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MAY 28-29, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 169



Santa Monica Daily Press

HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROSS THE BOSS ISSUE

Civic Auditorium to get $47M makeover

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After several hours of public comment, discussion and debate, the City Council voted in a four to three decision Thursday to fund the renovation of the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium using approximately $47 million of redevelopment money.

That money could be on the chopping block if Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal, which axes redevelopment agencies statewide to cover costs for MediCal and the courts, passes the legislature.

The topic was revisited Thursday after

SEE CIVIC PAGE 10

St. John's nurses vote to unionize

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MID-CITY After years of fighting with management for the right to unionize, nurses at Saint John's Health Center on Thursday voted in favor of joining the California Nurses Association, a move they hope will lead to better pay, benefits and improvements in patient care.

Sixty-four percent of nurses who voted chose to join CNA, a founding member of the 150,000-member National Nurses United, the largest union and professional association of nurses in the U.S. The vote was 269 to 149, with some 22 challenges in the secret ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, representatives with CNA said.

Saint John's nurses greeted the election victory with cheers and hugs, said Lori Hammond, a registered nurse at the Mid-City hospital who has been one of the most outspoken supporters of unionization.

"This was the most wonderful, one of the hardest things I've ever done," she said. "It was harder than giving birth."

CNA will represent 500 registered nurses

SEE UNION PAGE 9



DRAIN IT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Bulldozers (top right) build large sand dunes as they prepare to fill in the Pico Storm Drain just south of the Santa Monica Pier on Friday afternoon.

Council approves sales tax transfer to schools

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Over six months after voters approved a half-cent sales tax, City Hall approved a deal with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to split the revenues in exchange for access to high school sports facilities.

A unanimous City Council vote ratified the long-awaited agreement that cemented the intent of two November ballot measures, Y and YY.

The first raised the transaction and use tax within Santa Monica city limits from 9.75 percent to 10.25 percent, and the second indicated to elected officials that voters wanted half of the proceeds of the tax to go to support education.

That advisory measure, YY, was not legally binding. Thursday night's agreement, however, is.

SMMUSD and City Hall will split the funds from Measure Y for 10 years, with the option to extend the agreement for subsequent 10 year terms.

It also requires that negotiations start seven years into the first decade, to give the school time to adjust its budget forecasts, which the state requires in three-year intervals.

In return, the public will get access to fields, courts, the south gymnasium, pool, dance studio, storage space and parking lots at Santa Monica High School during non-school hours.

City Hall and the school district had to enter into the facilities-sharing agreement in order to have a mechanism to transfer money to the schools.

Rather than put an exact price tag on the facilities, however, both the district and City Hall accept that half of Measure Y funds, estimated at $5.7 million for fiscal year 2011-12, is a fair deal.

"Both the city and the district acknowledge that it is impractical and extremely difficult to determine the specific amount of compensation to be paid to the district for access to the high school facilities," said Assistant City Manager Elaine Polachek.

Board of Education President Jose Escarce applauded the effort, which brings to a close over a year of work on the part of the board, council and volunteers that pushed the measures at the ballot box.

"For the district, securing reliable sources of funding is critical to our mission

SEE FUNDING PAGE 12

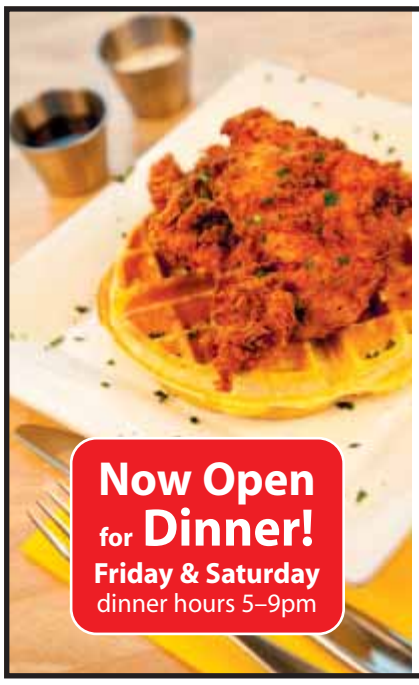
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, May 28, 2011

Symphony's season finale
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Symphony for its last concert of the 2010-11 season. Its very own concertmaster, Michael Emery, will be the featured soloist for this evening of music. Program includes Mahler's "Totenfeier" and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5." UCLA musicology professor Raymond Knapp will present a pre-concert lecture beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 395-6330.

'Java Drama 2'
Samohi's Barnum Hall
600 Olympic Blvd., 8 p.m. & 8 p.m.
"Java Drama 2" presents two different shows. Each one is chock full of music, dance, one-act plays, videos, puppetry, artwork, monologues and poetry. Not to mention delicious desserts and fresh-brewed espresso drinks served café style by theater student wait staff. For more information, call (310) 395-3204 ext. 71239.

Massive yard sale
Euclid Street, between Pico and Ocean Park boulevards
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
There will be a massive yard sale held along an 11-block stretch of Euclid Street. Organizers say the epicenter of the sale will be Euclid and Pine.

CityRace: Santa Monica
Santa Monica Pier
10 a.m. — noon
From the historic Santa Monica Pier to the colorful Third Street Promenade (with a few secrets in between), this hunt takes you through the very heart of this sunny and diverse community. From sun and sand, to street performers and surfside skeeball, Santa Monica has all the ingredients for the perfect urban adventure hunt. For more information, call www.racela.com.

A day by the pool
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Grab your suit, towel, and sunscreen, and head to the Beach House for a Memorial Day weekend by the pool. First come, first served passes go on sale daily at Guest Services starting at 9:30 a.m.. All members of your party must be present when purchasing passes. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Sunday, May 29, 2011

Pony rides at the market
Main Street Farmers' Market
2640 Main St., 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
This week's market features pony rides and a petting zoo, not to mention top-notch produce and other food items. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

'Thank You, Mr. Falker'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.
In the musical "Thank You, Mr. Falker," Trisha is eager to read, to taste the "sweetness of knowledge" that her grandfather has always revered. But at school she struggles with a learning disability, where words and letters on the page are all mixed up in her brain. Trisha falls behind with her schoolwork and endures classmates' taunts until her new teacher, Mr. Falker, helps her to blossom and eventually triumph. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

'Giselle'
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 2 p.m.
Celebrate Los Angeles Ballet's fifth season with "Giselle." The beloved full-length romantic ballet makes its LAB debut. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

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

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

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



CORRECTION

In the article "Arrests made in series of robberies," which appeared on the front page of the May 27 edition of the Daily Press, it should have said that an armed robbery occurred on the 600 block of Adelaide Drive.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Rite Aid convicted for overcharging customers

The Rite Aid Corporation was convicted last week of two misdemeanor counts for charging customers more than the stated price on items sold in a Santa Monica store.

According to a press release from City Hall, the store charged undercover inspectors more than the advertised price on two items.

A court ordered Rite Aid to pay over $6,000 in fines, penalties and investigative costs, and the corporation was put on probation for one year.

"These convictions send a message to businesses to end what are essentially stealth crimes," said Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades. "These are stealth crimes because the consumer often has no idea of the overpayment."

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit filed charges against Rite Aid as part of an ongoing partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Weights and Measures.

The partnership helps the office enforce consumer protection laws in Santa Monica. In the past year, the Consumer Protection Unit has secured convictions against three other corporations for price violations at Santa Monica stores, including Michael's, Banana Republic and Whole Foods.

ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

COLORADO AVENUE

Expo begins utility work on Phase 2 of rail line

In preparation for construction of Phase 2 of the Exposition Light Rail line, which is expected to reach Santa Monica by 2015, crews will be doing soil sampling, survey work and potholing beginning next month.

Officials with Expo said work will be done Monday through Friday in Santa Monica from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street to the eastern city limits. The work is expected to last through September.

Temporary lane closures may be necessary in some areas to perform the work. Access to businesses along the Exposition right-of-way will be coordinated directly with the business owners or tenants prior to the start of work activities, officials said.

Crews will clean the work area and restore the surface at the end of each work day when drilling for soil samples, officials said.

KEVIN HERRERA



File photo

GIVING: **Pacific Park donated the wheel's central hub to the Santa Monica History Museum.**

A wheel of a deal

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM PIER Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier donated a piece of its original, world-famous Ferris wheel — one of the two center hub signs — to the Santa Monica History Museum, officials with the amusement park announced Thursday.

"We wanted to present the Santa Monica History Museum with something extraordinary and nostalgic, which led us to the Ferris wheel's center hub sign for preservation," said Jeff Klocke, director of marketing and sales at Pacific Park. "The Pacific Wheel has been an incredible source of pride for the city. Pacific Park's donation of the center hub sign represents our desire to preserve a distinct part of Santa Monica history."

With the yellow background and red "Pacific Wheel" inscription, the hub sign measures 6 feet in diameter and is encircled by 98 incandescent bulbs. The hub sign adorned the Ferris wheel from the opening of Pacific Park in May 1996 through its replacement in May 2008.

The Pacific Wheel was the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel introduced in 1998 and was later selected "Best Solar System" in the Reader's Digest Best in America 2006.

The Pacific Wheel has been a highly visible icon for the entertainment industry as

SEE **WHEEL** PAGE 12

Lindsay Lohan settles suit over 2007 highway chase

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. Lindsay Lohan has settled a lawsuit filed by a woman who was chased by the actress in a pre-dawn pursuit that has haunted the actress in civil and criminal courts for nearly three years.

The starlet on Wednesday settled the lawsuit filed by Tracie Rice, who claimed she was traumatized and lost a well-paying job because of the incident, court records show.

Rice was a passenger in a car driven by the mother of Lohan's former assistant, who the actress pursued down the scenic Pacific Coast Highway in July 2007. The chase ended with Lohan's arrest in the parking lot of the Santa Monica Police Department; Rice has said she thought the actress was trying to carjack her.

No details of the settlement, which was first reported Friday by celebrity website TMZ, were released.

"Lindsay is very pleased to put this unfortunate event behind her," her attorney, Ed McPherson, wrote in a statement.

Lohan was arrested twice for driving under the influence in 2007, and remains on probation for offenses. She has struggled to comply with the terms of her release, with three separate judges sending her to jail since July 2010.

