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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011
Volume 11 Issue 4

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SOUTH IN THE AIR
SEE PAGE 15

THE JUST LIKE THE REAL STUFF ISSUE

Field sharing gets under way

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Members of the organization Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) earlier this month gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of the passage of a half-cent transaction and use tax that has been levied on the citizens of Santa Monica since March 2011.

That initiative, Measure Y, was joined by an advisory vote called Measure YY, which dictated that half of the money raised by the tax would go directly to the Santa Monica-Malibu School District.

In return for the estimated $5.7 million each year, SMMUSD promised that City Hall would get access to its sports facilities, opening up additional recreation sites to community use.

Though City Hall and the district formally entered that agreement on June 28, the details of how the field sharing would occur were only released this month and, so far, there have only been a few hiccups, officials say.

"We've been working on the supplemental agreement for several months," said Kathy LePrevost, community recreation manager with City Hall. "It provides an opportunity for expanded use."

The agreement opens up the use of outdoor basketball and tennis courts, a track, the Drake swimming pool on the Santa Monica High School campus, a dance stu-

SEE FIELD PAGE 11



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

NEW LOOK: **The Samohi football team practices on the school's new synthetic field on Tuesday.**

Watchdog files class action suit against insurance provider

Anthem poised to raise rates, lower benefits through new contract, lawsuit alleges

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK BLVD Santa Monica-based nonprofit Consumer Watchdog filed a class action lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court Monday accusing insurance giant Anthem Blue Cross of changing the terms of existing contracts to charge its clients more.

The suit also targets another new provision which allows the company to change how much it charges its clients with only 60 days notice beginning May 1.

At the press conference held Tuesday in Sunset Park, Consumer Watchdog staff attorney Jerry Flanagan told reporters that Anthem's move was a "bait and switch" on customers that had agreed to pay for specific plans only to see the company prepare to simultaneously raise rates and cut benefits.

In the new terms of policy renewal, Anthem gives itself the ability to change benefits as well as the amount that its customers pay in out-of-pocket costs six times each year.

The group estimates that the allegedly dirty practices may affect more than 100,000 people.

The real losers are clients like Janet Kassouf of Hayward, Calif., a 13-year breast cancer survivor locked into coverage with Anthem because no other insurer will take her with a pre-existing medical condition, Flanagan said.

"What other industry is allowed to change the cost of a contract and what the client is getting out of it?" Flanagan asked. "None."

Anthem characterized the changes to its clients' contracts as a way of keeping premiums low.

"Anthem Blue Cross works diligently to slow the increase in medical costs so we can keep health insurance affordable for as many Californians as possible," said Darrel Ng, spokesperson for Anthem. "Health plans are highly regulated in the state, and all changes were made with the knowledge and approval

SEE SUIT PAGE 10

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Local teams make preseason CIF-SS soccer poll

DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITYWIDE A trio of Santa Monica-based soccer teams appear in the preseason CIF-Southern Section soccer polls, it was announced on Monday.

Both the girls' and boys' teams from Santa Monica High School were named to the first poll released this season.

The girls' team is ranked No. 10 in the Division 4 poll. Oaks Christian sits atop the poll at No. 1.

The boys' team is ranked No. 6, also in Division 4. El Rancho earned the top spot.

Crossroads' boys' team nabbed the No. 4 spot in Division 6.

Games begin later this month for all local teams.

SAMOHI WATER POLO JUST OUTSIDE RANKINGS

Samohi's girls' water polo team is listed among the teams just outside of the CIF-SS Division 6 preseason rankings released this week.

Samohi, along with Torrance, La Salle and Tustin are on the outside looking in.

Nearby Malibu sits at No. 2, just behind Warren in the same division.

Water polo games are set to begin in the coming months.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011

Food for thought
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Bring your kids to this "Books for Cooks" event as they read Thanksgiving-themed stories and make tasty treats with chefs from Kitchen Aid. The event is for children ages 4-8 and space is limited, so make sure to sign up early. For more information, call (310) 458-8621.

Good girl goes bad
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Authors Mary McDonough and Alison Arngrim will discuss their careers and new autobiographies in an intimate discussion at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. McDonough and Arngrim played Erin Walton on "The Waltons" and Nellie Oleson on "Little House on the Prairie," respectively. Following their discussion will be a book sale and signing. Tickets for the discussion will be released one hour prior to the event; for more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011

Digesting the information
Santa Monica Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 11:30 a.m.
Santa Monica College professors and students invite seniors to come learn about gastrointestinal digestive issues. Participants must be members of the Senior Center; membership is free and open to everyone ages 50 and older. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Friday, Nov. 18, 2011

Toast your teachers
Gilbert's El Indio Restaurant
2526 Pico Blvd., 4 p.m.
Come celebrate the National Education Association's Substitute Educators Day with substitute teachers from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The NEA conducts a "Substitute Educators Poll" each year to bring in a well-known public figure to serve as a substitute teacher for a day. Last year's nominee CNN anchor Anderson Cooper taught at a New York public school for a day, and this year's top pick is Jessica Alba. To RSVP, email vincentbernota@yahoo.com. For more information, call (310) 395-1528.

