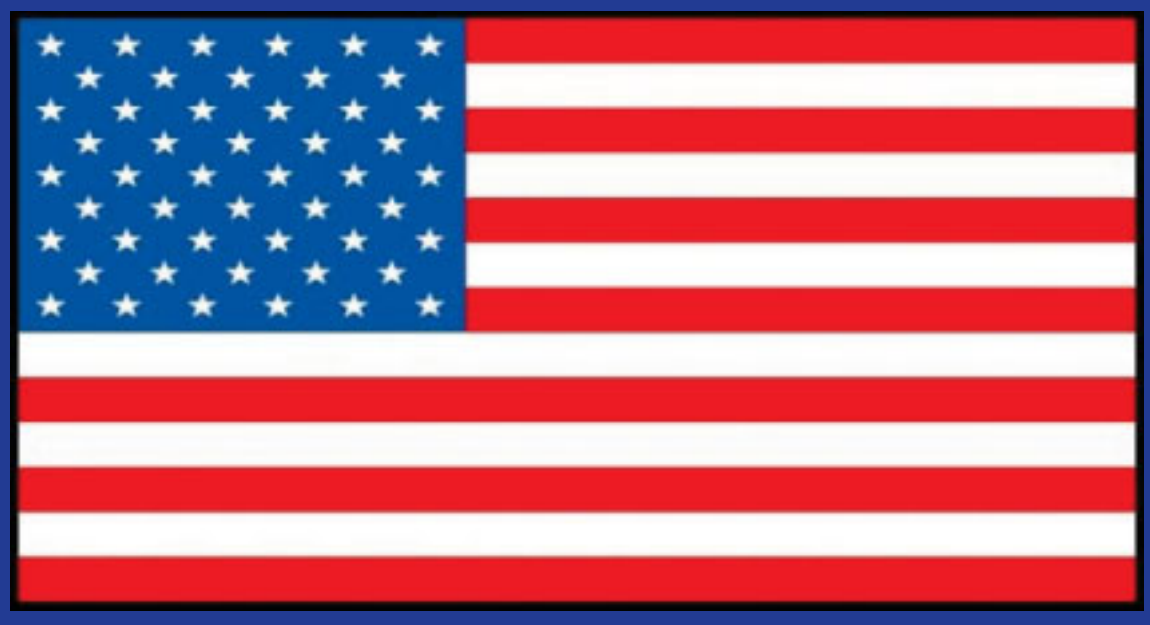
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