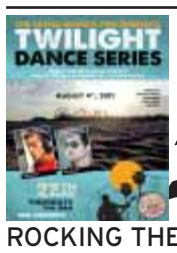
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Volume 10 Issue 224



Santa Monica Daily Press

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ROCKING THE PLANET
INSIDE

THE **GETTING COMFORTABLE** ISSUE

Officials struggling to find trees residents demand

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

NOMA Sometimes, being on the cutting edge can be more trouble than it's worth.

When City Hall committed to creating its master plan to guide tree replacement in Santa Monica, it chose to put uncommon trees on streets throughout the city.

The problem: Uncommon trees often aren't cultivated en masse by nurseries because of lack of demand.

That's causing friction between City Hall and residents, who demand that the trees designated for their street be palms that officials are having difficulty finding.

Diversification is critical, said City Forester Walt Warriner, so that trees are protected against the spread of disease, which can devastate municipal trees when too many of the same kind get planted.

"If you have one species of tree that gets

SEE **TREES** PAGE 8



FILLING UP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Locals grab free hot dogs during the Santa Monica Police Department's National Night Out community event on Tuesday.

Cop assaulted during arrest

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY A Santa Monica police officer was punched in the face and broke her finger while trying to arrest a homeless parolee considered to be "armed and dangerous," authorities said Tuesday.

Police were on routine patrol Monday night near the corner of 20th Street and Pico Boulevard when they saw a man riding his bicycle on the wrong side of the street in violation of the vehicle code, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

Officers ordered the cyclist to stop. While talking with him, the suspect told officers that he was on parole for various drug offenses. Officers searched a computer database and learned that the suspect was a parolee at large who should be considered armed and dangerous.

As one of the officers was in the process of putting handcuffs on the suspect, he allegedly turned and struck her in the face before running east on Pico Boulevard. Officers followed on foot but lost sight of the suspect after he ran in between several homes.

Lewis said officers set up a perimeter and with the help of several law enforcement agencies, including the Santa Monica College Police Department, and K-9 units, the suspect was located at approximately 11:30 p.m. Police said he was hiding underneath a house in the 2200 block of 21st Street.

The suspect was taken into custody and booked for assaulting a police officer causing injury, being a parolee at large and for riding his bicycle on the wrong side of the street. He was being held at the Santa Monica Jail without bail, Lewis said.

The officer who was struck in the face also suffered a broken finger when she tried to take the suspect to the ground before he fled. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

The suspect was identified as Randall Terale Meloncon, 36, a transient.

kevinh@smdp.com


O'NEAL

Farrah Fawcett's son arrested for drug possession

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Redmond O'Neal, the son of actor Ryan O'Neal and the late Farrah Fawcett, was arrested Tuesday morning during a traffic stop in Santa Monica when heroin and marijuana were allegedly found in his car, a police official said.

O'Neal, 26, ran a red light while driving his 2010 Nissan Altima northbound on Lincoln Boulevard, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

An officer observed O'Neal turn left onto Olympic Boulevard against a red left-turn arrow around 8:15 a.m. Lewis said O'Neal admitted to officers that he was on probation and he consented to a search of his car,

SEE **O'NEAL** PAGE 9

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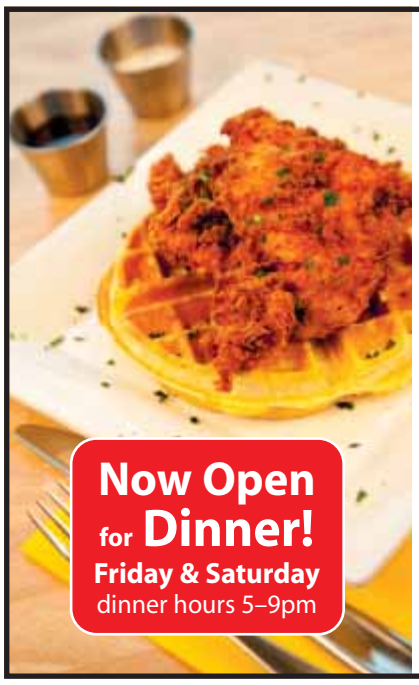
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011

Farmers' Market
Arizona Avenue and Second Street, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Enjoy the fresh produce and easy atmosphere of Downtown's Farmers' Market while enjoying featured samples from Pourtal Wine Bar. For more information, visit www.smgov.net/farmers_market.

'Tangled' up
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Friends and family can gather to watch Disney's latest CGI masterpiece. "Tangled" premiered last year, recounting Rapunzel's traditional tale. This movie tells of life experience and self-discovery: a message for all ages. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011

What's that I'm eating?
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
The Main Library, in conjunction with the Santa Monica Farmers' Market, leads a discussion where teens can educate themselves about the foods they eat. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Reading's for the dogs
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Every week, kids ages 5 to 10 can practice their reading skills on trained therapy dogs from Paws 4 Healing. Sign-up for a 15-minute session in advance. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

Eye of the camera
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave.,
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The Robert Berman Gallery presents a collection of contemporary photographs by world-renowned and unknown women whose work has inspired curator and actress Angela Featherstone. The exhibit is accompanied by a musical score from composer Claudia Sarne. Cost: free. For more information, visit www.robertbermangallery.com or call (310) 315-9506.

Friday, Aug. 5, 2011

Dog eat art
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave.,
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The Dog Days of Summer Sale arrives at GRACIE, SMMoA's gift shop. Enjoy markdowns on many of the museum's fun and arty souvenirs. Pick up a unique and bohemian gift for someone else, or just grab something for yourself. Sale through Sunday. For more information, visit www.smmoa.org or call (310) 586-6488.

Dive, dive, dive!
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Teens and adults can learn snorkeling techniques in the Beach House's historic pool. Classes take place Wednesdays and Fridays. Full registration required. Cost: $132. For more information, visit www.beachhouse.smgov.net or call (310) 458-4904.

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



Sheen withdraws lawsuit over NY hotel incident

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Court records show a judge has granted Charlie Sheen's request to dismiss a lawsuit filed against a woman who locked herself in the bathroom of an upscale New York hotel room that the actor left in tatters.

Sheen claimed Capri Anderson locked herself in the bathroom of the Plaza Hotel because she had taken one of his watches valued at $165,000. His lawsuit sought reimbursement.

Anderson told police the actor put his hands around her throat during the raucous evening in late October, but she managed to slip away.

Sheen sued Anderson for attempted extortion in November after she recounted her version of events on "Good Morning America."

Court records show Sheen's attorney were granted a dismissal of the case without prejudice on Friday, which means the actor could re-file.

Sheen attended Santa Monica High School.

Man accused of sex abuse arrested in Connecticut

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WESTPORT, Conn. A California man wanted on charges he sexually abused a child in Sonoma County has been captured in Connecticut.

Westport police say they arrested 39-year-old Jean-Paul Borowiec in the parking lot of a grocery store while investigating an unrelated complaint.

They say the fugitive warrant was issued in California in May and they learned last month that Borowiec might be in the area. Police say his last known address was a homeless shelter in Santa Monica.

He was being held in lieu of $500,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Superior Court in Norwalk on Tuesday.



Photo Courtesy Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau

READY TO ROLL OUT: **Santa Monica Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (left), Mayor Richard Bloom and actress Amy Smart, a board member of Heal the Bay, place a Whale Tail Ecoplate on a car Tuesday following a press conference on the Santa Monica Pier.**

Buy a whale, save the ocean

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Supporting ocean cleanliness got a fresh face Tuesday when the Department of Motor Vehicles and California Coastal Commission joined forces to reveal a redesigned custom license plate, the sale of which will benefit ocean-loving nonprofits all over the state.

Santa Monica was one of three cities chosen to unveil the new design, which shows a fully-extended humpback whale's tail jutting up out of the ocean, framed by puffy white clouds.

The plate, which first debuted in 1997, has been one of the most popular specialty license plates available in the state, and has raised $60.2 million for environmental conservation efforts.