Jazzing up the music scene
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 7 and 9 p.m.
SMC's music department hosts a special benefit concert to raise money for its Applied Music Program. The Gilbert Castellaños Quintet will perform and tickets are $10. Additional concerts will be held on Sunday. For more information, call (310) 434-3005.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OCEAN AVE

CLARE raises $350K, honors 'Glee' star

Actress Jane Lynch from the hit musical-comedy TV show "Glee" was honored last week at the 14th annual CLARE Tribute Dinner at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, which raised more than $350,000 for the Santa Monica-based nonprofit that specializes in compassionate treatment and recovery for those struggling with addiction.

Lynch received the Friends of CLARE Tribute Award for her lasting contribution to the field of recovery. In her recent autobiography, "Happy Accidents," Lynch addresses her addiction and entry into recovery.

"The courage and Herculean effort it takes to face an addiction and come out the other side transformed – what is that if not a hero's journey?" Lynch asked at the dinner. "I am grateful to all who reached out to me, and I am lucky to be here tonight to reach out to others."

CLARE also honored Jill Troy Werner, the Co-CEO of Federated Linen & Uniform Services, with the Spirit of CLARE Award, which is presented to individuals who serve CLARE in extraordinary ways. Werner has been a board member at CLARE since 2006, and has provided substantial fiscal and organizational leadership during her time on the board. Werner is also a trustee of Vassar College, a commissioner of the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, and a member of the board of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

Also on hand to congratulate Lynch and Werner on their awards, and to show support for CLARE, were numerous other celebrities, including: former honoree Chuck Lorre (producer, "Two and a Half Men"); 2010 Tribute Award winner Stephen Moyer (HBO's "True Blood"), who spoke about his ongoing volunteer commitment at CLARE and urged patrons to support CLARE's programs; and honorary CLARE board member Jamie Lee Curtis and her husband Christopher Guest (director, "For Your Consideration," "A Mighty Wind," "Best in Show").

For more information, go www.clarefoundation.org/

KEVIN HERRERA

DOWNTOWN

Red Cross to honor City Hall

The American Red Cross Los Angeles Region is honoring the city of Santa Monica's Office of Emergency Management along with other area businesses and individuals as "heroes" for their exemplary work in promoting emergency preparedness.

The Heroes awards will be presented at the Red Cross' second annual Heroes Breakfast Thursday at the California Club in downtown Los Angeles.

The fundraising and recognition event honors local businesses and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding community leadership by taking an active role in disaster preparedness.

Actor, comedian and television personality David Spade will receive the 2011 National Heroes Award. Spade is a member of the American Red Cross Celebrity Cabinet, and most recently provided financial support to help the Red Cross serve those impacted by the tornadoes that ripped across the Midwest and Southeast a few months ago.

Additional 2011 Community Heroes honorees include Los Angeles City (District 9) Councilwoman Jan Perry, Forever 21, Panda Restaurant Group and The Walt Disney Company for their continuing support of Red Cross disaster relief efforts.

KH



COOL TIME

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Ice skaters perform during the opening of ICE at Santa Monica on Tuesday. The rink is located at Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue.

State among top fuel wasters

APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas Californians are among the top fuel-wasting drivers in the nation, burning up more than 38 million gallons in the most congested roadways last year, according to a report released Tuesday.

The study by the Texas Transportation Institute examined 328 of the most congested stretches of highway in the nation and ranked roadways based on the amount of fuel wasted due to congestion. Seven of the top 10 fuel-wasting stretches were in

SEE **GAS** PAGE 12

Coastal landslide worsens, area fenced off

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A creeping landslide has torn huge gaps in a road and dropped concrete into the sea below as it slowly destroys an oceanside bluff.

Paseo del Mar in the San Pedro area of Palos Verdes Peninsula began to buckle during the summer, and damage has dramatically worsened recently.

The scenic route is now bisected by fissures 20 feet to 30 feet deep in places.

An underground pipe that carried away storm runoff has been left jutting out into the air while segments of the concrete pipe are washed by surf below.

No nearby homes were threatened, but city officials worried that the rainy season could increase movement of the landslide.

Crews have been rerouting storm drains and power lines while erecting an 8-foot-tall fence to keep people away from the unstable area that includes beach access paths and a section of the White Point Nature Preserve. The new fence replaces a temporary fence.

