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Volume 10 Issue 179



GOMEZ COMES TO TOWN
SEE PAGE 2

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE NITTY GRITTY ISSUE

ACLU, Shriver lead suit against VA

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

VA CAMPUS City Councilmember Bobby Shriver and a team of attorneys filed a lawsuit Wednesday accusing the federal government of misusing a 390-acre plot of land in West Los Angeles that was donated some 130 years ago to house veterans who need care after traumatic military experiences.

The suit alleges that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs leased much of the property at its facility to private entities, instead of using it for veterans' permanent supportive housing.

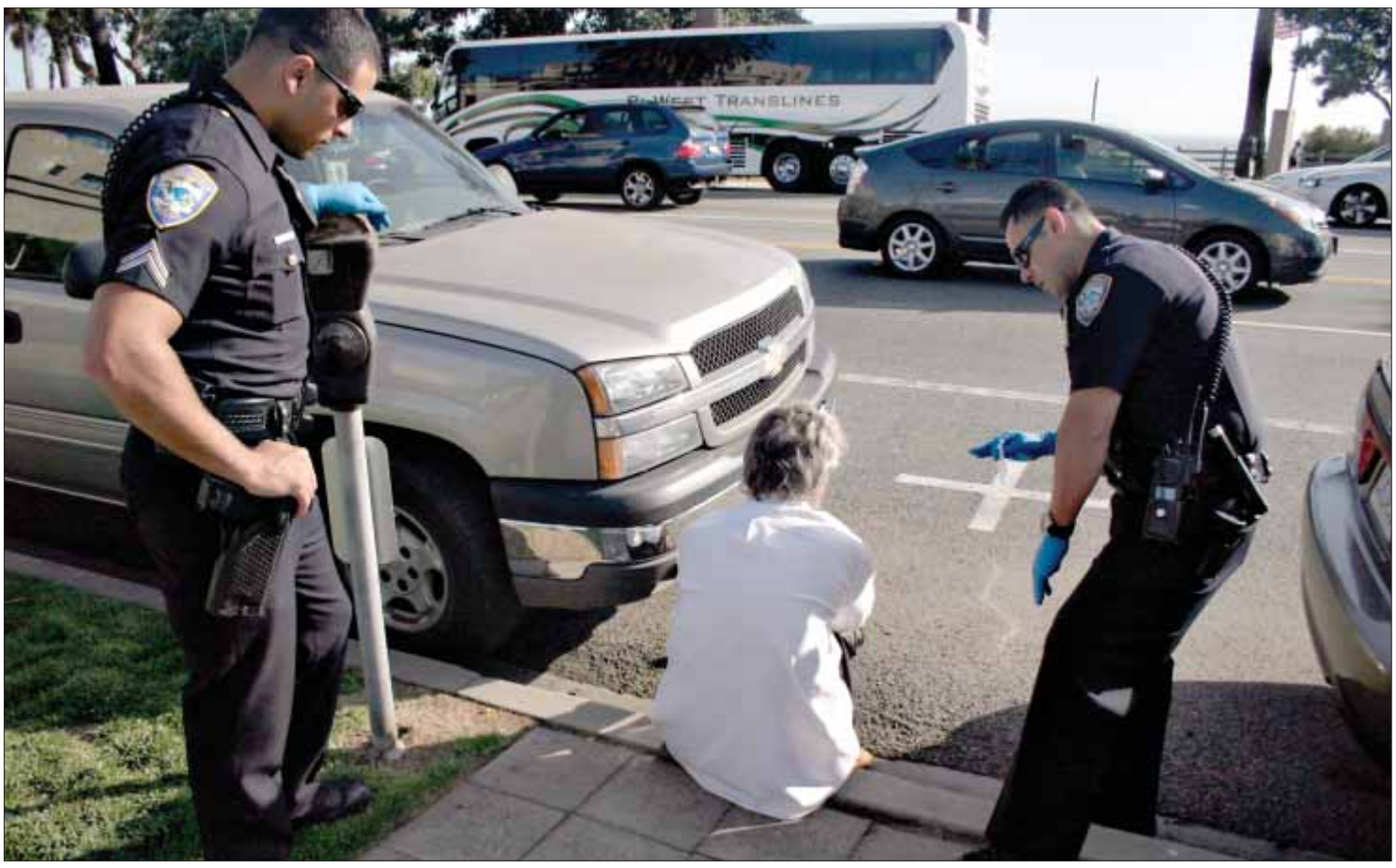
It was being filed by the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California, Shriver, Harvard Law Professor Larry Tribe and the Munger, Tolles & Olson law firm.

They accused the department of breach of fiduciary duty and were seeking an injunction forcing the department to use the property for the housing and care of wounded vets, among other demands.

The VA provides health care to veterans, but doesn't reach the mentally-disabled veterans who are suffering, and dying, on the streets, Shriver said.

"The real crux is that homeless veterans

SEE SUIT PAGE 6



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

DOING THEIR JOB: **Santa Monica police officers on Ocean Avenue question a man who was possibly under the influence of alcohol.**

Police benefits cheaper than previously thought

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL In February, amid discussions of raising city fees on everything from adult recreation leagues to municipal swimming pool admission, Councilmember Bobby Shriver called out what he felt was the "800-pound gorilla in the room."

"When 75 percent of your costs are compensation, the 800-pound gorilla isn't the senior center," Shriver said at the Feb. 8 City Council meeting. "It's the 86 percent benefit compensation on our friends in the police department. It's not a zero-sum game, it's a choice game."

The comment came after Finance Director Carol Swindel presented a series of slides with alarming statistics showing a huge increase in the costs of benefits as a percentage of salary for municipal employees, specifically police officers and firefighters.

SEE BENEFITS PAGE 8

SMMUSD a model for statewide changes

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer



BROWNLEY

CITYWIDE As the State Assembly's legislative session pulled to a close, a flurry of bills bearing Assemblywoman Julia Brownley's (D-Santa Monica) name flew through the halls of the legislature.

All passed, including a set of bills aimed at reforming education at nearly every level from the basics of implementing a standard core curriculum to a new structure of funding for community college classes and the education system itself.

At least two of the measures, however, might feel like a bit of deja vu to residents of Santa Monica and Malibu, who have seen something a bit like them before.

The first would create a state seal of biliteracy to recognize high school graduates that have excelled in reading, writing and speaking another language.

The second puts out a request to the federal government to use money from the health care reform bill to establish on-site school clinics staffed by physicians to deliver health care to students.

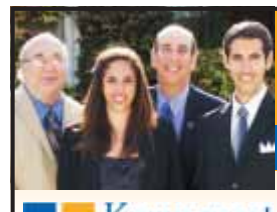
Both evolved out of ideas implemented during Brownley's time as a Board of Education member in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, and now she's trying to implement them statewide.

SEE BROWNLEY PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Music at Samohi
Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
The Samohi Band Pops will perform its last concert of the year at Barnum Hall. The program includes show tunes, film scores and music for all tastes. For more information, visit www.samohiband.org.