The "Mean Girls" star was sentenced to four months in jail last month for violating her probation by taking a necklace without permission, and on Thursday surrendered to authorities and began serving her term on house arrest. She is expected to spend roughly 35 days on home confinement.

Rice's case against Lohan has been repeatedly delayed in the past year because of Lohan's stints in jail and rehab. Rice's attorney, Paul L. Hoffman, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Friday.

Lohan is also being sued by three men who were in the sport utility vehicle the actress used to pursue Rice. McPherson wrote the actress expects to be vindicated in that case.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader has it wrong on abortion

Editor:

Reader Eric Cooper offers moral and instrumental reasons for opposing abortion. ("Can't have it both ways," Letters to the Editor, May 25) Mr. Cooper's argument that wartime killings are morally acceptable does not suggest that abortion is immoral. To the contrary, it's a pro-abortion argument because it illustrates that the morality of killing varies according to circumstances.

The carefully-balanced right to abortion recognizes that a pregnant woman's interests are morally paramount during a fetus' first trimester. Mr. Cooper's instrumental argument also fails. He is certainly correct that many people want to adopt. (I am the proud father of two adopted children.) But I doubt that there are enough people to adopt the "millions of aborted U.S. children" he refers to. And Mr. Cooper overlooks the compelling instrumental arguments in favor of abortion.

For example, he overlooks the thousands of women who died when illegal abortions were their only option, and the many children who are neglected because they weren't wanted or were born to parents who can't care for them. Finally, forcing women who have become pregnant through incest, rape or even foolish immaturity to give birth to unwanted children is neither morally defensible nor instrumentally desirable. Abortion is an intensely personal decision that we must allow women to make within the limits that the law allows. And I agree with Mr. Cooper that the decision is probably best made after professional counseling takes place.

Paul Bergman
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Mike Boyd — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How to transport firearms legally

Q: THANKS FOR THE GUN SAFETY information that was published in last week's Daily Press. It was very helpful. I'm taking my family camping this holiday weekend and there's a shooting range at the campsite where we are staying. How can I transport my firearm legally?

A: I'm glad last week's information was very helpful to you. In California, it is illegal to possess a loaded firearm inside of your vehicle. In order to safely and legally transport your firearm in California, you must place the unloaded firearm in a locked container. The term "locked container" means a secure container which is fully enclosed and locked by a padlock, key lock, combination lock, or similar locking device. This includes the trunk of a motor vehicle, but does not include the utility or glove compartment. As a rule of thumb, your firearm should be unloaded, locked in a container, and placed in your vehicle's trunk. If you drive a pick-up truck or a vehicle that does not have a trunk, you can place your unloaded firearm in a locked container. Make sure the locked container is placed in an area that is not within arm's reach of the driver.

Since you're traveling during a holiday weekend, take extra precautions when transporting your firearm. Most people will opt to use the hard plastic case that was sold with the weapon. It is very common for these cases to have loops or holes on them to allow the owner to apply an exterior lock. With locks attached, these types of cases are considered acceptable "locked containers." If you choose to use this type of container, please be very mindful to never leave it in plain sight in your vehicle. Car burglars have keen eyes in spotting those cases. They will try their hardest to find a swift and easy way to enter your vehicle and remove your firearm. On another note, if you're a gun enthusiast or your gun came with stickers, please don't display those stickers on your vehicle. Those stickers are eye-catching advertisements for car burglars. You may not have a weapon in your vehicle, but the car burglar doesn't know this. This burglar is going to pay extra attention to your vehicle when it's parked and left unattended.

Now that you know what you need to do before transporting a firearm, please make sure to follow each of the four fundamental rules for gun safety:

1. Treat all guns as if they were loaded.
2. Never point your muzzle at anything you're not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

If you always follow the above rules when dealing with firearms, you will greatly reduce your chances of having an accident with a firearm. You can never be too safe when dealing with guns. Check, re-check, and re-check again to make sure your firearm is unloaded and locked in a container before you transport it. If you would like more information on gun safety and transportation, you can visit the California Department of Justice website at www.ag.ca.gov.

IN ORDER TO SAFELY AND LEGALLY TRANSPORT YOUR FIREARM IN CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST PLACE THE UNLOADED FIREARM IN A LOCKED CONTAINER.

Q: There's a guy who just moved into the house next door to me. He drives a black Ford Crown Victoria that has exempt California license plates on it. I never see him wearing a uniform, but his car looks like it has lights and sirens. Is this a common car assigned to undercover cops? Can he legally pull someone over in that car?

A: The vehicle that you describe is definitely not an undercover vehicle. The Ford Crown Victoria is the most common and standard police vehicle in use today. With or without markings, that car stands out and would not be used as an undercover vehicle. The vehicle you described sounds like a dual purpose emergency vehicle or an unmarked government car. I use the term "government" because the information you gave is very limited. There are a lot of different agencies that use Ford Crown Victorias. They are not limited to police use. Fire departments, transit agencies, and social services have all been known to use these types of vehicles.

As far as your new neighbor is concerned, I cannot say whether or not he can legally pull someone over. If he is employed by a law enforcement agency as a law enforcement officer, then yes, he can legally pull someone over while driving the vehicle you described. Police managers (chiefs, captains, lieutenants, etc.), detectives, and SWAT officers (just to name a few) utilize vehicles similar to what you described. Officers using unmarked vehicles equipped with a red light and siren can legally stop violators of law. If your neighbor doesn't hold a job with peace officer powers, then no, he cannot pull people over.

Have you introduced yourself to your new neighbor? If not, you should. Getting to know your neighbor is the first step in building a strong and safe community. Your neighbor may even choose to tell you what he does for a living.

This column was prepared by **NRO MIKE BOYD**, Beat 8 (Pico Neighborhood). He can be reached at (424) 200-0688 or michael.boyd@smgov.net.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2011. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Modern Times

Lloyd Garver
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I could have been Dr. Phil

THIS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU, BUT I WAS not invited to Oprah Winfrey's two-day party that celebrated her 25-year-old show ending. I'm sure I would have enjoyed hanging out with people like Aretha Franklin, Tom Cruise, and Michael Jordan. And I probably wouldn't have been able to resist telling Maria Shriver, "Eat a little something." But I wasn't there, and that's OK. It's fine with me that Oprah was praised by people for two days. Why not? She earned all that adulation.

Oprah's story is an "only in America" one. She started with nothing, and ended up one of the richest people in the world. She turned unknown writers into literary luminaries, and was responsible for several people getting their own TV shows. She had four former presidents on her stage as well as President Obama. And me.

That's right, back in 1990, an entire Oprah show was devoted to a "My Turn" column I wrote for Newsweek. I wrote that kids were playing too many video games instead of real games with actual bats and balls and mud and the occasional scraped knee. Apparently, a great number of people wrote to Newsweek lauding or decrying my article. So, Oprah decided to devote an hour to the topic and have me on the show.

I barely got to talk, as it seemed that whoever talked the loudest got to talk the most. Parents of kids who played video games 15 hours a day bellowed about how wonderful their kids' hand-eye coordination had become. Others sobbed loudly about the whole family going to support groups because of their electronic game addiction. I was the only one who didn't come with rehearsed remarks. It never occurred to me to do that. I figured I'd throw in something clever now and then. That didn't happen. Most of the time, I just sat there looking almost as uncomfortable as I felt.

Despite my poor on-camera performance, Oprah wouldn't have had that entire one-hour show without me. Don't get me wrong. It was a thrill and an honor to be on her show, but let's face it: her show really took off after I was on it, and it continued to soar for the next 21 years. Coincidence? That's possible.

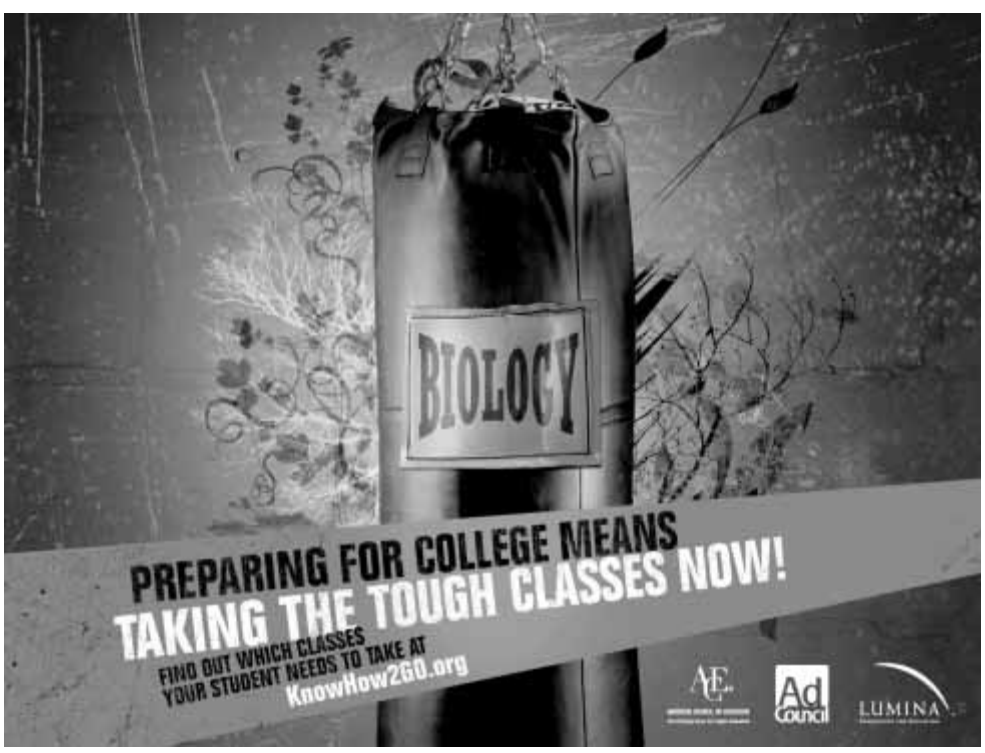
I'm not the envious type, but when I see what she did for so many others who appeared on her show, I can't help thinking that she could have done a little bit for me. She didn't have to make my career skyrocket, but she could have used her magic to give it a little boost — or at least keep me employed. If she had hinted that she was going to make me a best-selling author, I might have actually finished writing that book that I've been talking about starting for years.

DESPITE MY POOR ON-CAMERA PERFORMANCE, OPRAH WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT ENTIRE ONE-HOUR SHOW WITHOUT ME.