"We're really thrilled about the launch of the California license plate," said Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica), one of several notables that spoke at the event. "When I'm not in Sacramento, not a day goes by that I'm not marveling at the environmental treasure that California has in this coastline."

The original design, by the artist Wyland, shows a foggy day on the ocean, and a whale's tail curved over the surface of the water.

To date, the DMV has sold 198,000 of the original plates.

That design had to be retired on July 1, because Wyland asked for a 20 percent royalty for plate sales, officials said.

"While we are grateful to Wyland for his donation over many years, we opted to retire the plate," said California Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas. "This presented an exciting opportunity to freshen the look of the plate, inspire new interest and get the public involved."

The California Coastal Commission held a contest asking the public to send in designs for the plate. Over 300 people sent in designs, and the selection committee managed to narrow that cache of ideas to two winners.

Those winners, painter Elizabeth Robinette Tyndall of Bethel Island and graphic designer Bill Atkins of Laguna Beach, collaborated on the new design.

"(The DMV) would like to say job well done," said Christina Harden, who represented the department at the pier event.

Selling the plates has a palpable impact here in Santa Monica.

Of the 433 Whale Tail grants that have been awarded through the program, Santa Monica-based Heal the Bay has benefited to the tune of $30,000 to fund its beach clean

SEE **PLATE** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Women unite!

Editor:

My first thought when I heard the controversy about circumcision was: "At last! The government is finally starting to take over the male body. Now let's see how the men like it!" And wow! Don't they hate it!

What still bothers me is how the men have so much more power than women. They have already gotten these communities to drop this law from the ballots, while, at the same time, in state after state, the Republicans are making it more difficult to get abortions.

Their main argument, that the fetus feels pain, is ridiculous. When you go to a dentist to have a tooth pulled, he injects a painkiller and has to check, and ask if you feel pain. So, have the anti-abortionists found a way to ask the fetus?

Get on the ball, women, before the Republicans go after Roe v. Wade!

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica

Changes don't make sense

Editor:

I found the letter from Freida Dubin very interesting and on point ("Bus stops inconvenient," Letters to the Editor, July 26).

As a long-time bus rider I've experienced first hand what she describes: bus stops are moved at the apparent whim (or perhaps pressure?) of businesses or residents. A new store opens or a house on a bus line changes hands and the new owner manages to have the bus stop moved – if not the bus re-routed entirely. No one seems to ask the riders for their input and even though the Blue Bus usually gives adequate notice of a move, it can still be inconvenient. I find this particularly irritating in Downtown. For heaven's sake, if you can't catch a bus on a corner in Downtown where can you ever hope to catch one?

Do business owners/residents in Downtown really expect the same level of quiet as in the residential neighborhoods? Yes, crowds convene at bus stops (of course waiting passengers should be polite and not litter or block the sidewalk, as should all pedestrians) and buses make noise, but they are delivering hundreds of people a day to work or shop in the area, maybe even at your business!

As a Line 10 rider who catches the bus on Second Street, I have been concerned that they are getting ready to move that bus stop given how many times it's been moved around in the last few weeks. I keep dreading an announcement telling me I'll have to catch my bus on Lincoln Boulevard because the new businesses on Second Street don't want a bus stop outside their door.

One final question. Why is the BBB stopping next to Sears when it used to stop at the mall? The current stop is on a narrow sidewalk, squeezed between the wall of the building and the street. The old stop was at the bus turnout by the mall where the sidewalk was wide and there were trees that provided shade. Now there's a valet zone and we mere mortals who ride the bus have to wait in an unshaded area while those who drive Downtown (usually by themselves) have the choice of not one, not two, but three valet zones at the mall. Ironically, many of these same people get stuck behind the bus when it is stopped at Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue while it loads waiting passengers. Karma?

Does this really make sense?

Kevin Curtis
Santa Monica

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No. 1 isn't ready for No. 2

THERE USED TO BE A TIME WHEN I thought it was absurdly intrusive and morally wrong, but lately I've been quietly admiring China's one-child policy, although probably for different reasons than its government intended.

Weeks away from giving birth to my second baby, I keep whispering to my womb to run for cover. From my first baby. Yes, it's come to that.

My daughter turns 3 next week, and it's a good thing the train has long since left the station with my pregnancy, because if I knew nine months ago what I'd be going through today, there is a strong possibility I would not have risked experiencing the terrible toddlerdom stage with another child ever again. Like, ever.

I used to joke that my daughter's terrible 2s started when she was about 17 months old. But in hindsight, none of it was really awful — as in the current awful I'm experiencing, which is to seriously consider leaving her on the curb with a FOR SALE sign taped to her chest — until about two or three months ago. But now she's turned into one of those kids that I figured only ever happened to other people. You know, other bad people.

Sure, technically I can still handle her, you know, to the extent that a rabid raccoon or feral cat can ever really be handled. I'm just not enjoying it (except for when she's asleep — then I take pictures by which to remember and reminisce about her sweetness for when the going gets rough during the waking hours). However, what happens later this month when I have a newborn to care for? I'm not delusional enough to think that her behavior is going to get better when a little bundle of competition enters the fray.

She started preschool in June. It's thrilling to hear from her lovely and patient teachers that none of the behavioral issues that exist outside of her classroom have seeped into the schoolhouse. (And why would they when she's clearly doing it all for my benefit? She's not dumb enough to waste her energy acting out for other, more fun people.) But her school progress still has no bearing on my patience, which has long since departed for greener, more manageable pastures.

A few days ago we were sitting in a pizza parlor and I gave her a cup of water, despite having a sippy cup on hand. She rewarded my trust by taking the water and pouring it deliberately on the floor. She repeated the same action twice over the next 36 hours.

On Sunday she refused to nap. And by "refused to nap," I mean she pooped her pants twice. I had such high hopes that after six months of potty training, we had finally reached a joyful and definitive conclusion about two weeks ago. Clearly I was wrong, and at this rate, we're going to have to keep bribing her not to soil herself until she leaves for college, at which time it'll be her roommate's problem.

Not only did she not sleep (and scurry like a cockroach allergic to light when I walked in the room both times and found her wreaking havoc on a box of tissues and her sock drawer, respectively), but she also succeeded in reminding me that as a parent, you're never quite done childproofing. In addition to ripping the cover off of every book in arm's length while she was behind closed doors, she also took the small, wobbly table in her room, put it next to her bed and stepped onto it to take down all of the precious and delicate (read: sharp and potentially lethal if broken) items on the shelf above her bed that were there so as to stay out of harm's way.

I WISH I COULD PINPOINT HER BEHAVIOR AS EITHER INDICATIVE OF HER AGE OR THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF THE NEW BABY, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S THE PERFECT STORM OF BOTH.

I wish I could pinpoint her behavior as either indicative of her age or the impending arrival of the new baby, but I'm afraid it's the perfect storm of both. As my husband dragged more baby clothes and gear out of storage on Sunday in preparation for baby girl No. 2, baby girl No. 1 — who's seriously not a baby anymore (Did I mention she's turning 3 next week?) — decided that she should crawl for a while instead of walk. And suck on a pacifier (which she never even took to when she was a real, not pretend baby). And sit in the baby's chair. And car seat.

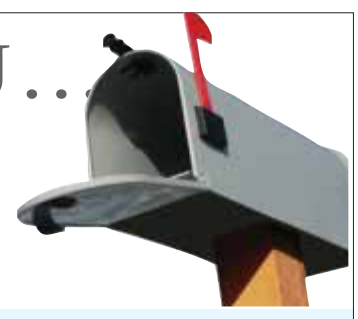
It's not that I don't admire those people whose children are 11, 15, or 18 months apart. But I purposefully put a few years between my little ones because I had no interest in dealing with two babies simultaneously. Apparently my toddler was not aware of this strategy or, unbeknownst to me, would have liked to have had some buy-in in the decision making process.