Zumba time for seniors
Senior Recreation Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 1:30 p.m.
Join the Zumba party with Rita Ashton. Zumba Gold is a safe and effective total body workout. Enjoy this fun exercise class with Latin and international music and simple, easy to follow dance steps. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Friday, June 10, 2011

Selena Gomez live
Santa Monica Place
Third Street and Broadway, 2 p.m.
Teen singing sensation Selena Gomez launches a 10-city mall tour themed to her new film "Monte Carlo." There will also be a Q&A session with the young star. For more information, call (310) 260-8333.

'A Memory of Two Mondays'
Ruskin Group Theatre
3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.
The Ruskin Group Theatre presents the opening night of Arthur Miller's "A Memory of Two Mondays." During a time of 25 percent unemployment, Arthur Miller's play conjures the dreams of a young man yearning for a college education and a life beyond the hopelessness of the Great Depression. This play will run through July 25. For more information, visit ruskingroupetheatre.com.

Contemporary Crafts Market
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The Contemporary Crafts Market will be returning as the West Coast's premiere event for one-of-a-kind functional and decorative crafts. This year's market will feature the distinctive works of over 250 of the nation's finest artists, ranging from intricate jewelry, unique glassware and ceramics to hand-painted textiles, custom furniture, mixed-media creations and much more. All items on display and for sale have been jury-selected for their exceptional quality. The show runs through Sunday. For more information, call (310) 285-3655.

Astronomical talks
New Roads School
3131 Olympic Blvd.,
7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club presents a night of cosmic talk. Topics discussed include: Robert Lozano's "Cassini and Iapetus"; Thor Dockweiler's "The Salt Ring of Saturn" and "Recent Developments in Determining Distances with Supernovae." For information, call (310) 495-7595.

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



Kobe Bryant forms foundation to fight homelessness

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Lakers all-NBA guard Kobe Bryant and his wife Vanessa are teaming up with Santa Monica-based Step Up on Second to battle homelessness and improve the lives of youths and families in need.

The Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation will initially focus on homeless youth in Los Angeles, the Bryants said Tuesday at a news conference at My Friend's Place, a drop-in center for homeless youth in Hollywood.

"On my way to games, I noticed children and families living on the streets blocks away from where I play and it didn't sit well with me," Kobe Bryant said. "I wanted to help make a difference in homelessness and what better place to start than in my own backyard."

The foundation will support organizations and programs that help create permanent housing and provide resources for education and career development.

One of those organizations is Step Up on Second, which began providing psychosocial rehabilitation and support to people affected by severe and persistent mental illness since 1984. Step Up has been successful in constructing permanent, supportive housing for homeless individuals suffering from mental illness, converting in 2009 an old motel on

SEE **KOBE** PAGE 9

Santa Monica judge orders man to stay away from Lohan

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

SM COURTHOUSE A judge on Wednesday ordered a man accused of showing up at Lindsay Lohan's court appearances and leaving gifts at her house to stay away from the actress for the next two years.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joseph Biderman issued the restraining order against David Cocordan after a hearing in Santa Monica. Neither Lohan, who is serving house arrest, nor Cocordan attended the hearing.

Biderman said the man had filed a statement agreeing to the stay-away order.

Lohan wrote in a court filing last month that she is frightened of Cocordan, 38, who she stated had sent her more than 100 text messages, including one describing having sex with the "Mean Girls" star.

The actress is serving house arrest on a 120-day jail sentence for violating her probation by taking a necklace without permission from a jewelry store in January. She is expected to serve about 35 days.

One text message contained in the court documents indicates Cocordan was in the courtroom last month when the 24-year-old actress was sentenced to jail.

Lohan's attorney, Blair Berk, told the judge that police officers would serve the two-year restraining order on Cocordan, who according to court records lives in Glendora. That is about 45 miles east of Lohan's home in the beachside community of Venice.

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

NICE GRAB: **Samohi's Kelsey Hom makes a play earlier this season. The senior has decided to play for Brown University next year.**

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Samohi's Hom heading to Brown

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Looks like the Vikings' Kelsey Hom is trading the warm beaches of Santa Monica for the Ivy League.

An integral part of Santa Monica High School's softball team for the past four seasons, Hom has decided to play for Brown University next season.

"I was skeptical at first," Hom said. "It's a small state, it made me nervous. But, when I stepped on campus, I loved it."

Brown doesn't award scholarships for softball, but the school is helping her pay for tuition with a variety of grants and other financial aid.

Hom initially considered staying in California and going to Stanford, but she decided she wanted a change of pace and Brown's Rhode Island address was exactly what she was looking for.

"I figured that if I'm going to go four years, I might as well make it completely brand new," she said.

Hom's time at Samohi has been a decorated one. She is a four-year All-Ocean League performer, earning second team honors this year.

She helped lead the Vikings to their 10th straight league title this year and a return to the CIF-Southern Section playoffs. Samohi was eliminated in the first round by Loara.

SEE **HOM** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rent increase too high

Editor:

With the release Tuesday of a prominent national opinion poll showing ever growing public distress and anger over the economy and with the release over the last week or so of economic reports confirming ever deepening malaise of the national economy, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board is confronted with one overriding issue pertaining to the proposed 3.5 percent rental increase: Does Santa Monica want to preserve its large and viable middle-class rental base or does it want to sacrifice it for the laughably misguided notion of an economically diversified demographic base as advanced and defined in community outreach by Macerich in planning the rebuilding of Santa Monica Place?

Leading national economists have characterized the current recession as a household recession. Household income is acknowledged to be lagging or negative with year to date income growth pegged at .4 percent. Worse, Social Security recipients have not accrued any cost of living adjustments in their payments. Few people even in the somewhat buoyant economy of Santa Monica are seeing 3.5 percent growth in wages and even fewer are seeing significant growth in their businesses if they're experiencing growth at all.

The 3.5 percent increase is proposed in part on the basis of a UCLA Anderson School of Management report putting forth a 4.7 percent inflation rate in the Los Angeles area. No matter how prestigious the Anderson School, it does not shape the national economy and the Santa Monica Rent Control Board cannot set itself apart from the constraints of the national economy and the direction given to it by the actions of the Federal Reserve. Whatever dissent there is about the Fed's interpretation of the economy, the Fed has been unrelenting in keeping short-term interest rates effectively at zero and repressing long-term rates at remarkable lows all in the belief that the type of inflation we're experiencing is "transitory." I want to remind the Rent Control Board that rent increases are not transitory and are not reversible. They are baked permanently into the maximum allowable rent for every apartment unit it regulates.

Profitability of apartment buildings is not simply determined by rent rolls minus operating costs, taxes and fees. Profitability can be determined by refinancing of mortgages and I anecdotally understand there has been sizable refinancing in the Fed's low-interest rate environment. Refinancing boosts cash flow and profitability which is not fully taken into account by Rent Control.

