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Santa Monica Daily Press
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 305



Santa Monica Daily Press

HOW TO SPOT FUNNY MONEY
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE FIGHT ON! ISSUE



Photo courtesy Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

HELPING OUT: **Santa Monica Police Officer Jacob Halloway poses for a picture with kids putting on a bake sale for the Save Our Schools campaign, a district-wide fundraising effort in 2010 that secured $1.58 million for local public schools.**

School fundraising changes get cold reception in Malibu

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU CITY HALL Emotions ran high in Malibu City Hall Thursday as parents argued both sides of a policy change for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District that could significantly impact which classes are offered in schools.

District-wide fundraising, as it's called, would prohibit Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) from raising money to pay for staff salaries and transfer that responsibility to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that distributes money equally across the district.

The goal is to even out per-pupil instructional spending at each of the school sites, which varies by a factor of 17 from the highest-spending elementary school to the lowest.

The result will be "mandated mediocrity" to the detriment of high-achieving, high-fundraising schools, parents against the change said.

Fundraising by PTAs in SMMUSD varies widely between school sites, in line with the socio-economic levels of the parents whose children attend each school.

That tends to mean that schools with more socio-economically disadvantaged students get less resources than wealthier schools and correspondingly fewer programs.

Less instructional opportunity exacerbates an already large gap in academic achievement between minority students and their white and Asian counterparts.

Right now, PTA dollars buy those opportunities, said Superintendent Sandra Lyon.

The highest spending school uses its money, raised by PTAs, to buy instructional aides, a reading teacher, a choral music program, a marine science program, multiple reading assistance programs and an art program.

The other has a music program from kindergarten through second grade, an art program from kindergarten through fifth grade, an hourly science teacher and one instructional assistant.

SEE FUNDS PAGE 7

Parents accuse special education teacher of abuse

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office is investigating allegations of neglect brought by parents and aides of special education students against a teacher at Juan Cabrillo Elementary.

Parents and classroom aides spoke before the Board of Education at its Thursday meeting at Malibu City Hall, alleging that a special education teacher in charge of mod-

SEE ALLEGATIONS PAGE 8

Homeless man blindsided by rock; in critical condition

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

WILSHIRE BLVD Santa Monica police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect wanted in connection with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Police said Friday the victim is in critical condition and may not survive after he was hit in the head with a rock while eating a hot dog at the corner of Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

SEE ASSAULT PAGE 9

Daylight Savings



Remember to turn BACK your clocks one hour on Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 a.m.


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011

Under the tree early
First Presbyterian Church
1220 Second St.,
9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Celebrate Christmas early this year at the annual Christmas bazaar at the church. Find goods ranging from China dishes and tablecloths to toys for the kids. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a bake sale will be held throughout the day. The cost for adults is $8 and children are $5. Come shop around and find knick-knacks and holiday gifts of all sorts. For more information call (310) 451-1303.

Dollars and sense
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m.
The California Society of CPAs will present a workshop on how to manage money better, improve savings and investment strategies, save on taxes and more. The workshop is free and includes a presentation and a Q&A session. For more information about this free public program, visit smpl.org or call (310) 458-8681.

Fall into fall
Little Chapel of the Dawn
1925 Arizona Ave., 3 p.m.
Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors will host its sixth annual Fall Concert, "Music and Memories." The Fall Concert is open to the public at no charge. Tickets are not required, however an R.S.V.P. is requested. The evening will feature songs and music performed by Helena Buscema and Gary Denk, sought after performers throughout Southern California. A spiritual message will be shared by The Rev. Lee Lasko, minister at Unity West Santa Monica. For more information, call (310) 395-9988.

Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011

Listen to Lynch
Santa Monica Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m.
Fans of irreverent comedy are welcome to come and join for a special afternoon with Emmy-winning actress Jane Lynch. Join Lynch, star of "Glee," for a book signing and discussion of her new autobiography "Happy Accidents." This event is free to the public but tickets are required. Free tickets will be released one hour prior to the event. Limit is one ticket per guest. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

History in the making
Casa Del Mar Hotel
1910 Ocean Way
The Santa Monica History Museum is proud to announce their Gala Tribute Dinner at the Casa Del Mar Hotel in Santa Monica. This event will benefit the museum, recognize honorees, and thank supporters of the museum. Tickets for the dinner are $150 each. Tables of eight or 10 may be reserved. This historical standing dates back to the early 1900s. For more information, contact Mary Pat at (310) 395-2290.

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



TV talent shows search for the next Justin Bieber

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES Hey, kids, are you falling short of your pop stardom dreams? With so many TV talent shows after you, there's scant excuse for reaching adolescence without a record deal.

Among the options is "The X Factor," Simon Cowell's extravaganza, with the door open to contestants age 12 and up. The finalists picked last week include more than a dozen solo and group singers under age 18 — but they face competition from wily adult contenders, including a 60-year-old.

"The Voice" (minimum age: 16) and "American Idol" (15) also pit the young against the old, or at least older, this being youth-obsessed television. "America's Got Talent" has a no-ages-barred policy.

There are, however, level playing fields for tender talent. The Hub channel's "Majors & Minors" is exclusively for aspiring pop stars from 10 to 16, while Disney Channel's "Next Big Thing" (aka "N.B.T.," also on Radio Disney), accepts those ages 13 to 17.

"Majors & Minors," airing 7 p.m. EST Sunday, tracks 12 youngsters through a season of work and competition with the help of pop singers including Brandy, Avril Lavigne, will.i.am and Jennifer Hudson. Colbie Caillat is this week's mentor, with Adam Lambert set for Nov. 13.

No contestant is eliminated but one "star-in-the-making," as the show puts it, gets a record and concert deal with the RCA-Jive Label Group. The winner will be picked in January by the show's producers, vocal coaches and others who work with the youngsters.

"I feel like some of the other shows that are pure competition shows are very dismissive," said executive producer Evan Bogart. "We think all 12 kids are very talented. ... For us, it's a shame to send them home after a week or two weeks. Let's give them the benefit of all they can learn."

Brandy, a child performer who starred as a teenager on TV's "Moesha," was attracted to "Majors & Minors" for that reason. She's a recurring mentor.

SEE KIDS PAGE 8



IN THE SPIRIT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Ed Broadfield adjusts his display of hand-blown ornaments on Friday during the Contemporary Crafts Market at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. The market is scheduled to run through Sunday.

Santa Monica-based Activision to post 3Q results

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Video game company Activision Blizzard Inc., which is based in Santa Monica, reports its third-quarter financial results Tuesday and is expected to give upbeat guidance for the crucial holiday shopping period that will include sales from its latest "Call of Duty" blockbuster.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Analysts will be more interested in the company's outlook for the holidays than on the quarter's results because video game companies make the bulk of their money during this time. "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3," the latest installment of Activision's most popular game series goes on sale the same day as the earnings report.

The popular shooter game has consistently broken sales records and it's likely to be no different this time around. Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter says it will "likely be the year's top-selling game." And, he adds that Activision's lineup for 2012 looks stronger than this year. That's in part because the company might release two "Call of Duty" games, not just the usual one. The company has not disclosed its plans for the game in 2012.

Activision also entered new territory with a game aimed at younger kids. "Skylanders: Spyro's Adventure" appears to be off to a "very strong start," Pachter said. The company may provide more information on how well the game is selling in its earnings report.

WHY IT MATTERS: Activision Blizzard publishes some of the world's best-known video games. Its games are a source of entertainment for millions of people, and as such can be a good gauge for consumer spending. But the industry is quickly transforming, as people are turning to free or cheaper games on mobile devices and social networks and buying fewer expensive video game discs that still account for a large chunk of Activision's business.

WHAT'S EXPECTED: Activision tends to give conservative guidance that it can later raise or beat. It said in August it expects adjusted earnings of a penny per share on revenue of $530 million.

Analysts, on average, are expecting adjusted earnings of 2 cents per share on revenue of $564.8 billion, according to a poll by FactSet.

For the full year, the company expects adjusted earnings of 77 cents per share and adjusted revenue of $4.05 billion. On this basis, analysts are expecting earnings of 79 cents per share on revenue of $4.12 billion.

LAST YEAR'S QUARTER: For the three months ended Sept. 30, 2010, Activision earned $51 million, or 4 cents per share, on revenue of $745 million.

Adjusted earnings were 12 cents per share. After adjustments to account for deferred revenue and costs related to games with online components, revenue was $857 million.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Craving a human touch

Editor:

I am writing to express my chagrin that the city of Santa Monica has allowed the contractor who operates the parking structures to automate them with machines without realizing the human toll this would take. I learned from employees in one of the structures that many other employees were fired when the machines went into operation because they were replaced by the machines.

Regardless of the financial challenges of the time, City Hall should not be a co-conspirator in a labor action that leads to the loss of jobs as a result, without open consideration of the situation and a look at alternatives. As a resident of the city, this makes me complicit because I elect members of the City Council to represent me and the council has allowed this to happen.

I recommend that staff be requested to make it a priority to safeguard existing jobs of those who work for any entity with which City Hall has a contractual or business relationship and that any potential action that could result in loss of jobs must be considered in open, publicized hearings, with council action thereafter.

Further, staff should look into how the machine at the entry of the parking structure on Fourth Street, between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard, ran out of tickets on a recent Sunday at 2:19 p.m. To enter, I had to give my name to someone speaking to me on the intercom, who told me that on leaving, I should push the assistance button and I will be told if there are any charges, then allowed to leave. I did precisely the latter: pressed the button, again and again, and no one responded. I had to change lanes three times, a most risky act. No response. Finally, I called the police who sent an officer to help me leave. This is outrageous. I spent almost 30 minutes as a helpless prisoner who could not leave the structure.

