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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 253



Santa Monica Daily Press

STRUGGLE OVER GAY HISTORY
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE BACK TO WORK ISSUE

Four new hotels slated for Downtown



Daniel Archuleta *news@smdp.com*

FINAL TOUCHES: **A crew works on the landscaping Thursday of The Shore hotel on Ocean Avenue.**

Hotels a real money maker for city

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE If everything goes according to plan, Santa Monica will see an influx of at least four new hotels and one complete remodel in Downtown, and business officials say the city can use all the rooms it gets.

The Planning Department has received proposals for two brand new hotels immediately adjacent to one another at 1554 Fifth Street and 501 Colorado Avenue. The new Shore Hotel on Ocean Avenue is nearing completion, and a development agreement is in the works for 710 Wilshire Blvd., where developers hope to convert a mixed-use office building into a boutique hotel.

A fifth, the remodel of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, will actually constitute a reduction in the number of hotel rooms, from the hotel's current 302 to 265.

According to the Santa Monica Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), there are already 36 hotels in Santa Monica's 8.3 square miles, and the new ones currently in various stages of the planning process would bring another 550 rooms to the area.

Those rooms are desperately needed, with the current stock already running at 91.32 percent occupancy, said Misti Kerns, CEO of the CVB.

"We certainly are turning people away," she said.

In part, it's the cost of the luxury hotels that have come to populate Downtown. According to the most recent statistics, the average daily rate for a room in Santa Monica is $327.68 per night, which prices out some visitors.

But often, the problem is room availability. The CVB Visitor's Center on Main Street sees about eight to 10 people a day who do not have reservations and desperately need rooms.

The center does what it can, Kerns said, but sometimes they will have to send would-be guests to Venice or other nearby areas to get a room.

Two of the proposed hotels will attack both of those underlying problems.

Plans for Colorado Avenue and Fifth Street would remove the Midas car repair shop and a pre-existing office building and replace them with two mid-price hotels, a Hampton Inn and Courtyard by Marriott.

Those brands in nearby cities can cost between roughly $100 and $200 per night, depending on the room and amenities, which puts them far below the average daily rates in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica needs that variety of lower-priced hotels to serve a niche market for traveling families and others that can't afford the expensive luxury hotels that dominate the city's supply, Kerns said.

"We would certainly like to see additional, mid-level rooms become available," Kerns said. "When you are running at the percentage of occupancy that we are, it certainly shows that there is room for additional inventory."

Hotels are an attractive land use, not only for the amount of money and jobs they create, but also for their relatively minimal impact on traffic.

SEE HOTELS PAGE 6

Court date set in City Hall parking ticket dispute

BY COLIN NEWTON
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Residents Harriet and Stanley Epstein's parking ticket lawsuit against City Hall will reach a Los Angeles County Superior Court on Feb. 15, unless it is settled before then.

Harriet Epstein was issued a parking ticket on Feb. 2, 2011, for allegedly parking in Reed Park and then leaving to run an errand. Parking is for park patrons only, and Harriet was fined $64.

When they fought the ticket, the Epsteins claim they were not properly notified as to why their challenge had been denied, instead receiving a form letter from City Hall informing them the ticket was valid.

The Epsteins claim that not only did the form letter fail to explain why the ticket was issued, but it broke the California Vehicle Code.

As of January 2009, under the California Vehicle Code, city officials and hearing examiners hired to deal with those fighting a ticket are required to provide a written explanation for the validity of the citation.

SEE PARKING PAGE 6

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011

Support domestic violence victims
OPCC
1453 16th St., 6:30 p.m.
Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children is holding a violence volunteer training session. This training is mandatory for anyone who would like to volunteer at Sojourn. To enroll or for more information, call (310) 264-6646 ext. 225

Sing-a-long
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 10:30 a.m.
Calling all singers. Come and show off your singing skill. The center welcomes you to participate in this fun sing-a-long with Douglas and Mary Jane. Must be a Senior Center member and 50 or older to participate; membership is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Time for art
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
The Artists League of the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club invites you to drop in to work on independent projects in watercolor, gouache and collage. This is a self-directed workshop that provides a supportive environment for those wishing to concentrate on their painting and an opportunity for painters to learn from each other. For more information, call (310) 310-2273.

Writers group
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m.
Meet with other aspiring writers for inspiration, guidance and support during this regular meeting. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011

Branching out
Thelma Terry Building
Virginia Avenue Park, 6:30 p.m.
Come to a special meeting of the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force to find out what trees are proposed for your street, and let the task force know what you think about it. If you're not able to attend a meeting, please visit www.santamonicatrees.com to see what's proposed for your street. Virginia Avenue Park is served by Big Blue Bus lines 7 and 11. The Thelma Terry Building is wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, please call (310) 458-8974 at least three business days in advance. Another meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14.

Farm fresh
Downtown Farmers' Market
Arizona Avenue and Third Street, 8:30 a.m.
Get some of the freshest produce around at the largest grower-only certified Farmers' Market in Southern California, a favorite of local chefs. The market turned 30 this year. Come down and celebrate.

Write the right way
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 1 p.m.
Learn dramatic structure and engage in the creative process of playwriting with instructor Anna Stramese. This eight-week workshop focuses on the basic elements of playwriting. Open to all. Cost: Free. For more information call (310) 458-8682 or visit smpl.org.

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



Feds warn of small airplane terror threats

EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The FBI and Homeland Security have issued a nationwide warning about al-Qaida threats to small airplanes, just days before the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Authorities say there is no specific or credible terrorist threat for the 10-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. But they have stepped up security nationwide as a precaution.

According to a five-page law enforcement bulletin issued Friday, as recently as early this year, al-Qaida was considering ways to attack airplanes.

The alert, issued ahead of the summer's last busy travel weekend, said terrorists have considered renting private planes and loading them with explosives.

"Al-Qaida and its affiliates have maintained an interest in obtaining aviation training, particularly on small aircraft, and in recruiting Western individuals for training in Europe or the United States, although we do not have current, credible information or intelligence of an imminent attack being planned," according to the bulletin obtained by The Associated Press.

The bulletin also says al-Qaida would like to use sympathetic Westerners to get flight training, then get them to become flight instructors.

Matthew Chandler, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, described the bulletin as routine.

"We shared this information with our partners to highlight the need for continued awareness and vigilance," he said.

Aviation security is much tighter than it was a decade ago, but al-Qaida remains keenly interested in launching attacks on airplanes, believing large attacks with high body counts are more likely to grab headlines.

Threats to small airplanes are nothing new. After the 2001 attacks, the government grounded thousands of crop dusters amid fears the planes could be used in an attack.

In 2002, U.S. officials said they uncovered an al-Qaida plot to fly a small plane into a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf. And in 2003, U.S. officials uncovered an al-Qaida plot to crash an explosives-laden small aircraft into the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.



Photo courtesy Brentwood Arts Center

COOL STUFF: **People peruse the art at the Brentwood Arts Center. The center is planning a gala event for its 40th anniversary.**

Arts center climbs over the hill

Brentwood Arts plans big event for 40th anniversary

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVE Turning 40 can be depressing for some people, but not for the Brentwood Arts Center. It's ready to party.