I'm sure it's just a phase (please, God, let it be just a phase), but it doesn't make living through it any better, or anticipating what will inevitably come next any easier.

At least we'll always have the nighttime, assuming she ever chooses to sleep again.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Latest intimidation tactic considered a public relations disaster for unions

THERE'S AN OLD JOKE ABOUT THE intimidation tactics of the Teamsters union. "How many Teamsters does it take to screw in a light bulb?" Answer: "Four — you gotta a problem with that?"

As much as we would like to think that labor unions have abandoned their threatening and often illegal behavior to get what they want, in the public sector things are only getting worse. It is only a matter of time until a jilted (and honest) public sector employee says "I coulda been a contender."

The latest bit of thuggery is an advertising campaign launched by the unions to dissuade voters from exercising their rights to sign initiative petitions. As reported in several media outlets, a union-backed effort has created a website and begun running radio commercials under the name "Californians Against Identity Theft." These scary ads warn that anyone who signs an initiative petition — frequently gathered in front of big box stores — runs the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.

Usually, even the most deceptive political ads have at least a grain of truth. But not here. There is no factual basis for the suggestion that signing a ballot petition would put one at risk for identity theft. Indeed, the signature data gathered by those who collect those signatures is prohibited by law from being disclosed. Interestingly, voter registration information (which consists of more data) is a matter of public record.

This latest thinly-veiled effort at stopping initiatives they don't like is backfiring badly on the labor groups responsible. From newspaper stories, the blogosphere and from good government groups, the verdict is that this union hack job is not only misguided, but will further erode the credibility of public sector unions in California.

Derek Cressman, western regional director for Common Cause (hardly a right wing anti-union group) said, "It sounds like they're trying to intimidate people from exercising what is a constitutional right" to sign a petition. In addition, the Sacramento Bee quotes Pedro Morillas, legislative director for the California Public Interest Research Group, as saying that "there is as much risk of identity theft involved in signing a petition as there is in being listed in the phone book."

Turns out, after a little bit of sleuthing, that the state building trades union is one of the major funders of Californians Against Identity Theft. What a surprise. The group itself, Californians Against Identity Theft, has no connection whatsoever to any legitimate group created to protect consumers from identity theft. Nor does it appear that the group has registered as a campaign committee. Media efforts to get more information ran into stony silence by unions.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what motivates the union bosses for this latest scheme. As noted by the Sacramento Bee, "the timing of the ad launch raised questions about whether the campaign is a veiled attempt to derail one of several controversial proposals currently circulating petitions to qualify for the 2012 ballot, such as an Amazon-backed effort to overturn a new law requiring some Internet retailers to collect sales taxes on purchases made by Californians." In addition, it is no secret that the unions are deathly afraid of the Stop Special Interest Money Now Act, also in circulation, that would reduce union political influence by prohibiting government entities from being the collection agents for unions for political funds from their members.

AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT LABOR UNIONS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR THREATENING AND OFTEN ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR TO GET WHAT THEY WANT, IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THINGS ARE ONLY GETTING WORSE.

In any event, it is clear to us that the unions need to hire a new communications consultant. Instead of dissuading voters from exercising their constitutional rights to engage in the direct democracy rights of initiative, referendum and recall, the labor groups have brought even more unwanted attention to themselves for their overreaching, loutish behavior. (As if the pension scandals weren't enough to drive public perception of public sector unions even lower).

Our advice to the union bosses — which, of course, they will ignore — is to argue the merits of these initiatives as warranted. If you think the Amazon referendum or any of the other measures in circulation reflect is bad public policy, say so. Don't try to mislead people into thinking that their identities are at risk. The only thing at risk here is any notion that unions play by the rules.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Bikes for all

City officials are contemplating a bike-share program that would provide low-cost loaners to the public.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
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Report: Majority of California council members not overpaid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Most city councils in California pay leaders less than state law allows, even though a series of high-profile salary scandals involving public officials might suggest otherwise, a newspaper analysis has found.

The Los Angeles Times also reported Tuesday that few cities take advantage of permitted pay raises.

About three-quarters of the state's 481 incorporated communities are governed by laws crafted by the California Legislature.

Council members in these cities are restricted to base salary limits that range from $3,600 to $12,000 a year, depending on population, and council members can vote to raise their pay up to 5 percent each year.

"I think councils have been very cognizant of the political perception of increasing their salaries," said Patrick Whitnell, general counsel of the League of California Cities.

Generous vehicle, office and health benefits help some skirt the salary cap.

If council members in the largest cities governed by those laws had given themselves annual raises since 1984, when the limits were set, their base pay could now be as high as $44,800 a year.

The analysis found that more than 100 cities did raise their council pay by more than the rate of inflation, and some allowed members to cash out generous health benefits.

Public outrage and criminal prosecutions followed disclosures last year about hefty salaries in Southern California cities such as Bell and Vernon, where part-time council members took home $60,000 to $100,000 a year.

The Bell salary scandal led to criminal charges against eight former city officials and focused attention on the salaries of government leaders.

Then-Assemblyman Hector De La Torre wrote a bill passed in 2005 that closed one loophole by limiting the amount council members could receive for sitting on redevelopment commissions and other special boards.

Before the law, council members in some cities, including Baldwin Park and Bell Gardens, made more than $1,000 a month for sitting on development commissions.

In Bell Gardens, base council pay is $589 a month. But 2009 city records show council members got a monthly $825 vehicle allowance, $175 monthly in bilingual pay, up to $250 a month for a cell phone allowance and up to $480 a month for office expenses.

Government officials want to keep secrets in FBI lawsuit

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has invoked state secrets rules to prevent information from being released in a lawsuit filed by Southern California Muslims who claim the FBI monitored their activities solely because of their religion.

In a legal declaration filed late Monday, Holder makes a rare assertion of the state secrets privilege, arguing that it could cause significant harm to national security if the government is forced to reveal the subjects of a mosque-surveillance operation in 2006 and describe how the monitoring was carried out.

A judge must weigh the request, which comes after many details from the investigation, dubbed Operation Flex, have already been made public.

The key informant in the case, Craig Monteilh, turned against the FBI and described how his agency handlers taught him to ingratiate himself into the Orange County Muslim community then secretly gather cell phone numbers, email addresses and record conversations.

Monteilh claims the FBI even told him to talk openly about jihad in an attempt to solicit terrorist sentiments from community members. But instead of responding to his violent rhetoric, mosque-goers called the FBI to say they were worried about his statements.

Holder's declaration came in a motion to dismiss the bulk of a lawsuit filed against the FBI in February by the ACLU of Southern California and the Los Angeles office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Many of the allegations were based on Monteilh's claims.

The FBI has said it does not initiate counterterrorism operations based solely on a group's religion.

In its filing, the agency said a range of details Monteilh provided for Operation Flex remain properly protected counterterrorism investigative information.

"This includes ... precisely what that investigation entailed and why it was undertaken, the identity of particular subjects, and the reasons they were investigated," the document states.

Holder goes on to argue that if individuals knew they were under surveillance, they could "anticipate the actions of law enforcement and intelligence officers, possibly leading to counter-surveillance that could place federal agents at higher risk."

ACLU attorney Peter Bibring said it was extremely unusual for the government to invoke the state secrets privilege, especially in a domestic case being investigated by a domestic law enforcement agency. The secrecy rules are usually only requested in extraordinary matters overseas, such as the targeted killing by drones or extraordinary rendition.

"The government's position here is the FBI's conduct should be beyond the review of the courts, which would render the protections of the constitution meaningless," Bibring said. "Following the government's argument, any domestic law enforcement operation deemed to effect national security would be beyond review."

Bibring said the ACLU would oppose the government's motion.

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Opossums are common but misunderstood critters

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES People have been calling Leslie Bale about opossums since 1982 when she started on the graveyard shift as a 911 dispatcher for the Irvine Police Department.

The calls came from homeowners or security guards who thought they had prowlers. Call after call turned out to be opossums, she said.

