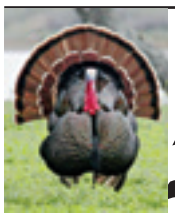
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NOVEMBER 9-10, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 311



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DON'T GOBBLE YOUR TIME
SEE PAGE 9

THE THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE ISSUE

Major video game developer leaving Santa Monica

Loss of Riot Games raises concerns about availability of creative office space

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Another rapidly expanding start-up is leaving Santa Monica.

Developers of one of the world's most played video games, Riot Games, is headed to West L.A., about a block outside of city limits.

City Hall has acknowledged that Santa Monica is facing a shortage of mid-sized creative office spaces for expanding start-up companies.

Riot Games, which makes League of Legends, an online computer game that has exploded in popularity in the past two years, is worth and estimated $200 million according to a USA Today article.

Currently, It has nearly 1,000 employees at offices scattered throughout the city. Riot Games hopes to make the move to a 280,000-square-foot campus on Bundy Drive and Olympic Boulevard in early 2015.

"In short, Santa Monica doesn't have enough office space, Riot Games outgrew their space and there wasn't enough contiguous office space to house them," Jason

SEE OFFICE PAGE 11

Just not good enough: Math, reading scores up slightly

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON Sometimes the best isn't good enough: Most American fourth- and eighth-graders still lack basic skills in math and reading despite record high scores on a national exam.

Yes, today's students are doing better than those who came before them. But the improvements have come at a snail's pace.

The 2013 Nation's Report Card released Thursday finds that the vast majority of the students still are not demonstrating solid academic performance in either math or reading. Stubborn gaps persist between the performances of white children and their Hispanic and African-American counterparts, who scored much lower.

Overall, just 42 percent of fourth-graders and 35 percent of eighth-graders scored at or above the proficient level in math. In reading, 35 percent of fourth graders and 36 percent of eighth graders hit that mark.

Still, as state and federal policies evolve in the post-No Child Left Behind era, the nation's school kids are doing better today on the test than they did in the early 1990s,

SEE SCORES PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

STRIKE A POSE: Tourists Can Wang (right) and Weiyang Yan take a picture in Palisades Park on Thursday. The pair was visiting from Chicago where the women are exchange students from China. Tourism was up in 2012, with 7.3 million visitors spending $1.5 billion.

City officials release Year End Report

Tourism, calls for service, homelessness up; affordable housing down

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Tourism continues to rise in Santa Monica, according to City Hall's Year End Report.

The report, which lists statistics about City Hall's accomplishments during fiscal year 2012-13, also shows a rise in calls for service to the fire department and in community involvement at workshops.

More than 7.3 million visitors spent $1.5 billion in 2012, about a 10 percent increase from 2011. In early 2013, the numbers continued to rise, Santa Monica Convention & Visitor's Bureau officials said. Visitors from

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013

Drop off your oil
O'Reilly Auto Parts
2018 Lincoln Blvd., 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Changing your oil? Need a filter? Get a free one. Bring your used motor oil and oil filters for recycling. Exchange your used oil filter for a new free one. Limit one new filter per customer. Free used motor-oil-recycling containers also available.

Fix-it clinic
Santa Monica Bike Center
1555 Second St., 10 a.m.
Bike Center staff discuss bicycle parts you probably know: tires, tubes, rims, spokes, and hubs. You will practice getting wheels off a bike, true a wheel (vertical and horizontal leaps), learn about proper spoke size and tension, and replace broken spokes. For more information and to register, visit sustainablestreets.org/bike-maintenance or call (424) 288-1747.

Steamrollin'
Santa Monica Pier
11:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Heal the Bay and Time Warner Cable are teaming up to present S.T.E.A.M. Machines, a festival of interactive science, technology, engineering and math activities using art as the medium and fun as the common denominator.
For more information, visit santamonicapier.org/steam.

Comedy talk
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Come see a comedic conversation between legendary comedian Tim Conway and actor Jeff Garlin. The two comedians will talk about Conway's book "What's So Funny." There will also be a book sale and a signing one hour prior to the program. Admission: Free. Tickets will be released in the Main Library lobby one hour prior to program. Guests must be present to receive a ticket. No reservations available. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org.

Veterans Day BBQ
West Los Angeles VA Medical Center
11301 Wilshire Blvd., 2 p.m. — 7 p.m.
In honor of Veterans Day, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System in partnership with Greater Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation is hosting a free BBQ and a concert featuring Sugar Ray for veterans, military members and families. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis. Admission: Free. For more information, call (310)478-3711, ext. 42441 or visit losangeles.va.gov.

Weathering the storm
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 7:30 p.m.
It's Jerry Mayer's buoyant smash hit comedy, as a mother and father take their daughters and sons-in-law on a happy anniversary cruise and quickly find themselves awash in a sea of stormy relationships. Admission: $29 general; $22.50 student/senior. For more information, call (310) 394-9779, ext. 1.

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013

Opera at Santa Monica
The Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill St., 3 p.m.
The 5-year-old Los Angeles Metropolitan Opera will sing Verdi's "Il Trovatore" at The Church in Ocean Park. Admission: Suggested donation is $25 in advance or $35 at the door. For more information, call (310) 570-6448 or visit www.losangelesmet.com.

A series of laughs
MI's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Casual Stalker Comedy Presents a huge lineup of the best comics in L.A. The resident stalker has been lurking around top comedy clubs to bring the best laughs from these smart, silly, ethnic, diverse comedians. Admission: $5 pre-sale online with the code STALKER or $10 at the door. For more information, call (310)451-0850 or visit westsidecomedy.com.

A youthful take on a classic
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m.
The Morgan-Wixson's Annual Youth Musical presents "Beauty and the Beast Jr." featuring songs from the Academy-Award winning animated feature. This stage version includes music by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Menken and Tim Rice. Admission: Adults $20, Children 12 and Under $15. For more information, call (310)828-7519 or visit morgan-wixson.org.

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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**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WILSHIRE BLVD

Ramps open for business

Westside commuters who have grown frustrated with the ongoing construction along the 405 Freeway now have something to cheer about.

Los Angeles County transportation officials opened earlier this week the eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound 405 Freeway "flyover" ramp, finally putting an end to the so-called "ramp jam" at Wilshire, a series of weeks- and months-long ramp closures that were required to improve the Wilshire interchange.

The opening marks the end of a 90-day closure. The project was completed two weeks earlier than scheduled. Construction on all ramps impacted traffic off and on for more than a year, officials said.

"The reconstructed Wilshire interchange will produce some of the greatest traffic improvements for this entire project," Metro Board Chair Diane Dubois said.

The added capacity of the ramps will meet expected vehicle demands in 2031, according to Dubois. In addition, the chair added that the ramps will make the 405 safe for drivers and help reduce traffic backups on local streets.

The entire Wilshire Interchange averages more than 87,000 cars a day, according to Caltrans figures.

The previous off-ramp/on-ramp configuration caused a dangerous weave situation in two vital intersections where drivers struggled to reach a through freeway lane or change lanes to reach the off-ramp exit.

The new ramps alleviate these conflicts by separating the vehicles in an exclusive lane.

The ramps that were built in the 1950s. The eastbound ramp was originally 824 feet long. The new ramp is 3,129 feet, which allows more vehicles to queue on it rather than on Wilshire and Sepulveda boulevards.

The ramp closures were part of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project in which the ramps were demolished and reconstructed during days and nights. The 405 project will include extended carpool lanes.

The project is now 85 percent complete and in the coming weeks the project team anticipates opening the northbound I-405 off-ramp at Sunset Boulevard.

For the latest updates regarding the project and the freeway, visit metro.net/405 and for real traffic conditions, visit the Caltrans website at quickmap.dot.ca.gov.

– BRIAN ADIGWU



Photo courtesy National Park Service

POOR GUY: **The mountain lion who was killed last month while trying to cross U.S. Route 101 in Agoura Hills, Calif.**

Dead mountain lion highlights need for wildlife tunnel at 101

BY ALEXIS DRIGGS
Special to the Daily Press

SM MOUNTAINS A mountain lion killed last month on the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills could have brought new genetic material to the mountain lion population of the Santa Monica Mountains, the National Parks Service reported this week.