"The affected area of the landslide represents an immediate and life-threatening hazard," according to a city fact sheet.

The peninsula's scenic qualities have prompted decades of homebuilding that some experts blame for further destabilizing the historically unstable ocean bluffs.

The cliffs are made chiefly of sediment and rock formations that slope seawards. The ocean also erodes the base of the cliffs, and there have been several slow-moving landslides since the 1950s that threatened several hundred homes.

A 1999 collapse destroyed 16 acres of a golf course.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Caring for caregivers

Editor:

As you may know, November is National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Due to this, I believe this to be an excellent opportunity to recognize how vital caregivers are to our community. Professional caregivers make meaningful and humanitarian contributions to Santa Monica and to communities all over the world. This particular profession's approach to care utilizes strategies to provide comfort and reassurance to those who are ill, as well as their families.

As fellow caregivers in our community, we honor caregivers for the invaluable service they provide to those seeking physical, emotional and spiritual support. The nation's caregivers were justly recognized in the 2003 proclamation by President George W. Bush, who said: "Every stage of human life deserves to be treated with respect and care. Their contributions make our nation a better place."

We encourage our community to remember the compassionate care and emotional strength of caregivers during National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month.

Jeffrey Baker
General Manager
Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors
Santa Monica

It's all about deregulation

Editor:

A recent article by Sheldon Richman on the Occupy Wall Street movement from your paper couldn't have been further from the truth ("Opponents of Occupy Wall Street harm the true cause of freedom," Your Column Here, Nov. 11). The piece is a classic example of re-writing history.

After reading his piece, it's hard to imagine that the author knows any economic history. Sheldon tries to make an argument that regulations and regulators only get in the way of free markets and if we did away with them, and got our politicians out of the way, we would see the markets govern themselves in a very efficient way. Nothing could be further from the truth as history proves.

Here's a little history for Sheldon. The 1920s had very few, if any, regulations and the result was the "Roaring '20s" and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Laws and rules were put in place by FDR that kept our markets and economy from suffering a severe financial meltdown, up until the early 1990s. In 1984 during Ronald Reagan's presidency, the savings and loan banks were deregulated and most collapsed in the early 1990s, with none doing business today. It cost the taxpayers up to $1 trillion to save the economy and we had a valuable lesson on what not to do.

Then, in the early 2000s, the GOP again went for deregulation under George W. Bush, this time with the biggest banks in the country. They finally got a long sought after vote repealing the Glass-Steagall Act, which directly resulted in allowing banks to become too big to fail. The Glass-Steagall Act had been put into place in 1933 as a direct action against the lack of laws that allowed the Great Depression. The Congress, at the urging of the Bush administration, also deregulated lending laws allowing sub-prime mortgages for the first time in our history. They also allowed the securitization of real estate loans, so that the original lender no longer had any risk.

We now know the outcome of such theories on deregulation and it seems those who have been pushing for deregulation all these years, want to re-write history and blame the Federal Reserve, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and totally ignore the true culprit – it's called "deregulation." It just doesn't fit into their fantasy of free markets.

Rick Singerman
Santa Monica

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



Stories from the Street

Ron Hooks — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A touching tribute to Johnny

WHEN SOMEONE ASKED ME, "HEY, did you hear that Johnny's gone?" I thought that he had finally decided to go into a housing program. Johnny was one of the homeless that I talked to every day. I remember telling the person, "Man, that's good news!" Then he said, "No, you don't understand. He's dead." It was quite a shock.

Johnny had been homeless for a long while. Years ago he had lost his job as a janitor and was never gainfully employed again. He always believed that some day one of his siblings would rescue him from the streets. The economy had taken its toll on them, too. They couldn't offer him any support. One day turned into two, then two months, two years and so on.

I remember all too well trying over and over again to get him to agree to go into housing. "Are you going to sign up today?" I would ask. "I'm thinking about it," was his reply. But he didn't. He had become comfortable on the street. His world existed within the boundaries of six or seven blocks in Santa Monica.

Johnny's legs were swollen and his feet were so sore he could barely stand. Because of this condition he finally agreed to go into a housing program where he could receive medical treatment as well. It was all set up and Johnny had agreed to go "inside" in just a few days. Those of us who knew him were anticipating that day, but the time for him to go came and went, and he was still in his same spot. We were all trying as hard as we could to help; the Santa Monica Police Department's HLP Team, park rangers, workers from four different agencies, even a worker from county mental health, but Johnny just decided that he didn't want to go into treatment. Two weeks later he was dead.

Johnny was one of the nicest guys I have ever met. Even with all of his adversity I had never seen him out of pocket, or acting out in any way. We carry a variety of granola bars to give out to the people we talk with on the street. Johnny really liked the peanut granola bars. Even when we got a little low on supplies, we always tried to keep at least one hidden away just for him. He would always end our conversations together by saying, "Thank you, praying for you."