Bale still gets calls about opossums, but these days it's as a wildlife rehabilitator and president of the Opossum Society of the United States, which has about 300 members.

North America is home to millions of Virginia opossums, but for a creature so commonly found in backyards and along roadways, this nocturnal marsupial is the subject of many myths and misperceptions.

Colloquially, Americans sometimes use the terms opossum and possum interchangeably. But while Virginia opossums are native to North America, possums are native to Australia.

The opossum's relatives include other marsupials from Down Under — kangaroos, koalas and wombats. But because opossums look like rats, they don't share the other mammals' popularity.

"It's the furless tail that sets people off," said Barbara "Missy" Runyan, a wildlife rehabilitator who runs Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Hunter, N.Y., and who thinks opossums are "adorable."

But they don't hang by their tails, Bale said. Their tails can't support their weight.

Poor eyesight is why so many are hit by cars. "The opossum does 90 percent of its searching through scent," said Runyan. "They can only see six to eight inches in front of them. They can't smell a car coming. And since they are nocturnal, they cross the road when it's dark."

They can make hissing, sneezing or growling sounds, sometimes described as a purr. They aren't likely to dig holes in your yard because they have delicate paws with nails that can be easily ripped out, Bale said.

Despite 50 razor-sharp teeth, opossums are generally docile and prefer to avoid confrontation, said Kim Ashby, a wildlife rehabilitator in Raleigh, N.C.

They can bite, but they prefer playing possum. If confronted, they fall over, start drooling, emit a musky odor that smells like decay, induce diarrhea and slow their breathing so it appears to have stopped, said Ashby, a retired emergency room nurse. "Most predators will walk away because they won't eat anything that has been dead for a while."

They eat cockroaches, crickets and beetles, snakes, slugs, mice, rats, rotting fruit, human garbage, dead animals and small reptiles. Bale calls them "nature's little sanitation engineers."

They like dog and cat food too. "If people are feeding dogs and cats outside, they are probably feeding their local possums as well," Ashby said.

Baby opossums start out the size of raisins. A mother can have one to three litters a year. A grown female will weigh between 7 and 9 pounds and a male up to 12 pounds.

They are solitary, transient creatures, seldom staying in one place more than a few days. Babies stay with the mother for 4? to five months. If they fall off while riding on her back or get left behind when the mother takes off, they are on their own because the mother won't come back, Bale said.

Rabies in opossums is rare because their body temperature is too low to support the virus.

They are good climbers, using their tail for balance, but they can fall into swimming pools when trying to get a drink and into trash cans when going after food.

Ashby says some people set out to kill opossums. She was recently called for one that had been stomped to death and nursed another that had been beaten with a baseball bat. A call to animal control is a better option, she said.

But you can also take steps to keep them out of your yard. Cover pools and trash cans, remove food and water sources, keep trees and shrubs clear of fences and don't let fruit from trees rot on the ground. A few companies sell repellent granules made of fox urine that you shake on the ground. Manufacturers say the product, $15 to $20, is 100 percent organic so it won't hurt your cat or dog.

While dogs and cars are the possum's main predators in cities, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, owls and other animals prey on them in the wild.

Bale works with 10 backyard rehabilitators in Southern California. They get about 1,000 calls a year to help with orphaned opossums.

Besides those she has accepted in upstate New York, Runyan has found 14 babies this year. Ashby and fellow members of Wildlife Welfare, Inc. in the Raleigh area have taken in about 150 opossums this year.

Bale and her fellow volunteers save about 85 percent of those they take in, she said. "Opossums are very resilient," Bale said. Their life expectancy is around two years in the wild and up to seven years in captivity.

Rehabilitators release them once they are healed or old enough to make it alone. "Release is the hardest part, because you don't know if they will live that long," Bale said, "but it's also the nicest part because you got them that far."



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TOWERING: **Canary Island date palms line 18th Street in the North of Montana neighborhood.**

TREES
FROM PAGE 1

infected with a pathogen or insect, it can wipe out a large portion of the urban forest," Warriner said. "We're experiencing that with the Canary Island date palm right now."

The palm trees, which were extensively planted on Georgina and Marguerita avenues and between 17th and 22nd streets, have a tendency to spread a fungus called fusarium, which causes the fronds to wilt and turn brown.

Those trees have been there for over 75 years, said Randy Little, public landscape manager with City Hall.

"As far as we can tell from historical photos, Georgina and Marguerita and between 18th and 21st street have always been palms," he said.

Many of those trees are in decline because of the fungus, Warriner said, and the city's Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force was charged with the responsibility of selecting trees to replace them.

The trees selected — broad leaf trees, like Torrey pines and sycamores — drew the ire of community members who protested the replacement of what they consider iconic palms with the big, leafy trees.

One group, which in April led the charge to stop the planting of sycamores on Georgina and Marguerita avenues, successfully negotiated with city officials to substitute the existing palms with a different palm species, called the Chilean wine palm, as the current trees die.

A second group of neighbors — who represent the streets of 21st north of Montana Avenue, 18th north of Washington Avenue and Marguerita Avenue between 17th and 22nd streets — have not had the same level of success.

"We do not have a commitment from the city to replace palms with comparable palms

SEE TREES PAGE 9

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TREES
FROM PAGE 8

on those three streets," said Patricia Bauer, a resident of 20th Street.

Three palms have been identified for the other sections of Marguerita and Georgina avenues — the Chilean wine, Washingtonia robusta and Phoenix dactylifera — but the neighbors Bauer represents have had no such commitments.

"We've been very clear, very direct," Bauer said.

Coming up with the suggested trees has been difficult, said Barbara Stinchfield, director of community and cultural services.

"Other species are slow-growing, and hard to get," Stinchfield said. "Another species is also susceptible to disease … It's very difficult because of the susceptibility of trees that are most compatible, and the lack of availability of others."

Palms don't grow very quickly, particularly the Chilean wine palm, which is the prime candidate to replace the ailing Canary Island date variety.

They're just not profitable for nurseries to carry, Warriner said, because there's no demand and the trees take a long time and a lot of resources to grow.

"We've secured 150 already, and there's another 50 in the nursery that we know of," Warriner said. "That's the guesstimate that's floating around somewhere. We're continuing to pursue more."

Unfortunately, they need 300 trees to fill out the "problem area" on Marguerita Avenue between 17th and 22nd streets, and then a continual supply to replace the Canary Island palms that are planted throughout the city.

Trees only get replaced once they've reached the end of their normal lifespan, Warriner said.

City officials have searched throughout the region — in the past, even as far as Florida and Hawaii — for replacement palms, with little success.

They haven't given up, however.

"It just makes the achievement on a longer time frame," Warriner said. "We're shopping around for trees, and encouraging nurseries to grow trees we're specifying for specific streets."

Had the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force chosen to move forward with the replacement of palms with sycamores and Torrey pines, it wouldn't have been out of place in the Santa Monica treescape, Warriner said.

"Landscaping is very subjective when it comes to aesthetics, but let me just point out that Santa Monica has a long history of planting broad leaf and conifers in between palm trees," he said.

Various city streets intersperse cedar, eucalyptus and purple leaf plum in between palms, he said.

The Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force will hold two more community input-driven meetings on Sept. 7 and 14 in the Virginia Avenue Park Thelma Terry Building at 6:30 p.m.

Residents will receive a mailer with instructions on how to log onto the santamonicatrees.com website to see what kind of tree has been designated for their street.

They can also request a copy of the draft replacement tree list from City Hall.