Preliminary DNA testing showed that the male mountain lion was traveling from north of the freeway into the Santa Monica Mountains, and into an isolated mountain lion population.

The mountain lion was hit and killed by a car while crossing the freeway near the Liberty Canyon exit, where wildlife advocates have long pushed for a wildlife tunnel crossing.

"The fact that this young male chose to cross — unsuccessfully — at Liberty Canyon shows how critical this wildlife corridor is for maintaining genetic diversity in the Santa Monica Mountains," said Dr. Seth Riley, an expert on urban wildlife with

SEE **LION** PAGE 10

Children's Hospital comes to Santa Monica

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

MID-CITY One of the best children's hospitals in the country has opened a facility in Santa Monica.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles, which was named one of the nation's top five best by U.S. News & World Report, this week opened the doors to its new outpatient care center at the corner of Arizona Avenue and 20th Street in the heart of Santa Monica's medical district.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles —

SEE **CENTER** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bring back the issue

Editor:

Thursday night I went to the North of Montana Association meeting. Palisades Park was the major agenda item with three City Council members and two members of the Recreation & Parks Commission present.

I'm sure I noticed the same thing, as everyone at the meeting, the position of Kevin McKeown on trainers in Palisades Park. It is very clear that he always includes in each sentence when he explains why he voted for the ordinance, that he would not hesitate to bring up the vote again, to outlaw groups and apparatuses from this particular park.

In my opinion, his statements are a winning position for next year's election and anything short of that is a loser.

Personally, I hope that others strongly and publicly advocate to put Palisades Park in the non-group trainer category and also eliminate all apparatuses, even for one-on-one trainers, before the ordinance is implemented. This is the only way to show respect for the sanctity of our treasured landmark and at the same time abide by wishes of the absolute clear majority of residents, neighborhood associations, and community organizations.

Ken Robin
Santa Monica

Overpaid

Editor:

There have been several recent letters related to grossly overpaid city employees, including the city manager, administrators, attorneys, police and firefighters. I concur that these Bell-like salaries, overtime payouts and benefits are obscene.

Unfortunately, no one has raised one extremely important point, that these outrageous salaries will form the base amount of what these city employees will receive for the rest of their lives when they retire – along with the other golden parachute-like benefits they will receive, which taxpayers will be obligated to pay.

The only people who appear to support and defend the indecent salaries and benefits are those who are paid them, like City Manager Rod Gould, and Sky Lambert, a Santa Monica Police officer who, unlike Gould, failed to identify himself as such while defending these scandalous overpayments.

In other words, what a scam being perpetuated by public employees on us taxpayers.

Virginia Isaacs
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to fish or cut bait on tax reform

AS CONGRESS MOVES FORWARD ON budget negotiations, the word out of Washington is to expect nothing major: no grand bargain, just more stopgap, short-term fixes. Yet there's one ray of hope. The House and Senate chairs of the tax-writing committees, one a Republican, the other a Democrat, are preparing a comprehensive tax reform plan. They see the budget negotiations as their opportunity to enact much-needed changes to our bloated, off-kilter tax laws.

The last time lawmakers managed to find a way to simplify and reshape the tax code was almost three decades ago, in 1986, when Ronald Reagan was still president. Since then there have been over 15,000 adjustments and amendments, leaving a mess that just about everyone agrees must be cleaned up. Odds are against Congress managing the task, but its handling of the debate on tax reform tells us a lot about how members approach difficult issues.

That's because this latest effort to rewrite the tax code is saddled by a deep-seated problem that spans both parties and all ideologies: political timidity. Tax avoidance is a highly sophisticated and lucrative business in this country, and politicians address it at their peril.

This became clear during the summer, when the senators leading the tax-reform charge on their side of Capitol Hill, Democrat Max Baucus of Montana and Republican Orrin Hatch of Utah, laid out their initiative. They wanted senators to take a "blank slate" approach to the issue: no current deduction, exemption or credit would continue unless a strong case could be made for it. Then they invited their colleagues to identify what they'd keep and what they'd reject.

That was a fine start, until Baucus and Hatch took an extraordinary step. They guaranteed senators 50 years of anonymity for their suggestions, thus allowing each senator to continue attacking the tax code mess without taking any specific public positions on how to improve it.

In other words, here's a public issue of enormous consequence, affecting every taxpayer in the land, and they were afraid to talk about it meaningfully in public. Sure, you hear plenty from politicians about tax reform, but it's all generalities. They talk about a simpler code or a fairer code or a flatter code, but in truth, almost every member of Congress talks in gross generalities about the monstrosity that is the tax code and comes out fervently for reform, without actually taking a stand on the tough issues.

Tax reform is meaningless without specifics.

Continuing to exclude employer contributions for healthcare, for instance, will cost taxpayers some $760 billion over the next five years, according to Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation — but getting rid of it will surely anger employers and employees. We could recoup $379 billion over the next five years by cutting the mortgage interest deduction, but how many homeowners do you know who would go along with the idea?

[A]LMOST EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS TALKS IN GROSS GENERALITIES ABOUT THE MONSTROSITY THAT IS THE TAX CODE AND COMES OUT FERVENTLY FOR REFORM, WITHOUT ACTUALLY TAKING A STAND ON THE TOUGH ISSUES.

The political power of the interests that benefit from reduced tax rates on dividends and long-term capital gains, which will cost the Treasury $616 billion between now and 2017, is immense. So, in its own way, is that of supporters of the deduction for charitable contributions ($239 billion).

In all, tax breaks cost the Treasury some $1.1 trillion a year — which puts them well ahead of most other forms of federal spending.

Yet each has its own constituency — often a vocal, well-funded, well-organized one. Politicians who call for "tax reform" without going into specifics butter their bread on both sides — they ride the public outcry against the tax code in general, while avoiding the outcry from people hurt by the changes that tax reform would inevitably bring. After all, a "loophole" to one group is usually a "lifeline" to another. So nothing happens.

Everyone knows that tax reform will involve limiting tax breaks. It should be possible to avoid the political difficulties by capping the total without eliminating specific breaks. But even this will require political backbone. Until Congress shows us that its members possess the courage to detail publicly what's needed, talk of tax reform will be just that: talk.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.





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The Q Line

Which way for Michigan?

City officials are considering a plan that would make a portion of Michigan Avenue east of Santa Monica High School a one-way street to make biking safer for students.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think this would improve safety around Samohi or should Michigan be left as is?

Here are your responses:

"MICHIGAN AVENUE IS NOT A CLEAN, safe or hospitable place to be. Much of it runs past the graveyard and is surrounded by a local gang. It's not the place you want to be."

"I AM SICK OF THIS. WHO PAYS FOR roads? Drivers. Not bicyclists. Drivers. I use Michigan to get to the freeway, to 14th Street, to many areas of my neighborhood. With all the traffic congestion, do you want us residents who know how to use Michigan joining already crowded Lincoln and Pico boulevards? Can the city stop mucking up our streets? You know, demographics show an aging population; we kind of need our cars. Those of us who are getting up there would really appreciate using the roads that our gasoline taxes are paying for. Seriously, I'm not paying taxes for pretty flowers jutting into the roads, bicycle-only roads, or any other misappropriation of the roadways paid for by the driving public. If bicyclists want their own dedicated road, let them pay taxes for it."

"THE IDIOTS IN CHARGE OF TRAFFIC IN Santa Monica fudge things up so much, one would think they couldn't fudge it up any more. Well, you are wrong. This latest idea will fudge things up even worse than they already are. And when I say 'fudge,' I mean it in the same context in which Ralphie Parker said the word in the movie 'A Christmas Story.'"

"I THINK THIS IS A GREAT IDEA AND long overdue. We need to get our kids out of cars for their own health and this is a great way to do it. Safety is often the number one concern of parents and cyclists alike. By making the small portion of Michigan Avenue by Samohi one-way, safety will certainly be enhanced. It can be a madhouse there in the mornings."