The family-friendly home of creativity celebrates its fourth decade this year, and plans to do so in style with a three-day fiesta including a display of its students' work, hands-on art projects and live demonstrations by teachers.

"It's our 40th anniversary, so we're making a bigger deal than ones in the past," said the school's director David Limrite. "It's the time of the year that we celebrate the achievements of our students, and have the opportunity to share with the community."

The center was founded in 1971 by Ed and Linda Buttwinick in response to demand from parents who offered up space and pupils to Ed Buttwinick during a 1970 strike by Los Angeles school teachers.

After nine months of teaching out of garages, Buttwinick had fostered a class of 80 students, according to the school's website.

The Buttwinicks decided to press forward with their own art school, and in 1971 moved into their current location at 26th Street and Montana Avenue.

In 2005, the center was taken over by Sarkis Melkonian, but the vision of its original founding couple remains — to teach serious art to serious students and foster a sense of community both within the school and between the school and its neighbors.

"I always say that we have something for everyone, but we may not be for everybody," Limrite said. "We are very serious and dedicated to art education."

Its students are similarly engaged.

Jordan Blaquera, the school's administrative director, recently sat down with Shirley Phillips, a student who has been with the school from its first year, studying watercolor.

Others, like the Camp family, come in packs.

Lulu Camp and her two children, Henry and Cleo, all attend the school, and will have their art on display for the show.

Cleo began first when she was only 4 years old, making her the senior member of

SEE **ART** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All about the money

Editor:

First things first. Close the Santa Monica Airport. Why? Residents, terrorists and lousy pilots.

How many Santa Monica residents use SMO as an airport? One percent? Fewer? Clearly, SMO doesn't serve our community, it serves wealthy aircraft owners and private pilots. We don't need to put our health and safety at risk for their convenience and/or enjoyment.

[The Department of] Homeland Security has issued an advisory indicating terrorists may use small planes laden with explosives to attack Americans. How will the pro-SMO folks feel if our airport is one of those chosen by those deranged jihadists? It's certainly not out of the question with its proximity to L.A. In fact, it kind of makes sense for them to use SMO. Still want SMO to stay open?

Oh, and we're averaging about one neighborhood crash per year or so. That doesn't bother anyone? It bothers me! I don't want my wealthy, greedy, arrogant landlord's Cessna to land on my apartment – or yours!

At the heart of the SMO debate – and American Film Market story ("Biz leaders worried about possible AFM departure," page 1, Sept. 3-4) and others ad nauseam – is the money that these out-of-town/state/country airport users spend and the supposedly massive tax revenue it generates. As usual, our esteemed City Council gets very excited about increased business in hotels and restaurants and Third Street Promenade retailers. If I didn't know any better, I'd think that the only businesses in Santa Monica were hotels, restaurants and promenade retailers.

What about the rest of us? How does SMO and AFM and every other tourist-attracting event benefit auto repair shops or local professionals or non-retail businesses? We're stuck with ever-narrowing streets, gridlock, more pollution and huge crowds, but hey, the hotels, restaurants and beach retailers love it! And please don't get me started on traffic.

City government doesn't care about residents and creating a "livable" Santa Monica; it cares about the corporations, the almighty dollar, and campaign contributions to the bleary-eyed visionaries on the City Council.

Santa Monica was a far better place to live when I moved here in 1985; we need to bring our wonderful beach community back to the future and stop trying to be L.A.'s development-hungry, corporate-centric, traffic-choked cousin!

What happened to our Santa Monica?

Steve Schwab
Santa Monica

Catering to criminals

Editor:

I was stopped at a red light westbound on Wilshire Boulevard at 17th Street [Thursday] about 4 p.m. Suddenly a person driving northbound on 17th Street, partway in the intersection, blew the horn and put on brakes. I looked to my right and guess what; a guy possibly, in his mid-20s, was riding eastbound on the sidewalk and rode right into the crosswalk and through the red light.

In the first place, he was riding against traffic, even though he was on the sidewalk and gave no thought at all to cross traffic. I am so glad the car did not enter the intersection seconds later, or it would have been a terrible accident. There was a pedestrian waiting at the curb for the light to change so she could cross the street legally.

I don't know what it is going to take to wise up these riders to respect the law and do what they are supposed to do when riding on city streets. So City Hall is making more bike lanes and trying to make the roads safer for bicyclists. Isn't it nice that we can cater to those who break the law daily.

Barbara Barnard
Santa Monica

Your column here

Dr. E. Kristen Peters — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Water, water, not quite everywhere

WHEN I WAS A KID I WAS "BORN again," a process that involved being fully and totally immersed in water. Much more recently I was on the home stretch of an 8-mile walk in the hot sun when the minister I was walking with kindly poured her drinking water on my hot little head.

Seldom does water feel so good as when splashed on an overheating noggin in the summertime. As soon as my hair was sopping wet, I certainly felt born anew, able to complete the walk with at least a tiny smidgen of spring in my step. Just a cup or two of water, supplied at the crucial time and applied to best advantage, made all the difference in the world.

What would you imagine is the largest use of water in the U.S.? We all can guess it's not drinking water itself, nor wetting the heads of aging geologists. Would it be what goes on every day in kitchens for meal preparation? Or the weekly washing of laundry? Bathrooms and what we do in them? Perhaps commercial carwashes use more water than your home?

Actually, irrigation makes up the most significant use of freshwater in the U.S. In a nutshell, some farmers use a lot of water to grow crops on semi-arid or marginal land. Techniques range from flooding fields to using pressurized sprinklers to anoint crops with much needed artificial rain.

There are some significant drawbacks to irrigation. Freshwater is a precious resource, and using so much of it for farming can be criticized as profligate. Beyond that, irrigation can degrade soil, making it saltier over time as water evaporates repeatedly in hot and dry regions where irrigation is commonly practiced.

But there are two major ideas to keep in mind when it comes to irrigation. The first is that around the world irrigation truly helps us produce food for the 7 billion mouths we now have to feed on the planet.

In various parts of the U.S. we irrigate to grow everything from vegetables to wheat and rice. Almost all states in the Union have some measure of irrigated agriculture within them. And, as most of us vaguely know but we don't often articulate, American farmers feed us well and also produce enough for many millions of others around the world to whom our harvests are exported.

All those facts came to mind recently when I read of a University of Wisconsin study about irrigation on the global scale. The bottom line of the study is that global irrigation patterns increase farming output substantially. In fact, that increase is almost as great as all of U.S. farming output rolled into one sum — and we grow a lot of food in this country, so that ain't nothing to sneeze at.

Agricultural productivity and irrigation isn't the same everywhere because a little bit of water in a dry field can increase yields much more than more water in a wetter region. Interestingly, the Wisconsin researchers believe irrigation around the world is used close to maximum efficiency.

In some ways the efficiency of global irrigation is good news — we humans are not being wasteful with respect to a very large chunk of our freshwater resources. But it also means that as population continues to increase, we can't feed more mouths just by upping our irrigation efficiency.