In reviewing rent increases passed by the Rent Control Board over the past 10 years, I've correlated actual inflation with the board's increases. Three of the past 10 years the board overshot inflation very badly. Three additional years the board overshot inflation less drastically, but nonetheless overshot it. Every time the board miscalculates, the increases become irrevocably part of the MAR.

Finally, Wes Wellman's comments in the May 18 edition of the Daily Press speculating on landlords' intention to raise rents exclusively on below market rate tenants should not go without comment or investigation by the Rent Control Board. As president of Action Apartment Association, Wellman is suggesting and asserting a new prospective tool for harassment: economic force out of long-term renters. Wellman is putting forth a two-class system: favorable treatment for market rate tenants. While that already does exist to debatable extent, it is immeasurably invaluable to have this intent the record.

Bill Davids
Santa Monica

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Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Best way to ask for vacation

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I am hoping to take a vacation at some point this summer. I have been working in my current position for the past three years and the only time I have taken off has been for holidays. This has been an especially stressful year so I am in dire need of a true vacation. My boss is very strict about time away from the office so I would like your advice about how to approach him and what to say. Ideally I would like to take 10 days off but I am flexible about when this is (as long as I get a vacation). Your thoughts and ideas are very much appreciated.

Signed,
Have to Get Away

DEAR GET AWAY,

Taking time off is a very important part of being a productive professional. Many times we get so consumed with work that we do not realize we need a break until it is too late and we feel burnt out. There are many positive aspects of taking a vacation from work including increasing creativity and productivity upon your return, reducing stress, and promoting overall well-being.

Keep in mind that vacation time is time that you earn. Your employer has decided on a set amount of time to reward employees for their dedication and time on the job. Even though this is time you have earned and up to you to decide how and when to use it, it is important, and often time requires, that you seek the approval of your supervisor. Tense situations can certainly come about as a result of requesting your vacation time at inopportune times.

If your office uses a shared calendar system you can start by reviewing the schedule for the next few months. Since you are flexible with your vacation time try to choose a time that does not overlap with your boss' or colleagues' vacation time. Many professionals try to schedule vacation around holiday time so they can have more time out of the office without using all of their accrued vacation time. Weekends like Fourth of July or Labor Day tend to be popular times to take time off. You will also want to be sure to avoid vacation right before a big deadline or other busy times for your office. Think back on your past three years and see if there is a time you remember things being slower than usual — this can be an ideal time for you to step away. This may also help to reduce the amount of work you come back to as well.

When asking for your vacation, be sure to find a time when your boss is not consumed with other things. Adding your vacation request in the mix of a busy or stressful day may just add pressure to your supervisor. Use the communication method that works best for your boss when requesting your vacation leave. For instance, if he likes to have time to review questions before answering, it might be best to send him an e-mail with the dates you would like to take vacation. You should also include the number of accrued vacation days so he can see that you have earned the time for the dates you would like off.

THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TAKING A VACATION FROM WORK INCLUDING INCREASING CREATIVITY AND PRODUCTIVITY UPON YOUR RETURN, REDUCING STRESS, AND PROMOTING OVERALL WELL-BEING.

Finally, when you do take your vacation be sure to really take time for yourself. Set your out of office message on your voicemail and e-mail indicating that you will be away from the office and provide a date when you plan to return. Make sure to specify another colleague within the office who can field any questions during your absence. It can be tempting to check in with the office on a regular basis or continue to have your e-mails sent to your mobile device. If you truly feel the need to check in during your vacation, limit yourself to a certain time of the day. The most successful vacations are the ones where you truly turn off and give yourself a much-needed break from the daily grind. Good luck!

KATRINA DAVY, M.A., ED.M, is a Santa Monica-based professional College and Career Counselor. She holds degrees from Columbia and Cornell universities. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!



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Getting lost in paradise

BY CAROLE ORLIN
Special to the Daily Press

Attention staycationers! I just might have found the ultimate staycation destination. To say it met my basic staycation requirements (must be driving distance from home yet takes me away to another world) would be selling it short. Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes on the Palos Verdes Peninsula utterly surpassed my expectations.

It is located about one hour from Santa Monica, yet is a slice of paradise that could be in Hawaii, Bali, or any exotic locale. It consists of 102 acres of breathtaking beauty situated on bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island. These dramatic bluffs and ocean views are what bring the magic to this location, where almost all of the activities include or highlight this unique segment of California's coastline.

The spa and fitness center at Terranea is wonderful; it has over 50,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space. The spa is, of course, oceanfront and windowed so you can see and breathe in the salt air while exercising. The staff even brought some spinning bikes outside so we could exercise in the open air. What a delight to the senses! Most of their eight restaurants have indoor and outdoor seating that face the bluffs. The acres of hiking trails are spectacular. We saw dolphins frolicking in the water on our first hike.

Terranea has an interesting history. It was Marineland of the Pacific until it closed in 1986. Many movie makers have taken advantage of its remarkable beauty and have shot scenes from there, including "Pearl Harbor," "The Aviator," "Charlie's Angels," "Pirates of the Caribbean" 1, 2, and 3, and "Con Air," just to name a few. Actually Nelson's, a fun sports bar with great margaritas is named after Lloyd Bridges' character, Mike Nelson from "Sea Hunt," as they filmed much of the series there.

The resort's size can be daunting. At first I thought it might be too big and busy for me to feel relaxed and comfortable. I had concerns that I might get lost in the crowd or have to spend too much time figuring out how to get from point A to point B. Terranea has 582 rooms including casitas, villas, bungalows, and suites. There are three swimming pools and an impressive nine-hole, par-three golf course, miles of hiking trails, the spa, and numerous restaurants for everything from fine dining (Mar'sel) to casual dining (Nelson's) to everything in between. It did take some navigating (with a detailed map), but that was quickly mastered. Once we settled in and planned our own activities, it was quite simple. In addition, the staff went out of its way to be welcoming and helpful.

Despite being a popular wedding and special event destination, Terranea also caters to staycationers and weekenders just wanting some time to relax and regroup. Many local people come there for lunch or dinner and/or a day at the spa. We met a local couple who eats there five days a week (including Sunday brunch at the Catalina Kitchen). The casitas and villas are more private and something you might consider if you are there for R&R. They are very kid and dog friendly, but if you are there to get away from the kids and dogs, have no fear. There is an adults-only swimming pool, restaurants with adult menus, and acres and acres of property to enjoy kid-less and dog-less, for a romantic getaway! Since Terranea is large and such a popular destination, I would discuss with the reservation personnel the best times to go there to fit your personal needs.

I cannot end this piece without delivering a warning: Be prepared … not for the unforgettable scenery, great food, lovely accommodations and activities, but for the necessity of returning to reality. It took me a few days to resurface, and that is saying a lot, because my lovely Santa Monica is a dream destination itself.