Comments on selections can be made at the workshops, through mail or e-mail, Stinchfield said.

ashley@smdp.com

O'NEAL
FROM PAGE 1

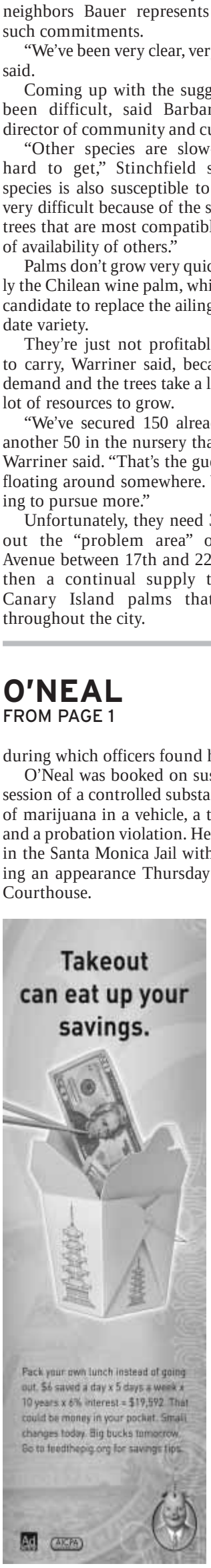
during which officers found heroin and pot.

O'Neal was booked on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana in a vehicle, a traffic violation and a probation violation. He was being held in the Santa Monica Jail without bail pending an appearance Thursday at the Airport Courthouse.

Last August, O'Neal graduated from a drug court program for a pair of drug-possession cases — one involving possession of heroin and methamphetamine and the other involving possession of methamphetamine.

He is still on probation, however, for his no-contest plea to a felony drug charge stemming from his arrest in a county jail parking lot in Castaic.

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Application assistance will be available at the following locations:

Monday, August 15th 10:30am – 7:00 pm and Tuesday, August 16th 10:30am – 5:00pm

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Beverly Hills rethinks preservation

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS The streets of Beverly Hills are graced with homes by such 20th-century architectural luminaries as Richard Neutra, John Lautner and Paul Williams for a simple reason: The affluent enclave's residents of decades past could afford to build them.

But with those structures in increasing jeopardy as preferences turn more toward larger homes, the city is poised to reconsider its laissez-faire approach toward properties with claims to cultural importance.

Beverly Hills City Council members plan to discuss a potential plan Tuesday to halt the demolition of potentially significant structures until its planning department can come up with guidelines for a preservation ordinance, which — unlike many of its Southern California neighbors — it doesn't now have.

The panel could vote to hold a meeting in the coming days to take action on the proposed moratorium, which would grant a reprieve to a 1954 Neutra-designed home known as the Kronish House that's being eyed for demolition.

"We need to button down some sort of ordinance that addresses preservation needs," Beverly Hills Mayor Barry Brucker said. "There is something wrong with having a historically important building and you take out a demolition permit and 10 days later you can take a sledgehammer to it."

Brucker said the city hasn't needed a preservation ordinance in the past because its wealthy residents had traditionally been eager to restore and live in its architectural gems.

But many recent property buyers are more interested in razing the often modest-sized, architecturally significant homes so larger structures can be built, he said. The average size of a new single-family home in Beverly Hills increased from less than 4,200 square feet over the 1970s to more than 7,300 square feet over the 2000s.

The city's bout of architectural soul searching was prompted by an apparent plan by the current owner of the Kronish House to secure a demolition permit for the property, which at some 6,900 square feet is already among the largest of its architecturally pedigreed peers.

A firm called Soda Partners LLC bought the home that sits on two acres for $5.8 million at a foreclosure auction in January. Months later, it put the property back on the market as a teardown for $14 million, not even mentioning in its listing that it included a home by the famed architect until it was pressured to do so by preservationists.

Jeffrey Soza, who is named in business records as Soda Partners' agent of service, did not return a call seeking comment.

The Kronish House is not visible from the street, but real estate agent Mike Deasy, characterized it as dilapidated but salvageable.

Los Angeles Conservancy advocacy director Adrian Scott Fine said the flat-roofed home with sliding glass doors that open up on a swimming pool area is an important example of Neutra's signature "pinwheel" design style that places a house's living room at its center.

Fine lamented Beverly Hills' record of allowing property owners to demolish homes by famous architects, such as Lautner's 1951 Shusett House, a 3,000 square-foot home that is in the process of being replaced with a structure some three times larger.

He also criticized Beverly Hills for allowing the demolition of homes with cultural significance beyond their architectural importance, such as the Mediterranean-style structure that was home to George Gershwin in the 1930s and was later owned by singer Rosemary Clooney. It was torn down in 2005.

Brucker said the Beverly Hills council hopes to devise a new ordinance to take that need into account, while it works on other new legislation that gives tax breaks to homeowners who maintain architecturally or historically significant features of their properties.

He said the city's prospective historic preservation ordinance wouldn't try to scuttle demolitions altogether, but might delay them long enough to come to some accommodation between property owners and preservationists, even if it means actually having important structures physically relocated.

But Brucker said Beverly Hills' special challenge is to weed out the structures that require protection from the city's copious selection of those that have more tenuous connections to the rich, famous and architecturally talented.

"You have homes that various famous lived in, but does that make them historic? You have famous architects but they may not be the architect's most famous work," he said. "So I really want to send things off to the planning commission so we're not all over the map."

PLATE
FROM PAGE 3

up programs.

The organization organizes between 600 and 900 clean ups every year for the stretch of beach between Cabrillo and Zuma beaches, said Eveline Bravo, the beach programs manager for Heal the Bay.

Whale Tail money pays for approximately 500 of those projects, she said.

"It's the sole reason why the clean ups at Heal the Bay exist," she said.

The license plates both fund the pick-ups and raise awareness, said Amy Smart, actress and board member of Heal the Bay, pointing out that 80 percent of trash found on beaches comes from 60 miles away.

"The Whale Tail plate is an easy way to let people know that we need to protect our sea," she said.

To encourage people to get out and buy the plates, Mayor Scott Schoeffel of the city of Dana Point issued an invitation to other mayors for a Whale Tail Cities Challenge, to see which participating city can claim the most plates sold, as a percentage of population before Sept. 17.

The winning city will get a basket of locally produced foods and beverages from each of the participating cities, to be shared at a community meeting or event.

Sept. 17 marks the endpoint of the competition because it's also the 27th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, which is partially funded by the sale of the "Ecoplates."

Over 82,000 volunteers participated in last year's event, and collected 1.2 million pounds of trash.

A coalition of Convention and Visitor's Bureaus from coastal cities including Santa Monica hope to inspire even more this year by giving away a $1,000 gift certificate to Whole Foods Market and a getaway to a California destination to lucky participants.

Whale Tail Ecoplates can be bought at www.ecoplates.com or at one of 168 DMV locations. Plates cost $50, or $93 for personalized versions.

ashley@smdp.com

Death, 76 illnesses linked to salmonella outbreak

LINDSEY TANNER & MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The government is scrambling to find the source of a salmonella outbreak likely linked to ground turkey that has killed one and sickened dozens more.

Finding the source of an outbreak hasn't been easy; the government has been chasing the illnesses for months. The Agriculture Department, which oversees meat safety, said it is still investigating who produced the meat, and the department hasn't initiated a recall.

California state health officials said Tuesday that the one death was in Sacramento County. Seventy-six people in 26 states have been made sick from the same strain of the disease.

The illnesses date back to March, and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that cultures of ground turkey from four retail locations between March 7 and June 27 showed contamination with the same strain of salmonella, though those samples were not specifically linked to the illnesses. The agency said preliminary information showed that three of those samples have been linked to the same production establishment but it did not name the retailers or the manufacturers.

The silence from government officials may be attributed to USDA rules that make it harder to investigate and recall salmonella-tainted poultry. Because salmonella is common in poultry, it is not illegal for meat to be tainted with the pathogen. Officials must directly link the salmonella illnesses with a certain producer or establishment, which is difficult to do because people don't always remember what they ate or where they bought it.

In this case, it appears that officials haven't been able to prove the link between the samples of salmonella they found — even though they are the same strain — and the 77 people who were sickened. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service sent out an alert about the illnesses late last week telling consumers to properly cook their turkey, which can decrease the chances of salmonella poisoning. But the department has not given consumers any further warnings about the source of the tainted meat.