One reason scientists and engineers are studying matters like irrigation is that people have become interested in all forms of carbon uptake from the air. If you grow plants, they "mine" carbon dioxide out of the air to build their carbon-rich little selves. A tree locks up this carbon for years or even centuries to come. By comparison, a crop plant like wheat only temporarily stores carbon.

Freshwater is one resource that, like energy, goes into all sorts of our products and activities. It's so much cheaper than gasoline, we normally don't think of it as we go about our daily lives. But it's a limited resource the use of which has significant environmental impact. What we want to do with it is something we could well afford to think about more clearly.

One thing is evident to me: I want us to always have enough water to pour over the heads of old ladies taking long walks on hot summer mornings.

DR. E. KIRSTEN PETERS, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University. Peters can be reached at epeters@wsu.edu.



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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Gay history referendum faces an uphill battle

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO At churches, shopping centers, schools, and local tea party meetings in California, fired-up volunteers have started gathering signatures for a ballot referendum that would repeal the nation's first law requiring public schools to include prominent gay people and gay rights' milestones in school lessons.

Organizers of the Stop SB48 campaign — Senate Bill 48 was the law approved by the California Legislature and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in July — are telling would-be voters the new mandate would inappropriately expose young children to sex, infringe on parental rights and silence religion-based criticisms of homosexuality. Those are talking points successfully used by proponents of Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure that banned same-sex marriage in California.

But so far, Mormon and Catholic church leaders and conservative groups who spearheaded the Proposition 8 campaign have not joined the effort to qualify the gay history referendum for the June 2012 ballot, leaving less-experienced Christian conservatives to lead the charge without the organizational prowess and funding to hire paid signature gatherers.

Political operatives say they can't recall any citizens' initiative that made the state ballot without professional petition circulators in almost three decades.

"If someone wrote a million-dollar check, we would be guaranteed to get this on the ballot," said Pacific Justice Institute President Brad Dacus, whose legal aid firm wrote the proposed measure and is co-sponsoring the signature-gathering effort. "That's not the case at this point... We are counting on people in churches and communities and families making the extra effort to get it done."

Supporters have until Oct. 12 to collect 504,760 signatures from registered voters to qualify the measure for the ballot. Conventional wisdom among political consultants is that it will be difficult to meet the requirement with such a short window and only volunteers.

Sacramento political consultant Wayne Johnson, whose firm has worked on more than a dozen ballot initiative campaigns, said that with the same-sex marriage ban tied up in the courts, a presidential election on the horizon and many Christian parents with children in private schools, conservative groups with the most cash and experience may sit out this fight.

"We are in a different environment and a different economy," Johnson said. "How much of your resources and energy can be devoted to preserving the status quo?"

Still, no one is ready to write off the repeal attempt, especially if a donor steps up in the next few weeks to fund professional petitioners. If ever there was a measure that could galvanize the electorate, it's one dealing with gay rights and school children.

"On an issue like this one, sometimes an abundance of passion, on both sides, can make up for a lack of money," said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California and a former GOP campaign spokesman. "A well-organized and very emotionally committed grassroots base may be able to get this on the ballot even without significant funding."

The new law takes effect Jan.1 but state education officials say it is unlikely to be fully implemented until at least the 2015-16 school year. It adds lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people, as well as European Americans and people with disabilities to the lengthy list of social and ethnic groups whose "roles and contributions" California public schools must include in California and U.S. history lessons and teaching materials such as textbooks.

The law also prohibits any instructional materials that "reflect adversely" on gays or particular religions. Because of the state's budget straits, the California Department of Education's timeline for adopting new textbooks has been pushed back until 2015. The work of revising the history and social studies curriculum framework that determines what students learn and at what grades has been suspended until further notice.

Fears that kindergartners will be hearing about prominent gays in history are misplaced, said Sherry Skelly Griffith, governmental relations specialist for the Association of California School Administrators.

Currently, California students do not receive any significant social studies until they study state history in fourth grade. They begin learning about U.S. history in eighth grade, but do not study 20th Century social movements, the most logical place for gay history to receive a serious treatment, until they are juniors in high school.



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The Q Line

Make way for the gangway

City officials plan to build a gangway and 2,160-square-foot barge on the southern side of the Santa Monica Pier to expedite evacuations in case of an emergency. Although bringing boats back to the pier is not in the cards right now, the gangway will be constructed with the future in mind.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you support returning recreational boating back to the pier, helping the landmark reclaim some of its past glory?

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.**





HOTELS
FROM PAGE 1

They are economic powerhouses, accounting for 2,748 of Santa Monica's 10,080 hospitality-related jobs and providing approximately $34 million in taxes to City Hall's general fund, according to a 2010 economic impact report.

At the same time, hotel patrons spend an average of $250 per day in the city, and 70 percent of them get around using something other than a car, according to CVB figures.

That makes them a high dollar value with relatively low cost to the surrounding community, wrote Kim Baker, director of marketing for the CVB, in an e-mail.

When city officials were working on the Land Use and Circulation Element of the General Plan, which dictates development, a financial consultant was asked to come in to put a value on the various kinds of land uses in terms of what kind of revenues they brought to the city, said Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer.

Housing brought in the least money and cost the city in terms of utilities and maintenance, but the inclusion of hotels into the mix completely wiped out the housing-related losses.

"You almost thought the numbers were fudged," Winterer said.

That kind of economic potential means that hotels are primary to any discussion of development in the city.

In a July meeting about development in the Mixed Use Creative District and land immediately around the Bergamot Station, consultant Tom Nordyke told community members that the arts could persist in the Bergamot area, but there needed to be a mix of revenue-generating uses there as well to help subsidize them.

High on that list was hotels.

Perhaps it isn't surprising then that hotel uses are being proposed for the Bergamot Station when the Expo Light Rail line comes in 2015, but also for the development at Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue, which hasn't been fully planned yet.

At this point, no one is concerned that the number of hotels and rooms might exceed demand, but officials will be monitoring the affordability mix and placement of those businesses, Winterer said.

Technically speaking, it is against city code to tear down an affordably-priced hotel and then replace it with an expensive one, Winterer said, but developers who choose to do so only pay a penalty into a fund that subsidizes the hostel on Second Street.

"Just as we want a diverse mix of housing opportunities in our town, we want to make sure there are a mix of hotel spaces available," he said.

Developers are usually asked to perform some kind of demand analysis as part of development agreement negotiations to see if the project makes sense economically, said Planning Director David Martin.

The two hotels at Fifth Street and Colorado Avenue are not far enough along in the process to warrant that level of detail.

ashley@smdp.com

PARKING
FROM PAGE 1

Stanley Epstein, an active class action lawyer, has said that his wife's guilt is not the issue.

"We weren't looking for litigation, we were looking for them to do the right thing, and they totally ignored us," he said.

City officials will not comment on pending litigation, however, in a statement issued earlier this year they said they are in full compliance with the law but have started including more information in form letters to better communicate with the public.

The Epsteins filed their lawsuit against City Hall on June 8. Also named in the lawsuit are ACS State and Local Solution Inc., a New York-based company that processes parking tickets for City Hall, and Sheri Ross, the hearing examiner hired by City Hall.