Look at Dr. Phil, Phil McGraw. He was an unknown psychologist who earned his bachelor's in psychology from Midwestern State University. Have you ever heard of Midwestern State University? Do you even know what state it's the midwestern university of? And this guy gets his own TV show because of Oprah. He's so successful that he doesn't need a last name. He's just "Dr.Phil." You've made it in our culture when you're known by just your first name — like Barack or Madonna or Lady Gaga. If you say, "Lady Gaga," everybody's going to know which Lady Gaga you're talking about. Similarly, if you say, "Dr. Phil," nobody is going to think you're talking about that credit dentist at the mall.

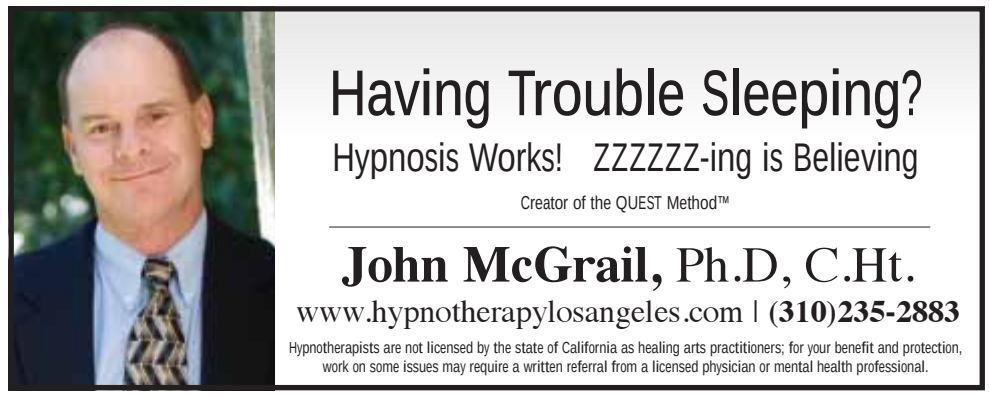
So Oprah, if you're reading this, and I assume you are, I congratulate you on all of your success and wish you well on your new ventures. I really don't want anything big from you, but I would love you to do something for me that you did for Dr. Phil. Could you please just make sure that everybody will think of me whenever they hear someone say, "Mr. Lloyd?"

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













Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Benny's Tacos is mucho gringo

GENERAL COMMENT: In my way of looking at life, there are two kinds of taco joints, authentic and gringo. The best of the authentic ones usually have a regional aspect, and some special feature that draws in the Latino crowd. Benny's is the other kind — a gringo joint. But that's not necessarily bad.

WHERE: 427 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, Calif., 90291, (310) 396-8749.

WHEN: Seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

BEST DISHES: That's the interesting thing about Benny's Tacos. The tacos are excellent because the chicken in them consists of big chunks of delicious fresh rotisserie chicken, instead of the usual shredded "yesterday" chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, onions and other filler in most tacos. In fact the best dish is the rotisserie chicken. But the standout star here is the fresh house-made tortillas. These are definitely not authentic, and are much better than the tortillas in any other taco joint around.

BEST FEATURE: Good parking, super friendly service with the boss right there.

WORST FEATURE: Where's the hot sauce? This hot sauce is for wimps. And what's with the chile relleno? It's stuffed with the wrong kind of cheese that doesn't melt no matter how hot you cook it.

WHAT TO DRINK: I wanted a beer. But then I always want a beer or two when I'm eating Mexican food. Our overly cautious Coastal Commission is holding up Benny's license. Everyone should write a letter of protest. So I had a horchata, the Mexican rice-based drink, and it's really good. In fact there are a lot of tasty and unusual drinks here.

PRICES: Don't even worry about it. You need a really big appetite to spend $10 here for a meal with drink.

BOTTOM LINE: This is a gringo taco joint with unusually fresh, delicious food that's the American version of Mexican food. Bring your own hot sauce.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

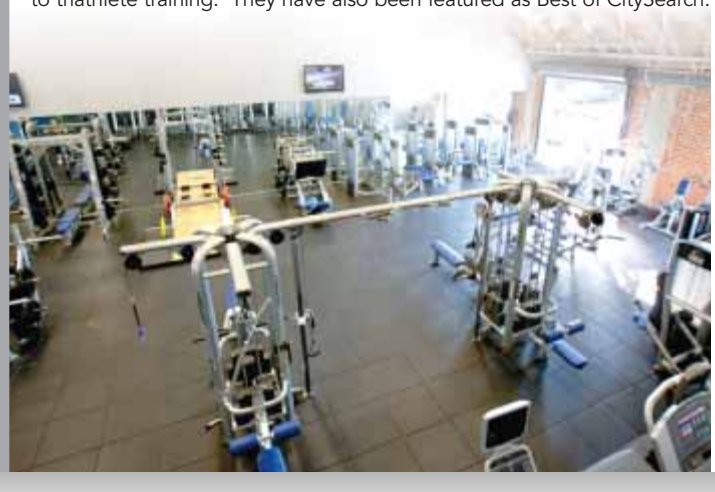
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For Michael Symon, greens just aren't good enough

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

For Michael Symon, great salads go far beyond a pile of greens. And they need to earn their keep.

"For me, a great salad is much more than just greens. It should be something that really highlights the season and the vegetables that are at their peak at that time," Symon, an award winning restaurateur and Food Network Iron Chef, said in an e-mail interview.

Just don't include iceberg lettuce.

"I can't stand iceberg," he said. "It has no flavor or personality. It's like eating chopped green ice."

Symon — who also favors sharply acidic dressings like his mom used on her tomato salads — relies on salads to play a specific role in his cooking.

"Since I tend to cook with a lot of fattier proteins, I like to serve them topped with or accompanied by a salad, as opposed to a heavier starch," he said. "It keeps things crisp and fresh and helps cut through the richness of the protein."

For AP's 20 Salads of Summer series, Symon offered a simple summer salad inspired by what grows in his home garden and dressed with a spicy jalapeno-yogurt blend.

"I know I'm going to be grilling out a lot, so I want to create a salad that goes great with a big piece of grilled meat," he said. "I love serving this either with a grilled half of a chicken, grilled lamb chops or a rib eye."

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Michael Symon's summer salad

Start to finish: 20 minutes
Servings: 6
For the dressing:
1 clove garlic, minced
1 jalapeno pepper, minced (remove the seeds first for less heat)
1 tablespoon plain Greek-style yogurt
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
For the salad:
2 cups arugula
1 pound assorted heirloom tomatoes, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
1 cup diced cucumber
4 scallions, grilled and cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup marcona almonds, roughly chopped
2 cups of cooked faro (a grain sold alongside the rice and couscous)

To make the dressing, in a small bowl combine the garlic, jalapeno, yogurt and vinegar. Slowly whisk in the olive oil, then stir in the mint and parsley. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the arugula, tomatoes, cucumber, scallions, almonds and faro. Drizzle with the dressing, tossing gently to coat evenly.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 351 calories; 221 calories from fat (63 percent of total calories); 25 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 27 g carbohydrate; 11 g protein; 7 g fiber; 118 mg sodium.

Safety tips for holiday grilling, backyard parties

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK For many, Memorial Day's unofficial start of summer means grilling, pool parties and kids wildly happy to be at the end of another school year.

For John Drengenberg, a safety expert and dad in suburban Chicago, it's a dangerous time for the law of unintended consequences, especially in the backyard.

The electrical engineer by training is the consumer safety director for Underwriters Laboratories, the independent, nonprofit product safety testing and certification organization. He's not looking to kill summer's early buzz, but he'd like you to know:

— Nearly half of a little more than 12,000 kids up to age 19 who died as a result of unintentional injuries did so in June, July and August, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

— Each summer, about 2.7 million children visit the ER as a result of injuries around the pool or backyard. About 200,000 children under 14 wind up in the ER for playset-related injuries every year.

— Barbecue grill fires result in about 8,000 home fires annually, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Whether you're planning a staycation or an outdoor bash, exercise your safety muscles and take stock of play equipment, grills, pools and other potential hazards. Some tips from UL, the mark you should look for, by the way, if you'd like to make sure flotation devices are worthy.

GRILLING: Charcoal can heat to a temperature of 1,000 degrees. Don't bury embers in sand or a corner of the backyard before dousing them with a hose or buckets of water first. It's likely people are running around barefoot.

Yikes, it's raining! It's not a good idea to drag your grill into the garage or plop your hibachi in the sink. Never grill indoors or near garages or porches. In fact, stay at least 10 feet from any structures.

Keep a spray bottle or fire extinguisher within reach. Flare-ups can't always be anticipated. "You get a flare-up and you're not there, your whole garage can be engulfed," Drengenberg said. "Spray at the base of the flames. It won't ruin your food."

Don't use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire. Andrea Branagan, who lives in rural Christmas, Fla., outside Orlando, no longer thinks lighter fluid is a good idea, either. One humid night Branagan and her family tossed some on a pile of sticks in their fire pit with a disastrous outcome.

"I lit it with a little piece of newspaper and it had a weird mushroom cloud explosion," she said. "There was an immediate flare that stretched out across the ground and caught my leg on fire."

The mother of three dropped and rolled in the grass and was left with a third-degree burn.

If you've got a new gas grill, make sure all its parts are tight. For older grills, check hoses for cracking, brittleness or leaks.

LIGHTING: Looking to add a little ambiance to your lawn party? Don't connect more than three strings of midget lights. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs. Not all lighting is created equal. Check for the UL mark or other indications that samples have been tested responsibly.

POOL SAFETY: Warm-weather parties can mean a dozen or more kids running around as the grown-ups gab. Good pool supervision means scanning the area every 20 seconds when children are in the water, with an adult no more than 10 seconds away.

Good pool supervision is NOT telling the 12-year-old to keep an eye on the little ones, no matter how strong a swimmer the older child might be. "Some 12-year-olds are baby sitters and some 12-year-olds need baby sitters," Drengenberg said.

A 4-foot fence around a pool with a self-closing, self-latching gate and locks beyond a child's reach are recommended. Don't stack chairs, other furniture or pool equipment near a fence to avoid children climbing. The same goes for leaving toys in the pool that can entice kids back into the pool area after water playtime is over. Cut back tree limbs extending over a pool fence to discourage climbing.