The council needs to act to reverse the current process and require action that returns the human staff to the parking structures to better serve us. And please, make it a requirement that the contractor give dismissed employees first crack at their old jobs.

Dolores Sloan
Santa Monica

Leave the politics to Washington

Editor:

Regarding [Thursday] night's Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education meeting on district-wide fundraising, I'd like to dispel some myths about the Education Foundation since I have been one of their many volunteers over the years.

The Ed Foundation raises funds for all students at all schools and they make no policy decisions. The misconception that this district-wide fundraising idea came from the Ed Foundation detracts from the larger issue of the educational inequities in our schools. Someone pointed out that the foundation raises only $400,000 a year, but this speaker obviously doesn't know about the foundations' $2 million arts endowment and $1 million academic endowment they've raised. And let's not forget about the $1.7 million 60-day fundraiser (Save Our Schools) that the community rallied behind two summers ago to save teachers and librarians after the state budget cuts. One speaker also mentioned 21 percent in administrative expenses, which really got me laughing — it is 7 percent.

We all love our children and want the best for them. We are a unified school district with richly diverse schools, all with different needs, so let's focus on our schools and leave the politics to Washington.

Yolanda Lewis
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

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• **editor@smdp.com**

On the Beat

NRO Roberto Lucio — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Funny money is no laughing matter

Q: I RECENTLY READ AN ARTICLE IN THE paper about people passing counterfeit bills. Is this a common occurrence? Is this something I should look out for?

A: Recently, areas in Los Angeles County have been targeted by an individual passing counterfeit $100 bills at local retail establishments.

In all of the incidents the suspect enters the business and selects small dollar items for purchase. He then engages the clerk in conversation while handing them a $100 bill to pay for the items. Distracting the clerk with conversation, prevents the attendants from examining the bills, which if done would reveal that they have been washed and reprinted as $100 bills.

This technique in which counterfeiters take genuine $5 bills and wash them to reprint them as $100 bills, is commonly done because of its ability to pass widely used counterfeit pen detection techniques. By using a genuine bill to reprint on, the counterfeit will not be detected by pen devices because of their ability to detect counterfeit paper only.

The Santa Monica Police Department would like to remind businesses to be on the lookout for counterfeit bills by combining ultraviolet detection techniques and education in the recognition of counterfeit currency for their employees. Business owners can receive free training for their employees on how to detect and what to do when faced with counterfeit currency by contacting the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at (310) 458-8474 or by calling your NRO. You can find out which NRO works your area by visiting the SMPD's website at www.santamonicapd.org/nro.

To make an incident report, call the SMDP at (310)458-8491 (24 hours.) You can also provide information anonymously through "Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website lacrimestoppers.org.

Q: Several months ago, I read a column that contained traffic safety tips for pedestrians. Just the other day I read about a horrible hit-and-run. Would it be possible to share some tips again so I can pass them on to my kids?

A: Walking is a part of our daily lives, but we often take for granted the basic rules of the road we learned when we were much younger. Here is a refresher on pedestrian safety that can keep you and your loved ones safe. Share this with your friends, co-workers, family and especially your children.

CROSSING ROADS

• Always cross at intersections and never from mid-block or from in between two parked cars. Drivers can't see you and definitely are not expecting you.

• Stop, look and listen before crossing, looking right and left over your shoulder for both cars and bicycles.

• Use the pedestrian push button at signal-controlled intersections, and cross only on a green light or when the "WALK" sign is activated. The walk sign may change, but the light is timed to give you enough time to continue safely before opposing traffic approaches.

• Keep moving once you have started across the street and never stop in the middle of a crosswalk. If the flashing "DON'T WALK" or yellow caution light appears, continue walking as rapidly as possible to the other side.

AWARENESS

• Be a defensive walker and watch where you are going. Always expect the unexpected!

• Make eye contact with drivers and don't step out into the street until cars have yielded to you.

• Don't try to assert your right of way with a fast-moving vehicle. Make sure you allow vehicles enough time to stop before moving in front of them.

• Be alert and aware of traffic, even in painted crosswalks. Remember, painted crosswalks cannot stop a moving vehicle.

VISIBILITY

• Make yourself visible to drivers and be predictable by always crossing roads in a straight line.

• Use extra care when crossing with children as drivers may not be able to see a little one. Be sure to hold their hand while crossing.

• Cross with a group of other pedestrians whenever possible. A large number of people walking together are more visible to motorists than a single pedestrian.

• If you must go out at night or in bad weather, wear or carry something white or reflective, or use a flashlight so drivers can see you easily.

If you would like more information on pedestrian safety, please visit the SMPD's website or use this link for a public safety announcement: http://santamonicapd.org/Content.aspx?id=2539.

As with any safety measures or advice, please feel free to contact your neighborhood resource officer directly for more information. Your NROs are well versed in public safety and are more than willing to provide presentations to workplaces, block groups or community organizations, business professional groups, and especially school classroom settings.

This column was prepared by **NRO ROBERTO LUCIO** (Beat 6: Montana Avenue to Interstate 10, Centinela Avenue to 20th Street). He can be reached at (424) 200-0686 or roberto.lucio@smgov.net.

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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.

The Q Line

Dogs on the sand

Last week, the City Council voted to explore a pilot program that would allow dogs and their human companions to play on the beach.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Would you use the beach dog park if it is created, or is it a bad idea?

Here are your responses:

"EACH DOG OWNER THINKS THEIR DOG is special. Just like every parent thinks their child is special. So when the dog does the poop, they are very involved often on the size and the shape and the liquidity, and that's because it's their dog, their dog is special. It's fun to break the rules. Part of being an adult is your ability to break rules as you see fit. There is something much deeper with these people who walk their dogs and let them crap in the beach in the morning on the bike path, on the pedestrian side, and the people who let their dogs free early in the morning because they know they won't get caught. It's a laissez-faire faire, if there's anywhere in the world where you can do whatever you freaking want and get away with it is Venice, Calif. You will not find enforcement in Venice, Calif. on anything. And that's just the way it is. But the dog excrement stuck on the bike path, where the tourists bring millions of dollars, no one cleans those bridges that connect over the freeway to the beach in Santa Monica and Venice. No one cleans them, they are filthy. Same with the bike path. You'll see the random person pushing sand with a big thing, but it is the most filthy thing and mostly it's all dog stuff stuck from years and years, from each day, each day. I'm telling you they already have a dog beach."

"I'M FOR A DOG PARK ON THE BEACH. It should be a fenced off area for people with dogs so they can run around in the sand and have fun. I'm all for it. Santa Monica City Council should move to create a dog beach."

"I WOULD USE THE DOG BEACH WITH MY dog Jacob. We love Santa Monica and would love to see a park at the beach for us."

"I WOULD USE THE DOG BEACH AND SO would most dog people and they would enjoy it so much and think it's a wonderful idea. And thank you again to our City Council for moving this forward."

"I THINK IT'S A TERRIBLE IDEA. WE ALREADY have enough pollution going on in the ocean here in Santa Monica. I sure hope they don't do it because it's going to pollute more and we don't need any more dogs running around here."

"YES, STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE DOG beach pilot program."

"GOSH, WHAT A STUPID IDEA, BUT OF course what would you expect from people who never enjoy the beach. Yet again, City Hall morons united with feel-my-warmth dog owners want to subtract from the rest of us the one natural hallmark left to Santa Monica — the beach. If anything defines the corrupt existence of Heal the Bay it is their acceptance of a urine-soaked beach dog park. Here's to the carpetbagging outsiders who love their pooches more than Santa Monica and support this hideous encroachment of canine bio-relief. City Hall has yet again supported another splinter group like bicyclists, green power, light rail, hatred of plastic bags and has divided us as a community by introducing another socialist idea. Sit Lassie, take from taxpayer Lassie, see if you can get Benji, Cujo, Rin Tin Tin, and Blackie to bark acceptance of another dumb idea."

"I THINK IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA to have a dog beach. Years ago when I had my Rhodesian ridgeback Chaka, I'd get so frustrated because before in Carmel, Calif. one could walk one's dog all over the beach."

"I THINK A DOG BEACH IS A GREAT IDEA. I am a shark, and I get bored eating fish, sea lions and an occasional surfer. Dog will be a nice change."

"I FEEL LIKE IT IS A GREAT IDEA. WE WHO have dogs will not have to drive so far to find a place to let dogs off leash. Contrary to beliefs out there, dogs function better socially the more you allow them off leash. All the dog parks I go to are clean because there are shovels provided or owners pick up [their] dog's mess. Those who complain that there be dog messes on the beach have never been to a dog park. I find more mess on the streets than I do at the parks where dogs run free. I don't believe people who have babies with diapers are more responsible than people who have dogs."

"I WOULD ABSOLUTELY USE THE BEACH dog park if it was created, and applaud the efforts of the city of Santa Monica for making it happen! Other dog beaches along the coast have proven that the primary concerns about the possible impacts on water quality or misbehavior of the park participants are basically unfounded. It seems terribly unfair to prohibit such a significant portion of our community (dog owners) from enjoying a public resource for no apparent logical or scientific reason. I think it borders on discrimination."

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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
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4:00-5:00pm	(1st and 3rd Tuesday/Month): Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, fraud, personal injury and employment law.
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5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields at the Novel Café located at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica, 90405.
THURSDAY	
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Emotions high after Occupy protesters close port

JASON DEAREN
LISA LEFF
Associated Press

OAKLAND Emotions ran high as Occupy Wall Street supporters and public officials dealt with the aftermath of protests that shut down the nation's fifth-busiest port before spiraling into chaos near the movement's downtown encampment.

Dozens of people who participated in the massive demonstrations Wednesday returned a day later to help clean up after a night of violence by what they characterized as a rogue band of troublemakers.