CAROLE can be reached at Carolesorlin@yahoo.com

If You Go

Terranea Resort
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Photo courtesy Matthew Millman

LUXURY CLOSE TO HOME: **Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes has 582 rooms including casitas, villas, bungalows and suites.**

The Q Line

Happy birthday, St. Monica

St. Monica Catholic Church this past weekend kicked off a year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you have a fond memory of the venerable church?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102**.


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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

THE SITE: **A lawsuit alleges that the VA is misusing land on its West L.A. campus.**

SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

and mentally-challenged homeless veterans have not been able to access services because they have not been housed," Shriver said.

The suit specifies four plaintiffs — three Iraq veterans and a woman who was raped while serving in the Army — who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments.

According to the nonprofit New Directions, which operates out of the West Los Angeles VA building, there are an estimated 8,0000 homeless veterans on the streets of Los Angeles, which account for 11 percent of all homeless veterans nationwide.

"We bring suit today to provide these veterans the permanent supportive housing they must have to access the medical and psychiatric services to which they are lawfully entitled," ACLU lawyer Mark Rosenbaum said in a statement. "The VA could quite literally end veteran homelessness in Los Angeles if this land were used as it was intended."

The suit names VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System director Donna M. Better as defendants.

VA Press Secretary Josh Taylor wrote in a statement that Shinseki pledged to end veteran homelessness by 2015, and has already made substantial progress to that end.

"Two years ago, there were approximately 131,000 homeless veterans on any given night," Taylor wrote. "Today, we estimate there are about 76,000 homeless veterans."

In 2011, the VA put $4.3 billion toward helping homeless veterans, and it hopes to increase that investment to $4.9 billion in 2012.

Nothing in the statement addressed the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges that the 387-acre parcel at what is now the VA's West Los Angeles Medical Center & Community Living Center campus was deeded to the government by a private owner in 1888 in order to provide housing for disabled war veterans.

It said the land was used for that purpose until the 1960s and 1970s, when the VA stopped accepting new residents and allowed buildings that had provided permanent housing to fall into disrepair or be used for other purposes.

While the property hosts veterans' medical clinics, some 110 acres have been leased to private users, such as a car rental company for vehicle storage, a hotel for laundry facilities and an energy company for an oil well, the suit claimed.

A theater operator stages shows in a campus auditorium that had been built for veterans, and a private school has its athletic fields on the property, according to the complaint.

Rosenbaum said that officials have never publicized how much the VA is receiving from the land deals, and what the proceeds are used for.

"There has been no public accounting of the behind-closed-doors negotiations or of the monies collected or where the money taken in went," he said. "This is VA-gate."

The suit is, in part, a move of frustration for Shriver and Tribe, who worked together on the issue while Tribe was the Obama administration's Senior Counselor for Access to Justice, a position created to improve the ability of the poor and indigent to get legal defense.

Both have been working to end veteran homelessness from within the system, and both hit roadblocks formed out of "bureaucratic morass."

"I was hoping that a lawsuit wouldn't be necessary, and that the position I had fostering access to justice would enable me to move the VA in the direction of doing the right thing," Tribe said. "Obviously, I was overestimating the degree to which rhetoric could ultimately deliver results."

The lawsuit brings together unlikely bedfellows.

The ACLU and Munger, Tolles & Olson joined together in July 2009 to sue City Hall for a moratorium on arresting homeless caught sleeping outside.

That suit was settled in 2010. City Hall said at the time that there was no financial penalty of any kind and no change in any city law as a result of the lawsuit.

Associated Press contributed to this report



HOM
FROM PAGE 3

The highlight of Hom's career came in 2010 when the Vikings won their first CIF-SS title in the sport.

Hom said that she was recruited as a middle infielder, but she has also spent time in the outfield during her time at Samohi.

"The way I see it, I'm sure she can hold her own," Samohi Head Coach Marybell Moreno said. "But, it isn't as simple as little league or high school. When you play college ball, that's some serious stuff."

Moreno, who is coming off her first year as coach, said that Hom's familiarity with the sport will serve her well as she moves on to battle for playing time. She said that Hom was successful wherever she was positioned.

In terms of playing college ball, Hom isn't alone.

Jasmine Reynaga, who played first base and outfield for the Vikings this season, has decided to play for El Camino College, a two-year school in Torrance.

A third senior, Meghan Bradley, is still looking into her options. Moreno said that there are schools interested, but Bradley hasn't decided where to go.

With this year's seniors making their college choices, Moreno will now concentrate on getting attention for some of her underclass players.

> **"THE WAY I SEE IT, I'M SURE SHE CAN HOLD HER OWN."**
>
> **Marybell Moreno on Kelsey Hom,**
> Samohi Head Coach

Specifically, she said that catcher Kelly Ricard has the eye of recruiters and expects her to play some place after high school.

Ricard, who was the most valuable player in the Ocean League this season, plays for Moreno's travel team over the summer. Travel leagues are known for attracting scouts, giving Ricard a perfect showcase to display her talent.

"You have to go there," Moreno said of travel leagues. "The first contact with scouts and recruiters happens there. We as coaches follow up and try to get them in those tournaments."

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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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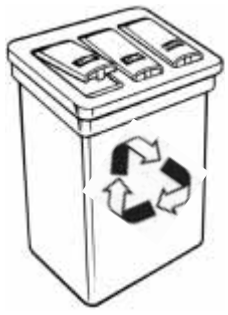
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5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
6:00–7:00pm	(2nd & 4th Monday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, 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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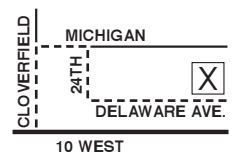