"ONCE CITY OFFICIALS CONSIDER A plan, you can be sure it's already a done deal. Not only should Michigan be left alone, the whole city of Santa Monica should be left alone. What's next? There's a phrase from the song 'Hotel California,' done by the Eagles, which states, '[Y]ou can never leave' and you can never 'kill the beast.' This has less to do about safety and more to do with the quality of life changes overdevelopment has thrust upon us, the residents of this city. Anyone interested in a can of sardines?"

"THE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE THERE should be more involved. Forty people can't decide. I also want safe bicycle trails for bicyclists and students. If anyone opens a car door on a bicyclist, they should get a certain amount of community service hours, nonnegotiable. All the stakeholders ... should be involved besides the Planning Commission or the city. Have more community outreach to get more people involved. Not just a meeting with 40 people involved."

Editor's note: It seems like we wiffed on this one. We'll try harder next time to ask a question readers care about. You could help by submitting your ideas for a future Q-Line question to editor@smdp.com. We'd appreciate it.

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New rule demands parity for mental health coverage

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON It's final: Health insurance companies now must cover mental illness and substance abuse just as they cover physical diseases.

The Obama administration issued new regulations Friday that spell out how a 5-year-old mental health parity law will be administered.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the rule should put an end to discrimination faced by some mental health patients through higher out-of-pocket costs or stricter limits on hospital stays or visits to the doctor.

The law, signed by President George W. Bush, was designed to prevent that. But mental health advocates said health insurers at times sidestepped lawmakers' intentions by delaying requests for care and putting in place other bureaucratic hurdles. They described the new Obama administration rule as necessary to ensure patients get benefits they are entitled to receive.

The administration had pledged to issue a final mental health parity rule as part of an effort to reduce gun violence. Officials said they have now completed or made significant progress on 23 executive actions that were part of a plan announced in response to the school massacre in Newtown, Conn., last December.

The 2008 mental health parity law affects large group plans. The Affordable Care Act requires individual and small group plans to treat mental health and substance abuse coverage the same way physical illness coverage is treated.

"For way too long, the health care system has openly discriminated against Americans with behavioral health problems," Sebelius said in a telephone conference call with reporters. "We are finally closing these gaps in coverage."

Sebelius said that access to mental health coverage had already been improving since passage of the mental health parity law. She noted that larger employer health insurance plans already have eliminated higher cost-sharing for inpatient mental health care and said most plans have done the same for outpatient care.

HHS officials said mental health services generally amount to only about 5 percent of a large group insurance plan's spending, so there should be limited impact on premiums. They said the small group and individual plans being made available through health insurance exchanges already reflect the parity requirements.

Officials at America's Health Insurance Plans, a trade group, said they were still reviewing the rule.

Gil Kerlikowske, director of the National Drug Control Policy Office at the White House, said the rule builds on the need to treat drug problems as a public health issue and not just as a criminal justice issue. He said about 23 million Americans have a substance abuse disorder, but only about 1 in 10 receive the treatment they need.

"Access to drug treatment shouldn't be a privilege to a few who can afford it. It should be provided to everyone who needs it," Kerlikowske said.

Lawmakers instrumental in passing the health parity law had grown impatient with how long it was taking to fully implement it.

"While I am clearly frustrated that this wasn't done sooner, I understand that they had a lot of other things on their plate," said former Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., adding that it would be ungrateful not to take into account progress made on other fronts through the Affordable Care Act.

Kennedy went public about his own struggle with addiction after crashing his car into a barricade near the Capitol in 2006; he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder after winning election to Congress in 1994.

"Ending insurance discrimination against pre-existing conditions is the single biggest mental health bill we could get," Kennedy said.

TONIGHT - NO COVER
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Pentagon report shows spike in Afghan troop deaths

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The number of Afghan national security troops killed in combat shot up almost 80 percent during this summer's fighting season, compared with the same time in 2012, as Afghans take the lead in the fight across the country.

A Pentagon report says that U.S. and coalition deaths, meanwhile, dropped by almost 60 percent during the same six-month period. The Defense Department refused to release numbers to explain the percentages, but U.S. military leaders have said that the number of Afghans killed each week had spiked to more than 100 earlier this year.

The high number of casualties and the Afghans' limited ability to evacuate their wounded, "adversely affects morale, retention and recruiting," according to the report, which the Defense Department released Friday.

A senior U.S. military official, when asked about the casualty rate, said late last month that as the fighting season begins to wind down, the Afghan deaths had also started to decline. In one recent week, about 50 were killed in action, said the official, who spoke to reporters at a recent NATO meeting and requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly under NATO rules.

The Pentagon report covers the time period from April 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2013, before snow and cold temperatures begin to make travel difficult.

The drop in U.S. and coalition casualties reflects the Afghans' increased role taking the lead of combat operations as well as the ongoing decrease in the number of international forces in the country. As of this week, there are about 48,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of slightly more than 100,000 in 2010.

According to the report, Afghan forces now conduct 95 percent of conventional operations and 98 percent of special operations in Afghanistan. Coalition forces continue to provide training and assistance but are still needed for air support, security, route clearance for roadside bombs, air lift for wounded or dead troops and counterterror operations.

Under the current plan, coalition combat forces will leave Afghanistan at the end of next year. Negotiations between the U.S. and the Afghan government are continuing to determine whether a small U.S. force will remain after 2014, and, if so, how many. U.S. and coalition officials have outlined plans to leave between 8,000-12,000 troops there to train and advise the Afghans, but any decision depends on whether the two sides can finalize a security agreement. The U.S. is expected to provide no more than 8,000, but the number could be substantially fewer depending on the agreement reached.

Overall, the report said that the Afghans are gaining capabilities, but it also warned that the insurgency "consolidated gains in some of the rural areas in which it has traditionally held power." And it says that as more U.S. and coalition troops leave in the coming months it will be difficult for the Afghans to take on all the needed capabilities, including both the fighting force and the government institutions and ministries needed to support it.

Afghan capabilities, "are not yet fully self-sustainable, and considerable effort will be required to make progress permanent," the report said. "After 2014, (Afghan forces') sustainability will be at high risk without continued aid from the international community and continued coalition force assistance including institutional advising."

With international aid, however, the Afghans could continue to increase their ability to maintain a force and fight the Taliban, the report said.

According to the report, there are more than 344,000 Afghan security troops, which is nearly at the goal of 352,000. But over the last 12 months, the attrition rate has been more than 34 percent. The troop loss is blamed on poor leadership, inadequate living and working conditions, the lack of a good program for leaves and the effects of seasonal demands for harvesting and planting.

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U.S. businesses boost hiring despite shutdown

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The U.S. economy may be sturdier than many analysts had assumed.

Employers added a surprisingly strong 204,000 jobs in October despite the 16-day government shutdown, the Labor Department said Friday. And they did a lot more hiring in August and September than previously thought.

Not only that, but activity at service companies and factories accelerated last month.

Unemployment rose to 7.3 percent from 7.2 percent in September. But that was probably because furloughed federal workers were temporarily counted as unemployed.

"It's amazing how resilient the economy has been in the face of numerous shocks," said Joe LaVorgna, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank.

Analysts say the economy might be able to sustain its improvement.

They note that job gains of recent months, combined with modest increases in pay, could encourage more spending in coming months. Growing demand for homes should support construction. Auto sales are likely to stay strong because many Americans are buying cars after putting off big purchases since the recession struck nearly six years ago.

And with the nationwide average for gasoline at $3.21 — the lowest since December 2011 — consumers have a little more money to spend.

Job growth is a major factor for the Federal Reserve in deciding when to reduce its economic stimulus. The Fed has been buying bonds to keep long-term interest rates low and encourage borrowing and spending.

The Dow Jones industrial average surged 167 points to close at a record high Friday after the jobs report came out.

But the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed to 2.75 percent from 2.60 percent late Thursday, indicating some investors are worried the Fed might pull back on its bond-buying soon.

For some employers outside the Beltway, the government shutdown scarcely mattered.