According to Stanley Epstein, City Hall has claimed that it was following California Vehicle Code, and moved to dismiss the case.

On Aug. 25, the hearing went before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Chalfant, who threw the demurrer out.

The Epsteins' lawsuit includes anyone else who challenged a ticket and did not receive an explanation since January 2009, a figure which, according to Stanley Epstein, is over 1,600.

The Epsteins feel that the case will go ahead in their favor.

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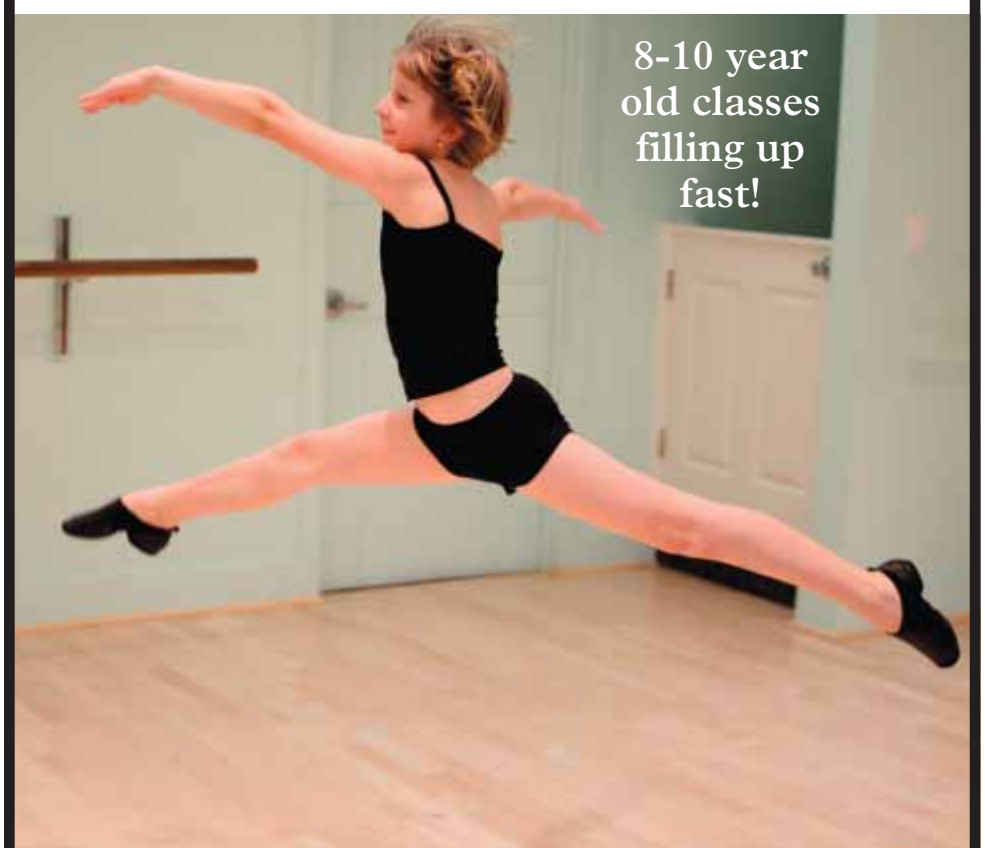

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Photo courtesy Brentwood Arts Center

HOME OF CREATIVITY: **The Brentwood Arts Center is located on Montana Avenue.**

ART
FROM PAGE 3

the family with nine years of instruction under her belt.

"I have a figure drawing on display," she said. "I prefer water colors, and sometimes charcoal and I love photography."

The school is like a home away from home for the family, Lulu said.

"It's a fun time to get together with the other artists who paint and do other kinds of artwork," she said. "I see these people more than I get to see my friends, and we've all become friends."

Almost 450 pieces of artwork will be on display over the three days of the show. Some works will be marked for sale, if the artist gives the go ahead.

Although the school usually takes a 25 percent commission on works sold, this time the money will be going to a cause near and dear to the hearts of the artists, School on Wheels.

School on Wheels is a nonprofit that pairs volunteer tutors with homeless students in need of extra help to get through their academics. The art center got involved through one of its models and part-time instructors, Blue McDonnell.

The art center has worked with School on Wheels for many years, with several students volunteering their time and talents to the nonprofit.

The center will open its doors from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10 and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. Admission is free. For a detailed list of faculty demonstrations, by teacher and time, visit www.brentwoodart.com/exhibits.

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For more information contact Robbie Gluckson
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Earthquake prediction still stumps scientists

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES The East Coast earthquake left more than just residents unaccustomed to feeling the ground shake and sway in a daze. It also surprised some scientists who spend their careers trying to untangle the mysteries of sudden ground shifts.

Despite decades of research, earthquake prediction remains elusive. As much as society would like scientists to tell us when a jolt is coming, mainstream seismologists are generally pessimistic about ever having that ability.

They lived through the checkered history of earthquake prediction, filled with passioned debates, failed oracles and the enduring search for warning signs that may portend a powerful quake. The Earth so far has refused to give up its secrets.

In recent years, however, a more hopeful camp has emerged, pushed by researchers using satellites who say it may be possible to someday predict earthquakes from space and others who think they can tease out signals in rocks. The two schools of thought swapped notes during a two-day meeting in Los Angeles weeks before a relatively mild magnitude-5.8 rattled the Eastern Seaboard.

"I was pretty skeptical going in and I remain skeptical," said Washington state seismologist John Vidale, who was among 44 scientists from around the world who attended the invitation-only meeting.

Geophysicist Malcolm Johnston with the U.S. Geological Survey agreed.

"I've been chasing this for a long time," he said. "If you think you can detect the start of an earthquake, it's going to be very, very difficult."

How earthquakes occur is well known. The Earth's crust is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, broken into several pieces known as tectonic plates that constantly bump and grind or slide past each other. The movement happens slowly, about the speed at which our fingernails grow. Eventually, there's enough pent-up stress and the rocks suddenly slip, releasing tremendous energy that we feel as shaking.

Most earthquakes are small and imperceptible. Occasionally, a powerful one wreaks havoc like the ones that ravaged Haiti last year and coastal Japan in March. No one knows how a small rumble can cascade into a big one.

Spurred in part by a pair of megaquakes in the 1960s, scientists began looking in earnest for signals that will help them distinguish a serious quake from the garden variety. Hopes were high for reading the seismic tea leaves. They scoured for anything and everything that might be a clue: warping in the Earth's crust, radon gas releases along a fault, weird weather and even the behavior of cockroaches, snakes and other animals.

None of the phenomena studied panned out, but the notion that animals might have a "sixth sense" persists to today.





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Should parents spy on kids?

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK In the 21st century, parenthood and paranoia often walk hand in hand.

For some, the blessed event is followed by high-tech surveillance — a monitoring system tracks the baby's breathing rhythms and relays infrared images from the nursery. The next investment might be a nanny cam, to keep watch on the child's hired caregivers. Toddlers and grade schoolers can be equipped with GPS devices enabling a parent to know their location should something go awry.

To cope with the uncertainties of the teen years, some parents acquire spyware to monitor their children's online and cell phone activity. Others resort to home drug-testing kits.