A group identifying itself as the movement's media committee released a statement Thursday expressing regret that their day of peaceful protests was marred by an "autonomous" group that broke windows and marked scores of buildings with graffiti. Later, hundreds of people attended an unruly City Council meeting as the board considered a resolution that would sanction a long-term protest camp at the plaza across from City Hall.

Varucha Peller, who identified herself as a member of Occupy Oakland's media committee, said at an afternoon news conference she thought the protests that drew 7,000 people to the streets and shut down the Port of Oakland had been a huge success. The media were wrong to focus on the rampant vandalism and spasms of violence that led to more than 100 arrests, she said.

"That's extremely irrelevant. What's relevant is there has been no general strike in the United States since 1946 and yesterday there was tens of thousands of people in the street, taking over banks, using a diversity of tactics and in many ways shutting down the city. We had tons of unions and workers come out," Peller said.

Things got testy, however, when another member of the media committee, Shake Anderson, said participants in the encampment outside City Hall had called the mayor's office early Thursday to disavow the people who were causing damage.

Peller interrupted him, saying that Occupy Oakland had not cooperated with the mayor. "If individuals called the mayor's office they do not represent Occupy Oakland."

She added, "Occupy Oakland has a policy that has been passed through the General Assembly that we do not negotiate with politicians and we do not involve political parties."

During the first few hours of the special meeting of City Council, many of the more than 100 people awaiting an opportunity to speak urged the panel to vote in favor of Councilmember Nancy Nadel's resolution that would support the camp.

Some in the crowd jeered when interim police chief Howard Jordan said his officers used "great restraint" during the protests. The council did not vote on the measure.

A night earlier, police in riot gear arrested dozens of protesters after bands of masked demonstrators took over a vacant building, erected roadblocks and threw chunks of concrete and firebombs. Five people and several officers were injured. Oakland officials said 103 people had been arrested by Thursday afternoon.

Hours before the group of what city leaders called "provocateurs" clashed with authorities, setting fires, spraying graffiti and shattering windows early Thursday, the demonstrations in the city had gone smoothly.

The far-flung movement challenging the world's economic systems and distribution of wealth has gained momentum in recent weeks, with Oakland becoming a rallying point after an Iraq War veteran was injured in clashes with police last week.

The 3,000-person protest outside the port Wednesday night represented an escalation in tactics as demonstrators targeted a major symbol of the nation's commerce with peaceful rallies and sit-ins, managing to effectively suspend maritime operations there for the night.

An accounting of the financial toll from the port shutdown was not immediately available.

A protest organizer in Chicago, Joshua Kaunert, said the shutdown was an "amazing" event for the movement, but he didn't want to speculate on what effect the violence would have. He said the lack of a formal leadership structure — and the emphasis on what he called a "true, direct democracy" — makes it difficult to weed out potential troublemakers.

"As a movement, it is definitely hard to keep that kind of element away, but that's a double-edged sword," Kaunert said. "If you want true, direct democracy, you're going to have issues, regardless."

In Denver, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore told Occupy supporters to be mindful of people trying to incite violence within the movement, saying they could be working undercover for the government.

Moore, who has been visiting Occupy protests in several cities, said governments have a long history of infiltrating protest movements.

"They want to ignite something to give them a reason to act violently against you," he said. "If you see somebody who says they're a member of this group trying to behave in a violent manner, you must surround that person with love and stop them."

Bob Norkus at the Occupy Boston camp said the riots didn't represent the broader movement and likely wouldn't have a lasting effect on it, either. The movement is still evolving and mistakes are inevitable, he said.

It "has to be nonviolent, or else it will just end. We won't get the support," he said. "It doesn't mean you can't agitate people. But you can't also be breaking windows and burning."





Photo courtesy Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

PAY TO PLAY: **Students with the Santa Monica High School Jazz Band perform last year for the Save Our Schools campaign, a 60-day fundraising effort to combat budget cuts from the state.**

FUNDS
FROM PAGE 1

"From where I sit, from the balcony view, looking at the district as a unified school district, using PTA to pay for staff is fraught with difficulties," Lyon said. "Ultimately, it creates a climate in which instruction and instructional experiences can be different from one school to the next."

From the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., each student should get the same chance for a quality education as any other in the district, Lyon said.

The district staff proposes to accomplish that by empowering the Education Foundation to pay for all programs, salaries and professional development, while continuing to allow PTAs to pay for "stuff," like field trips or supplies.

The foundation would raise money from parents and corporate donors, and then distribute the money throughout the district.

School sites could choose how to spend that money in order to preserve autonomy of the schools, Lyon said.

"This is not a lock-step approach of getting everybody a counselor," Lyon said. "It allows for flexibility and individuality."

The Education Foundation, led by Executive Director Linda Gross, recently reorganized to prepare itself for the new role, should the Board of Education approve the move at the end of November.

The foundation is ready to take on the responsibility, Gross said.

"I know that our foundation has always been about raising money for all schools in the district, regardless of the politics over the last 30 years," Gross said. "We don't pick and choose. We fund programs throughout all schools in the district."

If approved, the superintendent would convene an advisory group of stakeholders like parents, PTA leadership and members of the Education Foundation to help shape the details of the policy.

The policy would then be phased in over the course of two years, with full implementation expected in 2013.

Similar policies have been pursued with success in other districts, most notably Palo Alto and Manhattan Beach.

Both districts adopted the new scheme to fix inequalities between schools and, several years later, the foundations in those districts raise more money than entered the district previously, Lyon said.

Just because it worked there, doesn't mean it will work here, parents warned.

Malibu City Hall was full of audience members, the majority against any change in fundraising. They promised that if the board chose to pursue such a policy, major decreases in fundraising would result.

It's already happened, said Kim Bonewitz, co-president of the Juan Cabrillo Elementary PTA.

Juan Cabrillo already raised 50 percent of its goal for the year, but contributions have stopped.

"We have had a halt in fundraising as news of this plan has spread," Bonewitz said.

Many also spoke of feeling disenfranchised by the process, which included no community input or PTA involvement.

"You have insufficient information before you to make intelligent policy," said Michael Sidley, the father of two Malibu High School students. "Before you make any decision, you should fully and completely evaluate what's going to happen and how it's going to happen. The group to flesh this out should happen before it's adopted, rather than after."

Parents who spoke for the change called it an act of social justice.

"Private fundraising should not create inequities for our children," said Rochelle Fanali. "It's unfair, morally wrong and quite old-fashioned."

A truncated board took over the discussion in front of a much-diminished crowd, which dispersed after the end of public comment.

Board member Ralph Mechur recused himself because of a personal relationship with a member of the Education Foundation, and Vice President Ben Allen was acting as a delegate in the Philippines.

Board members agreed that equity for all students was the appropriate goal, but that the strategy to achieve it had to be done right the first time.

"If you're going to do this, you're going to do it right," said Board member Nimish Patel. "Failure is not an option."

If the gap was two-to-one, such a drastic overhaul might not be needed, said Board President Jose Escarce, but the huge disparity between the schools needs to be addressed.

"We have little choice but to worry about equity if we're going to do our job well and we're going to do it responsibly," Escarce said.

A similar discussion will take place at the board's Nov. 17 meeting, when the Santa Monica community gets a chance to support or oppose the change.

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ALLEGATIONS
FROM PAGE 1

erate to severely disabled children left her students unattended and improperly restrained them.

Parents were alerted to the alleged acts on Oct. 22 by classroom aides, said parent Christina Ficeto in her presentation to the board.

Since, parents met with district personnel on Oct. 28, but left unsatisfied after being told that an incident had been investigated, and no wrongdoing had been found.

The parents contacted the sheriff's office, and deputies have already taken statements from both parents and aides.

Parents have also retained legal counsel, Ficeto said.

The investigation into the alleged child neglect is being handled by the Los Angeles County Special Victims Bureau, said Sgt. Michael Holland of the Malibu/Lost Hills Station.

Many of the alleged victims cannot speak, and investigators have to rely on witnesses and physical evidence like bruising, Holland said.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District staff and administrators are cooperating fully with the investigation, Superintendent Sandra Lyon told the Board of Education at its Thursday meeting.

The district would not comment further, Lyon said, because personnel issues are confidential.

Ficeto challenged the Board of Education to deal with the issue because other school personnel had not witnessed the alleged abuses.

District personnel had similarly not witnessed Thomas Beltran's crimes, she said.

Beltran, a former teacher at Lincoln Middle School, pleaded guilty to multiple counts of sexual molestation involving nine female students in December 2008.

Beltran was arrested that spring, but evidence suggested the district had received at least one complaint about Beltran's behavior toward girls before a student went to the police department in 2008.

He was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

"Those girls are serving life sentences of shame, of guilt, of nightmares, of distrust, of fear, of dignity, of innocence robbed from them," Ficeto said.

The revelation about Beltran led the Board of Education to require an annual report documenting the number of child abuse reports made by school personnel, and which of those complaints involved employees.

According to that report, released in the Oct. 20 meeting agenda, district employees reported 95 suspected instances of abuse, categorized as sexual abuse, physical abuse, general neglect and emotional abuse.

In the 2010-11 school year, employees reported 13 cases of sexual abuse, 54 of physical abuse, eight of general neglect and 20 emotional abuse cases.

All employees are mandated reporters, meaning they have a legal responsibility to report even the suspicion of abuse to authorities.

Teachers, doctors, safety officers and others all fall into the category of "mandated reporter." It can be a misdemeanor for such a person to recognize abuse and not report it.

Chris Perkins, the project manager for a grant that funds mandatedreporterca.org, a free training program for mandated reporters, said that the most important element is to get past the fear of reporting.