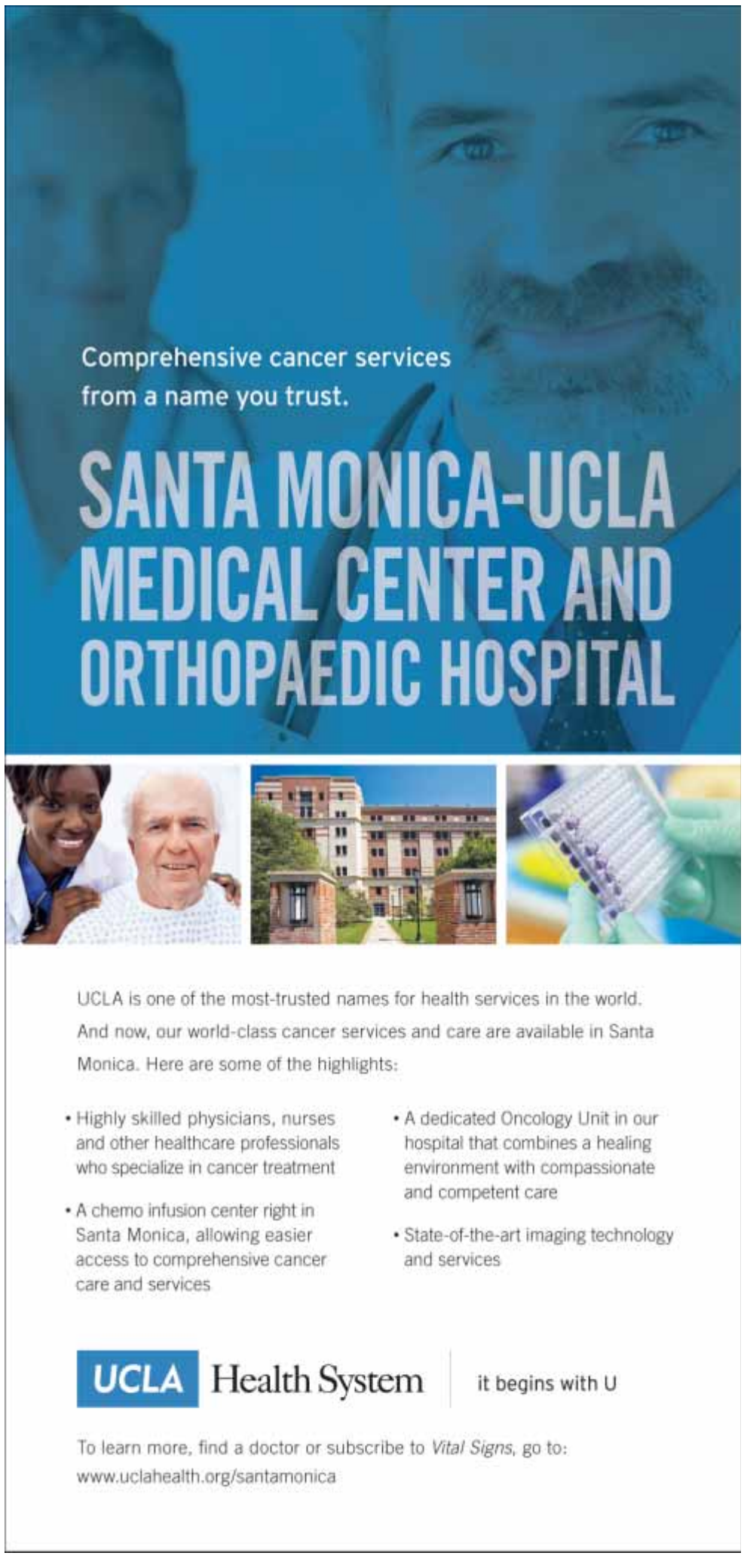
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BENEFITS
FROM PAGE 1

By the end of fiscal year 2016, City Hall could expect to spend almost 88 percent of a given officer's salary on benefits, which are primarily composed of health care and pension costs.

As of the May budget sessions, however, that number dropped over 10 percent, with little explanation as to why.

That frustrated Officer Matthew Rice, the chairman of the Santa Monica Police Officer's Association.

"We've become the villains," Rice said.

As of May 24, when the proposed budget was presented to council members, benefits as a percentage of salary dropped from 87.6 percent to 77.3 percent.

The change was one of calculation, Swindel said, and largely had to do with a more positive projection from the California Public Employee Retirement System, or CalPERS, than had been available in December when the February presentation was being put together.

In February, CalPERS was still reeling from the dramatic losses experienced in the 2009 fiscal year. The pension system's investment portfolio took a $69 billion hit, or 24 percent of its fund.

There's a two-year lag for factoring investment returns of a given fiscal year into rates for public agencies like Santa Monica, so City Hall is now seeing the impact of the 2009 losses, wrote Clark McKinley, a CalPERS spokesperson, in an e-mail.

"The 2008-09 fiscal year was the worst in the nearly 80-year CalPERS history, with a market value loss of 24 percent," McKinley wrote. "So there's a lag in making up that loss with employer contributions, spread out over more than one year, to keep the city's employee/retiree pool adequately funded."

The investments had to be made up with rate increases, and on top of that, the executive board considered dropping the expected rate of return from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent.

If that doesn't sound like much, Swindel said, think again.

"It's a quarter percent, but because it's such a big driver of their overall pool of assets available to pay for retirement benefits, it would have had a significant impact on rates," Swindel said.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*
PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

If the rate decrease had gone forward, it would have equated to an extra 3 to 5 percent on top of costs for police department benefits.

In a surprise move, the CalPERS board did not approve the recommendation of its chief actuary to lower the projected rate of return, but that decision was made in March, long after the five-year projections Swindel presented were created.

"We're in a dynamic environment, and information always continues to come to light," Swindel said. "When we put the proposed budget together, we did it based on the best information we had available at the time. That's different than what we had in December."

And, although the increases aren't as dramatic as they were expected to be, costs are still expected to jump $15.7 million, or 57 percent, by 2015-16.

Health care costs, also a major factor in the cost of benefits, are expected to go up $7.8 million, or 46 percent, in the same period. A benefit consultant employed by City Hall estimated that health care costs would rise by 12 percent each year at a minimum.

It only held at a 5 percent increase this year because City Hall switched providers.

At the rate at which these figures are rising, compensation figures are expected to grow over the next five years and one and a half to two times that of revenue, Swindel said.

"We're in discussions with the [employee unions] now to make sure compensation costs are sustainable in the long-run," she said.

So are those police figures still the 800-pound gorilla in the room?

In Shriver's opinion — yes.

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BROWNLEY
FROM PAGE 1

The biliteracy seal bill, or AB 815, would not only create a uniform physical seal, but would create a set of statewide standards for acknowledging a student's ability to converse in two or more languages.

The concept already exists in 34 school districts, with different seal designs and requirements.

AB 815 would be totally voluntary.

Farther reaching is Brownley's attempt to make a formal request to the federal government to use funds wrapped up in health care reform to create a system of clinics based in schools to provide health care to needy children.

"There's great consensus around having schools be a portal for health care, because that's where children and families congregate every single day," Brownley said.

In 1998, Brownley fought for and won grant funding for a partnership between Venice Family Clinic, located on Pico Boulevard, and Santa Monica High School to create one such clinic.

It operates on Mondays and Thursdays for approximately three hours in the morning, said Samohi nurse Nora McElvain, and the benefits to the students are immense.

"This is the most convenient," McElvain said. "They miss the least amount of time from class, they have consistent care and immunizations and they can be treated for whatever."

Students can use the services confidentially to get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and birth control, and uninsured students are able to see a doctor and get prescriptions same-day.

"It's incredibly valuable," McElvain said.

According to Tim Smith, communications director for the Venice Family Clinic, the program is not only easy for families, it saves the schools from losing attendance money from the state.

"It's not just good for the student and the parents, but for the school," Smith said.

Now the bills move from the Assembly and on to the State Senate, where Brownley hopes they will pass with relative ease.

Other than those covering school financing and charter schools, Brownley has carried most of the bills before, and gotten them all the way to the governor's desk.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed many of the education reforms, but Brownley, a Democrat, has higher hopes for Jerry Brown, also a Democrat.