Added together, there's a diverse, multi-billion-dollar industry seeking to capitalize on parents' worst fears about their children — fears aggravated by occasional high-profile abductions and the dangers lurking in cyberspace. One mistake can put a child at risk or go viral online, quickly ruining a reputation.

"There's a new set of challenges for parents, and all sorts of new tools that can help them do their job," said David Walsh, a child psychologist in Minneapolis. "On the other hand, we have very powerful industries that create these products and want to sell as many as possible, so they try to convince parents they need them."

Some parents need little convincing.

In New York City, a policeman-turned-politician recorded a video earlier this year offering tips to parents on how to search their children's bedrooms and possessions for drugs and weapons. In the video, State Sen. Eric Adams — who has a teenage son — insists that children have no constitutional right to privacy at home and shows how contraband could be hidden in backpacks, jewelry boxes, even under a doll's dress.

"You have a duty and obligation to protect the members of your household," he says.

Another parent who preaches proactive vigilance is Mary Kozakiewicz of Pittsburgh, whose daughter, Alicia, was abducted as a 13-year-old in 2002 by a man she met online. He chained, beat and raped her before she was rescued four days later.

In recent years, mother and daughter have both campaigned to raise awareness of Internet-related dangers.

Mary Kozakiewicz urges parents to monitor children's computer and cell phone use, and says those who balk out of respect for privacy are being naive.

"It's not about privacy — it's about keeping them safe," she said,

On a different part of the spectrum are parents such as Lenore Skenazy, a mother of two teens in New York City who wrote a book called "Free Range Kids: How To Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)."

Skenazy, who let one of her sons ride the New York subway alone when he was 9, contends that many marketers exploit par-

SEE SPY PAGE 11

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SPY
FROM PAGE 10

ents' ingrained worries about their children's safety.

"The idea is that the only good parent is a parent who's somehow watching over their child 24/7," she said. "You feel nothing should take precedence over monitoring your child's well-being every second of the day ... from time they're born to when they go off to college."

Joe Kelly of St. Paul, Minn., helped his wife raise twin girls (they're now adults) and founded a national advocacy group called Dads and Daughters. Like Skenazy, he bemoans commercial exploitation of parental anxiety.

"Markets play on this fear that something horrific is going to happen to your child, when the odds of that are minuscule," he said. "It might happen, but to have their whole childhood predicated on this remote possibility is, in the aggregate, even more damaging."

Psychologists who work with troubled adolescents and teens say parents often ask if they should be doing more surveillance.

"Ideally, parents establish good open communication and trust with their children, and they don't need to do all these things," said Neil Bernstein, a psychologist in Washington, D.C. "But if the child is doing something to create suspicion, you can't expect parents to turn their back and not monitor."

Bernstein, author of "How to Keep Your Teenager Out of Trouble and What to do if You Can't," says the best approach is a balanced one — neither overly zealous and paranoid nor uninvolved and neglectful.

A look at some of the monitoring tactics and products available to parents:

BABY MONITORS

These devices — some limited to audio monitoring, others also with video capability — have developed a reputation as a mixed blessing. They can provide parents with peace of mind, freeing them to be elsewhere in the house while the baby naps, but sometimes they accentuate anxiety.

"Some parents are reassured by hearing and seeing every whimper and movement. Others find such close surveillance to be nerve-racking," says Consumer Reports, which has tested many of the monitors.

Skenazy likened night-vision baby monitors to the surveillance cameras used by convenience stores and prisons.

"It's treating your child's bedroom as if it's the streets of Kandahar," the battle-scarred Afghan city, she said.

The monitors operate within a selected radio frequency band to send sound from a baby's room to a receiver in another room, a technology which can be vulnerable to interference from other electronic devices. Prices of models tested by Consumer Reports ranged from $30 for audio monitors to more than $200 for some with video.

"Overall, baby monitors can be as temperamental as a 2-year-old," says Consumer Reports. "Interference is probably the biggest complaint, but parents also report such problems as low visibility, a shorter-than-expected reception range, and short battery life."

Models at the high end of the price scale include the Dropcam Echo audio-video system, for $279. Its manufacturer says the system automatically detects motion and sound, and sends alerts to a parent's smart phone or iPad.

Experts say baby monitors can provide a useful early warning if something is amiss, but caution that they should never substitute for adult supervision.

Parents are warned not to rely on monitors to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and they should be sure that the monitors' electrical cords are kept away from cribs. Earlier this year, about 1.7 million Summer Infant video monitors were recalled after being linked to the strangulation deaths of two infants.

TRACKING DEVICES

Of the roughly 800,000 children reported missing in the U.S. each year, the vast majority are runaways or were abducted by a parent. But there are enough kidnappings by strangers — including a few each year that make national news — to fuel a large, evolving market for products catering to apprehensive parents.

The devices range from clip-on alarms to GPS locators that can be put in a backpack or stuffed in a doll, but they have limited range and can raise safety concerns of their own.

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, says the devices can be helpful in some circumstances but worries about overreliance on them.

"Some of them encourage parents, perhaps unwittingly, to forget their basic responsibilities," he said. "There are parents who think they can depend on the technology, not on themselves."

He recounted the case of one little girl who activated her wristband alarm when she was abducted. The abductor cut off the device, left it behind and later killed the girl.

Allen said the child might have been better off yelling for help, rather than focusing on the alarm.

"Some of the new technology is extraordinary," Allen said. "But these shouldn't be used as substitutes for good old-fashioned parenting."

The Laughing Warrior Workshop:
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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

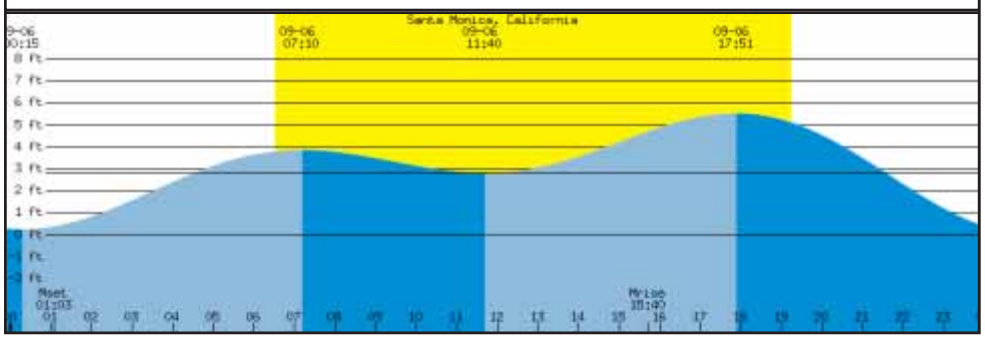
Swell Forecast

Today looks like a chest max day for south facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday looks a bit smaller, about chest high at south facing spots with occasional pluses. Some light NW ground swell combined with wrap from the south swell should put direct west facing breaks in waist+ surf.