Keep in mind, Drengenberg said, "Pool deaths are called the silent killer. Sometimes kids just slide under the water with hardly a splash and they never come out again." If a child goes missing and there's a pool around, head there first. Not there? Head to the neighbor's pool and the other neighbor's pool.

"Many drowning accidents happen when children have been missing for less than five minutes," he said.

Empty small wading pools when not in use. Infants can drown in as little as an inch of water, Drengenberg said. Inflatable toys aren't safety devices. "They can snag an edge of a pool and deflate. They're not substitutes for parental supervision."

Cover drains in pools and spas. The suction can be dangerous to children.

PLAYSETS: Kids grow. Play structures don't, so take heed of older daredevils looking to climb and swing higher than the structure was built to withstand when you got it years ago.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 70 percent of all playground-related deaths occur on home playground equipment.

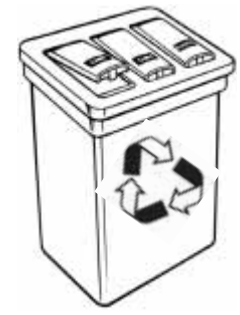
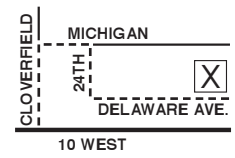
Make sure equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all pieces are in good working order, S-hooks connecting chains to swings or ladders are entirely closed and all bolts are not protruding, Drengenberg said.

Lay down mulch, sand or a rubberized surface around a play structure.

If all of this feels like common sense, it should, Drengenberg said, but this is the time of year when many of us are antsy for summer to begin and might be looking to cut corners.

"We're in a hurry. That happens in parts of the country that have been waiting for nice weather much of the year," he said. "All of a sudden you're getting out the grill and the wading pool and it's hurry up before fall."

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The Q Line

Giving to the schools

The SMMUSD Board of Education last week voted to reconvene a citizen-led committee to look at the possibility of a future parcel tax and bond measure to fund local schools.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Would you support either a parcel tax or a bond measure, or has the district gone to the well too many times?
Here are your responses:

"THERE IS NO WAY I WOULD SUPPORT another tax. We just raised our sales tax to one of the highest in the nation to support our schools. It is time the school district tried some other approaches: Decrease the size of the administration (don't pay your superintendent nearly $300,000 a year if you don't have the funds), sell surplus, underutilized properties, only admit students who live in the district and yes if all else fails, cut some programs."

"I WOULD NOT SUPPORT A PARCEL TAX OR a bond measure. Our taxes are killing us! Meanwhile the new school superintendent has a pay package of a quarter million dollars a year for 222 days of work every school year and needs a "coach." Conveniently the coach may be Tim Cuneo which adds $12,000 more. Denny Zane the 'consultant' already being paid $200,000 a year now, can go to the well yet once again. Services? What services? John Gotti was in the wrong business."

"NO, FOR THE 15TH TIME, I WILL NOT support another parcel tax to pay for the schools. We barely defeated Measure A, the idiots in this city voted yes on Y and YY, and now they want more again. Every year, without fail, they plead for more funds, with a graduation rate of just 60 percent. No matter how much money you give the schools, it will never be enough. If they can pay over $200K to the new SMMUSD leader, they have way too much in available funds."

"WE ALREADY HAVE NUMEROUS SCHOOL parcel taxes. The fat cats from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights don't care how hurt property owners are and always want more money. Our budget is unbelievably bloated. School administrators and many teachers get ridiculous salaries. We have too many kids from out of Santa Monica going to our schools. Many just lie and give friends' addresses. If these students were weeded out we could save millions. The previous special election that lost was a big sham. The schools threw away half a million bucks for nothing. Their reason was that a special election would only draw parents and teachers to vote. They said that Republicans might not go and vote in a special election and so they thought they'd have a better chance of winning by not waiting a week for the regular election. After the loss they said that it was so close and they should try again. This is total B.S. and just plain wrong. The turnout for the election was so small that almost nobody had voted. The schools ran voting drives to get parents to vote and the opposition did nothing yet it still lost. It is unfair and wrong to use school money that is supposed to go for teaching our kids for politics and elections. This should be illegal. Please, no more added property taxes."

"I WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY NEW REVENUE until the Board of Education makes a sincere attempt to budget money to the classrooms and local schools. Their budgets are a mess and they refuse to open the books for the public to see where the money goes. Even employees are denied information that

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"NO MORE REGRESSIVE PARCEL TAXES! The current parcel tax is manifestly unfair. Owners of modest condos in the Pico Neighborhood pay the same amount of tax as owners of North of Montana mansions. The last additional parcel tax was defeated by the voters, so we got the sales tax increase. Another regressive tax from our so-called progressive overlords."

"FOR THE 32 YEARS I HAVE LIVED HERE IN SM it is always the same old refrain: 'We need more money for our schools.' Where the heck does all the collected money go? Can we see pie charts and outside auditors reports? This seems to be a huge scam that rages on and on, year after year, unabated. We need a transparent and detailed account of where did all the money go."

"THAT MONEY CAN BE FOUND WITHOUT new parcel taxes or bonds. Stop bringing in out-of-district students. Santa Monica taxpayers are stuck paying for them because their parents don't have to. We are also losing a large amount of money on every one of them. They create traffic, take up parking and bring outside trouble. Spend that money on our children."

"NO, I WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY FURTHER parcel taxes or bond measures. Yes, the district went to the well too many times several squandered handouts ago. They cannot give the new superintendent record-setting pay when she doesn't know how to do her job and needs $12,000 to pay a coach for her."

"WHY WOULD YOU LISTEN TO, MUCH LESS trust, the people who have botched the leadership of SMMUSD. What you have is a governing board who have already hustled hundreds of millions of dollars now seeking hundreds of millions again to support overpaid management, quite a few lazy employees and extremely expensive building scams. When social justice is more important for hiring a new superintendent than experience or ability then the SMMUSD school board is nothing better than a collective carnival barker at some sideshow for gullible intellectuals. SMMUSD and SMC in this time of fiscal responsibility need to return all bond money to the taxpayers."

UNION
FROM PAGE 1

at the hospital, which is part of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System based in Kansas.

NNU and CNA Executive Director Rose Ann DeMoro praised the "courageous" Saint John's RNs. She noted the "excessive aggression toward the nurses for years for wanting to have rights to advocate for their patients demonstrating why nurses need a union."

In June of 2010, a federal administrative law judge ruled in favor of the nurses and the National Labor Relations Board, saying Saint John's violated federal labor laws. The judge ordered Saint John's administration to stop harassing and intimidating nurses and to post a document at the hospital stating the nurses have the right to organize.

At that time administrators said they were only trying to have the nurses in favor of unionizing to "modify" their activities after trying to "disrupt activities at the hospital."

Lou Lazatin, president and CEO of Saint John's, said she was "disappointed" with the outcome of the union election, but "we appreciate all of the nurses who looked at the facts and listened to the information provided before casting their vote."

"Saint John's Health Center respects the opinions of our nurses," Lazatin added. "Going forward, Saint John's will continue to provide the same high quality of care for our community, and we will continue to support our staff as much as possible so they can focus their energy on taking care of our patients."

Nurses said they will demand better pay and retirement benefits and address what they believe is a failure on behalf of the hospital to comply with California's nurse-to-patient staffing ratio law.

"I've been here for 22 and a half years. I was born in the old Saint John's," said Saint John's RN Donna Schonlaw. "This was a yes vote for patients, for fair treatment, for what we've gone without for a long time. I'm happy."

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File photo

VOICE: **Saint John's nurses rally in support of unionization in 2008.**

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• Keynote address by Colonel Frank W. Simcox, US Air Force
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CIVIC
FROM PAGE 1

Tuesday night's discussion stalled with two council members — Gleam Davis and Bobby Shriver — against funding the renovations, Mayor Richard Bloom, Pam O'Connor and Kevin McKeown for it, and Bob Holbrook requesting to stall the vote until he had time to review other propositions.

Within 48 hours, staff came back with six options for the future of the building, from maintaining the status quo by investing $25 million for much-needed seismic upgrades and disability-related enhancements, to creating a world class museum space for a total of $80 million.

The council also had the option to board up the building and put no money into it beyond insurance costs, or destroying it altogether.

Staff maintained its strong support for full renovations and a contract with the Nederlander Group, which runs the Pantages and Greek theaters in Hollywood, to book the auditorium.

"This exercise has been good for staff because it has forced us to reexamine this issue with greater clarity," said City Manager Rod Gould. "To a person, we conclude the following: That the mixed use performance center is the preferred option for seven particular reasons."

Gould proceeded to name the seven, which boiled down to a few key points — although the auditorium would operate at a loss of approximately $1 million per year, it would be cheaper than maintaining the status quo and bring approximately $18 million in additional revenue to city businesses.

On top of the economic benefits, renovating the Civic beyond the basic seismic and disability requirements would help it maintain its landmark status, preserve its staffing level and maintain a civic resource for arts and performances.

"In sum, we feel the stars have lined up for the Civic Auditorium," Gould said. "This option will be fleeting and non-recurring. We think your best bet is to reinvest in the Civic Auditorium."

McKeown motioned to move staff's recommendation early in the discussion, citing a necessity to get the work under way for the health of the building.

"It's like when people said that the Santa Monica Pier wasn't worth saving," McKeown said. "The pier was worth saving, and the Civic is worth saving too."

Three council members, including Terry O'Day, fresh off his sick bed from an emergency appendectomy on Monday, felt differently.

"What I heard in the course of these two nights of discussion, it seems to me what we have in hand here as a plan for the Civic may be our best option, but I don't know," O'Day said. "I'm not convinced."

The discussion shouldn't be about the merits of preserving the Civic Auditorium, which all agreed was important, but about how to best spend the $47 million of Redevelopment Agency money.

Given that the available funds are half of what they were expected to be when the priority list that names the Civic Auditorium as a project was created, it might be better to focus RDA funds on more critical projects that address parking and circulation in the face of the coming Expo Light Rail line, O'Day said.

"The Civic is important to us, but not if the area around the Civic doesn't work because we ran out of money to make it work," O'Day said.



file photo

SAVED: **No longer just for dog and cat shows.**

Instead, O'Day put forward the idea of using the money to push forward the reconstruction of Parking Structure 6, which is further along in its planning phases than the Civic Center rehab.