"We emphasize that if you have suspicion of child abuse, go ahead and report it," Perkins said. "After that the actual research and an investigation happens. As long as you have a legitimate suspicion of abuse, report it. Even if it becomes unfounded, at least people are looking for these sorts of things."

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KIDS
FROM PAGE 3

"I started very young and always wished I could get in touch with famous people that inspired me and already experienced things I hadn't and I wanted to know about," she said. "I thought it would be great to be a part of these young artists' lives and give back to them what I've learned in the industry."

The 32-year-old also is struck by the generational difference. "The talent is insane now," Brandy said, and has a wealth of ways to get attention.

"There were fewer opportunities when I was coming up. There wasn't 'American Idol' or 'Majors & Minors.' 'Star Search' was the only show out there. You had to grind and grind to be discovered," she said.

Talent and the ability to handle the show's challenges were key in choosing the contestants, Bogart said. And there was another important element.

"I wasn't going to cast anyone who was overtrained. I didn't want to spend three weeks 'de-learning' anybody," he said, adding, "We saw plenty of 'pageantry' kids, those who were told every step to take for every note."

Instead, he wanted youngsters who "were primed for someone like myself to step in and say, 'I know what you're going through and I want to help you,'" said Bogart, a songwriter (including Rihanna's "S.O.S.") and music executive.

"N.B.T." takes a more traditional approach, with its compact field of five contestants gradually whittled down by viewer voting over 10 weeks. The winner will be announced during a Dec. 7 live concert.

The contest, with episodes debuting Fridays, offers a "great way to showcase brand-new talent and expose them to our audience, who's looking for other artists to relate to and get excited about," said Kelly Edwards, Radio Disney's executive director of music and programming.

"N.B.T." launched on Radio Disney four years ago and branched out to TV in its second year. It gives singers a potential entry point to the Disney apparatus that has successfully marketed young sensations including the Jonas Brothers, Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez.

Edwards spots contenders in clubs, online, through video submissions from kids or their families and with the help of talent representatives.

"I joke that I'm like a 12-year-old," Edwards said, with her radar always on for new performers who will appeal to preteens and teenagers. "I found some of my favorite artists looking on YouTube, some of them kids who are not looking to be discovered but are expressing themselves online."

The winner gets Disney concert exposure — season two winner Jasmine Sagginario opened for Justin Bieber — and a shot at recording. But, as with other talent contests, it's not all about being No. 1. Season three finalist Coco Jones is co-starring in a 2012 Disney Channel movie, "Let It Shine."

Contestants who "resonate with the audience and who have the talent and skills" can find opportunities at the Walt Disney Co., Edwards said.

Grown-ups need not apply.



SCHIZO WEATHER

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Rain clouds hover above Santa Monica on Friday, bringing with them light showers. Just Wednesday temperatures in Santa Monica reached 80 degrees.

ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

The suspect is described as a male, unknown race, 40 to 50 years of age, around 5 feet, 5 inches tall, with a thin build.

The assault occurred on Oct. 28 "in broad daylight" near a 7-Eleven convenience store, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

"The victim was sitting at a bus stop enjoying a hot dog with a soda between his legs when this guy comes up from behind him and for no particular reason hit him on the right side of his head, essentially crushing his skull," Lewis said.

The force of the blow caused the victim, who is homeless, to fall to the ground. He did mange to look up and see the suspect, who he believes is homeless as well. He saw the suspect walk westbound on Wilshire Boulevard with a large rock or stone in his hand. The victim was able to call 911 and report the crime.

He sustained major injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Anyone with information is urged to contact detectives at (310) 458-8937, Sgt. Ira Rutan at (310) 458-8959 or the SMDP (24 hours) at (310) 458-8495.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can call the We-Tip hotline at -800-78-CRIME (1-800-78-27463), or submit the tip online at www.wetip.com.Callers can also contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS, texting from a mobile phone, or by visiting their website at www.lacrimestoppers.org.

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Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

AL DENTE: **The chicken scallopini at Earth Wind Flour is satisfying and affordable.**

Earth Wind and Flour a shining star

IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO THAT DENNIS Klempner and his business partners were sitting around a table banging their heads together trying to figure out a name for their new restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard. Through the ordeal, a song by Earth Wind and Fire came on the radio, the proverbial light bulb flickered on, and Earth Wind and Flour was born. Pizzas and pastas being the featured items on the menu, flour is indeed the foundation to this Santa Monica staple.

Dennis gained an affinity for Italian food from his upbringing. Surprisingly enough, origins of the Klempner name are not Calabrese, Neapolitan, nor Florentine. Dennis is not from "the old country," but when he was 15 he learned a thing or two while working at an Italian restaurant in the San Fernando Valley called the Pizza Peddler. Fast forward to today, and you will find Earth Wind and Flour loaded with Italian-American offerings.

Besides the obligatory pizza and pasta specialties, Earth Wind and Flour also has a variety of sandwiches, salads and burgers. They also have a full service bar adjacent to the dining area, and advertise $5 frou-frou martinis as well as your standard selection of beers. The pizza is made "Boston style," which can probably be best described as a cross between New York thin crust and a Chicago style deep dish. It is baked in a pan, so the outside crust rises high, but the middle is not quite as thick. I will be very inclined to give it a shot next time around.

Going with one of the pasta specialties, I indecisively felt like I was picking out of a hat. From pasta primavera, to lasagna, to eggplant parmesan, I randomly selected the chicken scallopini. The chicken was tender and covered with plenty of garlic, capers, and thin lemon slices. It was served with lightly steamed veggies, all on a bed of linguine, which was plain but al dente. Accompanied by a basket of warm sourdough rolls that I drowned in a dish of olive oil, the meal was satisfying and reasonably priced. Individual pasta plates range from $9.99-$13.99 and family-style portions that serve two and three, are $15.99-$18.99.



KLEMPNER

With saw dust on the ground, hundreds of playing cards stuck to the ceiling, and floral paintings that looked like they were purchased at the Holiday Day Inn garage sale, the decor is indeed an amalgamation of funky furnishings. Like Lady Gaga, this restaurant was born this way. All the more reason to come as you are. Plus, every Sunday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. is magic night with Johnny Ace Palmer (which explains the playing cards stuck to the ceiling).

That is a prime example of why you should explore the neighborhood and seek out something never before experienced. You just might like what you discover. Start with a super casual scene, add some interesting art, fine pizza and pasta, and sprinkle in some Sunday night magic, and you will have yourself the best named restaurant in Santa Monica — Earth Wind and Flour.

If You Go

Earth Wind and Flour
2222 Wilshire Blvd.
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MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike. To reach him visit his Twitter at twitter.com/greaseweek or his website at tourdefeast.net

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Calling all food bloggers

BY MONA DAY
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The third International Food Blogger Conference is scheduled for Nov. 11-13 at the DoubleTree Hilton Suites in Santa Monica.

The three-day event will feature seminars, workshops and keynotes, with Australian chef and cookbook author Michael Moore sharing the keynote honors with our very own local Pulitzer-Prize winning L.A. Weekly food columnist Jonathan Gold.

According to blog search engine Technorati, over 15,000 food blogs are currently online, and the number is growing. Over 140 of these bloggers from 20 states are expected to attend.

The conference, which previously met in Seattle and New Orleans, will enable this audience interested in food, writing and technology to exchange ideas and further spur the growth and professionalism of the online food community.

Asked why he chose Santa Monica as the conference location, Allan Wright, co-organizer and owner of Zephyr Adventures explained, "With a vibrant culinary scene that offers everything from sushi to taco trucks, Pacific-rim to vegan … Santa Monica offers the best of the best from Southern California."

The conference kicks off Friday with a session dubbed "Blogging Your Values" that digs into the motivation behind blogging, which can range from writing for charity to writing for self promotion and product endorsements. A hot issue on Twitter, the notion of right and wrong can be quite divisive in the blogging community. For example, some don't believe in monetizing and simply want to blog out of passion for writing, food, or simply being of service to others. Others love blogging and view it as a means to make a living — a natural next step to pursuing a hobby. Examination of the many interesting angles can help you chart a course for yourself.

The session "Food Styling & Photography" offers practical tips of how to make the most of the camera and equipment you have to take high quality photos in a range of ways using point and shoot cameras to DSLRs. Successful food photographers will share what they know about creating beautiful photos, from picture composition to equipment to optimizing your setting.

Kicking off Saturday, "Recipe Writing and Development" comes in a written word option as well as a video option and includes the process of recipe concept, its development, testing and finalization.

Since food is central to traditions, holidays, socializing, and families, the session "Writing about Food and Culture" discusses how food varies across cultures and families and how these differences and similarities affect our relationships to eating, cooking, and writing about food.

In the session "Pitching Blog to Book and Magazine," cookbook and magazine editors share what they are looking for in a proposal, why they would read beyond the first paragraph, and what drives them to buy or not buy titles. They'll highlight emerging trends, how you can find the best ideas to pitch them, how to stand out amongst the many, as well as how leading bloggers landed their book deals.

"Marketing Your Brand" will show you how to maximize your marketing and branding efforts and explore the business potential of your writing career. "Building Profitable Relationships through Public Relations" rounds out the Saturday offerings.

Sunday opens with "Eating on a Budget." Many food bloggers feel compelled to try all the latest products and prepare a slew of different and expensive dinners. Savvy, budget-conscious bloggers show how they mastered clipping coupons and embracing canning, preserving, and buying in bulk. The message they offer is keep blogging, do more, and don't break your bank account.