"Different governor, similar bills," she said. "I'm more optimistic that these bills will go through the senate and the new governor."

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KOBE
FROM PAGE 3

Santa Monica Boulevard near 26th Street into Daniel's Village, which provides eight housing units for adults, ages 18 to 24.

City Hall contributed $2 million to the $2.4 million project.

The program was spawned from Daniel's Place, a drop-in center geared toward the same demographic that has served more than 400 clients since it was founded 13 years ago, offering support groups for clients and families and individual consultations.

"[Kobe] talked about solving this problem, so I think that is amazing," said Tod Lipka, executive director of Step Up who joined the Bryants in Hollywood Tuesday. "With someone like Kobe and Vanessa giving a voice to this issue, we can really raise the awareness and bring about solutions that will move us closer to ending homelessness in L.A."

There are an estimated 9,500 youth living on the streets in Los Angeles, with roughly 824 in the communities of Santa Monica, Malibu and West Los Angeles, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

"You could tell that Kobe and Vanessa were so empathetic about the experiences these youth have and the significant challenges they face," said Lipka, who participated in a discussion with the Bryants and homeless youth at My Friend's Place.

Lipka said he is looking forward to collaborating with the foundation as it creates and distributes a public service announcement campaign intended to educate the public about youth homelessness. The foundation, which will also raise funds by soliciting donors, is still in the research phase.

As a father of two, Bryant said the issue "just hits home," and the he was "shocked" to learn of the number of homeless youth in L.A.

"What I do in the game of basketball is easy compared to what they have to go through," said Bryant. "What they have to go through, that's real determination to be able to have that fight to say, 'I'm still going to make it.'"

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> Train testing is currently underway on Phase 1 of the Expo Line running between Downtown LA and Culver City.
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Seniors' medical pot collective creates stir

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LAGUNA WOODS Joe Schwartz is a 90-year-old great-grandfather of three who enjoys a few puffs of pot each night before he crawls into bed in the Southern California retirement community he calls home.

The World War II veteran smokes the drug to alleviate debilitating nausea and is one of about 150 senior citizens on this sprawling, 18,000-person gated campus who belongs to a thriving — and controversial — medical marijuana collective operating here, in the middle of one of the largest retirement communities in the United States.

The fledgling collective mirrors a nationwide trend as more and more senior citizens turn to marijuana, legal or not, to ease the aches and pains of aging. But in Laguna Woods Village, tucked in the heart of one of the most conservative and wealthiest counties in California, these ganja-smoking grandparents have stirred up a heated debate with their collective, attracting a crackdown from within the self-governed community.

Many members of the 2-year-old collective keep a low profile, but others grow seedlings on their patios and set up workshops to show other seniors how to turn the marijuana leaves into tea, milk and a vapor that can be inhaled for relief from everything from chemotherapy-related nausea to multiple sclerosis to arthritis.

The most recent project involves getting collective members to plant 40 seeds from experimental varieties of marijuana that are high in a compound said to have anti-inflammatory properties best suited for elderly ailments. The tiny plastic vials, each containing 10 seeds, are stamped with names like "Sour Tsunami."

Under California law, people with a variety of conditions, from migraines to cancer, can get a medical marijuana card with a doctor's recommendation and join a pot collective to get what they need. All the members of Laguna Woods Village's collective have medical marijuana cards and are legal users under state law, but the drug is still banned under federal law.

Lonnie Painter, the collective's president and perhaps most activist member, worries daily about his high-profile position within the tiny community of pot users. The 65-year-old grandfather supplements regular painkillers with marijuana tea for osteoarthritis and keeps stacks of marijuana collective applications on a desk in the living room, just a few feet from the Lego bricks his 7-year-old grandson plays with on his frequent visits.

"We've got people who don't like it here, they don't like marijuana and they still have that 'communism' and 'perversion' and 'killer weed' attitude," said Painter, who has shoulder-length gray hair, a white goatee and wears several gold necklaces. "What I get more worried about is myself getting put in jail. If you were just a patient you'd be safe, but if you are active and involved in any way in making it available for others, the federal government can come and scoop you up."

In the first two years of the collective's life, however, Painter and other members have had more trouble from their fellow residents than from the government.

Dr. Deborah Wallen

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

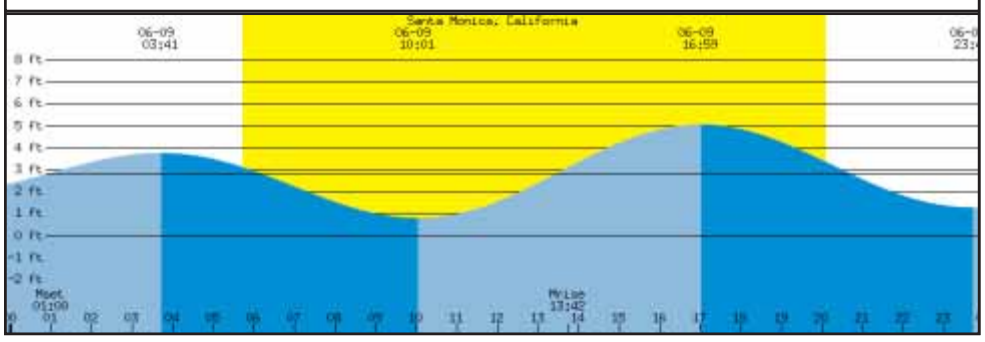
Swell Forecast

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 26 / 8
- 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.	F	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	D	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rominer Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	D	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 (paint zone).	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A	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.	B	A+
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.	B	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.	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	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 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's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

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MEDIA

NBC locks up U.S. Olympic TV rights through 2020

STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland Once again, money talked and NBC walked away with the Olympic prize.

The three-way contest for U.S. Olympic television rights wasn't even close — NBC blew ESPN and Fox out of the water with a $4.38 billion bid to keep the Olympics on the peacock network through 2020 in a new four-games deal with the IOC.

"I can say the Olympics are really in their DNA," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said at Tuesday's announcement. "We've been together with them for so many games with great success."

The knockout blow by NBC defied recent speculation that the incumbent's 20-year grip on the Olympics was coming to an end, that new parent company Comcast was less interested in committing to the games and that its chances were severely dented by last month's sudden resignation of longtime sports and Olympics chief Dick Ebersol.

NBC, which has broadcast every Summer Olympics since 1988 and every Winter Games since 2002, parlayed its track record and familiarity with the IOC — as well as its money — to win over the Olympic body again.

"You think definitely of the finances, but you think also of the past experiences, you think of the enthusiasm of the team, the technical qualities," Rogge said. "We thought that was the best combination."

Executives with direct knowledge of the proposals told The Associated Press that Fox bid $3.4 billion for four games and $1.5 billion for two, while ESPN offered $1.4 billion for two. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the IOC declined to say how much the other networks offered.