Revenue from the functioning parking center could then be used to benefit the Civic Auditorium later, freeing the council from having to make permanent decisions on the fate of the auditorium that evening.

IN SUM, WE FEEL THE STARS HAVE LINED UP FOR THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM.

Rod Gould
City Manager

"To me, that represents a way to protect the funding and is an outlet we should take advantage of," O'Day said.

In the rush to spend the RDA money, the focus shifted from the real cause of the panic, Shriver said.

"People are saying 'demolished,' 'the clock is ticking,' 'we doom it if we don't do this.' These are rhetorical flourishes as though this thing is going to fall down tonight if we don't act," Shriver said. "The only reason we're here tonight is because of Jerry Brown. If he was not trying to take the RDA funding, we wouldn't be here."

On the other side of the issue were Bloom, McKeown, O'Connor and a subdued Holbrook, the four that would eventually carry McKeown's motion to fund the mixed-use version of the auditorium.

The Civic needs at least the basic improvements at a minimum, else it will fall into disrepair, O'Connor said, a point confirmed by Gould.

"If we do not program $25 million, we are signing a demolition permit," she said.

O'Day acknowledged the need and put forward a motion to invest the $25 million needed to retrofit the building, and reserve the remainder of the money for Parking Structure 6.

That motion was voted down in favor of the full funding.

Members of the community present at the meeting to show support for the Civic celebrated the win.

"I'm thrilled," said Mike Myers, associate director of the Ruskin Theater.

Spending the $25 million just to do the basic upgrades wouldn't have cut it, Myers said.

"No, that would have been a real waste of money. It would have stayed as is, a place for dog and cat shows, but then it would be a safe place for dog and cat shows."

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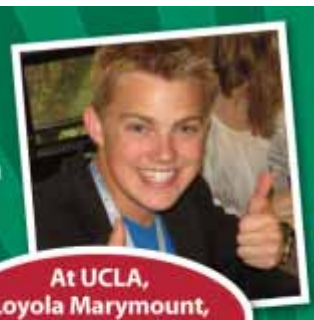
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WHEEL
FROM PAGE 3

well having been featured in more than 350 movie, television, commercial, music videos and print advertisements.

Overall the Pacific Wheel has provided more than 3 million rides in its 15 years of operation.

"We are pleased to accept this unique donation by Pacific Park," said Louise Gabriel, president and CEO of the museum. "This is the type of artifact that makes the history museum relevant to the city. The center hub sign will provide a means for the community to relive its past with wonder and whimsy."

In May of 2008, Pacific Park introduced an all-new $1.8 million Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel featuring more than 160,000 energy-efficient LED lights that provides higher energy savings while complementing the solar-power application. The eco-friendly, enhanced LED lighting provides 75 percent greater energy savings than most Ferris wheel's traditional incandescent bulbs. The Pacific Wheel now presents dynamic, custom, computer-generated lighting entertainment each evening.

The hub sign is now on display at the Santa Monica History Museum during regular hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Santa Monica History Museum admission is $5 per adult, $3 per student with proper identification, and Free to members and children under 12.

Santa Monica History Museum is located at 1350 Seventh St. For additional information, call (310) 395-2290 or visit www.santamonicahistory.org.

kevinh@smdp.com

FUNDING
FROM PAGE 1

of educating all students when the state seems to have lost its way," Escarce said.

Drops in state funding for K-12 education caused SMMUSD to hold several emergency fundraisers, like the Save our Schools effort, as well a failed attempt to pass the Measure A parcel tax.

Cuts to education for the coming year could range from nothing to $650 in average daily attendance per student, which would throw even well-supported districts like SMMUSD into disarray.

"Thank you for your steadfast support of our schools, it makes all the difference," Escarce said.

Not all education advocates walked away happy, however.

Irene Zivi, member of the Santa Monica Child Care and Early Education Task Force, put in a plea for preschool funding, which received cuts of between $500,000 and $700,000 this year and no funding from Measure Y.

"I was told that Y and YY was for K-12, and that I should look elsewhere for help for preschool programs," Zivi told council members. "I wanted to bring that to your attention, because I completely support what you're doing, but I also support early childhood programs."

The council has no say in how the school district chooses to spend its half of the tax proceeds.

This is the second joint-use agreement between the school district and City Hall. The previous Master Facilities Use Agreement gave City Hall and the community access to elementary school and middle school playfields in return for revenue to the district, and was approved in 2005. That agreements nets more than $7 million annually for the SMMUSD.

ashley@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
June 9, 2011

A public hearing will be conducted at the regular Santa Monica Rent Control Board meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1685 Main Street, Second Floor, Santa Monica, California 90401.

Consideration and adoption of the Santa Monica Rent Control Board's Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Operating Budget.

Consideration and adoption of proposed annual general adjustment for 2011. Staff recommends 3.5% for mobile home spaces and all other controlled units, or alternatively, 3.5% for mobile homes and 3.5% for other controlled units with a ceiling of $57 (Proposed Regulation 3033). The Board is not bound by staff's recommendation and may vote for a different increase.

All interested persons are invited to present their views at this hearing. Copies of staff reports and the proposed regulation are available prior to the hearing in the Board's office in Room 202 of Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401 or on the website at: www.smgov.net/rentcontrol.

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The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Boards and Commissions:

Board/Commission	No. of Appts.
Airport Commission	2
Architectural Review Board	1
Arts Commission	3
Commission for the Senior Community	2
Commission on the Status of Women	2
Disabilities Commission (Must be persons with self-identified disabilities.)	2
Housing Commission (Must be participants in a Housing Authority Section 8 Program and one member must be 62 years of age or older.)	2
Library Board	1
Personnel Board	1
Planning Commission	3
Recreation and Parks Commission	1
Social Services Commission	3

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's Office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/boards. All current applications on file will be considered.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 21, 2011.
Appointment to be made by City Council, June 28, 2011.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

Crystal Cathedral filing plan to get out of bankruptcy

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. The Crystal Cathedral megachurch was set to file plans Friday with a Southern California bankruptcy court to wipe out millions of dollars in debt by selling its campus and famous soaring, glass-spired church to a real estate investment group, its bankruptcy attorney said.

The church plans to lease back most of its core buildings under the plan, so worshippers and visitors won't notice any changes in services or outreach. The church's popular, decades-old televangelist program "Hour of Power" broadcasts will also continue, the church said.

"The ministry is going to continue in the same place, in the same buildings," said Marc Winthrop, the attorney. "It's just that we had to go through a financing transition to get rid of the debt."

The plan, which must still be approved by a judge, will erase the cathedral's $36 million mortgage and wipe out almost all of the $10 million in unsecured debt, including $7.5 million owed to vendors, Winthrop said. The deal would give the ministry a 15-year lease-back guarantee on the core church campus and a four-year option to buy it back at a fixed rate, he said.

The church would have to be out of the Family Life Center, which holds administrative offices and a private secondary school, after two years, he said.

Winthrop declined to name the investment group or the price of the deal before court papers are filed but said the buyers could develop the open spaces around the church, including large parking lots that surround the property.

The charismatic Rev. Robert H. Schuller got his start in Southern California preaching about the "power of positive thinking" from the roof of a concession stand at a drive-in theater as the nation's car culture began to boom.

Schuller soon turned his humble pulpit into one of the nation's first megachurches, beaming his weekly Sunday service into 1 million homes worldwide through the "Hour of Power" TV show, which went on the air in 1970. Schuller became a familiar presence on television, a smiling figure in flowing robes, with snowy white hair and wire-rimmed aviator glasses.

In 1980, he opened the Crystal Cathedral, a 2,900-seat see-through church made of 10,664 panes of glass. A $20 million architectural marvel designed by the acclaimed Philip Johnson, it became a major Southern California landmark and tourist attraction. Schuller soon added a K-12 school and a tourist center.

But his religious empire began to collapse in recent years after a disastrous attempt to hand over the leadership to his son, Robert A. Schuller, and a plummeting economy that took a bite out of viewer donations.

Donations declined by more than 20 percent the year before the church filed for bankruptcy in 2010 and its local congregation now stands at fewer than 5,000 people.

Dr. Deborah Wallen



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NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 1, 2011– 6:30 PM
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM

No other business will be conducted at the Meeting.

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THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE PROPOSED BIENNIAL BUDGET
FOR FY2011-13 AND ADOPTION OF GANN RESOLUTION

The City Council, Housing Authority, Redevelopment Agency and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public budget hearing on June 21, 2011. The council meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the Council with written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the City's entire proposed budget. At the meeting on June 21st, the City Council will also adopt a resolution for the determination of the GANN Appropriation limit for fiscal year 2011-12. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit is presented in the FY2011-13 Proposed Biennial Budget.

The entire proposed City Budget can be inspected by the public in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or viewed on the Internet at www.smgov.net. City Hall is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10th. City Hall is closed on Friday, June 3rd and June 17th. Copies of the proposed FY2011-13 Biennial City Budget are also available to view at the City's Main Library located at 601 Santa Monica Boulevard and branch libraries at 1704 Montana Avenue, 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard and 2601 Main Street.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

SP2214 Water Main Replacement – 3rd Court (Broadway to Wilshire)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **June 13, 2011** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $1,200,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 105
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,100 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $ 650 PER DAY

Contract Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.smgov.net/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2014.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica.
Applications due by noon, Tuesday, July 5, 2011.
Appointment to be made by City Council, July 12, 2011.

The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women is to enhance the status of women in our community. The Commission will promote these goals through investigation of, advocacy for, and policy development regarding issues relevant to women and girls, and by creating leadership and career advancement opportunities for women and girls in our community.

No Santa Monica City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires Commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/boards/vacancies.htm. All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

US judge rules against corporate contribution ban

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. A U.S. judge has ruled that the campaign finance law banning corporations from making contributions to federal candidates is unconstitutional, citing the Supreme Court's landmark Citizens United decision last year in his analysis.

In a ruling issued late Thursday, U.S. District Judge James Cacheris tossed out part of an indictment against two men charged with illegally reimbursing donors to Hillary Clinton's 2006 Senate and 2008 presidential campaigns.

Cacheris says that under the Citizens United decision, corporations enjoy the same rights as individuals to contribute to campaigns.

The ruling from the federal judge in Virginia is the first of its kind. The Citizens United case had applied only to corporate spending on campaign activities by independent groups, such as ads run by third parties to favor one side, not to direct contributions to the candidates themselves.