You probably saw Johnny, too. His stuffed animals were his trademark. For years he sat with them near Reed Park at the corner of Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard in front of the 7-Eleven. Then he moved down to Palisades Park near Arizona Avenue. His last location, where he was for his final months, was near the Senior Center in Palisades Park. He sat on the bench facing Santa Monica Boulevard.

Johnny's stuffed animals and action figures were his most trusted allies on the street. They were his medium for conversation and interaction with the community. Occasionally, he would fall asleep and someone would grab one of them, never to be seen again. But he had so many people that liked him in town that he was constantly getting more. One morning when I went by he exclaimed, "Look, someone gave me a Superman! I fell asleep and when I woke up, Superman was here!"

A celebrity who jogs in Palisades Park stopped me right after it happened to ask where Johnny was. When I told him that he had died, he quickly replied, "What happened to him? I looked for him last week. I had a stuffed animal for him." We have talked about Johnny several times since then. His concern was the cause of death. I told him that no one that I know had heard the final word as to the actual cause of death, but it appeared that he had a heart attack. He may have been a diabetic, it might have been a blood clot, something. The one thing that we both knew was that Johnny could hardly walk.

One of the biggest issues out here on the street is that if someone is resistant to services there is very little that we can do. I have wondered many times since his passing what would have happened if Johnny would have simply agreed to go into a care facility or received treatment, if only for a week or two?

Johnny was well known and well liked. He was one of those guys that you were really pulling for. When word got out that he had passed away, City Hall called us to verify that he truly had died. Police officers were calling. Agencies were calling each other. There was a buzz in the homeless community.

We are all sad to see Johnny go. I wished that we could have done more for him. Johnny you are greatly missed.

RON HOOKS is the founder and executive director of West Coast Care, a nonprofit. WCC is part of the Santa Monica Police Department's Joint Homeless Outreach Program. Since October 2006, more than 1,000 homeless have been compassionately helped to transition off of the streets of Santa Monica by reconnecting them with their families, placing them into housing and/or treatment programs. Learn more at westcoastcare.org.



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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Your column here

Fred Tutman

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why green is not the new black or brown

AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AN environmentalist, I went along for a long while with the idea that race and class are irrelevant to the cause of environmental protection. I assumed that the environment itself is connective and bridges the social divide. But I can no longer ignore that a color-blind, class-blind environmental movement is also too often blind to the needs of those with the least access to clean air, water and land.

By ignoring the obvious social divisions in society, a relatively non-inclusive green movement has emerged. The largest environmental movements with the most resources have evolved into cliques of upwardly mobile Caucasians. These groups do not intentionally discriminate; I would never argue that the environmental causes intentionally exclude. Surely everyone is free to join. But typically these groups fail to talk about or work on problems that capture the hearts and minds of anyone but those who adhere to their group think.

Most environmental "clubs" cater to and draw members from affinity groups with the heritage and resources to pursue popular outdoor hobbies. Have you ever noticed that ski slopes, sailing marinas, and hiking clubs are overwhelmingly populated by non-minorities and people with social access and financial resources? This is not because minorities and the poor are less interested in these pursuits. It is because lack of access, income, opportunity and social mobility are very real barriers to participation in them.

People of means and status also generally live in places with healthier air, water, and land. They want to protect beautiful places with clean water and sparkling air. People who live in crowded urban neighborhoods near industry and highways value clean water, air, and open space just as much. National polls tell us so. However, for them it is not a question of protecting, but of attaining. The two groups may share the same outcomes, but see the way to achieving them in very different terms.

The green movement lives in a perpetual state of denial or indifference that race and class are relevant to the way we address important issues such as stormwater, climate change, and clean air and water. Environmentalists are primed to protect raw nature, not restore resource wealth to neighborhoods that have been deprived of it. But consider this: How many "Living Shorelines" are to be found in areas accessible to the socially disadvantaged?

Many people of color find it unacceptable that to be considered environmentalists they must first discard their own values and experiences to adopt a consensus vision of the environment that is in conflict with their experiences. To reach them, the environmental movement doesn't just need to "work on its messaging." Rather, it needs to work on greater results and shared benefits for all members of the community. After all, wouldn't people of color flock to environmental causes if more of this work solved their most relevant environmental problems?

Unfortunately, major movements are often so eager to convert others to their own environmental perspective — or tell everybody else how to live, or what constitutes environmentalism — that they fail to stand in the shoes of their audience. By failing to tackle the most egregious environmental wrongs, the "Greens" have inadvertently ratified the related social inequities. They appear unfriendly to the environmental problems of particular interest to the people who could care less about joining environmental clubs.