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 **August 31, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 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 Lechusa and Las Alisos 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 Rominer Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	C	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker 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.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	D	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	C	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	F	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.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	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.	B	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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SALVATION ARMY ADULT REHABILITATION CENTER

The City of Santa Monica has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. The City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Intent to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center

PROJECT LOCATION: 1665 10th Street and 1660 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would demolish all the existing buildings on-site and redevelop the site with a new two-story Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. The Adult Rehabilitation Center would provide an in-residence rehabilitation program to help men and women overcome problems such as alcohol and drug dependencies. Occupants at the center would be required to stay a minimum of six months. Admission to the center/program is voluntary and services are provided without cost to the occupants at the center.

The two-story Adult Rehabilitation Center would be developed on the 1660 11th Street parcel. The ground floor would include a thrift retail shop and accessory office, warehouse, and manufacturing uses. The second floor would include six private bedrooms providing six beds and eight community bedrooms providing 80 beds for a total of 86 beds. In addition, the second floor would include laundry facilities, restrooms, kitchen, dining area, community room, library, chapel, and a counseling center. The new building would have a maximum height of approximately 35 feet as measured from average natural grade and would comprise a total of 60,478 square feet of space for a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.55. A below level parking garage would provide parking for 85 spaces. However, occupants of the center are not allowed to drive or maintain cars on the premises. At least 21 bicycle parking spaces would also be provided on the site. Vehicle access to the project site would be from Olympic Boulevard with loading zone access from 10th Court. The existing 1665 10th Street parcel would be replaced with a surface parking lot providing 9 spaces.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration on the proposed project may be reviewed online at **http://www01.smgov.net/planning/planningcomm/environmentalreports.html** or in person at the following locations:
City Planning Division Public Counter, 1685 Main Street Room 111, Santa Monica, CA
Office of the City Clerk, 1685 Main Street Room 102, Santa Monica, CA
Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence on **September 6, 2011** and end on **October 5, 2011**. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public comments on the document during this period. Any comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received within the public review period. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on October 5, 2011** and addressed to: Scott Albright, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Fax: (310) 458-3380 E-mail: **scott.albright@smgov.net**

ESPAÑOL: Esta es una notícia de un estúdio preliminário y declaración negativa sobre un proyecto de centro de rehabilitación para adultos, lo cual puede ser de interes a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al numero (310) 458-8341.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theatre for more information.

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:55am, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:15pm

Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1hr 44min
12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:10pm, 9:00pm

One Day (PG-13) 1hr 47min
5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Smurfs (PG) 1hr 42min
11:50am, 2:15pm

Good Old Fashioned Orgy (R) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Debt (R) 1hr 53min
11:35am, 2:15pm, 5:05pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Colombiana (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:25am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Help (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
11:55am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:25pm

Shark Night 3D (PG-13) 1hr 35min
2:20pm, 7:25pm, 10:00pm

Spy Kids: All the Time in the World 3D (PG) 1hr 29min
1:45pm, 7:00pm

Shark Night (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 4:50pm

Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) 1hr 29min
11:20am, 4:20pm, 9:30pm

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

Mozart's Sister (Nannerl, la Soeur de Mozart) (NR) 2hrs 00min
3:20pm, 8:30pm

Sarah's Key (Elle s'appelait Sarah) (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Our Idiot Brother (R) 1hr 30min
12:30pm, 2:55pm, 5:20pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

Chasing Madoff! (NR) 1hr 31min
1:00pm, 6:10pm

5 Days of War (R) 1hr 53min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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

Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
11:10am, 1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

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

30 Minutes or Less (R) 1hr 23min
4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Apollo 18 (PG-13) 1hr 26min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Cars 2 (G) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 1:45pm

Saving Private Perez (Salvando al soldado Perez) (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

Must appearance tonight, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be stressed out and not realize it. Stop and take a look at what you need in order to relax. If you can let go of tension, you will transform your reactions. Given a break, optimism and centering will return. Now act. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You are opening up to different procedures and ideas. Your ability to understand depends on your detachment skills, especially with personal triggers. Once clear, you will make solid decisions; actions will follow in the same vein. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level, making for greater clarity. Unexpected developments come forward that allow greater give-and-take. Listen to news with an open mind. Sort through what you feel is reality-based. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Investigate new possibilities with an open eye. Be willing to toss away what no longer works. Insulate yourself from a problem person, and you will be much happier. Evaluate a matter with greater perspective and knowledge. Tonight: Dote on a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might not like taking the plunge in order to move forward. Unexpected news could force a revamping of your thinking, if not your plans. You could be overly tired and withdrawn. Opportunities come through a high profile and an optimistic attitude. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Tap into your creativity when someone you counted on lets you down. Remember to flex, reframe and see the situation in a different light. You might be amazed by what comes up if you are willing and open. Start thinking about an offer, which could involve travel. Tonight: So what if it is Tuesday?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You are learning that you are your own best friend. Don't underestimate that fact. Sometimes you don't support yourself. This issue might come up with a real estate or partnership matter. Tonight: Bring extra work home, if possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You could be in touch with your friends and might want to see a situation in a much different light. Others react in an unanticipated manner. Stay open to the unexpected, which could bring a new option to your daily life. Tonight: Catch up on email, calls, etc.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are all about money -- making it, investing it and spending it -- at least for now. Your perceptions are changing, but you will be able to adapt to each bend in the road. Trust your judgment. Be willing to let go of what no longer works. Tonight: Treat yourself later, too!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Count on your energy and ability to handle a change. A transformation in your perspective keeps you invigorated. Let your creativity open up the full dimension of what you can conjure up. The unexpected plays a role. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Stand back and allow others to run the show. On some level, they need the experience in order to work through their judgments. You might want to consider pulling back more often. A change on the home front will be positive. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ How you say what you think and how you share your ideas seem to open up a meeting. What you think you want surprisingly might not be connected to the present-day you. Take a hard look at your desires. Tonight: Visit with a friend over a meal.

Happy birthday

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

Express a newfound sense of dynamic thinking and acting more often. You are in a period of tremendous change and growth. Often, the unexpected occurs within situations you consider stable. Flex and recognize that you can choose an alternative. If you are single, you exude a certain unique attractiveness that draws suitors. Keep a new relationship light, and let it develop slowly. If you are attached, move through issues as a team, not individually. Your mate sparks your creativity.