Cacheris noted in his ruling that only one other court has addressed the issue in the wake of Citizens United ruling. A federal judge in Minnesota ruled the other way, allowing a state ban on corporate contributions to stand.

"(F)or better or worse, Citizens United held that there is no distinction between an individual and a corporation with respect to political speech," Cacheris wrote in his 52-page opinion. "Thus, if an individual can make direct contributions within (the law's) limits, a corporation cannot be banned from doing the same thing."

In court papers, federal prosecutors defending the law said overturning the ban on corporate contributions would ignore a century of legal precedent.

"Defendants would have the court throw out a century of jurisprudence upholding the ban on corporate political contributions, by equating expenditures — which the Court struck down in Citizens United — with contributions. This is, however, equating apples and oranges," prosecutor Mark Lytle wrote in his argument to keep the indictment intact.

In the count that was tossed out, defendants William P. Danielczyk Jr. and Eugene R. Biagi were charged with helping funnel a corporate contribution to Clinton's presidential campaign.

Peter Carr, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney in Alexandria, which is prosecuting the case, said Friday that the office is reviewing the ruling. Prosecutors have the option to appeal the ruling to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond.

Defense lawyers, though, said the implications of the Citizens United case are clear.

"Corporate political speech can now be regulated, only to the same extent as the speech of individuals or other speakers," Biagi's lawyer, public defender Todd Richman, wrote in court papers. "That is because Citizens United establishes that there can be no distinction between corporate and other speakers in the regulation of political speech."

Fred Wertheimer, president of Democracy 21, a Washington-based group that supports campaign finance reform, said Friday that Cacheris overstepped his bounds and ignored Supreme Court rulings issued before Citizens United that explicitly upheld the ban on corporate contributions. If the Supreme Court had wanted to overturn the ban, it could have done so directly in Citizens United.

"This decision ought to be appealed, and it ought to be overturned," Wertheimer said.

University of Virginia law professor Daniel Ortiz said the ruling "pushes the outer limits of the Citizens United logic." He said he does not expect it to stand.

The Citizens United case makes a distinction, Ortiz said, between independent expenditures by corporations that are not coordinating with a candidate's campaign, and direct campaign contributions.

As a practical matter, Ortiz said that even if Cacheris' ruling stands, its practical effect may be negligible because corporations would be subject to the same contribution limits imposed on individuals — $2,500 per candidate per election. Cacheris himself makes a similar point in his ruling, saying in a footnote that "this finding hardly gives corporations a blank check."

On the other hand, individuals can form an unlimited number of corporations, which could create a significant loophole in the law if unchecked.

Under existing law, corporations that want to contribute directly to candidates must form a political action committee — 1,683 corporate PACs existed at the start of the year, according to the most recent count from the Federal Election Commission. PACs are allowed to contribute to a candidate at twice the amount of an individual — $5,000 per election instead of $2,500 — but those PACS must use segregated funds, and face strict limitations on how much they can raise and from whom.

In the pending case, Danielczyk, 49, and Biagi, 76, who live in the Washington suburb of Oakton, Va., allegedly reimbursed $30,200 to eight contributors to Clinton's 2006 New York Senate campaign, and reimbursed $156,400 to 35 contributors to her 2008 presidential campaign.

Cacheris, in his ruling, allowed most of the indictment against Danielczyk and Biagi to stand. If the government does not appeal Cacheris' ruling on the constitutionality of corporate contributions, the case is scheduled to go to trial in July.



Troubled home market creates generation of renters

BY DEREK KRAVITZ
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON A growing number of Americans can't afford a home or don't want to own one, a trend that's spawning a generation of renters and a rise in apartment construction.

Many of the new renters are former owners who lost homes to foreclosure or bankruptcy. For others who could afford one, a home now feels too costly, too risky or unlikely to appreciate enough to make it a worthwhile investment.

The proportion of U.S. households that own homes is at its lowest point since 1998. When the housing bubble burst four years ago, 31.6 percent of households were renters. Now, it's at 33.6 percent and rising. Since the housing meltdown, nearly 3 million households have become renters. At least 3 million more are expected by 2015, according to census data analyzed by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies and The Associated Press.

All told, nearly 38 million households are renters.

Among the signs of a rising rental market:

— The pace of apartment construction has surged 115 percent from its October 2009 low. It's still well below a healthy level. But permits for apartments, a gauge of future construction, hit a two-year peak in March. By contrast, permits for single-family home are on pace for their lowest annual level on records dating to 1960.

— The number of completed apartments averaged about 250,000 a year before the boom. They fell to 54,000 last year and will probably number around the same this year. But then the number will likely double to about 100,000 in 2012 and hit 250,000 by 2013 or 2014, according to the CoStar Group, a research firm. The lag is due to the time it takes for an apartment building to be completed: an average of 14 months.

— Demand is driving up rents. The median price of advertised rents rose 4.1 percent between the end of 2009 and the end of 2010, census data shows. Few expect the higher prices to stem the flood of renters, though. One reason: Younger adults don't value homeownership as earlier generations did and many prefer to rent, studies show.

— Rental housing is giving builders more work just as construction of single-family homes has dried up. Still, that economic lift won't make up for all the single-family houses not being built. Apartments account for only about one-fourth of homes. And renters are outspent roughly 2-to-1 by homeowners, who pay for items from lawn care to remodeling and help drive the economy.

Before the housing bust, mortgage rates were so low it was often cheaper to buy than rent. That was true a decade ago in more than half the 54 biggest metro areas, according to Moody's Analytics. Today, by contrast, it's cheaper to rent in about 72 percent of metro areas.

Consider Mason Hamilton, 26, an energy consultant who rents an apartment with his wife for $1,100 a month in Alexandria, Va., outside Washington. He'd like something bigger. But he says he doesn't plan to buy even though he could afford to.

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Highs and Lows of the Criminal Justice System – Drug Offenses

One of my clients recently commented to me that she was very thankful that our criminal justice system afforded her an opportunity to help her kick her nasty drug habit. Her comments got me thinking about how often the criminal justice system is denigrated and maligned by a large majority of the population (and a large majority of those who go through the system) for the inability to rehabilitate and treat offenders in order to prevent a reoccurrence or repeat offense. Despite this widely held sentiment, there is a much better track record of success when it comes to the system's approach to drug offenses. California law makers and prosecutorial agencies decided long ago that it is far better to treat drug offenders than to punish them. This is a precarious and often delicate relationship because while no one wants to condone drug use, virtually everyone realizes that harsh punishments more often than not simply breed recidivism. This article will focus on two ways to combat drug use through the criminal justice system: DEJ and Prop 36.

California's drug laws maintain a close relationship with the electorate of California. That is to say that as popular feelings and opinions on drugs softens, so too do the laws criminalizing drug possession. For example, California Penal Code Section 1000, more commonly known as DEJ (Deferred Entry of Judgment), and the passage of Proposition 36, reflects California citizens' collective sentiment that drug offenders should be given every available option to seek treatment and stop using drugs before a court imposes jail or prison.

DEJ is covered by Penal Code Section 1000 and applies to cases where a person is caught in possession of a controlled substance, smoking device, or even alcohol. The basic principle behind DEJ is that is an offender in possession of a controlled substance (i.e. cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy or a pipe, etc.) may enter a guilty plea, stay clean, take drug treatment classes, and then have the guilty plea withdrawn and the case dismissed after an 18 month period. Note that even if the underlying offense is dismissed some employers and licensing agencies may still pursue administrative action. DEJ only applies to cases where the controlled substance is for personal use (meaning not a sales case) and where the offender is first determined to be eligible. Moreover, if an offender violates DEJ and defies a court's orders the judge may enter the guilty plea and sentence the offender accordingly.

In order to be found eligible for the DEJ program it must be demonstrated that: 1) There are no prior convictions for any offense involving controlled substances, 2) The offense charged did not involve a crime of violence or threatened violence, 3) There is no evidence of a violation relating to narcotics or restricted dangerous drugs, 4) The defendant's has not previously violated probation or parole, 5) The defendant has not been placed on DEJ within 5 years of the offense date, and 6) The defendant has no prior felony conviction within five years. If all of these requirements are satisfied, then a person is eligible for DEJ and has the opportunity to earn a dismissal.

Similar to DEJ, Proposition 36 was passed by California voters in November 2000 as a legislative means to allow drug offenders to receive probation with treatment rather than incarceration. For practical purposes, Prop. 36 is a secondary option to get addicts and users treatment when DEJ and/or other programs have failed to get people the help that they so desperately need. A user is ineligable for probation under Prop. 36 if they have a prior felony "strike" within five years, if in the same case they have been convicted of a non-drug related felony or misdemeanor, if they were in possession of a firearm while under the influence, and/or if they have twice failed Prop. 36 or continuously refuses treatment.

A person sentenced to Prop. 36 will complete drug treatment classes, counseling, and whatever other courses are deemed appropriate by the court. The offender will also submit to urine or blood testing as well. Upon successful completion of the Prop. 36 program the case is not automatically dismissed as is the case with DEJ; however, one can petition to the court to dismiss the action with a showing that they have successfully completed the program and gone above and beyond what was required.

The DEJ and Prop. 36 programs can work wonders for drug users and offenders. It is often quite refreshing to see someone enter the program as a downtrodden, distraught, and disheveled drug addict and exit the program clean, sober, and enlightened about the many dangers of drug use. I will never forget the look of happiness, joy and relief that filled my client's face when the judge congratulated her on her progress and then dismissed her case. There was applause from the small audience in the courtroom, and my client felt as though she had accomplished something positive rather than felt the shame of having committed a crime. It was refreshing to both of us that the criminal justice system actually helped and truly served the interests of justice.

If you or anyone you know has been arrested for a drug related offense or any other misdemeanor or felony offense contact criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor Jacob Glucksman through The Legal Grind immediately to preserve your rights!

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.