NBC has exclusive rights to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, and the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the 2018 Winter Games and 2020 Olympics, whose sites have not yet been chosen. The deal includes all broadcast platforms, including Internet, mobile and hand-held devices.

IOC TV rights negotiator Richard Carrion said NBC would pay $775 million for Sochi, $1.226 billion for Rio, $963 million for the 2018 Winter Games and $1.418 billion for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

"This secures the financial future for the next decade of the Olympic movement," Rogge said.

In the previous rights auction in 2003, NBC outbid Fox and ESPN to secure the 2010 and 2012 Olympics in a deal worth $2.2 billion. That included $2 billion in straight rights fees, plus a $200 million global sponsorship deal with NBC's former parent company, General Electric.

The IOC had said it hoped to exceed that deal this time, and it did — slightly. The $4.382 billion figure for four games represents a small increase only in rights fees compared with the previous two-games package.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Tribute to Peter Fonda
Easy Rider (R) 1hr 34min
The Trip (NR) 1hr 25min
7:30pm

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

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Fast Five (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:05pm, 4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:25pm

X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
12:50pm, 3:50pm, 6:50pm, 9:50pm

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

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
10:50am, 12:15pm, 1:35pm, 4:20pm, 5:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:30am, 2:45pm, 6:00pm, 9:15pm

X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
10:30am, 1:40pm, 2:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 8:30pm, 11:05pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
1:10pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
10:45am, 1:15pm, 3:40pm, 6:15pm, 8:45pm

Super 8 (PG-13) 1hr 52min
12:01am

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

Makioka Sisters (Sasame-yuki) (NR) 2hrs 10min
7:30pm

Double Hour (La doppia ora) (NR) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

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

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

Thor (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:15am, 5:00pm, 10:40pm

Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Hangover Part II (R) 1hr 42min
12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
12:25pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Empire of Silver (Baiyin diguo) (NR) 1hr 52min
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
2:05pm, 7:50pm

Cave of Forgotten Dreams 3D (G) 1hr 30min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm

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

Start the weekend early, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Dive into your work and get as much done as humanly possible. Be open to someone's caring gesture, which could happen today or in the near future. Avoid money decisions. Schedule meetings for later today. Tonight: Defer to another person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Allow more creativity to come forth, especially if you're choosing a gift or planning an occasion. Expressing your feelings doesn't have to cost a fortune, which you will discover. Curb a desire to take off early, if possible. Tonight: Know when you are tired, and act accordingly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Venus moves into your sign, adding to your allure. You seem to say the right thing at the right moment. Early today, you might want to lie low in order to center yourself. You come out of the gate a force to behold late afternoon. Tonight: Start the weekend a little early.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep communication flowing. Use care the next few weeks if you are meeting someone new. Someone might not mean to be deceptive, but what this person projects doesn't reflect his or her core. Clear out calls and meetings in the evening. Tonight: Stay centered.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Continue to rein in your spending. You discover how much another person cares by his or her gesture. You get to the bottom of a disconnect that lies between you two. Schedule meetings for as late in the day as possible. Tonight: Plan your weekend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You beam into the morning energized and full of ideas. You cruise past problems. You might wonder what is the best approach when dealing with a loved one about funds. You might be uncomfortable dealing with a friend. Tonight: Treat yourself, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be feeling out of sorts and not sure of yourself. You know much more about another person's behavior than you realize. Give this person the space to discover the same. Tonight: Enjoying the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Focus on your goals, even just for the day. You will get a lot done, and quite quickly at that. Meetings are best held in the morning. Be an active participant in a meeting. Others need to know where you are coming from. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take a stand with a boss early in the day. Honor what is happening, knowing you might need to take a greater role than in the past. Late today, a meeting could turn into a get-together. Be sure you have dealt with business first! Tonight: Where your friends are. (Think "weekend.")

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your mind roams from one idea to the next. You could be overwhelmed. Understanding will evolve to a new level if you are willing to detach and not repeat your perspective. Try another person's thinking and see if it works. Tonight: Working late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You have carefully tip-toed around others and their feelings. The time has come that you might be best off just being yourself. Getting to a point of agreement might be close to impossible. Tonight: Reach out for those at a distance. Make plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Accept what others think without agreeing or disagreeing. You might not be sure enough of any idea. Make time to have an important discussion with a trusted friend and adviser who clearly has your best interests in mind. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you are able to integrate many different sides of your personality. You are anchored yet a dynamic, sage risk-taker. You also seem to be able to honor your sixth sense, knowing when something is off or needs changing. Honor your needs, and don't give away too much of your power. If you are single, you could meet someone quite fun and with whom you love to flirt. Give this bond time to develop. If you are attached, the two of you might plan a special trip or romantic event. You could be acting like newfound lovers. LIBRA remains playful and often provides another perspective.



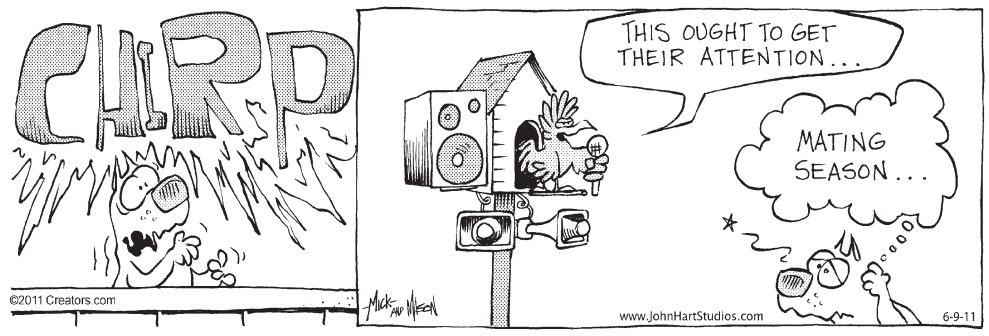
MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

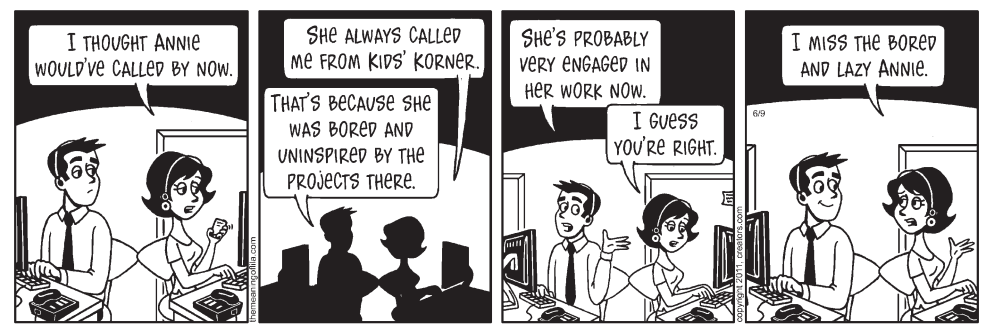
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