"Despite an extensive investigation by FSIS and CDC to date, there is little epidemiological information available at this time that conclusively links these illnesses to any specific product or establishment," FSIS spokesman Neil Gaffney said Tuesday. "Without specific enough data, it would not be appropriate to issue a recall notice." Gaffney said the agency was committed to finding the source of the outbreak and then take action to protect public health.

Art Caplan, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, said the government's handling of the outbreak raises ethical questions about why the public wasn't warned sooner.

"You've got to protect the public health. That's their first and primary value — not industry, not any other goal. They have to warn as quickly as they think there's reasonable evidence for concern," Caplan said.

He said uncertainty about the outbreak's source might explain the long silence, but he added, "The moral duty is to really get the word out as soon as you have evidence of a problem."

The illnesses are spread all over the country. The states with the highest number sickened were Michigan and Ohio, 10 illnesses each, while nine illnesses were reported in Texas. Illinois had seven, California six and Pennsylvania five.

The remaining states have between one and three reported illnesses linked to the outbreak, according to the CDC: Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

A chart on the CDC's website shows cases have occurred every month since early March, with spikes in May and early June. The latest reported cases were in mid-July, although the CDC said some recent cases may not have been reported yet.

CDC spokeswoman Lola Russell said Tuesday it can take three to four weeks to confirm a single case. Identifying an outbreak can take considerably longer than that when cases of foodborne illness occur sporadically, in several states, as has happened in the current outbreak, she said.

Dr. Mark Dworkin, a public health expert at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said it's not surprising that the government alert came months after the first cases were identified.

Outbreaks of foodborne illnesses where "everybody came together at a church supper and ate the same food" are easier to identify than those involving people in many states, he said. "The problem we have is our food is contaminated too often. It's not acceptable that such a large percentage of ground turkey has got such a potentially deadly pathogen."

Ground turkey is considered safe to eat when the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees during cooking. For turkey patties or burgers, internal temperatures on each side should be measured. The government also advises refrigerating meat promptly and washing hands for at least 20 seconds before and after handling raw meat or poultry.

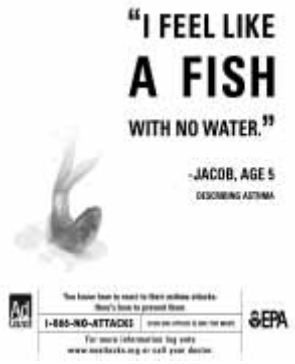
The CDC estimates that 50 million Americans each year get sick from food poisoning, including about 3,000 who die. Salmonella causes most of these cases and federal health officials say they've made virtually no progress against it.

The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening to some with weakened immune systems.





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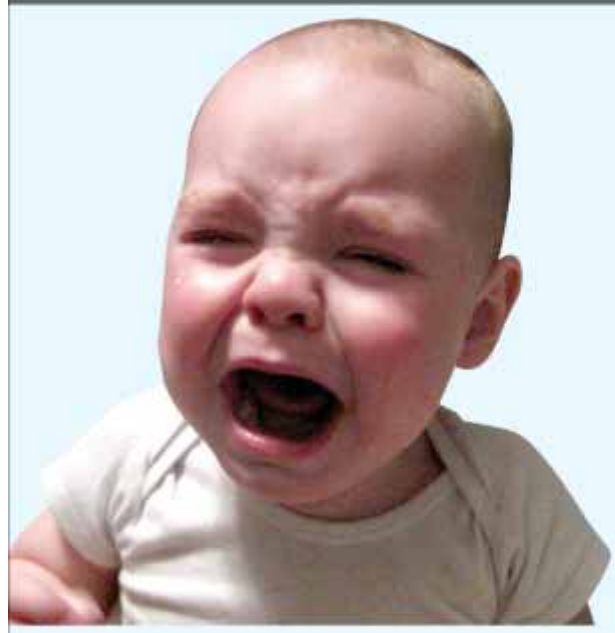
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

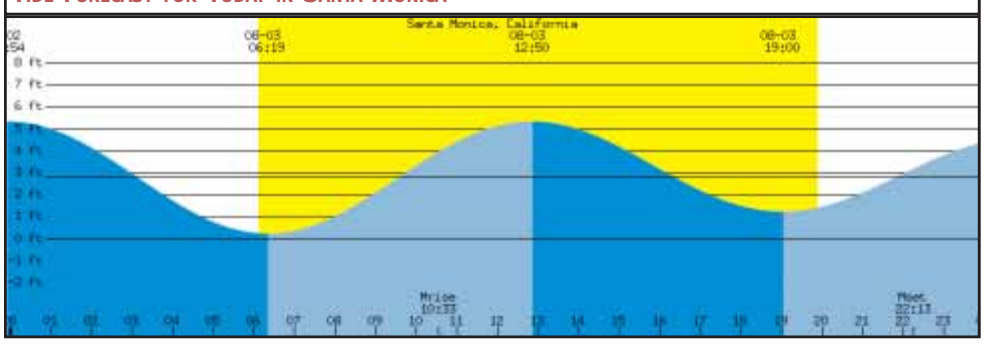
Swell Forecast

Southern hemi swell is due, but with size mostly waist high in the AM, bigger in the afternoon (chest max late in the day).

Long Range Synopsis

Should see chest high sets at south facing breaks. Some NW wind swell should put west facing breaks in waist to chest high waves.

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 **July 27, 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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisa creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	F	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	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	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
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.

NBA

League takes legal action against locked-out players

DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

Trying to head off the chance of an antitrust lawsuit from the NBA Players Association, the league went ahead and beat the union to court.

The NBA filed two claims against the NBAPA on Tuesday— an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board and a lawsuit in federal district court in New York.

The NBA accused the players of being uncooperative in negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement by making "more than two dozen" threats to dissolve their union and sue the league under antitrust laws to secure more favorable terms in a new CBA.

Commissioner David Stern told The Associated Press in a phone interview that an unproductive meeting Monday with union executive director Billy Hunter, president Derek Fisher and others confirmed to the league it needed to take this action.

"There doesn't seem to be a seriousness of purpose to the players and we keep reading about they're considering decertification, and the agents are meeting with Billy to talk about decertification, Derek was quoted as saying it's an option on the table," Stern said.

Stern added: "And we think that as long as they are preparing to use the same strategy that the NFL, who uses the same lawyer, used, it doesn't seem that we're going to be able to get to the deal that we need to get to together."

NFL players decertified their union this year, though they ultimately resolved a 4?-month labor dispute with the owners.

"We just don't have as much time as the NFL did," Stern said. "If the union sort of continued to drag its feet and then pursued its preferred decertification strategy, and if the same 4? months went by, we'd be well into our season. The NFL had more time than we do."

Players' attorney Jeffrey Kessler, who also represented the NFL players, was named in the NBA's lawsuit for his use of what the league called an "impermissible pressure tactic" that has had a "direct, immediate and harmful" effect on CBA talks.

"For the parties to reach agreement on a new CBA, the union must commit to the collective bargaining process fully and in good faith," Adam Silver, the NBA deputy commissioner and chief operating officer, said in a statement released by the league.

Kessler said the players are frustrated because they believe it's the owners whose negotiating efforts have been in bad faith.

"The NBA Players Association has made no decision to decertify. They talk about the fact that this is something the players have considered for 30 years, and that's true. And they haven't done it for 30 years," Kessler said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "So there's no decision made. There may be no decision made. We view this as an example of their bad-faith bargaining. They don't want to be at the table."

Yet Stern said decertification is Kessler's "preferred strategy and we really prefer to head that off."

"We know Kessler. We know Jeffrey. We've been at this for something approaching 30 years. We're pretty familiar with the playbook," Stern said. "You announce that you're going out of business, you swear under oath that it's permanent and non-reversible, and then you settle the lawsuit and then you make it unpermanent and non-reversible. And so let's I think let the festivities begin."