The green movement sends the tacit message that, although there is deep concern about the planet, there is very little support for those suffering on it. So outsiders to the green movement seek deeper rewards and a stronger voice elsewhere, be it churches or their own social groups.

Environmentalists of color struggle to get white colleagues to recognize the inseparable fusion between social/economic injustice and environmental disparities. But for the most part these concerns are not considered relevant environmental problems because they are usually regarded as strictly "our" problems, i.e., not in the mainstream. The majority view being that everybody is in the same boat; therefore everybody benefits from improvements in the environment. This just is not true.

So why should this matter? Because the environmentalists' reluctance to take up the causes important to those who lack comparable access to healthy neighborhoods, and beautiful natural places like beaches and mountains — the causes of the poor, minorities, and the generally disenfranchised — reflects on the morality of their good work.

Let's build a true "rainbow" movement, with membership and goals that reflect the diversity of the whole community. The environmental movement must cast its nets wider and cover more issues and causes. The movement must take off its blinders and take a hard look at how it views environmental problems and allocates the benefits of a clean environment. Genuine diversity can multiply the impact of environmental causes!

FRED TUTMAN founded and runs Patuxent Riverkeeper. Distributed by Bay Journal News Service.

The Q Line

Life on two wheels

The Planning Commission recently approved the ambitious Bicycle Master Plan, a 400-page document that spells out the future of bikes in Santa Monica. Within its pages, it hopes to have 14 to 35 percent of all trips made on bicycles by 2030.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think 14 to 35 percent is possible, or do you think it's unrealistic?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 107**.





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Make no mistake, 'Comedy of Errors' delivers

BY COLIN NEWTON
Special to the Daily Press

BROAD STAGE There's something about Shakespeare that brings out the renaissance faire in all of us. Case in point: dozens of members of the audience at the premier of "The Comedy of Errors" at the Broad Stage came decked out in period costumes Saturday.

Oddly enough, the play itself looks like it's set in a Mediterranean village and the characters dress like 1930s Englishmen on holiday, so the actors on stage looked more contemporary than some of the members of the audience.

"The Comedy of Errors" tells the story of two pairs of twins separated at birth. One pair, master Antipholus (Bill Buckhurst) and servant Dromio (Fergal McElherron), live in Ephesus. When the other Antipholus and Dromio (Buckhurst and McElherron again) visit Ephesus and are seen around town, they are mistaken for their twins to convoluted comic effect. Things only get more complex when Adriana, Antipholus of Ephesus' jealous and alluring wife (Laura Rodgers), is thrown into the mix.

"The Comedy of Errors" is one of Shakespeare's earlier plays, and perhaps lacks some of the literary depth of his later works. But the players of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre embrace this wholeheartedly, and focus on the broad and bawdy comedy that the play has to offer in abundance.

The performance toys with the theme of doubles and mistaken identity with its small cast of eight.

Playing split-screen role on-stage can be tricky, but Buckhurst portrays two very different and very believable Antipholuses, and McElherron keeps perfect pace in crafting two equally viable Dromios. In fact, every member of the cast plays at least two, sometimes three or four, parts with hilarious agility.

Naturally, putting actors playing multiple parts on stage at the same time creates some blocking issues, but director Rebecca Gatward prefers to exploit the obvious challenges by drawing attention to it for laughs.

Actors don a hat or take off a pair of glasses to transform from one character into another in full view of the audience.

More acrobatic transformations see an actor start on stage as one character, charge to the other side of the set, make a costume adjustment mid-flight, and emerge triumphantly on the other side of the stage as another character, only to have to do it all over again to deliver the next line.

Although in some plays this self referential humor might wear thin, Gatward kept finding bigger and funnier ways to "disguise" the cast out in the open without distracting from the story. In fact, the more characters on stage, the more madcap it becomes; the brilliant revolving door set piece must be seen to be believed.

Shakespeare's words are as witty as ever, but in this production, slapstick reigns supreme. Almost no member of the cast is safe from being kicked, punched, thrown into a barrel roll, bashed over the head with a plate or slapped with a length of rope.

The action on stage is augmented with hilarious sound effects, provided by the other members of the cast hovering just off stage.



Photo courtesy Getty Images

GETTING INTO CHARACTER: **Actors perform at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre's 'The Comedy Of Errors' with Feast & Frolic Gala at The Broad Stage on Nov. 12.**

Another nice touch is the live music: drums, accordion and woodwinds. And, once again, it's all provided by the incredibly versatile actors themselves.

This "Comedy of Errors" features a deft and talented cast that presents an accessible story in a fresh way. In other words, it's simply good comedy.

"The Comedy of Errors" plays at the Broad Stage through Nov. 27. For more information, visit www.thebroadstage.com or call (310) 434-3200.