Bob Duncan, founder and chief executive of Dallas-based American Leather, said his company is on track for a third straight year of steady revenue gains. American Leather custom-builds sofas, recliners and other furniture for Crate and Barrel and many smaller chains.

Duncan has boosted his 400-member workforce by about 2 percent in the past three months.

"I think everyone's kind of numb to it," Duncan said, referring to the budget battles in Washington.

More important to Duncan has been a spate of remodeling by hotel chains, many of which had postponed upgrades until recently. Sales have risen as a result.

Economists differed over how the robust jobs report might influence the Fed. Some said it probably isn't sufficient for the Fed to slow its $85-billion-a-month bond-buying program when it meets Dec. 17-18.

"The one month of job growth is not enough to allow them to pull the trigger," said Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at CohnReznick.

But Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, disagreed, writing in a research note: "In our opinion, the data would justify the Fed reducing the pace of its asset purchases in December."

The report showed that employers added an average of 202,000 jobs a month from August through October — up sharply from an average of 146,000 from May through July. And they added 45,000 more jobs in August and 15,000 more in September than the government previously estimated.

Private businesses added 212,000 jobs last month. That was the most since February. By contrast, federal government jobs fell by 12,000.

Many retailers are optimistic about consumers' willingness to spend more during the holiday shopping season. Wal-Mart is hiring 55,000 seasonal workers, up from 50,000 last year.

One troubling detail in the report: The percentage of Americans working or looking for work fell to a 35-year low.

That figure may have been temporarily worsened by the shutdown. Even so, it suggests many Americans are discouraged about their prospects for finding a job.

Nearly 4.1 million Americans have been out of work for six months or more. That figure has tripled since the recession began in December 2007. The long-term unemployed represent more than a third of the 11.3 million people out of work.

About 1.3 million of the long-term jobless will lose their unemployment benefits by year's end unless Congress renews an emergency benefits program, according to the National Employment Law Project. The emergency program provides up to 37 additional weeks of aid in most states on top of the 26 weeks that states typically dispense.

Edward Magda fears he will be one of them. He lives near Atlantic City, N.J., and has been a tile installer for 32 years. But the weak economy has left him unemployed.

In the past, he helped build hotels and resorts for Bally's, Hilton and Revel. But now, "this is the worst I've ever seen it," said Magda, 58.

About 800,000 government workers were furloughed for all or part of the Oct. 1-16 shutdown.

Many were counted as unemployed for the purposes of calculating the unemployment rate. But because they were ultimately paid for their time off, the furloughed workers were still counted as employed by a separate government survey that calculates job growth.

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Photo courtesy www.shophousekitchen.com

READ TO GO: **ShopHouse follows the Chipotle way with ingredients ready assembly-line style.**



Michael Ryan *michael@smdp.com*

BOWLED OVER: **ShopHouse recently opened on the Third Street Promenade, offering Southeast Asia's version of fast food by cranking out fresh rice and noodle bowls laced with spicy sauces, marinated meats and herbs and vegetables.**



Tour De Feast

Michael 'Snacks' Ryan

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thai food in the house

SOMETIMES YOU JUST KNOW WHEN you have a hit on your hands — or should I say in your mouth? The people who brought the ShopHouse to Santa Monica must be feeling that sentiment as long lines consistently jut out the door and extend onto the Third Street Promenade.

After all, the corner of Third and Santa Monica Boulevard is the prime location in town. While ShopHouse has only been open for a couple of weeks, there has been a decent amount of anticipation stirring from the many who frequent the area and knew that the old La Salsa structure had been shrouded in scaffolding for quite some time.

But that is all a thing of the past. With no grand nor soft openings, ShopHouse simply opened the flood gates and watched the people pour in. It's no coincidence that their initial success is linked with being developed by Chipotle. Chipotle has branded themselves on serving food fresh, fast and with an emphasis on sustainably sourced, hormone-free fare. As an added bonus, ShopHouse's menu is completely gluten and dairy free. Us Santa Monicans eat this stuff up.

Besides standing by the Chipotle mantra, ShopHouse has adopted their assembly line style of service as well. This all means those crazy lines move pretty fast. The staff seems pretty dialed in, so it's best if you know what you want when it's your turn to order because "ain't nobody got time to wait! Next!"

The abbreviated explanation of ShopHouse is that it is an Asian-style Chipotle. That's unfair considering how big of a continent Asia is. And if you're thinking Panda Express but perhaps less gloppy, only half of that is true. Tim Wildin, director of concept development at Chipotle, helped develop ShopHouse from its infancy.

"I grew up eating traditional Thai food prepared by my mom and my aunt using traditional recipes and cooking techniques. When we were developing the menu for ShopHouse, we knew we wanted those exotic flavors as the basis for many of the dishes," Tim said.

If you go

ShopHouse
1401 Third Street Promenade
Santa Monica, Calif. 90401
www.shophousekitchen.com

In other words, this place was built with Sriracha lovers in mind. The ShopHouse menu is exclusively bowl based starting with a foundation of either jasmine rice, brown rice, chilled rice noodles, Napa cabbage or kale. Then top it with chicken satay, finely chopped steak laab, pork and chicken meatballs, or organic tofu. Southeast Asian flavors sing when embellishing your bowl with an assortment of garnishes, sauces, and veggies such as eggplant and thai basil, green curry and green papaya slaw. When it's all said and done the bowls cost around $7 to $8. Make it a meal for a few bucks more by adding a Thai brand beer.

The ShopHouse stays true to their claim of authentic Southeast Asian street food with assertively spiced curries and flash-wokked veggies. Bonus points for using non-Monsanto soy for their tofu. (Monsanto controls 90 percent of the soybean production in the U.S.) Add in some ginger, cilantro and a texture with some bite for a tofu you will actually want to eat.

There are no real complaints to report on the ShopHouse. Seating is scarce, but the bowl is best enjoyed while people watching on the promenade or in Palisades Park. The long lines move fast, prices are reasonable, and the food is fresh and for the most part very sensible. Everything is coming up roses for ShopHouse. Probably the most non-hidden gem in all of Santa Monica.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food. He can be reached at michael@smdp.com. Follow him on Twitter at https://twitter.com/greaseweek

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Where to save, where to spend on Thanksgiving

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

Pulling together the perfect Thanksgiving dinner all comes down to balance. It's a matter of knowing when to save, and when to spend. And that rule applies as much to money as to time and energy.

Because the better you understand where time in the kitchen can pay serious dividends — versus just leaving you frustrated and disappointed — the easier it is for you to decide which parts of the big meal should get your time, and which should get your cash.

To help you sort it all out, I've listed my Top 12 Thanksgiving Trouble Spots, along with my take on where your time and money are best spent.



Photo courtesy *wordpress.com*

MEAL DEAL: When it comes to making Thanksgiving dinner, spend time on the brine and splurge on the bird, but leave the pie to the professionals.

THE TURKEY

How often do you roast a turkey? Once, maybe twice a year? And you're likely to spend four or more hours slaving over the sucker, right? So why not splurge on a local, organic, heirloom bird raised by free-spirited workers on a collective? The bird, after all, is the centerpiece of the meal. Make it a good one.

THE BRINE

It's all about moisture. And brining is worth your time. Because a moist bird makes for a delicious dinner. You could do a basic brine, which is a 1:1 ratio of kosher salt and sugar dissolved in water. Plunk the bird in that for 8 to 72 hours and you're good to go. But anyone can do a basic brine.

What you want to do is invest a few extra minutes and a couple extra dollars to make a sensational brine. Using the same 1:1 ratio, you're going to dissolve kosher salt and brown sugar in gently simmering apple cider seasoned with black pepper and fresh rosemary. Add a ton of ice to cool it down, then resume your poultry plunking.

THE ROAST

Don't just pop the bird in the oven. Lube it up with as much butter as you can, both under and over the skin. And while you're at it, jam some fresh herbs under the skin, then pop some lemons and fresh rosemary into the cavity. (Don't fret over needing room for the stuffing. We'll get to that in a moment.) This all takes a few extra minutes, but it's well worth it.