Hunter, in a statement released by the union, said the players will seek to dismiss the lawsuit, which he called "totally without merit."

Said Hunter: "We urge the NBA to engage with us at the bargaining table and to use more productively the short time we have left before the 2011-12 season is seriously jeopardized."

After a labor meeting in New York on Monday, the first session since the lockout began July 1 that included Stern as well as leaders from both the owners and the players, a downcast Stern said the sides were "at the same place" as they were a month ago in the hours before the old deal ran out.

Owners are seeking significant changes to the league's salary structure, claiming $300 million in losses last season and hundreds of millions more in each year of the previous CBA, which was ratified in 2005. Players have acknowledged the losses but disputed the size, and they've balked at the league's push for a hard salary cap and reduction in salaries and maximum contract lengths.

The NBA's lawsuit is essentially preventative legal medicine.

It seeks a declaration from the court that the lockout does not violate antitrust laws, in case the union breaks up to file an antitrust lawsuit. It also cites legal backing for the lockout itself, invoking Depression-era legislation known as the Norris-LaGuardia Act designed to prevent court intervention in a labor dispute.

Finally, the league's lawsuit also makes an attempt to secure support for massive salary reform should the union dissolve. The NBA asked the court to declare that such a decertification would in turn void all existing player contracts because they're guided by the union's involvement in the old CBA. Without a union and a collective bargaining relationship, the league argued, the terms and conditions of those previously negotiated contracts would not apply.



MOVIE TIMES

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Zookeeper (PG) 1hr 44min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) 1hr 58min
12:50pm, 3:45pm, 6:35pm, 9:35pm

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:05pm, 4:10pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

Friends With Benefits (R) 2hrs
11:40am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

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

Smurfs 3D (PG) 1hr 26min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 7:30pm

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:05am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm

Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 10:50pm

Smurfs (PG) 1hr 26min
10:45am, 1:20pm, 4:50pm, 10:10pm

Friends With Benefits (R) 2hrs
10:55am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 5min
11:10am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:50pm

Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 5min
10:35am, 1:30pm, 4:35pm, 7:40pm, 10:45pm

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

Trip (NR) 1hr 47min
9:40pm

Point Blank (A Bout Portant) (R) 1hr 24min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Buck (PG) 1hr 29min
4:30pm

Life in a Day (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (PG-13) 2hrs
1:50pm, 7:10pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:10pm, 3:25pm, 6:30pm, 9:35pm

Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 2hrs 5min
11:20am, 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 34min
3:55pm, 10:15pm

Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) 1hr 58min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 10:50pm

Horrible Bosses (R) 1hr 40min
10:30am, 2:25pm, 5:05pm, 7:35pm, 10:45pm

Transformers: Dark of the Moon 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 34min
12:25pm, 7:20pm

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

Treat yourself on the way home, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Note a change in the air, especially in your energy and how you feel. Know that this is just a passage. Express your feelings rather than hold them in. Discuss them if you are unsure about what you are feeling. The unexpected occurs when you least anticipate it. Tonight: You have much to choose from.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are vibrant and full of energy. You could come off much stronger than you realize. Don't hesitate to tell someone how you feel. Anger could mark a decision. Tonight: Go for something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Let your mind roam, and share pertinent ideas. Brainstorm away with a friend or associate. You'll get results. Your vagueness of late doesn't help clear out a problem. Try to be direct. Tonight: Midweek break.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is occurring. Because you are unsure of certain choices, it could be difficult to make a decision. A key person might be emotionally cold and rigid in his or her thinking. Tonight: Happy to be at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You have a lot to say. In the next few weeks, your anger level could change. You could be more easily triggered if you are suppressing those feelings. Unexpected news from a distance could make all the difference. Tonight: Catch up with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Honor what is happening with a friend. This person could go on a wild diatribe about his or her feelings. It might be smart to help this person find a solution or avenue of self-expression. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You know what to do and you know when to do it. Someone in authority might have the opposite opinion and lets you know it. This could be a bone of contention for the next few weeks. Be smart; focus on something else. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a choice or a move in another direction. Today, time is an ally. Take your time figuring out what to do. Let go of being such a type-A personality -- just for a day. Honor the process. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You could be taken aback by an associate's reaction, which isn't his or her normal response. Indeed, this person could become far more assertive than you are aware or realize in the next few weeks. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take the lead and know what you want. Others could choose to back out, but you need a certain amount of self-expression or control. Make decisions that you are comfortable with. Do expect some flak. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Detach and observe, especially if you keep hitting a wall. Your fatigue with the situation could be quite high. Rather than lose your temper, go out for a walk and, for now, veer in a new direction. Tonight: Use your imagination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Togetherness is the natural outcome of a problem if you handle it properly. You are full of energy. You will tend to become more playful or at least more lively. Realize you don't need to fight with someone you don't agree with. Tonight: Respond to an invitation.

Happy birthday

This year, decide to manage your less-comfortable emotions. In time, you will be clued in to whether you are suppressing your feelings. You could develop health problems, which might be a side effect of stress and holding your feelings in. If you are single, your unusually charming way attracts many people. You have quite a choice as to whom you want to date. Visualize the type of bond you want. If you are attached, your sweetie will help you see what you are not conscious of. Don't develop an attitude. LIBRA can charm even you.

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



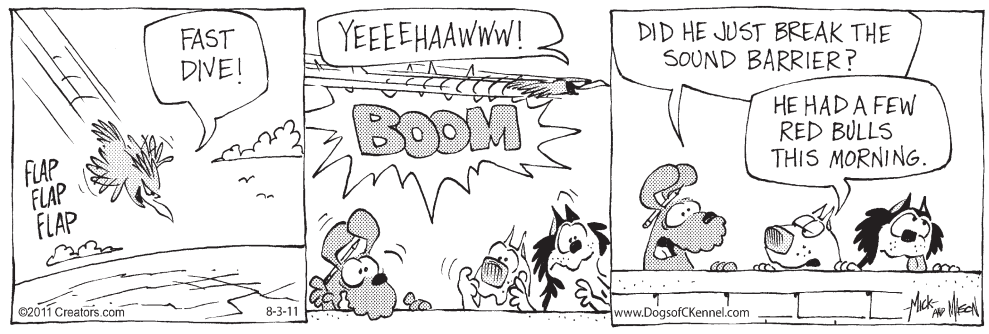
MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

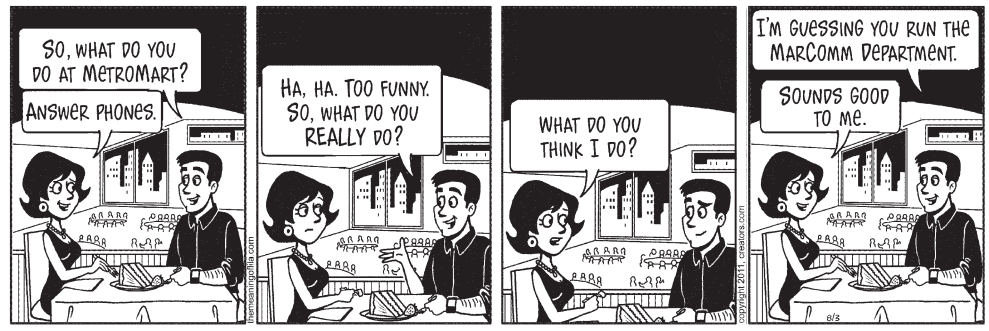
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