Are you a niche blogger: Gluten-free? Vegan? Vegetarian? Is someone you love on a specialized diet? The exclusion of one food type can be a path to discovery, so niche food blogs should focus not on the what's been eliminated, but expand on the resulting discoveries. For example, removing gluten may force you to explore new grains. Limiting animal products could allow you to explore unique vegetables you might not have tried otherwise. Leading bloggers doing niche food blogging discuss their diets, the best ways to write about them, and what it means to eat differently.

For more information or to register, visit www.foodista.com. The fee is $350 for all participants.

news@smdp.com

Sweeten up mashed taters with some braised fennel

ALISON LADMAN
For The Associated Press

Braising fresh fennel and onions in chicken broth is an excellent way of taming these otherwise assertive vegetables. The result is a tender compote-like blend that has mellow, savory sweetness. It pairs perfectly — in both texture and taste — with creamy mashed potatoes.

Want to get a jump on things the day ahead? Braise the fennel and onions as directed, then refrigerate them (in the pan) until ready to cook the potatoes. Gently reheat the fennel mixture on the stovetop, then add to the cooked potatoes as directed.

BRAISED FENNEL MASHED POTATOES

Start to finish: 1 hour
Servings: 12
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, divided
3 fennel bulbs, white parts only, thinly sliced
1 medium sweet onion, sliced
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
5 pounds potatoes, peeled and quartered
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 cup sour cream
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

In a large deep skillet over medium-high heat, melt half of the butter. Add the fennel and the onion, then saute until just beginning to brown, about 4 to 5 minutes. Pour in the chicken broth and bring up to a boil. Reduce to a gentle simmer and cover. Cook for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the fennel is very tender. Meanwhile, place the potatoes in a large pot and fill with enough water to cover. Cover the pot and bring to a boil. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork. Drain, then return the potatoes to the pot.

Add the braised fennel along with its cooking liquid to the potatoes. Add the cream, sour cream and remaining butter, then mash until chunky-smooth. Season with salt and pepper.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 310 calories; 130 calories from fat (43 percent of total calories); 15 g fat (9 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 40 mg cholesterol; 40 g carbohydrate; 5 g protein; 5 g fiber; 65 mg sodium.





The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Quality, tradition trademarks of Pacific Dining Car



Photo courtesy John Blanchette

WHERE'S THE BEEF? **The Pacific Dining Car has been serving up aged steaks in Santa Monica for over 20 years and offers classic decor for diners.**

USUALLY, I WRITE REVIEWS OF RESTAURANTS I know fairly well. Before I put thoughts on paper though, I check out the restaurant one more time to see if anything has changed recently. Just before I send my review in to my editor, I look at reviews on the Internet to make sure that my overall impression is not drastically different from others.

I was surprised at the divergence of opinions in the restaurant reviews on Santa Monica's Pacific Dining Car.

There is one attribute that everyone can agree upon with respect to this restaurant, but maybe only one. It is open 24/7. It's the only nice restaurant I know that has those hours, and it's a wonderful thing.

With respect to the food, wine, service and prices, however, there is great controversy. There are a lot of reviews that slam the restaurant, and then there are a lot of reviews that praise it — but not many in the middle.

The original Pacific Dining Car opened in 1921, which says something favorable about the concept. The Santa Monica offshoot opened in 1990, which also gives it credentials. A restaurant that can last in Santa Monica for more than 20 years must have something good to offer other than just convenient hours.

And that has been my experience. Most of the famous steak houses are in Beverly Hills — Mastro's, Ruth's Chris, Wolfgang's, etc. But other than the Boa steakhouse on Ocean Avenue, and perhaps The Galley on Main Street, not too much comes to mind when you are salivating for a good, aged steak. But I've always found the steaks at Pacific Dining Car to be up with the best of them. And the range of cuts and sauces available is better than in many steak specialty restaurants.

In fact, the range of food on the menu is very wide, and I've seen some good seafood come out of the kitchen. But for me this is a place to go for a late-night steak, and maybe a baked potato with butter and sour cream on the side.

Another thing I like about this restaurant is the excellent web presence. There you'll find a great history of the restaurant. Also, you can see the menu, although not everything listed on the web is always available. And, a few items of interest are missing, such as the prices. And there is no wine list on the site, just text about how great the wine list is. Several wine reviewers of note have agreed. Personally, I have never had a problem finding a reasonably-priced wine from the list, and I know that the restaurant is serious about providing a broad choice of wines, including a lot of very expensive selections.

The décor is just to my taste for a steak house. What should we call it — Los Angeles past? And I like the fact that the restaurant is broken up into several rooms, since it keeps the noise level down.

But what about those prices? Well, prime, aged beef is expensive, and I don't see the prices here to be above those in the great steakhouses of Beverly Hills. It's pretty hard to get out of any nice steakhouse today for less than $50 a person, and that's not going to be the end of it, if you like a really good bottle of Cabernet with your steak as I do.

And, what about all those complaints on the web about the service and the imperfectly cooked steaks? When I read as many complaints as I see on the Internet I have to think that, as my dad used to say, "Where there's smoke there's fire!" With as many specific complaints as one sees in the reviews it seems clear that consistency is not the prime quality of this restaurant, and that's something that they need to work on.

That said, I've eaten there many times, and my experiences have been favorable. My steak has always been cooked as ordered, and the service has always been up to par. With these hours, you will have no problem finding a convenient time to try it yourself, and I will be interested in your feedback.

If You Go

The Pacific Dining Car
2700 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica
90403
(310) 453-4000
www.pacificdiningcar.com/

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

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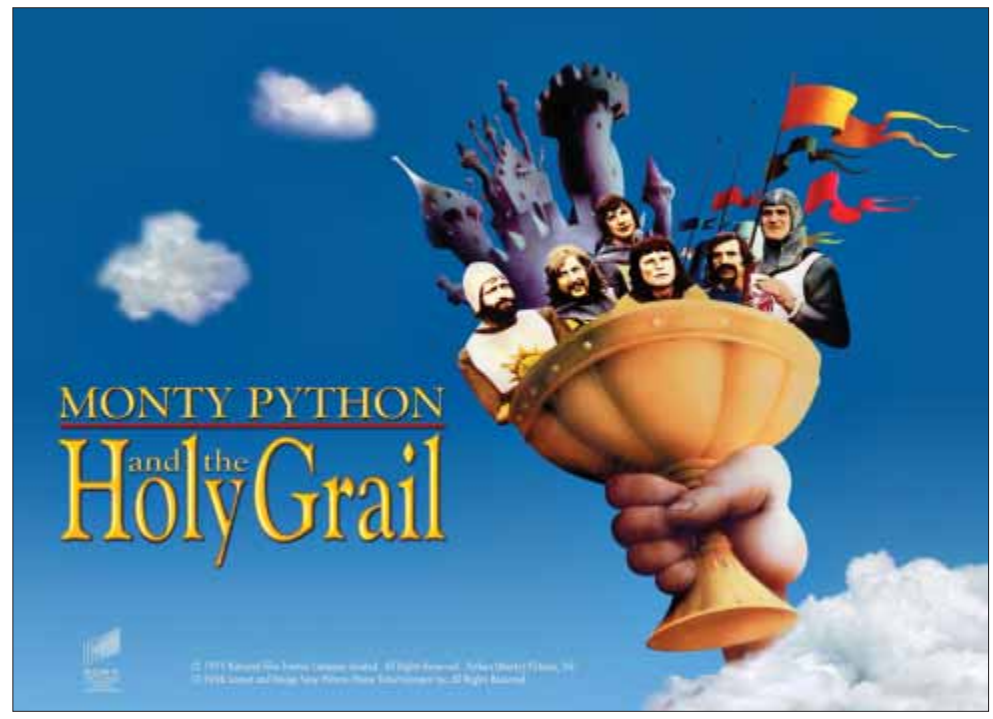
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The Palette
Exploring Creative Santa Monica



Terry Gilliam Retrospective

Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave.

SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 7:30 P.M.

Terry Gilliam's $250,000 epic feature film debut, "Monty Python & the Holy Grail," sports Graham Chapman as King Arthur, John Cleese as Sir Lancelot the Brave and Eric Idle as Sir Robin the Not-Quite-So-Brave-as-Sir-Lancelot. Followed by Gilliam's 1991 five-time Oscar nominee "The Fisher King" starring Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams. Co-starring Mercedes Ruehl (who won an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress), Amanda Plummer, and Harry Shearer. Both films screened in 35mm. Tickets: $11 general admission, $9 students/youth/seniors, $7 for American Cinematheque members.

The Virginia Avenue Project Presents: 'Pass it On!'

Miles Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 4 - 5, 7:30 P.M.; NOV. 6, 3 P.M.

Seven short plays written by kids, directed and performed by professional artists, "Pass It On" is the culmination of the Replay Program, an advanced playwriting workshop that takes its participants deeper into the writing process and introduces them to the art of re-writing. This fall, the young playwrights in this program revisited plays written last spring in a six-session re-write workshop. The resulting one-acts are showcased in "Pass It On!" Project Kids: Aaron Cornejo, Sandra English, Felix Horan, Melodee Piper, Abner Santiago, Nastasja Smith, and Jobim Zeichner. Adult Artists: Jennifer Chambers, Andy Goldberg, Jill Klein, Mark Lifrieri, Jonas Oppenheim, Erin Pineda, Kenneth Rudnicki, Jonathan Aldana, John Apicella, Don Berman, Cameron Cash, Elizabeth Cazenave, Wendy Cutler, Jennifer Fenton, Katy Finn, Hubert Hodgin, Michael McCartney, Lydia Medeiros, Reed Rudy, Steven Totland, Vince Waldron, Eli Weadley, Jules Willcox, Jeff Williams, Jenni Brown, Nikki Hyde, Denver Vaughn, Evan Bartoletti, Mel Horan, Johnny Ryman, and Tony Palermo. Tickets: $5 suggested donation. For reservations or more information, call (310) 264-4224 or e-mail Katy@VirginiaAvenueProject.org.