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Poll: Most pets gifts, strays

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Where do people get their pets? A new AP-Petside.com poll found that the most common way people acquire a pet is as a gift, followed by taking in a stray.

About four in 10 pet owners say at least one of their current pets was given to them by friends or family, while a third say they have a pet that showed up on their doorstep as a stray.

Shelters and breeders are next on the list as sources for pets. Thirty percent of those polled say they adopted through a shelter, 31 percent got a pet from a breeder and 14 percent bought an animal at a pet store.

Karen Hulsey, 63, adopted a cat from a Texas shelter. Greyson is about a year old now and "he's cuddly and clean," she says.

She calls her shelter experience very upbeat because the cat "has turned into a wonderful pet with a good attitude and I felt like I was doing something positive."

Another quarter obtained a pet in some other way, including 3 percent who say they went to an animal rescue group and 2 percent who purchased them using an online or print classified ad.

More than half of the pet owners polled say they've taken in a shelter animal at some point, and two-thirds of them say their experiences have been extremely positive.

Jackie Schulze, 77, of Williamsport, Pa., got Sassafras, a white cat with periwinkle eyes, from Lycoming Animal Protection Society Inc., a no-kill cat rescue that operates a local shelter. The cat, which was rescued from a meth lab in Scranton, is very attached to Schulze, following her around and sitting in her lap.

"Sassy chose me," Schulze said.

Among those who had the most positive shelter experiences, 44 percent cite positive interactions with shelter staff. Just 3 percent say they'd had a moderately or very negative shelter experience.

Edward Acosta, 46, of Thomasville, N.C., said if he were getting a new pet today, he would probably go to a pet store or breeder, not because he doesn't like shelters but "because I like thoroughbreds." He and his wife Vicki bred Pomeranians for years and still have three descended from their original pair. They also own five chickens — Rhode Island Reds bought at a feed store — whom they consider to be pets.

Cat owners are more likely than dog owners to have adopted a stray or shelter animal. Forty-three percent of cat owners polled say one of their pets came from a shelter, compared with 29 percent of dog owners. More than half of cat owners (52 percent) say one of their current pets was a stray, compared with 30 percent of dog owners.

Fifty-eight percent of shelter adopters say being socially responsible was extremely or very important in their decision to use a shelter. It is usually cheaper to adopt than to buy from a breeder or pet store, but 60 percent of those who adopted shelter pets say the cost made no difference.

Thirty-six percent of shelter users say they had more confidence in the staff at pet shelters than they did in the staff at pet stores or breeders. Thirty-six percent of those who obtained animals from shelters also say they believe shelter animals were more likely to have had recent veterinary care than animals from pet stores or breeders.

And more than two-thirds of those who have adopted from a shelter — 68 percent — say they would do so again.

Not all pet owners see shelter adoptions as a positive. Thirty-six percent of those polled say that if they were to adopt an animal from a shelter, they would be extremely or very concerned that the pet might have hidden medical problems; 29 percent express concern about psychological problems and 33 percent say they would worry the animal wouldn't fit in with their families.

Ojala Reino, 31, of Fairmount, Ga., who got his boxer bulldog, Bruster, from a friend, said he was one of those who would worry about the physical and mental health of a shelter dog.

"I watch of lot of those shows on TV where the animals come in and have been abused," he said.

Fifty-two percent of pet owners say they have gotten a pet from a shelter or rescue at some time, but only 23 percent have taken an animal to a shelter. Of those who turned in animals, 59 percent say the animal belonged to someone else.

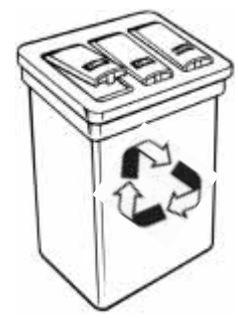
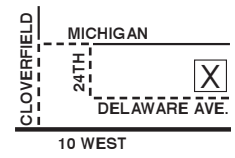
If shelters started charging a $25 fee to accept unwanted or stray animals, about a third of those polled (34 percent) say they would be dissuaded from leaving animals and 52 percent say it would make no difference.

By region, adopting a stray is most common in the West, where 39 percent got a pet that way compared with 34 percent in the South, 30 percent in the Northeast and 29 percent in the Midwest. Forty-one percent of rural-dwelling pet owners say their pet was a stray, compared with 28 percent of suburbanites and 34 percent of urbanites. And suburbanites were most likely to have adopted from a shelter: 36 percent compared with 30 percent in urban areas and 22 percent in rural parts of the country.

The AP-Petside.com Poll was conducted Oct. 13-17, 2011, by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,118 pet owners. Results among pet owners have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

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STATE BRIEFS

SAN DIEGO

Home sales rise in October, prices fall

Southern California posted a tiny increase in home sales last month as prices fell to a nine-month low, a market researcher said Tuesday.