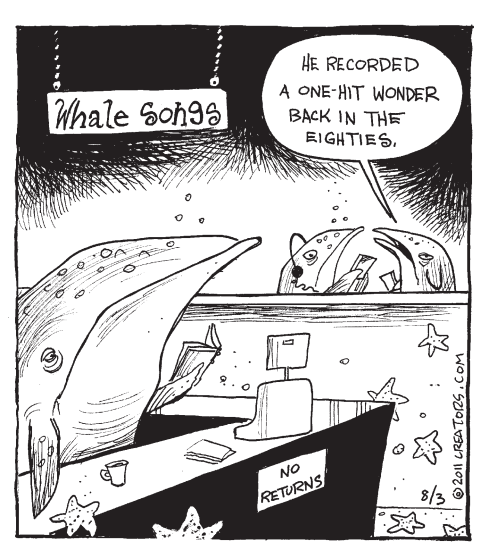
Garfield

By Jim Davis



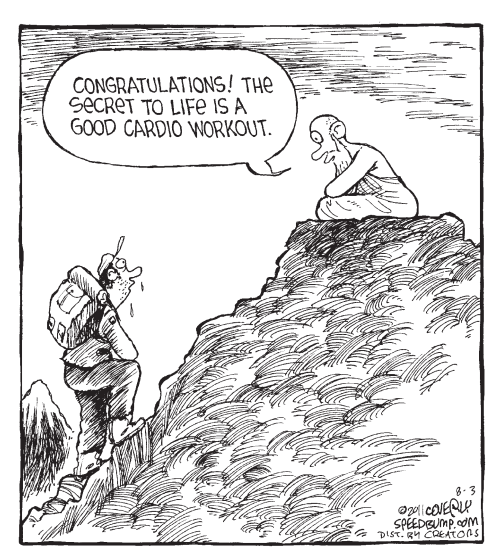
Strange Brew

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Charity affair
5 Sound of delight
11 Deserter's designation
12 Dawn goddess
13 Talk crazily
14 Treated leather
15 Tourney pass
16 Cell feature
17 Hard to see
19 Pool unit
22 Playing area
24 Replay feature
26 Romantic flower
27 Chef's need
28 Mink's cousin
30 Use up
31 Argon, for one
32 UFO occupant
34 Russian ruler
35 Ram's mate
38 Spotted cat
41 Manual reader
42 Head out
43 Flag feature
44 Go by
45 Inquires

DOWN

1 Attire
2 Not at home
3 Effusive exchanges of good will
4 Tavern quaff
5 Old Nick
6 Oil buys
7 Samovars
8 Long time
9 Verb for you
10 Boy
16 Auction action
18 Out of the wind
19 Rendez-vous sites
20 Prayer ender
21 Minnow's home
22 Lilypad sitter
23 Little bit
25 Easy gait
29 Stubble removers
30 Polite address
33 Espresso order
34 Thunder sound
36 Watered down
37 Bungles
38 Poet's product
39 Cartoon frame
40 Clean Water Act org.
41 Mex. neighbor

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

Yesterday's answer

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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			

8-3

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CrossMath + × − ÷

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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.

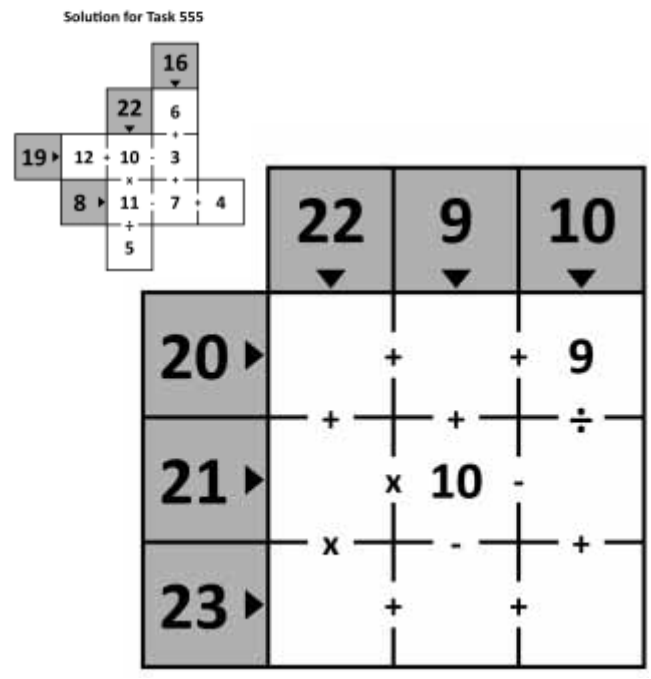
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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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:

3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9

Solution for Task 555



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 14 17 19 20 32 Meganumber: 28 Jackpot: $85M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 14 29 38 47 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 3 10 12 16 21

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 0 6 EVENING: 0 4 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 12 Lucky Charms 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 01 Gold Rush RACE TIME: 1:41.16

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

■ New, on the News of the Weird Food Cart: (1) grasshopper tacos (at San Francisco's La Oaxaquena Bakery, but pulled in June by local health authorities, who were concerned that the bakery was importing Mexican insects rather than using American ones); (2) cicada ice cream (at Sparky's Homemade in Columbia, Mo., but also yanked off sale by local health authorities in June); (3) maggot-melt sandwiches (which are just what you suspect -- cheese and dead maggots -- at the California State Fair in July).

■ Tippecanoe County (Ind.) judge Loretta Rush, interviewed by the Journal & Courier of Lafayette, Ind., in June, underscored parental drug use as a major risk factor in a child's drifting into substance abuse. "I had a case where a child was born with drugs in his system," recalled Rush. "Both parents were using. We were looking for (placing the child in any relative's home), but both sets of grandparents were using. So (the) great-grandmother's in the courtroom, and I had asked her if she would pass a drug screen, and she said she would not ...."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1811 First ascent of Jungfrau, third highest summit in the Bernese Alps by brothers Johann Rudolf and Hieronymus Meyer.

1852 First Boat Race between Yale and Harvard, the first American intercollegiate athletic event. Harvard won.

1860 The Second Maori War begins in New Zealand.

1900 The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company is founded.

1913 A major labour dispute, known as the Wheatland Hop Riot, starts in Wheatland, California.

1914 World War I: Germany declares war against France.

1923 Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as the 30th President of the United States in the early morning following the death of Warren G. Harding the previous day.

WORD UP!

entelechy
\en-TEL-uh-kee\ , noun;
1. A realization or actuality as opposed to a potentiality.

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Concessions International seeks bilingual administrative assistant with basic computer skills. All languages. Research and data entry

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DONATE YOUR CAR. FREE TOWING. "Cars for Kids". Any condition. Tax deductible outreachcenter.com, 1-800-597-9411

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Notices

Free depression treatment at UCLA for teens, adults, and seniors! (310)825-3351 www.DepressionLA.com

Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. ES015003
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of MARTINO QUENTEZ BUFORD for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: MARTINO QUENTEZ BUFORD filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: MARTINO QUENTEZ BUFORD to JOREY BLAKE. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 08/26/2011 Time:8:30am, Dept. NC-B
The address of the court is 300 East Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91502.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: JUL 06, 2011
MARY THORTON HOUSE, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011060063 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/07/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LOCAL YOCAL. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Kristen Nora Johnson 1012 20th St. Santa Monica, CA 90403. 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/:Kristen Nora Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/07/2011. 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 07/20/2011, 07/27/2011, 08/03/2011, 08/10/2011.

DBAS

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 08/03/2011, 08/10/2011, 08/17/2011, 08/24/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011050406 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/20/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BUBBLES SALON BOUTIQUE INDOOR PLAYGROUND, PLAYATBUBBLES.COM, HOT YOGA MAMA, HOT YOGA MOMMA, HOT YOGA MAMA.COM, HOT YOGA MAMMA.COM, HOT YOGA MOMMA.COM. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Arthur B. Associates 4727 Wilshire Blvd. #601 Los Angeles, CA 90010. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Arthur B. Associates. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/20/2011. 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 07/20/2011, 07/27/2011, 08/03/2011, 08/10/2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011057920 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/05/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LEONIAN PICTURES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Susan Kaye Bernhardt 827 Hollywood Way, #344 Burbank, CA 91505. 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/:Susan Kaye Bernhardt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/05/2011. 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 08/03/2011, 08/10/2011, 08/17/2011, 08/24/2011.

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