Paulina Sahagun & Monica Sahagun: Dia De Los Muertos Ritual

Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 8:30 P.M. & SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 3:30 P.M.

Ritual Ceremony to honor all ancestors and recently departed. Performance of Calavereando, a mask theater piece by Paulina Sahagun, inspired by the work of the Great Mexican Artist Jose Guadalupe Posada. Continue the celebration of the circle of life at our "Spiritual Party" immediately following the performance. Enjoy the traditional pan de muerto, tamales, and live music in Highways Gallery. Tickets: $20 at (310) 315-1459.

The Broad Stage presents: 'Peter and the Wolf'

Broad Stage, 1310 11th St.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 10 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

In this new version of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," classical music comes alive with Maestra Rachael Worby. Join us for a magical journey that dissolves the line between orchestra and audience, bringing you and your family the enchantment of live music, hip storytelling, and enchanting theater! Tickets: $20-$35, (310) 434-3200.

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Visit the Santa Monica Museum of Art for an essential goods drive and art workshop to benefit the women of Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) — the largest and most comprehensive provider of housing and services to low-income and homeless communities on the Westside. Donate to the essential goods drive and receive a voucher for FREE participation in the art workshop and a reusable Cause for Creativity bag! Suggested workshop donation: $5; $3 for seniors and students, free with drive donation and for SMMoA members. For more information, please contact education@smmoa.org.

Frustrated consumers planning to close their bank accounts

CANDICE CHOI
AP Personal Finance Writer

NEW YORK It's moving day for bank customers.

A grassroots movement that sprang to life last month is urging bank customers to close their accounts in favor of credit unions by Saturday.

The spirit behind "Bank Transfer Day" caught fire with the Occupy Wall Street protests around the country and had more than 77,000 supporters on its Facebook page as of Friday. The movement has already helped beat back Bank of America's plan to start charging a $5 debit card fee.

It's not clear to what extent the banking industry's about-face on debit card fees will extinguish the anger driving the movement. But many supporters say their actions are about far more than any single complaint.

"It's too little, too late," said Kristen Christian, the 27-year-old Los Angeles small business owner who started "Bank Transfer Day." She already opened accounts at two credit unions in preparation for cutting ties with Bank of America this weekend.

"Consumers are waking up and seeing that they have options," she said.

Even with its public support, however, it's not likely that any account closings that take place on Saturday will make a big dent with industry titans such as Chase, which is the largest bank in the country with some 26.5 million checking accounts.

But the call to action shows just how incensed consumers were at the prospect of a debit card fee at a time of so much economic uncertainty. Even those who were appeased by the industry's reversal may have tapped into a new sense of empowerment.

That's the case for Dan Blakemore, a Bank of America customer for the past 10 years. He said he no longer plans to close his checking account now that the debit fee has been scrapped. But he'll be on the lookout for any other changes that might hit his wallet.

"I'm pretty confident they're going to find some way to get that extra money," said Blakemore, a 28-year-old who works for a nonprofit fundraiser in New York City. "I'll just have to see if it offends my sensibility enough to close the account."

Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. are keeping mum on whether they've seen an uptick in account closures in recent weeks. But credit unions and small community banks have been basking in the spotlight and issuing press releases highlighting what they say are superior interest rates and more intimate service, along with tips on how consumers can transfer accounts. They haven't been shy about the surge in new business they're enjoying either.

Navy Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the country, says new account openings in September and October were up 38 percent from a year ago. National Capital Bank, a two-branch community bank in Washington, D.C., says the vast majority of its new account openings in recent weeks have been by fed up Bank of America customers.

"The debit fee was definitely a driver," said Noah Wilcox, president of Grand Rapids State Bank in Minnesota, which is also enjoying a lift in account openings.

Because credit unions and community banks vary so greatly in size, however, it's hard to gauge the total scope of the defections they're reporting. For example, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union in New York City says it's enjoying more than 55 new account openings a week. That's a big jump from its average of about 10 new accounts per week, but insignificant when weighed against the portfolios of the nation's largest banks.

Big banks have also learned that customer grumblings don't always translate into action. That's particularly true for those who have multiple accounts, direct deposit and automatic bill pay; many decide that switching just isn't worth the hassle.

"People will do a lot of complaining before they actually uproot and move," notes Mark Schwanhausser, a banking analyst with Javelin Strategy & Research.

The recent firestorm over debit card fees was "in a class of its own" because customers saw it as a charge for accessing their own money, he said.

The timing of Bank of America's fee announcement was unfortunate on multiple levels as well. In addition to the anxiety many are feeling amid high unemployment and stagnant wages, the news broke just as the Occupy Wall Street protests were capturing the national spotlight.

And big banks have been a key target for Occupy Wall Street, which has tapped into the lingering resentment many harbor over the role of banks in the financial meltdown of 2008.

Last month, two dozen Occupy Wall Street protestors were arrested when they entered a Citibank branch in New York City and refused to leave. Protestors have also banged drums and demonstrated outside bank branches in other cities; PNC Bank twice closed branches in downtown Pittsburgh last week after protestors entered.

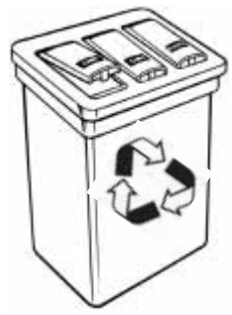
But those are the extremes. Schwanhausser of Javelin said many customers will likely be placated by the industry's white flag on debit card fees.

"People are people going to look at that Nov. 5 date and say 'We made our point'," Schwanhausser said

The banking industry may feel the same way; representatives for Bank of America, Chase, Citi and Wells Fargo indicate they haven't done anything to prepare branch employees for a surge in account closings this weekend. Then again, many of the closures may have already taken place.

Molly Katchpole, a 22-year-old nanny in Washington, D.C., who started an online petition urging Bank of America to drop its debit card fee, says the bank's about-face won't win her back.

"The damage is done," said Katchpole, who has since joined a credit union in Washington, D.C.

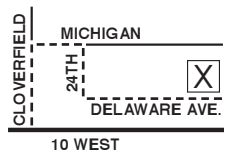


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Three seats available for terms ending November 10, 2015.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica or do business or be employed in the City of Santa Monica.
Applications due by noon, Tuesday, November 15, 2011.
Appointment to be made by City Council, November 22, 2011.

The mission of the Pier Restoration Corporation is to preserve and enhance the pleasure of the pier experience for people of all ages and for future generations.

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

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

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

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee:
Two seats available for terms ending December 31, 2013.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica.

Metropolitan Water District:
One seat available for a term ending December 31, 2015.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, December 6, 2011.
Appointment to be made by City Council, December 13, 2011.

No City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission listed above.

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

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

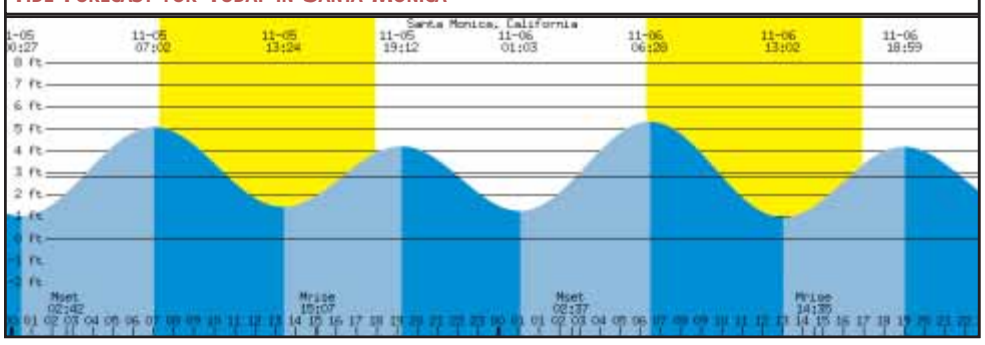
Swell Forecast

SW swell should increase south facing breaks to chest high or slightly better. West facing breaks should see a fair amount of NW, around head high for well exposed west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to drop as SW sticks around. West facing breaks are looking at waist 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 **November 2, 2011**

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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 -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 16 / 1
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groudwick 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
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	F	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	B	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Aliso creeks.	ns	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.	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	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.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	A+
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.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	C	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	B
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.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	B	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	B	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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Stanford not overlooking Oregon St. after USC win

ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS, Ore. There's no blaming Stanford for reveling in that triple-overtime victory over USC last weekend. It's a win that will likely go down as one of the more memorable games of this season.

So it seemed only natural that much of the talk surrounding the fourth-ranked Cardinal (8-0, 6-0 Pac-12) this week was about that game. Oregon State, which hosts Stanford on Saturday, got little attention.

The Beavers, after all, have won just two games this season. Of course the focus would be on the Cardinal, star quarterback Andrew Luck and that big win.

On top of that, many were already looking toward next week, when Stanford plays No. 6 Oregon in a game that will likely decide who represents the Pac-12 North in the inaugural conference championship.

Add it all up and Stanford coach David Shaw was leery.

"It was a big game, it was an exciting game, it was one of the best games a lot of people have said they have seen in a while, but then the season is not over," Shaw said. "We've talked all year about building. You're in a big game, you win a big game, it gets even bigger. So you can't win a big game and stop playing."

Stanford is definitely building. Behind Heisman-hopeful Luck, the Cardinal have the nation's longest winning streak at 16 games. Their AP ranking is the highest it has been in the regular season since 1970 and a win on Saturday would give Stanford its first 9-0 start since 1952.

Over the last two games, Stanford's offense has scored 121 points, with a 65-21 win over Washington and the 56-48 OT thriller over the Trojans.