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MONDAY	
4:00–5:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling
5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
6:00–7:00pm	(2nd & 4th Monday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
WEDNESDAY	
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)
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2st & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

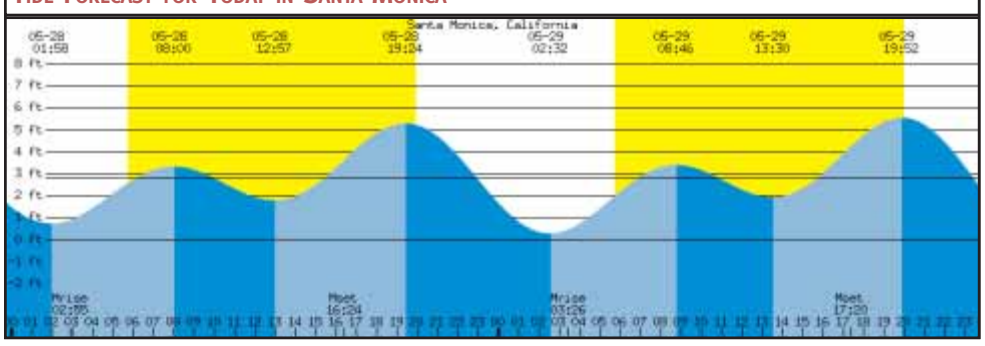
Swell Forecast

Should see a further increase in NW wind swell and a slight increase in SW swell, putting west facing breaks into chest to head high peaky waves and south facing breaks waist to chest high sets.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell increasing to head high around west facing breaks as waist to chest SW remains. Note that SD may see wind swell running overhead.

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, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 1
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 24 / 7
- 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, 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.	C	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisa creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	C	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	D	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	B	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	C
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	D	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	F	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	D
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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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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.

MLB

McCourts' lifestyle hurt team

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES When Frank McCourt bought the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2004 with his then-wife Jamie at his side, he promised to restore a treasured franchise that hadn't made the playoffs in seven years and hemorrhaged tens of millions of dollars under its previous owner.

Indeed, the team has gone to the postseason four out of the past seven years. Yet the team's financial woes have worsened so badly that Major League Baseball has appointed a monitor to oversee the Dodgers, and Jamie McCourt has asked judge presiding over the couple's divorce trial to order the sale of the team. That doesn't even factor in a lawsuit filed by the family of a San Francisco Giants fan who was badly beaten on opening day in a Dodger Stadium parking lot.

Next Tuesday, Frank McCourt hits an important deadline — making Dodger payroll. If McCourt can't come up with the money — he needed a $30 million loan from current television partner Fox to cover his bills earlier this year — MLB Commissioner Bud Selig could take over the team and put it up for sale.

"This is by far the darkest chapter in Dodger history these last couple of years," said William McNeil, who wrote "The Dodgers Encyclopedia" and "Miracle in Chavez Ravine." "It's the only period where the fans don't have a good sense of optimism about the team."

That's partly because fans have just recently been getting a taste of the lavish spending the McCourts bestowed upon themselves, using the Dodgers — as one family adviser infamously put it — like their personal credit card.

McCourt, a sinewy and savvy real estate developer, bought the Dodgers for $430 million using a 24-acre waterfront property in Boston as collateral and obtaining short-term loans. He was described at his divorce trial as being asset-rich and cash-poor.

In order to fund their indulgent lifestyle, the McCourts opted to borrow against Dodger-related businesses to the tune of at least $108 million between 2004 and 2009, according to court documents.

Most notable was the string of real estate purchases they made upon their arrival to Southern California. They bought a pair of homes next to each other near the Playboy Mansion and another two in Malibu at a total cost of more than $70 million.

Burdened by the mortgages as well as improvements — $14 million to rip out tennis courts for an indoor, Olympic-size swimming pool at one of the homes — McCourt has said he took out $60 million (part of the $108 million) on the land around Dodger Stadium to pay down the mortgages.

That debt is apparently due sometime this year and may be one of the reasons why McCourt is pushing a 17-year television deal with Fox estimated to be worth more than $3 billion.

Among the other expenses listed in court documents the couple incurred: a $225,000 monthly lease of a private jet, $10,000 a month for Jamie McCourt's hair stylist and tens of thousands of dollars on designer clothing for both of the McCourts.

Although McCourt argued the economic downturn hurt his financial standing, his ex-wife's lawyers pointed out he attended the Super Bowl last year and had spent as much as $80,000 on a Caribbean vacation. Even now, he still resides at a posh suite in Beverly Hills that runs about $30,000 a month.

He also has trouble explaining why two of his four grown sons were on his payroll at a combined annual salary of $600,000 despite one working at Goldman Sachs and another attending graduate school at Stanford University.

By his own account, McCourt knew he and his family were living beyond their means.

"I think it was a very — very comfortable, very nice and very family oriented and we had a lot of nice things," he said in court documents. "I think it became an out of — out-of-control, unsustainable and very uncomfortable lifestyle."

A common family practice was trying to determine how much was needed annually for living expenses. In 2008, for instance, that estimate was $14 million, court documents show.

McCourt also said at his divorce trial his ex-wife wanted $250 million at one point for her own personal use.

"I told her no," he said. "It was ridiculous. I thought she was wildly overreaching."

To the McCourts' credit, the team's revenue nearly doubled under their management from $156 million in 2004 to $290 million in 2009, according to court documents, which also showed the Dodgers lost nearly $200 million between 2000 and 2003 under the previous Fox ownership. McCourt also said he's made $150 million in team improvements.

But other income has been hard to come by for McCourt. Early on, he abandoned selling stadium naming rights. He had grand plans for the land around Dodger Stadium, including an NFL stadium project called "Gorilla" and a large-scale real estate development, according to court documents.

McCourt also sought to create a global sports entity that would include the acquisition of soccer teams in both China and England as well as retaining the Dodgers. McCourt said the project "died" because a Chinese investor no longer showed any interest.

He wanted to raise $125 million over the next several years, according to Jeff Ingram who headed one of McCourt's businesses before launching his own regional sports network, which was valued at more than $1.5 billion after the current deal with Fox would expire in 2013.

The funding never materialized because McCourt's advisers knew of the marital problems and wanted to wait until things had cooled down, Jamie McCourt's attorneys contend.

Cash-strapped, McCourt has put plans on hold for a $500 million renovation plan for Dodger Stadium that would include parking garages, a new plaza in center field and an interactive museum honoring the team's history.

In recent weeks, McCourt has clamored for Selig to approve the Fox television deal. However, he wasn't focused on a renewal with Fox last year until it became apparent of the impending cash crunch he currently faces.

"My current understanding right now is that we are not expecting to renew the contract with Fox," Dodgers chief financial officer Peter Wilhelm said in a January 2010 deposition.

McCourt also must pay his former wife $225,000 a month in temporary spousal support and $412,159 a month for six homes and a condominium. One of his attorneys, Sorrell Trope, probably summed up the matter best when he noted at one court hearing that Jamie McCourt uses one of the houses exclusively for swimming while another is used to store furniture.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, May 28
Back to the Future trilogy
5:00pm

Sunday, May 29
Lawrence of Arabia (NR) 3hrs 36min
7:30pm

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

Priest (PG-13) 1hr 27min
11:45am, 4:50pm, 10:10pm

Rio (PG) 1hr 36min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 6:50pm, 9:30pm

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
10:30am, 1:10pm, 3:50pm, 6:20pm, 9:00pm

Something Borrowed (PG-13) 1hr 43min
2:10pm, 7:30pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
9:45am, 12:50pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

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

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 5:50pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:10pm, 11:10pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:45am, 2:50pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
9:30am, 12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:15pm, 11:15pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:30am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
10:00am, 10:50am, 12:30pm, 1:10pm, 3:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Incendies (R) 2hrs 10min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

Beaver (PG-13) 1hr 31min
9:55pm

I Am (NR) 1hr 16min
1:00pm, 5:30pm

Earthwork (PG) 1hr 33min
11:00am

Big Uneasy (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:00am

Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 1hr 28min
11:40am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:20pm, 4:30pm, 5:40pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:15pm

How to Live Forever (NR) 1hr 32min
3:10pm, 7:40pm

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

Thor (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:50pm, 7:35pm

Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:45am, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

Fast Five (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:10am, 4:45pm, 10:30pm

Cave of Forgotten Dreams 3D (G) 1hr 30min
10:35am, 12:55pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

File photo

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.

Cupid's arrow could strike tonight, Sag!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Listen to your instincts. Know that you also are carrying a lucky rabbit's foot in your back pocket. Don't hesitate to take a leap of faith, especially if it involves travel or someone at a distance. Tonight: Impulsiveness suits you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You continue to be more comfortable with a less-visible stance. In fact, you could be happy simply being a couch potato. Stay away from crowds, though one special person might be most pleased to be with you. Go along with a suggestion. Tonight: Why not add a little romance?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on others in general. Get together with friends for a spontaneous barbecue or to watch a ballgame. Whatever your choice, everyone will have a great time. Your popularity soars no matter what your status is. Stay open to new ideas. Tonight: You are the party.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Whether you are leader of the gang or have some important community or professional commitment, you cannot seem to relax. You have enough energy to do what you must, and even more as well. Loosen up with a long-time friend as soon as you can. Tonight: Take care of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ The urge for adventure cannot be suppressed. Even if you don't leave town, you can choose to experience a new type of activity or happening. Some of you might opt for an escape and go to a concert or a movie. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A partnership or a get-together with friends continues to be high profile. You update your perspective, and maybe your look, because of a friend. Discussions could be intense, but they serve you in a deep way. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You might feel liberated from the recent seriousness. The people who surround you make it clear they won't deal with negativity. Your ability to transform and adapt to different situations emerges once more. Tonight: So many people, so many possibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Include a physical sport or some exercise in your plans. Some of you might organize a softball game, while others get involved in another favorite pastime. A fit body is as important as a fit mind. Tonight: Roll with the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others really appreciate and enjoy being around you. Full of energy, you might decide to go hiking or perhaps to socialize in the manner in which most of your friends would choose. Tonight: Cupid's arrow could strike!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Whether indulging yourself or your family, you appear happiest close to home. Make an effort to draw in a loved one. Sometimes the people in your life are so strong that the remaining few might feel like shrinking violets! Tonight: Keep it close and intimate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your juggling of different activities, people and needs could keep you busy. Catch up on a neighbor's news, even if you would prefer to do something else. Join friends for a late lunch and a movie. Tonight: Hanging out with the gang.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You simply might not care as your spending goes unchecked. Though you remain optimistic about a professional situation or some other situation bringing in funds, the wise Fish will not spend until they see the funds. Remain tuned in to someone who cares about you and not this extravaganza. Tonight: Being noticed wherever you are.