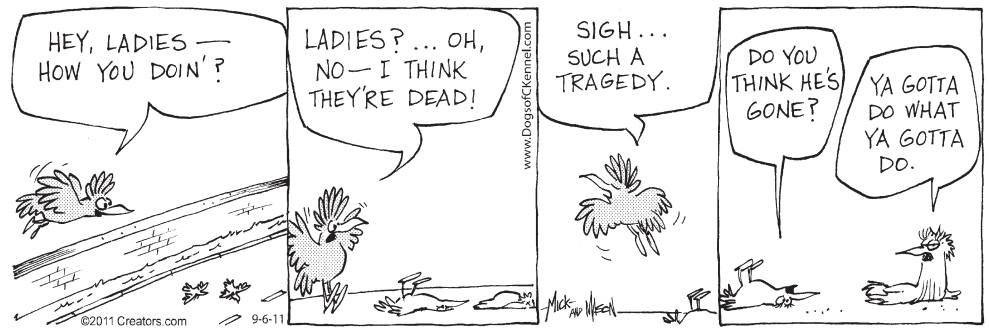
MYSTERY PHOTO

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



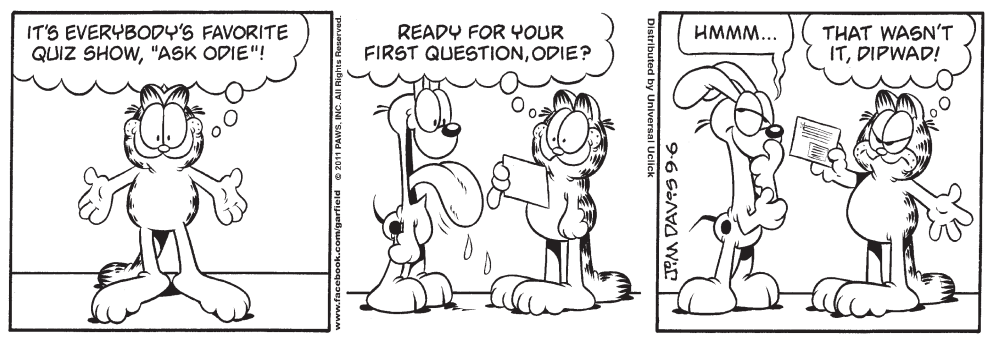
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



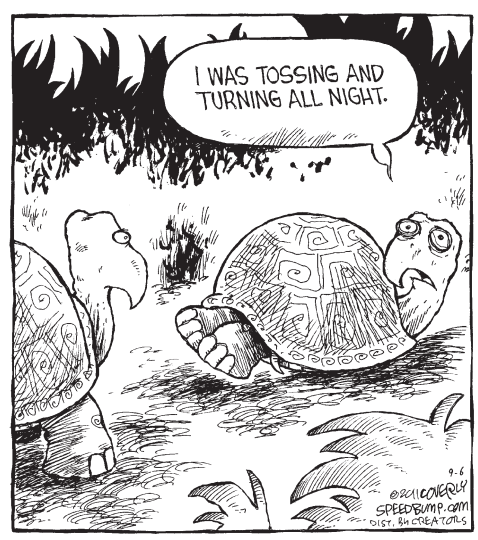
Strange Brew

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 ★★

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

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Accumulate
7 Mexican money
11 Galahad's mother
12 Diva's song
13 "Imitation of Life" author
15 Blockheads
16 Boxer Spinks
18 Take a breather
21 50-50 share
22 Mail-related
24 Seventh Greek letter
25 Near star
26 Cry of insight
27 Hip
29 Get larger
30 Very bright
31 Learning method
32 Pesto herb
34 "Fried Green Tomatoes" author
40 Bread spread
41 Female grad
42 Dollop
43 — fugit (time flies)

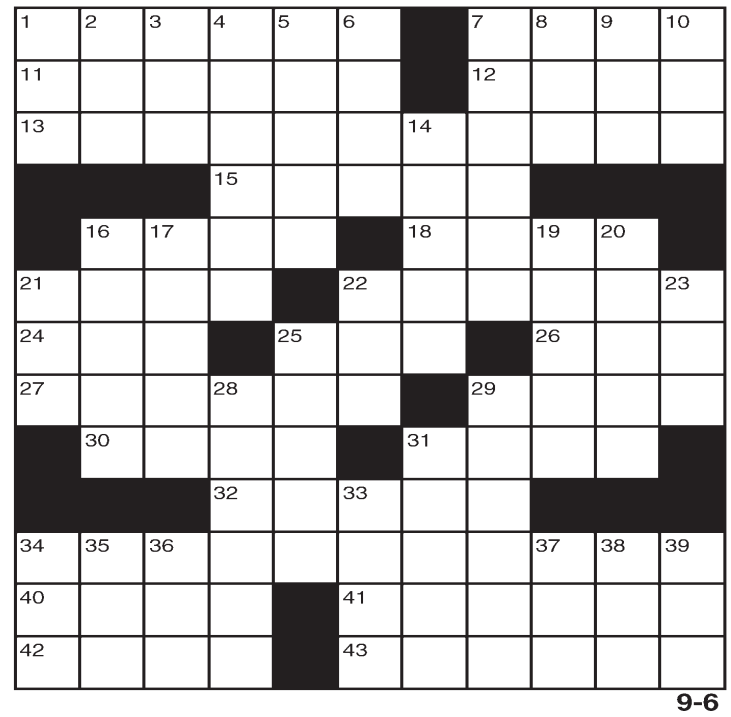
DOWN

1 Game caller
2 In the style of
3 Soup buy
4 In a way
5 Merger
6 Chick sound
7 Takes a breather
8 Goof up
9 Bro's kin
10 Granola bit
14 Marsh bird
16 43-Across, for example
17 Gladden
19 Kick off
20 Western resort
21 Cut down
22 Place
23 Statute
25 Mideast peninsula
28 Fraternize
29 Foe of Frodo
31 Hunting weapon
33 Pants part
34 Sailing hazard
35 Everything
36 "The Matrix" hero
37 Guitar blaster
38 Safari animal
39 Empty talk

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

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



9-6

ARITHMO™

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– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

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

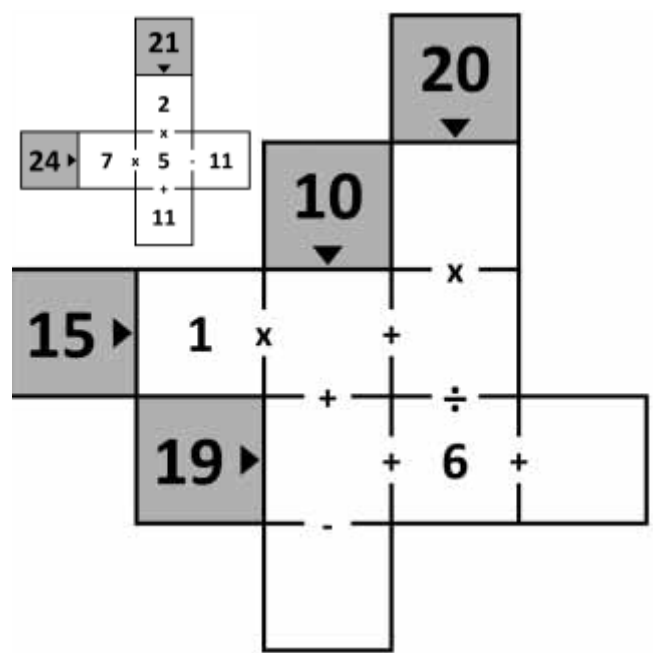
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

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

1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 12

Solution for Task 260



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Michael Jones, 50, told a magistrate in Westminster, England, in May that he did not "assault" a police officer when he urinated on him at a railway station a month earlier. Jones claimed, instead, that he was "urinating in self-defense" in that the water supply had been "poisoned by the mafia." The magistrate explained that Jones' argument "is not realistically going to be a viable defense."