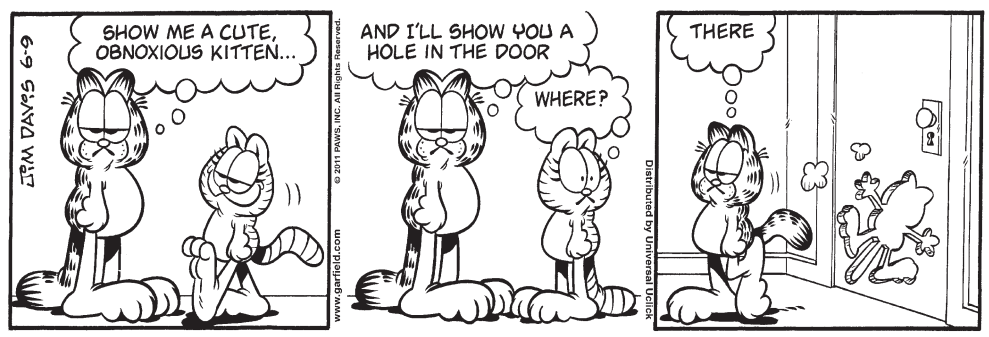
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



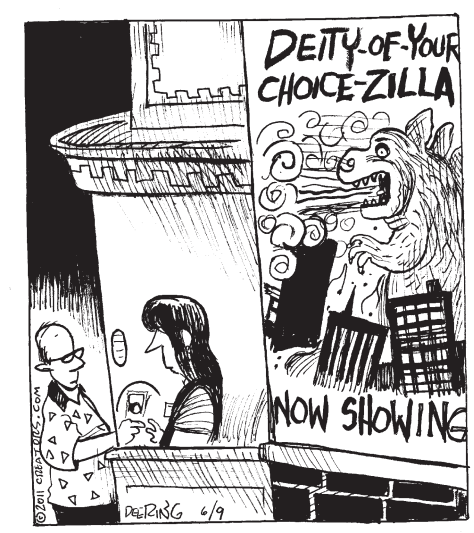
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Candle part
5 Invented
11 Goofing off
12 Threat phrase
13 Walrus' cousin
14 More promising
15 Overacts
17 Wager
18 Great, in slang
22 Emulates a raptor
24 Patriot Allen
25 Galley item
26 Finished off
27 Jacket material
30 Titled women
32 Town leader
33 Sphere
34 Moon shape
38 Cheering word
41 In — (lined up)
42 Dahl of films
43 Ashton's love
44 Welcomes
45 Genesis site

DOWN

1 Aspiration
2 Creative germ
3 Climbed awkwardly
4 Grammer of "Frasier"
5 Cartoonist Walker
6 Incite
7 Tyrant
8 Yale student
9 Purpose
10 By the unit
16 "— been real!"
19 Like a nautilus
20 Hudson of Hollywood
21 Wallet bills
22 Act the model
23 Julia of films
28 Fiat
29 Wandering
30 Uno doubled
31 Gaming place
35 Facial pair
36 Iditarod finish site
37 Pollux, for one
38 Old crone
39 Bruins legend
40 Bullring call

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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						■	45			

6-9

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

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

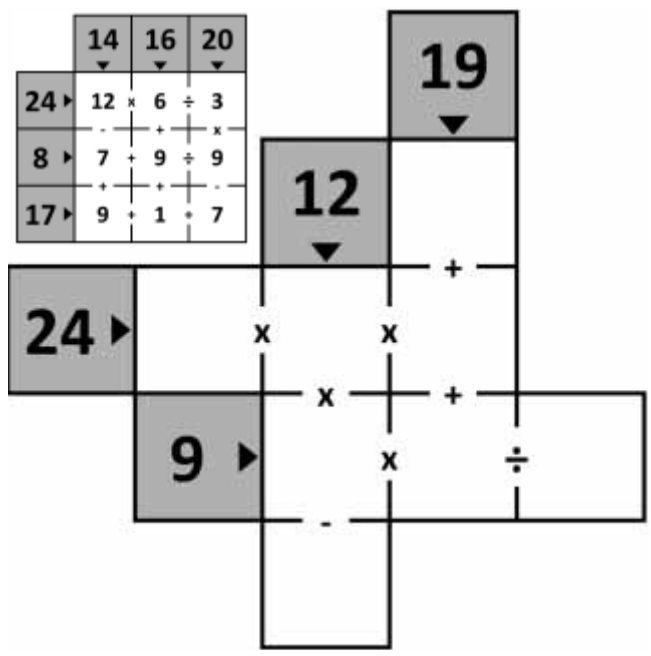
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 8, 9, 9

Solution for Task 1047



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 29 32 35 47 52 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: $33M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 3 14 24 41 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: $28M

Fantasy 5: 7 9 33 37 39

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 2 8 9 EVENING: 7 4 7

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:47.25

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

■ An anti-terrorism drill scheduled for Pottawattamie County, Iowa, in March, which was to practice community co-ordination after an attack by a hypothetical white supremacist group angry about illegal immigration, had to be canceled. The sheriff said callers claiming to be white supremacists were angry at being picked on as "terrorists" and had threatened a school in Treynor, Iowa, with an attack that closely resembled the kind of imagined attack that would have preceded the simulated drill.

■ In April, officials in the northern Swedish city of Angermanland temporarily shut down the operator of a colonic cleansing service, and issued fines because it was not up to code. It had insufficient restroom facilities, thus requiring some of its clients to cleanse their colons in front of other clients.

■ The lawyer for Charles Wilhite expressed shock in a formal motion before the court after his client's murder trial in Springfield, Mass., in April (in which Wilhite was convicted). How could it be, he asked the judge, that despite having to evaluate 19 witnesses and examine 55 pieces of evidence, the jury could so quickly have decided (three hours total) that Wilhite and his partner Angel Hernandez were guilty? (The lawyer insinuated that the jury had thus been inattentive or biased, but did not mention the possibility that Wilhite and Hernandez were so obviously guilty that no more time was necessary.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1953 Flint-Worcester tornado outbreak sequence: a tornado spawned from the same storm system as the Flint tornado hits in Worcester, Massachusetts killing 94.

1958 Queen Elizabeth II officially opens London Gatwick Airport, (LGW) in Crawley, West Sussex, United Kingdom.

WORD UP!

cater-cousin
\KEY-ter-kuhz-uhn\ , noun;
1. An intimate friend.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011011140 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/19/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ELLIOTT COHEN. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ELLIOTT COHEN 28932 N. CANYON OAK PLACE SANTA CLARITA, CA 91390. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:ELLIOTT COHEN; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/19/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 05/23/2011, 05/30/2011, 06/06/2011, 06/13/2011.

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		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	$3,495,000	$1,384,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$799,000
South of Wilshire	=	$699,000	$485,000
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Ocean Park	=	$1,447,000	$749,000

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