Sales were especially weak for high-end homes after caps were lowered on federally guaranteed home loans, San Diego-based DataQuick said in a report. Sales of new homes fell sharply.

The median sale price for all homes in a six-county region was $270,000 in October, down 4.6 percent from $283,000 during the same period last year and down 3.6 percent from $280,000 in September. It was the eighth straight month that prices fell from a year ago and the lowest median price in the region since January.

Home sales totaled 16,829, up 0.5 percent from 16,744 in October 2010 but down 7.3 percent from 18,149 in September. DataQuick said a seasonal decline in October is common, but this year's drop was steeper than normal.

"The market continues to struggle with a difficult lending environment, uncertainty among potential buyers, underwater homeowners who can't move up and a weak job market," said John Walsh, president of DataQuick.

There were some bright spots. Sales of existing homes rose, as did sales of homes for less than $300,000.

But buyers shunned more expensive homes, with sales of houses costing at least $500,000 plummeting 18.1 percent from the year-ago period and making up the smallest percentage of total sales since January 2009.

Lower limits on federally guaranteed home loans that took effect Oct. 1 vary by county. In Los Angeles and Orange counties, the limit fell to $625,500 from $729,750.

Absentee buyers, mainly investors and vacation-home buyers, purchased 25.1 percent of all homes, paying a median price of $200,000.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Police, Occupy L.A. working on a protest endgame

Police and Occupy Los Angeles protesters are working on a plan that would close down an encampment that encircles City Hall.

Cmdr. Andrew Smith said Tuesday police don't have a sense of when demonstrators will pack up and go home but discussions are ongoing and both sides hope for a peaceful resolution.

Tensions rose briefly earlier Tuesday when about 100 protesters marched downtown in solidarity with New York counterparts being ousted from their encampment. No arrests were made.

The Los Angeles protests have been relatively non-confrontational compared to the evictions and arrests in Oakland, New York and elsewhere.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa maintains the encampment can't continue indefinitely because of health and safety concerns.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Federal oversight ends for mental hospitals

A federal judge has ended court-ordered federal oversight of two California mental hospitals targeted for poor patient treatment.

The Los Angeles judge ruled on Monday that Atascadero State Hospital and Patton State Hospital in San Bernardino will no longer be subject to a consent judgment on patient care that California and federal officials reached five years ago.

But the Los Angeles Times says Judge Audrey Collins extended the consent judgment until Dec. 2 for Napa State Hospital and Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk. State and federal officials are negotiating an agreement on patient care at those hospitals.

Reports of overuse of medication, restraints and poor patient safety led the federal government to sue California to force changes in the four hospitals.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Man sentenced to 5-year term in hazmat case

A Los Angeles man has been sentenced to five years in prison for illegally storing a huge amount of toxic chemicals and explosive hazardous waste, including unstable gunpowder, in his home.

Federal prosecutors say Monday's sentence of 64-year-old Edward Wyman was the stiffest penalty issued by a federal judge in California relating to a hazardous waste case. U.S. District Court Judge George King also ordered Wyman to pay $800,000 to the Environmental Protection Agency for costs associated with a 47-day clean-up.

Wyman was convicted in April of violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Authorities found a cache of decades-old gunpowder and other hazardous waste in June 2009 when a fire broke out at Wyman's house. Exploding ammunition forced firefighters to wear bulletproof vests while battling the fire.

AP

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SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

of state regulators."

Still, consumers enrolled in certain plans, specifically those policed by the California Department of Health Care Management, saw their premiums jump by over 20 percent.

There are two California departments that regulate the various kinds of personal insurance. Those that fall under the Department of Health Care Management rose, while those overseen by the California Department of Insurance remained unchanged, according to the suit.

The Department of Health Care Management had no comment on the litigation, said spokesperson Denise Schmidt.

Pamela Pressley, Consumer Watchdog's litigation director, told reporters that even though Department of Health Care Management hadn't specifically denied Anthem's proposal to change plans, that didn't mean it had a stamp of approval.

Plaintiff's are seeking a court order preventing Anthem from breaching future contracts, payment of damages to members of the class for failure to provide benefits under contracts, punitive damages and other fees.

The class action suit has three main plaintiffs: Kassouf, Santa Monica resident Dave Jacobson, and Alison Heath of San Francisco.

All three purchased plans with different deductibles — $2,500, $1,500 and $500 respectively. Those deductibles jumped by $450, $250 and $50.