Against the Huskies, Stanford rushed for a school-record 446 yards. The Cardinal are averaging 215.25 yards rushing, second only to Oregon in the Pac-12.

Luck, who has been known to call his own plays, has thrown for 1,432 yards and 15 touchdowns over his last five games. He has 23 touchdown passes this season, with nine more to go to tie his own school record set last season.

Luck passed for 305 yards and four touchdowns in a 38-0 blanking of the Beavers last year in Palo Alto. But last time he was in Corvallis, the Cardinal lost 38-28.

"Tough place to play. Definitely no fond memories," Luck said. "They're a very well coached, tough team with a great atmosphere. It's always tough to go into Corvallis. They put the beat down on us last time we were there, so we're expecting a fight."

Stanford's offensive prowess spells trouble for the young Beavers, who couldn't contain Utah in a 27-8 loss last weekend. The Utes ran for 225 yards in their first Pac-12 victory.

Oregon State's defense overall is ranked fifth in the Pac-12, allowing an average of 377.4 yards.

The Beavers (2-6, 2-3) are hoping to catch the Cardinal off guard. There was wishful speculation that Stanford could either suffer the classic letdown loss after that USC victory, or simply overlook Oregon State in anticipation of the Ducks.

"You see their record and you know they're a good team. And I've got a lot of respect for them, but they are just another team. It's us against them, man on man," Cornerback Jordan Poyer said. "It's going to come down to who wants it more. I think if we have a good week of practice and we really focus on the details of our assignments, it's possible."

Oregon State's season was troubled from the start of fall camp, when the team was plagued with injuries. Then the Beavers opened with a resounding thump: a 29-28 overtime loss at home to lower division Sacramento State.

After two games, coach Mike Riley switched starting quarterbacks, replacing Ryan Katz, who played locally at Santa Monica High School, with redshirt freshman Sean Mannion, a move that was widely questioned.

While he has thrown for 200 or more yards in seven straight games, Mannion has 13 interceptions to his 10 touchdowns, ranking him last in the league in passing efficiency.

Oregon State's most promising offensive playmaker is true freshman Malcolm Agnew, who ran for 223 yards in the opener but was then sidelined for the next four games with a hamstring injury.

Then there's the injuries. On Saturday, the Beavers will likely be without slotback Jordan Bishop, tailback Jovan Stevenson and two offensive line starters, Grant Johnson and Burke Ellis.

On the bright side, Oregon State has a reputation for pulling off major upsets. In 2008, the Beavers were 26-point underdogs when they knocked off then-No. 1 USC 27-21 on a Thursday night in Corvallis. The year before, Oregon State downed second-ranked California 31-28 in Strawberry Canyon.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Nov. 5

Rango (PG) 1hr 47min
7:30pm
Gore Verbinski in person

Sunday, Nov. 6

Mony Python and the Holy Grail (PG) 1hr 31min
The Fisher King (R) 2hr 17min
7:30pm

Night of the Living Dead (NR) 1hr 36min
Just Before Dawn (R) 1hr 30min
Alice Sweet Alice (R) ahr 38min
The Pit (R) 1hr 37min
11:00pm
Horrorthon 6.5

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

The Son of No One (R) 1hr 35min
2:50pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Tower Heist (PG-13) 1hr 45min
3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:30pm, 11:20pm

In Time (PG-13) 1hr 49min
2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Moneyball (PG-13) 2hr 6min
4:05pm

Real Steel (PG-13) 2hr 7min
10:15pm

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2: 3D (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:15pm, 7:00pm

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

In Time (PG) 1hr 49min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Martha Marcy May Marlene (R) 2 hr
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Puss in Boots (PG) 1hr 30min
1:25pm, 4:05m, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Puss in Boots 3D (PG) 1hr 30min
2:45pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

The Ides of March (R) 1hr 42min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

The Three Musketeers (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:55pm, 4:40pm

Tower Heist (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:30pm, 4:45 pm, 7:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Margin Call (R) 1hr 49min
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:10pm

Take Shelter (R) 2 hr
10:10pm

Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 1hr 28min
7:50pm

Le Havre (NR) 1hr 43min
7:30pm, 9:45pm

The Women on the 6th Floor (Les femmes du 6eme etage) (NR) 1hr 44min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

The Trap Door (R) 1hr 30min
11:55pm

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

50/50 (R) 1hr 39min
5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (R) 1hr 29min
5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 8:30pm, 9:30pm, 11:00pm

Anonymous (PG-13) 2hr 10min
5:25pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Paranormal Activity 3 (R) 1hr 21min
5:15pm, 7:30pm, 9:40pm

The Rum Diary (R) 2hr
5:10pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

Don't complicate anything, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ Don't you think you deserve some time off, a change of scenery and a little R and R? Take the opportunity to do just that -- alone or with company. You have pushed and pushed. Take this day as yours to do whatever you want with. Tonight: Whatever feels right.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might be more grounded than many people right now, but for you, no, you feel inspired and emotional. Allow a special friendship through the porthole to color your day and your choices. A partner also could be emotional and not pliant. Let it be. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Take charge and allow all the activity to churn around you. In some manner, this plan might be a lot easier than being one of the emotional wild things that seem to be coming out of the woodwork. Remain mellow even if you are dumbfounded by others! Tonight: Could go quite late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Listen to your intuition and follow it. You can scarcely resist acting on what you keep hearing in your inner mind. Romance could be particularly intense. Speak of trips and potential new avenues. Read between the lines with a loved one. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You cannot play isolationist, nor do you want to, as a partner pulls you into his or her world and perceptions. Others seem to make the demand that you are 100 percent with them! You might enjoy this little vacation into others' lives. Tonight: Whatever others want -- within reason.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might need to screen your calls or leave your cellphone at home if you want to plunge into the moment. You have decided to be with favorite people. The company counts, not the event. Tonight: Carrying on as if there is no tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Dive into a project or get some much-needed exercise. Complete a couple of these postponed to-do's. Invite a friend over. If you must, throw a spontaneous November party! Tonight: Don't make anything complicated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Toss yourself completely into a loved one's life for a day. Whatever the results, you will only feel good about yourself. If you are single, make time for a potential new friend. Tonight: And the good times go on and on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Continue on a path of seclusion, though you could change directions in a minute's notice. You enjoy sharing on a deep, mellow level with a close friend, loved one or family member. Tonight: Enjoy quality time with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Sort through invitations and decide what you really want to do. You have quite a selection. You won't need to go far. You could relish a flirtatious conversation, but you also might love a gathering of your pals. Tonight: Play out the moment.

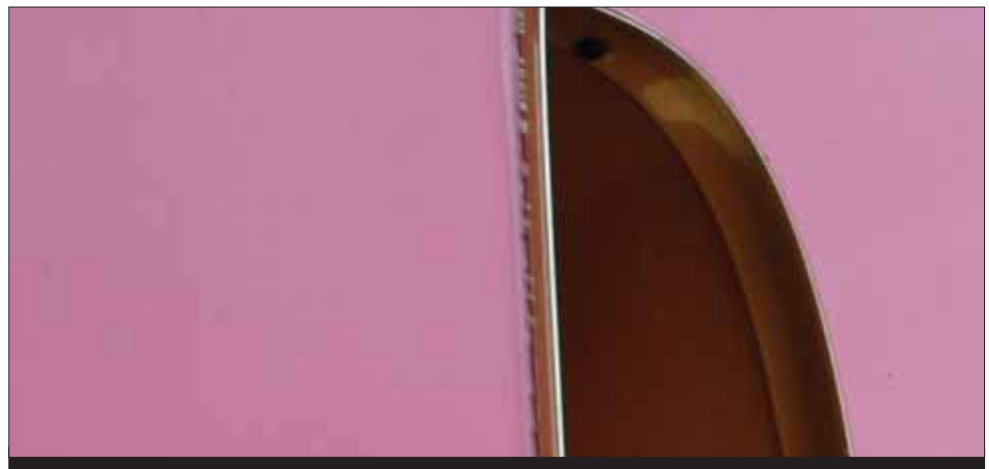
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Sometimes giving in to your more emotional side causes a problem. It is easy to lose self-restraint and just tumble into the abyss of abundance. You might not even care either. You are finally present in the moment. Tonight: Call it a night only when you are ready.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Be spontaneous and direct. Follow your own course without hurting another person's feelings. Try a new spot or a different type of activity. You might discover a new passion. Tonight: Ride with the moment.

Happy birthday

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

This year opens up more spontaneity. You will be less reserved, allowing your emotions to flow. If you are single, you will be amazed how this openness attracts even more suitors. You also might discover that you attract someone who is emotionally available, unlike in the past. Enjoy. If you are attached, passion runs high. For those in an artistic field of work, you will see the benefits of this new emotional freedom in your creativity. PISCES understands more than you realize.