THE BASTE

Do it. But don't do it more than every 30 minutes. Every time you open that oven door, all the heat rushes out. Baste more than every half hour or so and your bird won't be done until Christmas.

THE ROLLS

Unless you are an amazing baker, buy your rolls. They'll be better than what most amateurs can produce. And you won't spend hours fighting with the dough. Want a homemade touch? Make the butter to go with the rolls. It takes 5 minutes and will be the best butter you've ever eaten. Seriously.

Dump a quart of heavy cream in a food processor, then turn it on. Let it go for about 3 to 5 minutes. First it will turn into whipped cream, then the buttermilk will break away from the fat. Once the fat (butter) is all clumped together, dumped out the liquid. Place the butter in a bowl and knead it to squeeze out more liquid. Once no more liquid comes out, season it with kosher salt and eat it at room temp. Best. Butter. Ever.

MASHED POTATOES

Dry potatoes are better potatoes. So after you boil them, spend a few extra minutes spreading them on a baking sheet. Pop the potatoes in the oven at about 350 degrees for 10 minutes. After the potatoes are dried out, use a ricer to get just the right texture. Then load on the butter and milk. Spare the fat, spoil the potatoes.

STUFFING

Don't complicate your life — or your bird — by stuffing your stuffing. This is why casserole dishes were invented.

But do spend a little extra to use real bread (not bagged stuffing). Get good bread, let it go stale, cut it into cubes, then toast it in the oven. And when you assemble the stuffing, get some dried fruit in there, which offers a nice contrast of texture and flavor. Dried cherries, cranberries and apricots are all excellent choices. And tons of onions, sage and celery are nice counterpoints to the fruit. Don't forget an egg or two for structure.

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Just make it. It's 5 minutes out of your life and it will make such a difference at the table. Use the recipe on the bag, but add as many other varieties of dried and fresh fruit as you can handle.

GREEN VEGGIES

When in doubt, add bacon. Green beans. Brussels sprouts. Whatever. Bacon makes them better. Money spent on bacon is money very well spent.

ORANGE VEGGIES

We're talking sweet potatoes and butternut squash. Leave the mashing for the white potatoes. Instead, cut the orange ones into cubes, dust them with cornstarch, a sprinkle of oil and whatever seasonings get you going, then roast them until lightly browned and tender.

THE PIE

Unless you've recently won a bake-off, here's another place to spend money instead of time. A good baker will make your efforts taste like something from 7-11. Instead, spend your time making fresh whipped cream using really good heavy cream spiked with fresh vanilla bean and a bit of powdered sugar. And the same cream can be piled onto the coffee you serve with dessert.

J.M. HIRSCH is the food editor for The Associated Press. He blogs at www.LunchBoxBlues.com and tweets at twitter.com/JM_Hirsch. E-mail him at jhirsch@ap.org



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC

Veterans go to entrepreneurial bootcamp

Santa Monica College's Small Business Development Center is launching a program to train veterans to become entrepreneurs.

Funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the program, entitled Vetrepreneur Bootcamp: Forces to Franchises, is intended to help guide military veterans on how to start a business.

"Each year, there are over 250,000 service members transitioning out of our military," business center Director Gita Runkle said. "These veterans possess the unique skills, experience, leadership and drive that make them ideally suited to start businesses and create jobs in their communities."

Forces to Franchises will have veterans utilize their leadership skills and integrate them to the franchise business structure.

The program will run for eight weeks and five sessions and it will be structured as a series of workshops. The workshops will educate veterans on the steps to building and funding a business.

In addition, the workshops will teach veterans on how to apply for a SBA loan and how to franchise.

Forces to Franchises' goal is to have participants finish their business plans and include them in a loan package. Another goal of the program is to increase the number of applications in the business community.

The program will run from Feb. 7 to April 4, 2014 and the deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2013. Forces to Franchises is limited to 30 participants.

For more information, call (310)424-3566 or visit smcsbdc.org.

– BRIAN ADIGWU

CENTER
FROM PAGE 3

Santa Monica will be staffed by 10 physicians who are board-certified in seven specialties and subspecialties, including hematology-oncology, medical genetics, neurology, orthopaedics, plastic and maxillofacial surgery, and urology.

"We are bringing world-class care to the neighborhood," said pediatric neurologist Dr. Kiarash Sadrieh, a Santa Monica resident who will be the staff neurologist at the center. "Santa Monica has great schools, great parks, great beaches and great community programs — now we have the best pediatric specialty care right here close to home. My medical colleagues and neighbors are very excited we're opening an outpatient care center in our community."

The 3,000-square-foot center features seven exam rooms and will offer consults and evaluations. In addition, children requiring a medical procedure at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles campus in Hollywood can have all their pre-operation evaluation and post-operation follow-up visits at the Santa Monica facility, reducing the need to commute across town.

"Families who are taking care of a child with an illness already have enough to worry about, and commuting from the Westside to our main campus can be unnecessarily time-consuming and expensive," said pediatric oncologist Dr. Stuart Siegel, who will serve as staff hematologist/oncologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles — Santa Monica. "Family-centered care is core to our mission, and by bringing necessary services closer to home we hope to give families more peace of mind and time to spend with loved ones."

The hospital has seen significant demand for its services on the Westside. More than 2,650 Westside children were treated at the main hospital in Hollywood during a 14-month stretch ending this past August, accounting for a total of 5,153 visits, according to a press release from the hospital. That adds up to an estimated 170,000 miles that families commuted to receive care.

Preceded by the hospital's outpatient centers in Arcadia, Valencia and Torrance, Children's Hospital Los Angeles — Santa Monica is the fourth ambulatory care facility opened by Children's Hospital since 2010. Earlier this year, the hospital also joined forces with Providence Tarzana Medical Center in the operation of Providence Tarzana's pediatric and pediatric intensive care units, where patients now have access to Children's Hospital Los Angeles pediatric specialty services.

For more information, visit CHLA.org.

editor@smdp.com



LION
FROM PAGE 3

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, in a release. "This section of the 101 Freeway is the ideal path into the Santa Monica Mountains because of the natural habitat on both sides of the freeway and the connections to large areas of open space."

Constructing a tunnel would cost $10 million, according to the park service, but Caltrans has twice come up short in applying federal transportation funding for the project.

Mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains face a lack of genetic diversity because they are hemmed in by freeways, the Pacific Ocean and the Oxnard agricultural plain. The lack of diversity is a threat to their long-term survival, according to the park service.

Riley and his colleagues have worked with the Robert Wayne Lab at UCLA and the Holly Ernest Lab at UC Davis to document genetic differences in mountain lion populations north and south of the freeway. They have also documented multiple cases of first-order inbreeding, in which a father mates with his offspring.

In a decade-long study tracking 30 mountain lions, the park service recorded only one lion successfully crossing the 101. A successful crossing by the mountain lion killed last month could have brought genetic diversity to the population south of the freeway.

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This article first appeared in The Malibu Times.

SCORES
FROM PAGE 1

when such tracking started, with more improvement in math than in reading. Students of all races have shown improvement over the years.

The results come from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, which is given every two years to a sample of fourth- and eighth-graders.

This year's results, compared to results in 2011, show average incremental gains of about one or two points on a 500-point scale in math and reading in both grades, although the one-point gain in fourth grade reading was not considered statistically significant.

"Every two years, the gains tend to be small, but over the long run, they stack up," said Jack Buckley, commissioner of the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics.

Buckley said he was "heartened" by some of the results, "but there are also some areas where I'd hoped to see improvement where we didn't."

Today, President W. Bush's landmark education law No Child Left Behind, which sought to close achievement gaps among racial groups and have every student doing math and reading at grade level by 2014, has essentially been dismantled.

After Congress failed to update the law before it was due for renewal in 2007, President Barack Obama allowed states to get waivers from it if they showed they have their own plans to prepare students. Most states took him up on the offer.

Meanwhile, a majority of states are rolling out Common Core State Standards with the goal of better preparing the nation's students for college or a job. The states-led standards establish benchmarks for reading and math and replace goals that varied widely from state.