Happy birthday

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

This year, your enthusiasm and spontaneity dominate. You usually land well, manifesting what you want, even if you didn't try. Friends evolve to an even higher priority. Many of you get into networking even more. If you are single, you could meet someone through a friend, or a friendship could become more. If you are attached, the more the two of you socialize as a couple, the closer you become. ARIES knows how to get you going.

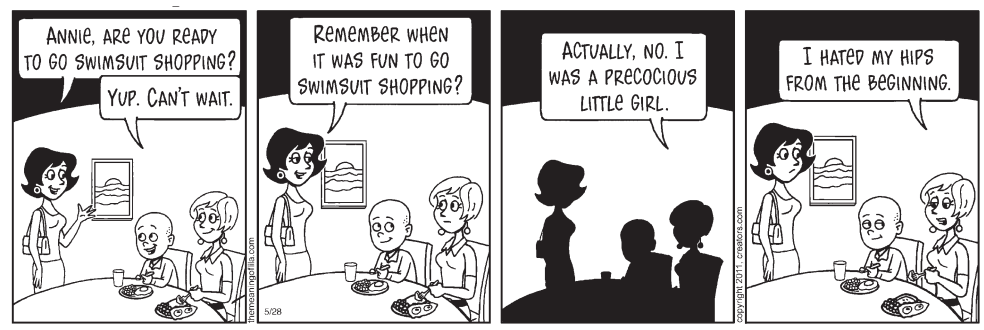
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



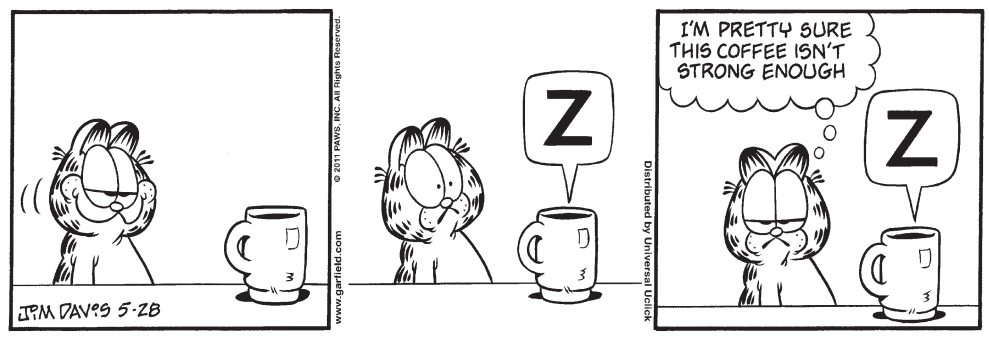
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

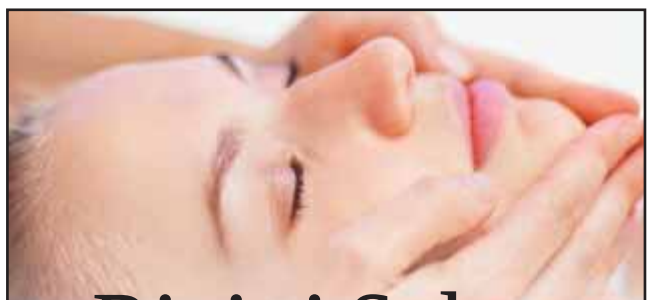
King Features Syndicate

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

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



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Workout makeup
5 "Time's Arrow" author
9 Hardware item
10 Breath fresheners
12 Not so good
13 Following
14 Classroom needs
16 Copying
17 Fox hole
18 Master opener
20 Swirled
22 Camera part
23 African capital
25 Peak
28 Hooded snakes
32 New Age token
34 Sports-drink suffix
35 Luggage ID
36 Past and present
38 Components
40 "— With Love"
41 Candidate of the '90s
42 Overlooks
43 Tart fruit
44 Signing needs

DOWN

1 Got a goal
2 Gofer's job
3 Hardy heroine
4 Popeye's adopted son
5 Wrong
6 Hr. part
7 Consumption
8 Hot
9 Garbo, for one
11 Influences
15 Extreme
19 Neatnik's opposite
21 Secures
24 Desk type
25 Carry on
26 Wading birds
27 Hit for the Temptations
29 Muffin bit
30 Lets in
31 Clairvoyants
33 Refinement
37 Big book
39 Not to mention

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

■	1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■
9					■	10				11
12					■	13				
14					15		■	16		
17			■	18			19			
20			21			■	22			
■	■	■	23			24		■	■	■
25	26	27		■	28			29	30	31
32				33			■	34		
35			■	36			37			
38			39		■	40				
41					■	42				
■	43				■	44				■

5-28

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.

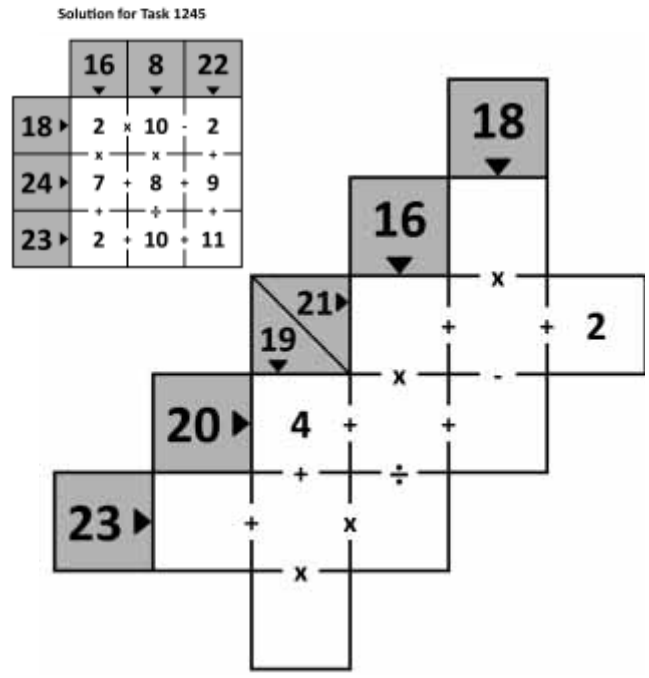
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1245



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 12 21 42 43 Meganumber: 42 Jackpot: $35M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 9 36 43 46 Meganumber: 3 Jackpot: $22M

Fantasy 5: 1 3 18 25 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 1 8 EVENING: 7 6 9

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 10 Solid Gold 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:44.59

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Overreaching: (1) In April, Texas state Rep. John Davis of Houston proposed a tax break -- aimed at buyers of yachts valued at more than a quarter-million dollars. Davis promised more yacht sales and, through a ripple effect, more jobs if Texas capped the sales tax on yachts at the amount due on a $250,000 vessel -- a break of almost $16,000 on a $500,000 boat. (2) Adam Yarbrough, 22, ticketed by a female police officer in Indianapolis in March after he was observed swerving in and out of traffic on an Interstate highway, allegedly compounded the problem first by offering the cop "five dollars" to "get rid of this ticket" and then by "(H)ow about I give you a kiss?" Felony bribery charges were filed. (Bonus fact: Yarbrough was riding a moped.)

■ Marissa Mark, 28, was indicted in March in Allentown, Pa., for hiring a hit man in 2006 via the then-active website HitManForHire.com, agreeing to pay $37,000 to have a California woman killed (though prosecutors have not revealed the motive). Mark allegedly made traceable payments through the PayPal service (which in recent years has righteously refused to process transactions involving online gambling or the WikiLeaks document dumps, but which in 2006 did in fact handle payments for HitManForHire.com). The hit man site was run by an Egyptian immigrant, who told the Las Vegas Sun in 2008 that he would never contract for murder but sought to make money by double-crossing clients and alerting (for a fee) the intended victims.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1860 First Taranaki War: The Battle of Waireka begins.

1862 American Civil War: Battle of Glorieta Pass – in New Mexico, Union forces stop the Confederate invasion of New Mexico territory. The battle began on March 26.

WORD UP!

dudgeon
\DUH-juhn\ , noun;
1. A state or fit of intense indignation; resentment; ill humor -- often used in the phrase "in high dudgeon."

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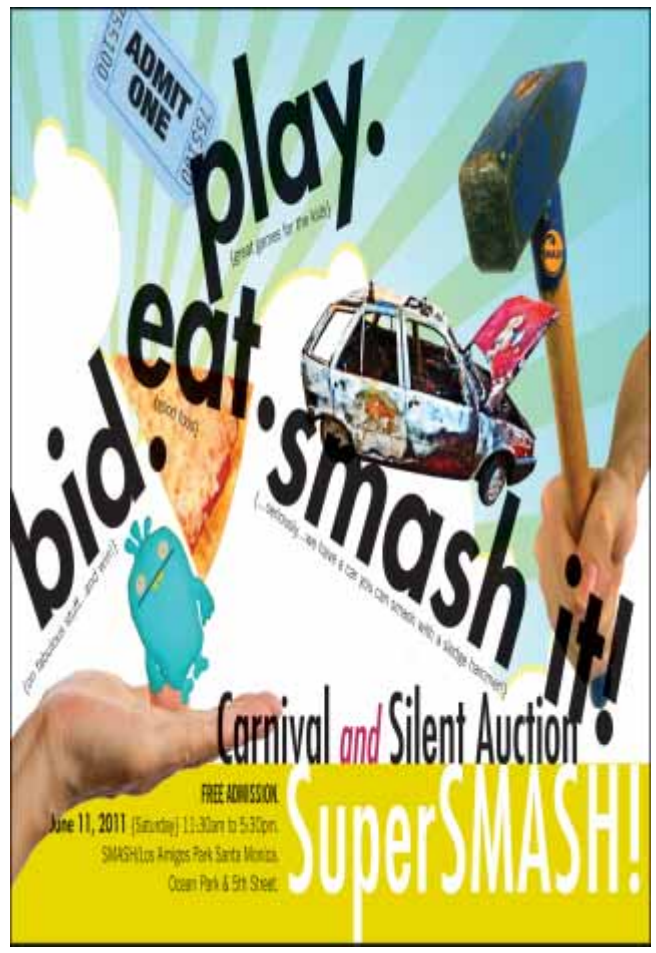
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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$850,000
South of Wilshire	=	$775,000	$464,000
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