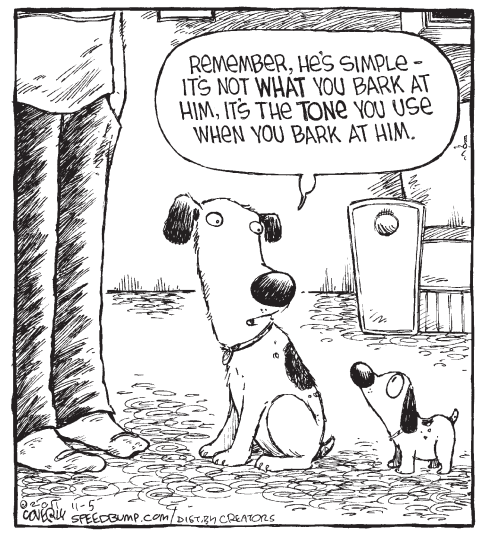
MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

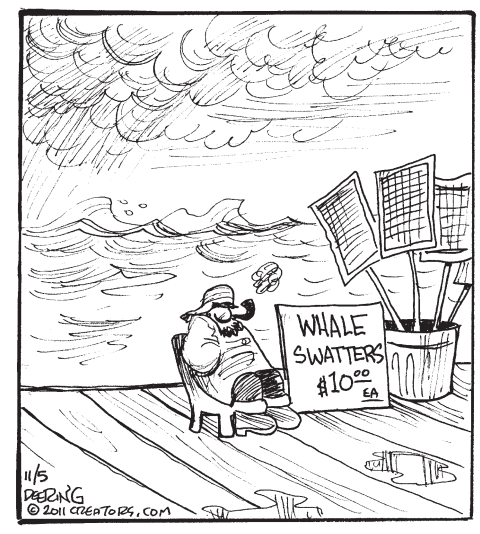
Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



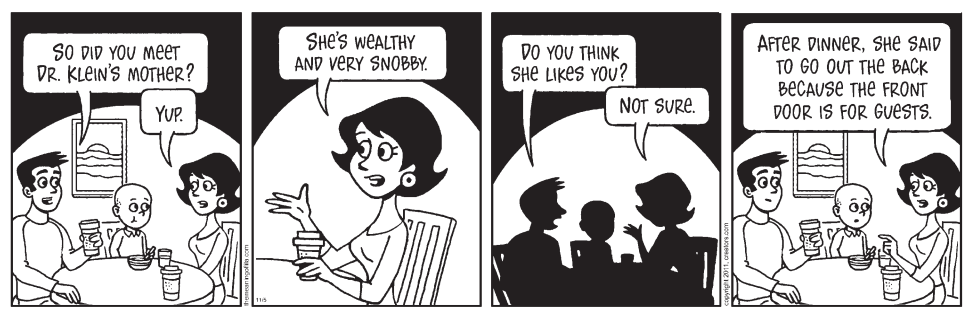
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Proton's place
5 Sub shops
10 Skin features
12 Speak
13 Book part
14 Turning tool
15 Sense of self
16 Goose egg
18 Energy
19 Mideast ruler
21 Fish features
22 Slob's opposite
24 Moved a raft
25 Met fan
29 Skated
30 Comes to a point
32 Poem of praise
33 Charter
34 Color
35 Janssen of "X-Men"
37 Wed in secret
39 Once more
40 Valued violin
41 Landlord's income
42 Rather and Marino

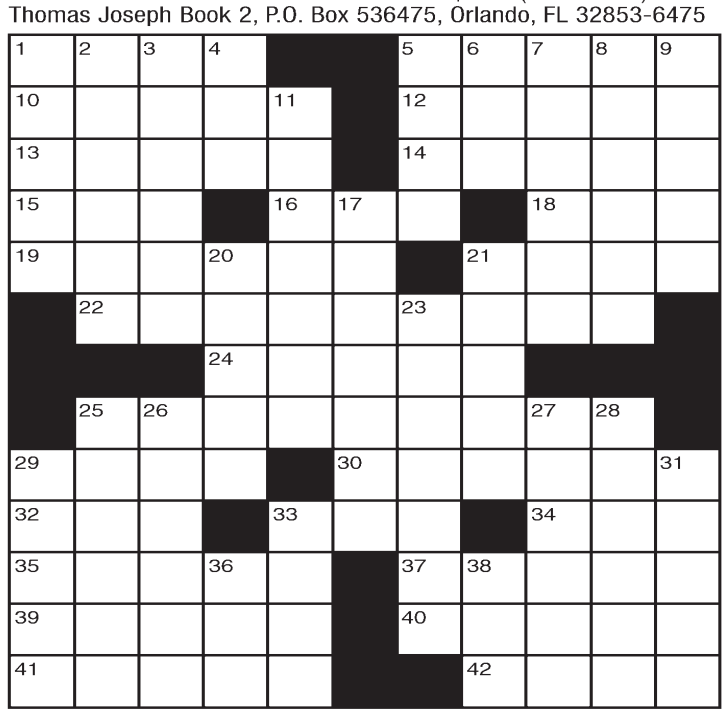
DOWN

1 Church areas
2 Tom Cruise movie
3 Colorful bird
4 Fellows
5 Dressable toy
6 Pitcher's stat
7 Baltic nation
8 Words of speculation
9 Appears
11 Capitol worker
17 Blow up
20 Like some athletes' ankles
21 Disgusted
23 Seller's lures
25 Geriatrics topic
26 Nursery rhyme merchant
27 Soft hat
28 Kitchen need
29 To now
31 Canary chow
33 Eye part
36 Young fox
38 Co. abbr.

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

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



11-5

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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.

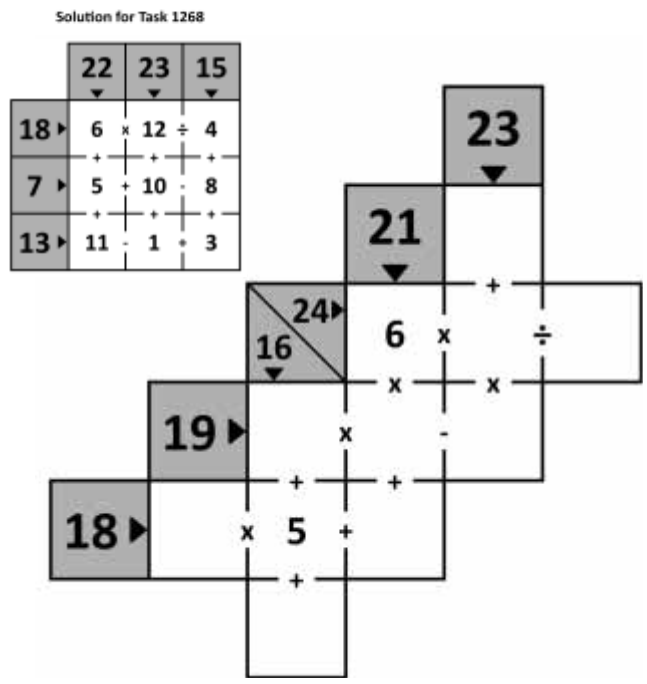
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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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:

2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 7, 7, 8

Solution for Task 1268



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 27 31 39 40 46 Meganumber: 36 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 7 22 27 32 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5: 7 8 9 26 27

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 0 7 EVENING: 3 7 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot 2nd: 09 Winning Spirit 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:47.94

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

■ Bank Robbers Not Ready for Prime Time: (1) Thomas Love, 40, was arrested in New Castle County, Del., in October after he had walked out of a WSFS Bank empty-handed. According to police, Love had presented a demand note to a teller, who couldn't make out the writing and handed it back, provoking Love to flee. (2) Henry Elmer, 56, was arrested in Yuma, Ariz., in October where he had just sat down to enjoy a beer at the Village Inn Pizza Parlor. Police identified Elmer as the man who just moments earlier had robbed the Wells Fargo bank in the same block and "fled" the few steps to the Village Inn (which is also just across the street from the Yuma Police Station).

■ Soon, it might be absolutely impossible to get hurt in Britain -- because of stringent health and safety rules. St. Mary's Church in Cottingham announced it would go without an overhead light because government rules require that it rig scaffolding to change the light bulb in its 30-foot-high ceiling. (Using a ladder would be unsafe.) And following the August riots in London, hundreds of volunteers took to the streets to speed the cleanup process, but at several junctures, police turned them away, fearful that the civic-minded workers lacked the sense to avoid cutting themselves on the broken glass and debris.

■ In January (1994) at the Lake Como Fish and Game Club near Syracuse, N.Y., Brian Carr beat out three dozen competitors in the annual ice-fishing derby with 155 catches. The temperature that day was minus-30(F), and prize money for the top three anglers was, respectively, $8, $6.50 and $5.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1987 Govan Mbeki is released from custody after serving 24 years of a life sentence for terrorism and treason.

1990 Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the far-right Kach movement, is shot dead after a speech at a New York City hotel.

WORD UP!

prehensible
\pri-HEN-suh-buhl\ , adjective;
1.
Able to be seized or grasped.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Roomates
Commerical Lease
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Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
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1281 Monument St. 3Bd + 2Bth house. $4895. Pacific Palisades home located above the Village.

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PALMS: NEWER BLDG. Ask about move-in specials. Singles $1,020+,
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For Rent

Gated sub-T prkg and entry, tile floors, granite,
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 201118904 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/19/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PHILIPPE CATERING. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Philippe D Angelo 3963 Mimerva Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90066. 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/:Philippe D Angelo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/19/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/31/2011, 11/07/2011, 11/14/2011, 11/21/2011.



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As promised, I will remind you twice a year to take care of these important safety issues:

Inside Your Home:

- √ Change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors (*stock up on 9-volt batteries*)
- √ Clean and/or change the filters in your furnace
- √ Clean out any lint and/or fabric from the vents of your clothes dryer
- √ Check electrical outlets for potential fire hazards ie: frayed wires or loose fitting plugs
- √ Check for overloading of electrical outlets, fuse boxes, extension cords etc
- √ Keep a filled and ready-to-use, multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible
- √ Check water heater for leaks and corrosion
- √ Have sump pump serviced *(if you have one)*

In Your Yard:

- √ Remove all dead trees & keep healthy trees & shrubs trimmed & away from utility wires
- √ Remove dead leaves and all debris from your gutters and downspouts
- √ Repair driveway & walkways that are cracked, broken or uneven to provide a level surface

Just a reminder..

Now that Daylight Savings Time is over, Sunday open houses are 1pm to 4pm

Kate Bransfield

310.395.1133
Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com
www.SantaMonicaListings.com