Academic scholars have long debated what effects the law and other state-led reforms have had on test scores.

This year, Tennessee and the District of Columbia, which have both launched high-profile efforts to strengthen education by improving teacher evaluations and by other measures, showed across-the-board growth on the test compared to 2011, likely stoking more debate. Only the Defense Department schools also saw gains in both grade levels and subjects.

In Hawaii, which has also seen a concentrated effort to improve teaching quality, scores also increased with the exception of fourth grade reading. In Iowa and Washington state, scores increased except in 8th-grade math.

Specifically pointing to Tennessee, Hawaii and D.C., Education Secretary Arne Duncan said on a conference call with reporters that many of the changes seen in these states were "very, very difficult and courageous" and appear to have had an impact.

Chris Minnich, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, said the biggest problem revealed in the results is the large gap that exists between the performances of students of different races.

There was a 26-point gap, for example, between how white and African American 4th graders performed on the math section. In eighth grade reading, white students outperformed Hispanic students by 21 points.

"We still have a situation where you have kids that are left behind. They aren't given the same instruction. They aren't given the same expectations as other kids," Minnich said. He said it's time for "doubling down and making sure the gaps get smaller."

Duncan said too many African-American and Hispanic children start kindergarten a year or two behind and that early childhood programs are key to leveling the playing field. Duncan and Obama have lobbied for congressional passage of a preschool-for-all program.

This test specifically looked at the performance of American children, but the results from other recent assessments and studies have shown American children and adults scoring below peers in many other countries.

The exam was given this year to about 377,000 fourth graders and 342,000 eighth graders in public and private schools. However, state-specific numbers are only from public schools.

In math, students were asked to answer questions about topics such as geometry, algebra and measurement. In reading, students were told to read passages and recall details or interpret them.

Among the other results:

• More boys than girls scored at or above the proficient level for both grades in math. In reading, more girls than boys scored at or above that mark.

• Twenty-five out of the 52 states or jurisdictions measured had a higher average score in 2013 than in 2011 in at least one subject and grade.

• Five states had a lower score than two years ago in at least one subject and grade: Massachusetts, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

• Hispanic students were the only racial or ethnic group that saw improvements in math scores in both fourth and eighth grades; Asian/Pacific Islanders students had the highest percentage of students performing at or above the proficient level in both math and reading.



Photo courtesy *www.riotgames.com*

HARD AT WORK: Employees at Riot Games, which is planning to move its staff to office space on Bundy Drive near Olympic Boulevard, not only create games, they play them too.

OFFICE
FROM PAGE 1

Harris, City Hall's Economic Development Division manager, said in an e-mail.

In 2011, Google announced it was leaving for Venice and city officials have said that other companies are growing out of their offices.

"The city is working with Sony and Red Bull to address their facility needs but they face similar challenges," Harris said.

Riot Games has been looking for office space for about a year, said a company representative who asked not to be named.

"These things kind of creep up," the employee said. "We've experienced a ton of growth within the last year."

For Riot Games, the city boundary means less than it does for City Hall.

"I just think that this was the best fit," the Riot Games spokesperson said. "It's as close as we could get to being in Santa Monica without actually being in the city of Santa Monica."

Riot Games' decision to leave comes in the middle of a debate over the future of the Papermate site in the Bergamot neighborhood. A proposed agreement with developer Hines would bring both residential units and up to 374,000 square feet of creative office to the site.

Planning Commissioner Richard McKinnon has been vocal in his belief that the area needs housing before it needs offices, and Riot Games' departure does little to change his mind. Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the leading political party in Santa Monica, recently wrote a letter to city officials calling for more housing and less office space.

A campus as large as the one that the gaming company is headed to is not "mid-sized" and is hard to find in any city, McKinnon said.

"These kind of things happen all the time," he said. "Boeing moved from Chicago to Seattle. There are moments when cities are not big enough to deal with growth."

Santa Monica has had a jobs-housing imbalance for 15 or 20 years, he said, meaning there are not enough homes to house workers, creating commuter traffic that clogs city streets.

At a recent Planning Commission meeting, consultant Paul Silvern said that City Hall has incentivized residential developments in the commercial districts by doubling density, resulting in a vacuum of creative office space for second- and third-stage companies.

"In this particular location, where you've got a very large piece of land and you've got the flexibility to develop the kind of commercial office space, or creative office space that is missing in this city, the balance tips a little differently," he said of the Hines plot.

Mayor Pam O'Connor said that while Santa Monica might not become home to Fortune 500 company headquarters, it could stand to gain some diversity of office sizes.

"I think we want to have spaces for a range of office spaces," she said. "We're starting to lose companies. I don't think we need just offices for these smaller start-up companies."

dave@smdp.com

REPORT
FROM PAGE 1

Los Angeles County spent an average of 4.9 nights in the city this winter, up more than one night from winter 2012. They spent more money, too, CVB officials said.

It's the international crowd that supported the city the most, contributing close to $1 billion in 2012.

Half as many affordable residences were completed last fiscal year compared to the year prior, according to the report. Last year, 169 residences were opened compared to 354 the year prior. The loss of the redevelopment agency money "seriously constrained future capital investments" in affordable housing, according to the report.

"The dissolution of redevelopment was our principal challenge," City Manager Rod Gould said in the report. "This, along with rapid increases in pensions and healthcare costs, outstripped the increase in revenues that resulted from economic recovery."

About 36 percent of all housing built in the city since 1994 was affordable to low-and-moderate-income households, the report said.

Homelessness increased in Santa Monica and across the region, according to the report. The number of homeless people placed in permanent housing also nearly halved, from 108 to 55.

"Rather than make drastic changes, we refined strategies and collaborated with partners to curb this trend," Gould said.

The fire department responded to 13,540 calls for service last fiscal year, up 5.4 percent from the year before. Two-thirds of the calls were for medical service. Only 1.64 percent were for fires.

The Alhambra Fire Department, which serves a population only slightly smaller than Santa Monica, responded to 4,849 incidents during fiscal year 2011-12, according to the Verdugo Fire Communications Center.

In Culver City, which has less than half the population of Santa Monica, the fire department responded to 4,500 calls, with a slightly higher rate of fires, according to Culver City fire officials. About 82 percent of their calls were for medical help.

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to more calls per capita than the Pasadena Fire Department. About 17 percent of Pasadena's responses were for fires.

"At the end of the year, the overall crime rate was consistent with levels not seen since the 1950s," the report said of the Santa Monica Police Department.

Gould lauded the service of police, fire, Big Blue Bus, and city staff, during the June shooting rampage that ended at Santa Monica College.

"If not for their smart and selfless service, it is without question more lives would have been lost," he said.

The Santa Monica Public Library had 1,373,000 visitors last year, down about 25,000 from last year.

The drop is probably tied to the fact that the Los Angeles Library system, which has branches surrounding the city, had severely cut back hours in 2009 but restored most of them last year, Acting City Librarian Wright Rix said.

"That just takes some of the pressure of it off of us," he said.

The library was recently named one of 13 Five Star libraries in the state by the Library Journal, which measures, among other factors, every library's circulation usage, visitors, and community involvement against their annual budgets. Santa Monica has been named a Five Star library every year since the Library Journal began keeping track five years ago.

OTHER NOTABLE NUMBERS

- 208: The number of public records requests completed by City Hall. The total doubled from the year prior.
- 1,400: The number of people that participated in community meetings and workshops. The number is up 200 from the year prior.
- 256: The number of cultural events produced. There were 172 events last year.
- 18,000: The number of bicycles valet-parked at events. In the year prior, 24,000 bikes were parked at events. There were more events offering bike valet-parking the year prior.

dave@smdp.com









SURF REPORT



O'NEILL

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131 BROADWAY SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 | (657) 859-3721
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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **62.1°**

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
New NW swell-mix; stay tuned...storm dependent; minor Southern Hemi energy

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Trace NW and SSW swells; possible new NW windswell mix

MONDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Possible new NW swell mix; minor Southern Hemi energy

TUESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small NW swell mix; minor Southern Hemi energy

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 6, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 0
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 23 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Swain Barber Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	B	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.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Pwerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pwerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	C	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	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
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	B	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Stanford's win over Oregon muddles Pac-12 – again

BY ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. The Pac-12 has been fighting with the SEC for years to be considered the nation's toughest conference. That might finally be the case this season — though to the Pac-12's detriment.