■ Inmate Kyle Richards filed a federal lawsuit in July against Michigan's prison system because of the no-pornography policy in effect for the Macomb County jail (a violation of Richards' "constitutional rights"). Other states permit such possession, claimed Richards, who further supported his case by reference to his own condition of "chronic masturbation syndrome," exacerbated by conditions behind bars. Additionally, Richards claimed to be indigent and therefore entitled to pornography at the government's expense -- to avoid a "poor standard of living" and "sexual and sensory deprivation."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1972 Munich Massacre: 9 Israel athletes taken hostage at the Munich Olympic Games by the Palestinian "Black September" terrorist group died (as did a German policeman) at the hands of the kidnappers during a failed rescue attempt. 2 other Israeli athletes are slain in the initial attack the previous day.

1976 Cold War: Soviet air force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate on the island of Hokkaidÿ in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.

1983 The Soviet Union admits to shooting down Korean Air Flight KAL-007, stating that the pilots did not know it was a civilian aircraft when it violated Soviet airspace.

1985 Midwest Express Airlines Flight 105, a Douglas DC-9 crashes just after takeoff from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, killing 31.

WORD UP!

beleaguer \bi-LEE-ger\ , verb;
1. to surround with troops; besiege
2. to surround or beset

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Beauty

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FULL TIME position as nanny sought M-F. Good References. Child Development certified, Marta 213-926-1315, mlhuezo@hotmail.com

Employment

Upscale assisted living facility is looking for FT/PT cooks and PT dishwasher to assist in the Dining Services Dept. Experience preferred. Must have clear criminal background and pre-employment drug screening required. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405

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$1,795.00

1825 Midvale Ave # 101
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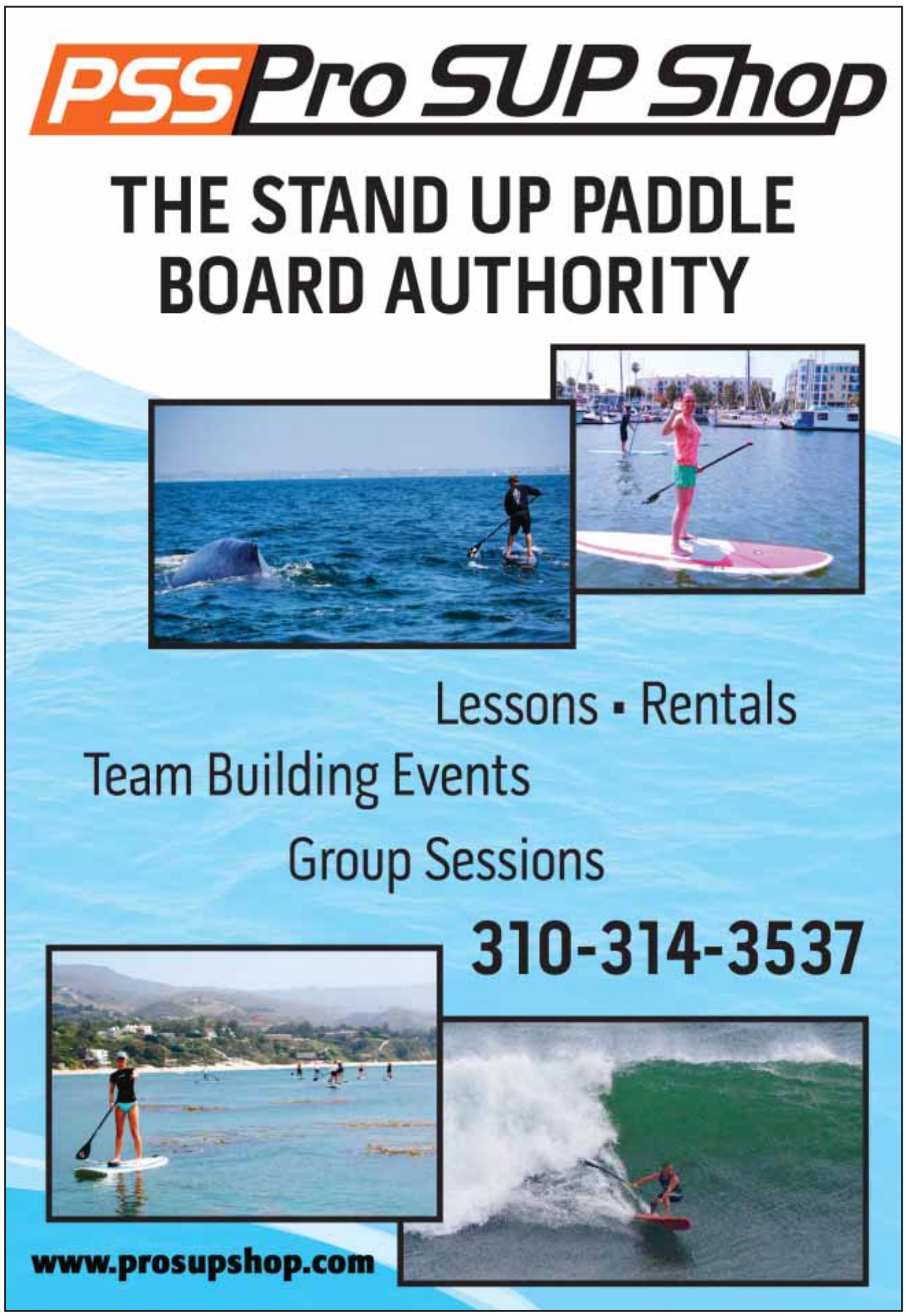

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Kate Bransfield

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1024 12th Street #3

Remodeled to the 9's!

Stunning Townhome

$1,189,000

Approximately 2000 square feet!



2 Bedrooms
2.5 Baths
Large Patio
Large Deck Off the Loft

Open Sunday, September 11th from 2 pm to 5 pm

436 & 440 Entrada Drive



3 Bedroom + 2 Bath
Over 10,000 Sq Ft Lot!
$1,195,000
Open Sunday Sept 11th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

1751 Appian Way

White Water Views



Unit 101	1 Bed	1.5 Bath	$4,999
Unit 202	2 Bed	2.5 Bath	$6,650
Unit 302	2 Bed	2.5 Bath	$6,600
Unit 303	2 Bed	2 Bath	$6,800
Unit 403	3 Bed	3 Bath	$19,000

519 California Ave #103



$859,000
2 Bedroom + 2 Bath
High Ceilings
Huge Yard
Feels Like a Home !
Open Sunday Sept 11th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

442 Mesa Road

For Lease
$5,500



Quintessential Canyon Home But Remodeled
2 Beds + 1 Bath
Large, Open Kitchen, Huge Deck
Glorious **Ocean Views** & Breezes
Entire Top Floor of Home
Open Sunday Sept 11th
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
(rent includes all utilities except phone & cable / satellite)

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of early September 2011

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,637,000	$1,649,000
North of Montana	=	$2,995,000	$1,047,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,295,000	$752,500
South of Wilshire	=	$787,000	$495,000
Sunset Park	=	$995,000	$449,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,374,000	$717,000

Statistics updated every Monday

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515 Ocean Avenue #605



$1,399,000
2 Bedroom
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Gorgeous Remodel!



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