In the aftermath of No. 6 Stanford's 26-20 victory over No. 2 Oregon on Thursday night, the league is left without an undefeated team and once again searching for a way to crack the BCS championship game.

"We don't hold the cards anymore," first-year Ducks coach Mark Helfrich said. "But we never hold the cards."

At the very least, Oregon had quite a hand before entering Stanford Stadium.

The Cardinal (8-1, 6-1 Pac-12) dominated the Ducks (8-1, 5-1) for more than three quarters before holding off a furious Oregon rally and winning a game that likely put the Pac-12 out of the national championship race again.

Stanford and Oregon have been among the nation's best programs the past four seasons. The depth of the conference is finally starting to catch up, turning the league into what the SEC has been for so many years: a two-month fight that nobody survives unscathed.

The next step for the Pac-12 might be gaining enough respect that — like the SEC — even a one-loss team won't be knocked out of contention, which should be helped when the four-team playoff begins next season. No one-loss team from the Pac-12 has ever played for the BCS title.

The undefeated Ducks played for the BCS title following the 2010 season, when they lost to Auburn. The Pac-12 has pounded itself out of the mix ever since, and this season appears to be no exception.

For the fourth straight year, the Oregon-Stanford game turned out to be a spoiler's delight. The loser was handed its first defeat of the season, and if the pattern holds true from the previous three years, it'll also be the only thing keeping the loser — in this case Oregon — out of the BCS championship game in January.

The Cardinal's convincing win over the Ducks — holding the ball for 42 1/2 minutes, rushing 66 times for 274 yards — will likely not be enough for them to work their way into the BCS title game unless at least three of the top four teams (Alabama, Florida State, Ohio State and Baylor) all lose. And even that might not be enough.

In a year that the Pac-12 had the inside track for a berth in the BCS title game, Stanford can thank its perplexing loss at Utah (4-4, 1-4) last month for derailing those dreams.

"People may say we're overrated. That's fine. That's no big deal. What we have is the next down to make," Stanford coach David Shaw said. "That's for us. That's what our guys have to understand. We get football. We get the games. Let everybody else talk and do whatever they want. But for us, we get to play football and that's what our guys love to do."

Stanford has still seized control of efforts to win another league title — the only goal Shaw ever talks about with his players — and making a return trip to the Rose Bowl.

Just like last year, Oregon will need to win its remaining games and hope the Cardinal drop one of their final two conference contests to get back in control of hosting the Pac-12 championship. Stanford visits Southern California (6-3, 3-2) on Nov. 16 before hosting rival California (1-8, 0-6) on Nov. 23.

Oregon plays Utah, travels to Arizona and hosts rival Oregon State over the next three weeks in a modest finishing stretch the Ducks had hoped would lead to a Pac-12 title game and eventual BCS championship game berth. Now they'll likely have to settle for another BCS bowl — probably the Fiesta or Orange — yet again.

"It (stinks) to say this, but I've gone through it," Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "It takes a lot out of you. I think a lot of these young guys are still going to learn how to handle it, but it's the same as the older guys did for me last year. It's just come back the next day and work. I mean, that's really all you can do. It's in the past now. We'll just focus on what's in the future."



MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Nov. 9

Short Cuts (R) 3hrs 07min
Luck, Trust & Ketchup: Robert Altman in Carver Country (NR) 1hr 30min
6:30pm
Discussion between films with documentary director Mike Kaplan and actress Lily Tomlin.

Sunday, Nov. 10

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 2hrs
7:00pm
Evening begins with a discussion with actress Emma Thompson.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
7:30pm, 10:40pm

Ender's Game (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:55pm

About Time (R) 2hrs 04min
8:00pm, 11:10pm

Counselor (R) 1hr 51min
8:15pm, 11:15pm

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

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
8:00pm, 10:40pm

Ender's Game (PG-13) 1hr 54min
8:30pm, 10:10pm

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
7:30pm, 10:50pm

Last Vegas (R) 1hr 30min
7:45pm, 10:30pm

Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
8:15pm, 11:30pm

Free Birds (PG) 1hr 30min
10:00pm

Free Birds in 3D () 1hr 30min
7:30pm

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) 1hr 33min
7:35pm, 11:20pm

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

All Is Lost (PG-13) 1hr 40min
7:30pm

Capital (Le capital) (R) 1hr 53min
10:10pm

Kill Your Darlings (R) 1hr 35min
10:00pm

How I Live Now () 1hr 41min
7:50pm, 10:15pm

Enough Said (PG-13) 1hr 33min
7:40pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
7:20pm, 10:15pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

BE MYSTERIOUS, PISCES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Holding yourself back to stick to the tried-and-true would be a mistake. Your significant other might need to join you on an adventure. See different people and experience different cultures. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Shaking up the status quo could be close to impossible, depending on your interests and the direction you want to head in. Someone you often look to for help seems to be closed down right now. Don't worry about it. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be in the mood for a spontaneous trip or a visit to someone who lives away from your immediate area. The drive and the change of scenery might be more refreshing than you would think. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ It seems as if everyone wants quality time with you. Honor your priorities and make some choices. You also might want to use your diplomatic skills in order to keep the peace. With some careful planning, you might not have to disappoint anyone. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others come forward with suggestions. Though you might have felt as if you needed to take full responsibility with a project, it becomes apparent that you can step back. Tonight: Enjoy all the attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your efficiency is a desired quality. Others recognize your ability to clear up quite a few problems with ease. It is important to understand your strengths, but you also need to take better care of yourself. Do this by saying "no" once in a while. Tonight: Hang with the gang.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take at least half the day to be frivolous, if not more. Though your levity mixed with your creativity could be a tremendous asset for you at work, it also is a great quality that allows you to have a good time with friends. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ If you can hang at home, do. You could be involved with a home project, or perhaps you might decide to clean up a room or two for the upcoming holidays. Some of you might have already started buying your holiday gifts. Tonight: Do your thing. Screen calls.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your phone rings as others seek you out. You could have a difficult time saying "no" to invitations. Focus on the people around you. You still might be a little off if you have not yet heard from a special person. Tonight: With friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Honor what is happening. Even if you feel inclined to take a risk, be careful. Can you afford the loss? Don't get involved in any money risks after noon. Make a phone call to someone you care about who always has good advice. Tonight: Make it your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You are energized and ready to head right out the door. You might want to make some calls first to check out the lay of the land. You are the sign of friendship, and you can be found visiting with different sets of friends today. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Know when to take the lead in a strategic situation. On the other hand, you might be happier kicking back and doing more of what you want. A friend's suggestion might seem off. Be polite, but do what you want. Tonight: You like to be mysterious, don't you?

November 9-10, 2013

This year you sometimes might confuse others as you give off mixed vibes. You connect on a close one-on-one level with others, yet you absolutely need your freedom in an intimate relationship. Some people can't visualize having both. Realize that you can have both with the right person. Be careful committing this year. If you are attached, there is an element of chaos in your household that helps balance your diverse and nearly opposite needs. AQUARIUS is always lively.

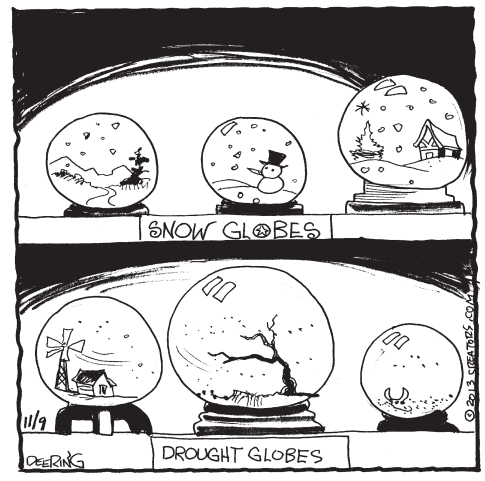
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



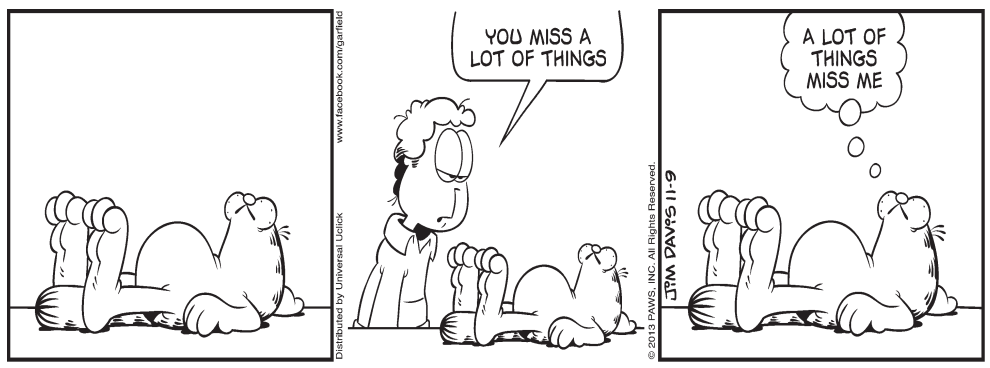
Strange Brew
By John Deering



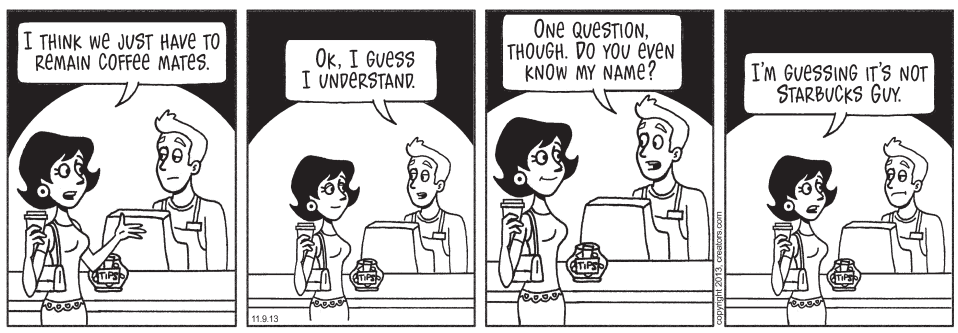
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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

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

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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.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Strong wind
5 Outstanding
9 Kick back
10 "American Buffalo" playwright
12 Caper
13 Durance of "Smallville"
14 Being rude, in a way
16 Writer Deighton
17 Luau dish
18 Flying high
20 Icy dessert
22 Feedbag fill
23 Threw in
25 1975 Wimbledon champ
28 Like some training
32 Frugal
34 Narc's org.
35 Shoe hue
36 White-hot
38 Collectible car
40 Silly one
41 "Superman" star
42 Computer key
43 Louver piece
44 Lip

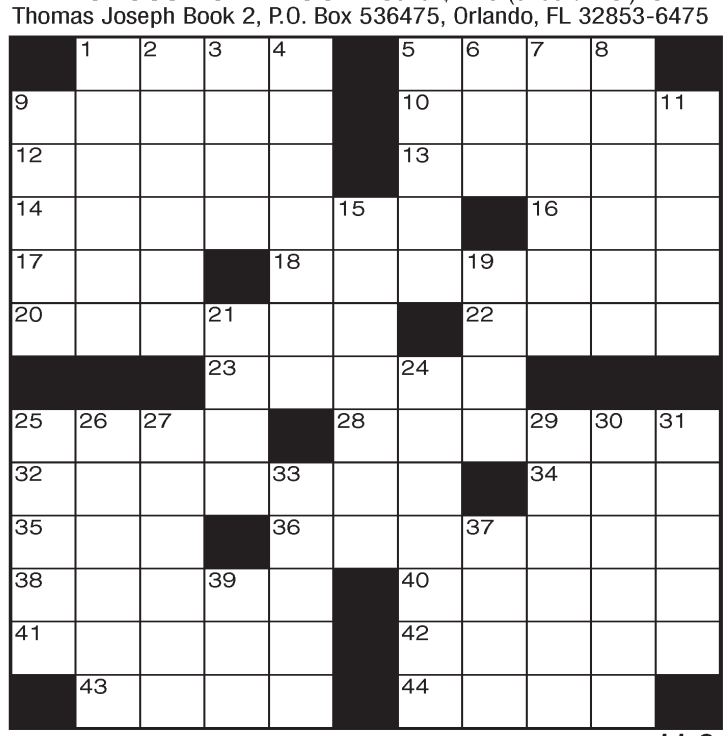
DOWN

1 Long-tailed penguin
2 Star in Aquila
3 Comfy home
4 Removed surgically
5 Last letter
6 Kids' card game
7 Clarke of "Game of Thrones"
8 Respectable
9 Grating sounds
11 Distinct flavors
15 Contrary to good manners
19 Reactor parts
21 Boxer Buddy
24 Hires
25 Showy flower
26 Black suit
27 Gingerbread eater
29 Blockheads
30 Past, present, and future
31 Raring to go
33 Key
37 Writer Jaffe
39 Longoria of TV

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

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



11-9



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Norwegian public television (NRK), which introduced the now-legendary continuous, live log-burning show (12 hours long, with "color commentary" on the historical and cultural importance of fire), scheduled a new program for this week in its appeal to serenity (labeled "Slow TV"). On Nov. 1, NRK was to televise live, for five hours, an attempt to break the world record for producing a sweater, from shearing the sheep to spinning the wool and knitting the garment (current record: 4:51, by Australians). (In addition to the log, NRK viewers have been treated to live cams on a salmon-fishing boat and, for five days, on a cruise ship.) Said an NRK journalist, "You would think it's boring television, but we have quite good ratings for these programs."

■ The Horror: A recent medical journal reported that a 49-year-old man in Brazil said he had recovered from a stroke except that the damage to his brain (in a "subcortical region" associated with higher-level thinking) has caused him to develop "pathological generosity" toward others. A Duke University neurologist told London's Daily Mail that stroke-induced personality changes (such as hoarding) are common, but that this particular change appears unique. Doctors reported in the journal Neurocase that even with medication, this patient's beneficence was unabated after two years.

TODAY IN HISTORY

2005 - The Venus Express mission of the European Space Agency is launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

2005 - Suicide bombers attacked three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 60 people.

WORD UP!

novitiate
\ noh-VISH-ee-it, -eyt \ , noun;
1.
the state or period of being a beginner in anything.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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- Wanted
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- Vacation Rentals
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- Rent
- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
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Employment

Employment Wanted

Immediate positions (all shifts) in the environmental services department with a local hospital in the Santa Monica area are now available. Please call Nancy at (310) 829-8431.

Help Wanted

LOVE DOGS? EARN $$ FROM HOME Home FT? Keep a neighbor's dog in your home while they travel. Meet the dog & owner B4 committing to jobs. Earn up to $35 per dog per day (often multiple dogs.) Apply online at http://dogboarding.sleepoverrover.com/ become-a-host.html or call 866-867-5048

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Handyman

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School and Instruction

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Tip: Act Quickly

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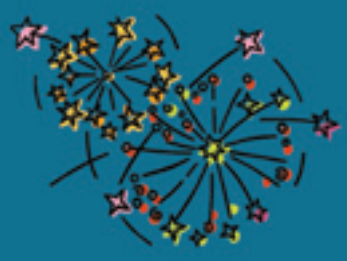


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Happy Veteran's Day!



Remember to Pay Your Property Taxes!

Property Taxes become Delinquent
after
5:00pm on Tuesday, December 10th

Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Early November 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,311,600
North of Montana	=	$ 4,407,833
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$ 850,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,866,600
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,859,143
Statistics updated every Friday		



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