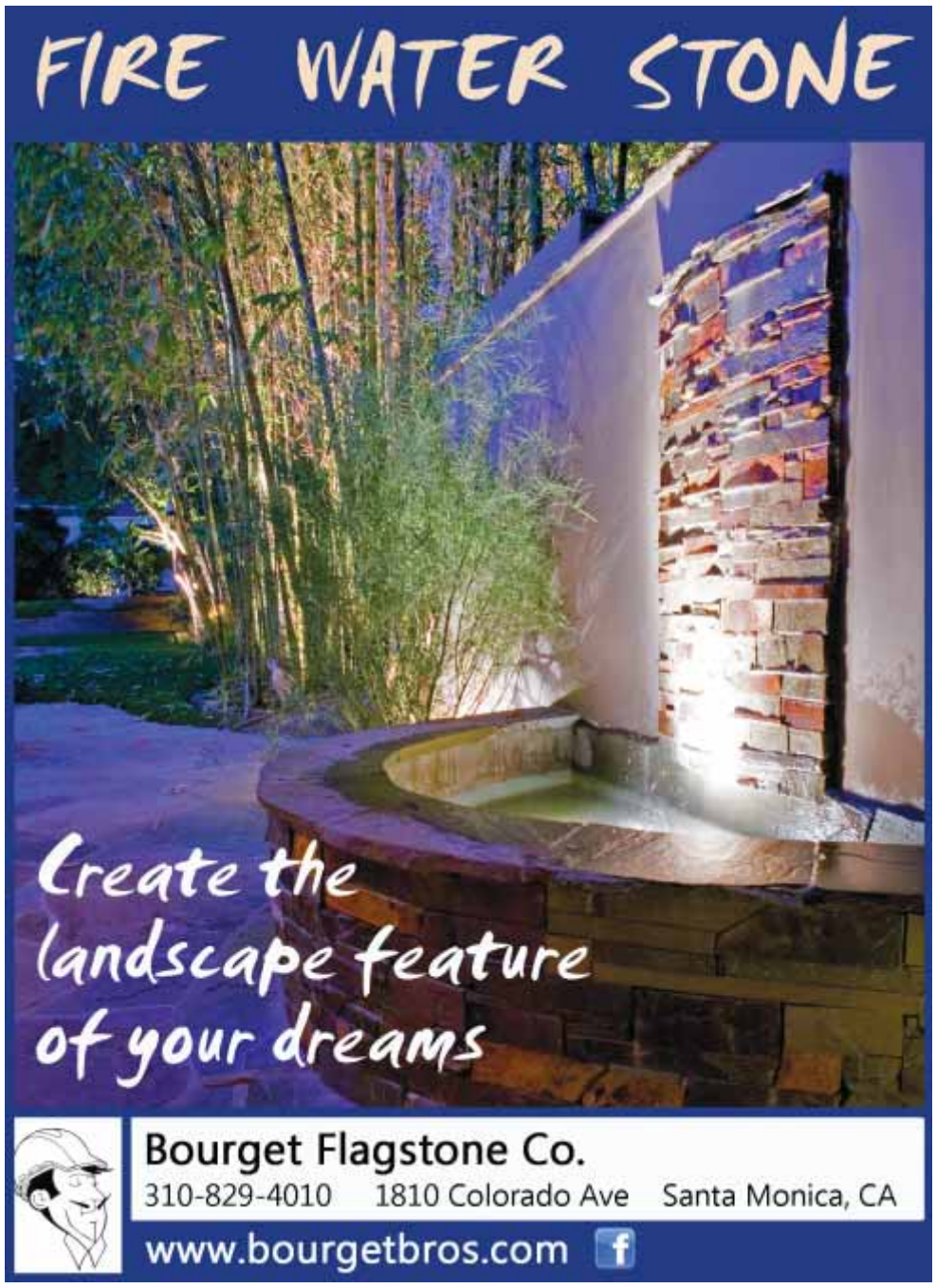
Kassouf now pays $27,000 per year for her health coverage, or what she equates to tuition, room and board for a public university student.

"I'm speaking for the silent voices, the hundreds of thousands of people in California that have been trapped by this," Kassouf said.

This is the second time that Consumer Watchdog has gone after Anthem for issues regarding contracts, Flanagan said.

"It's the market leader in bad practices," Flanagan said. "Because it is the largest, it is one of the most abusive."

ashley@smdp.com







FIELD
FROM PAGE 1

dio, wrestling room, one gym and other facilities like bathrooms, parking and storage.

City Hall will be the gatekeeper for community use of the main field, track and tennis courts. It will keep the fees it charges community members for the use of the facilities, and send back extra staffing costs to the district.

The district will handle the permitting and associated fees for the dance studio, gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, swimming pool and wrestling rooms.

The fees charged are comparable to other recreation fees in the city, and cover most of the costs, LePrevost said.

"The additional revenue and costs to have staff handle the permitting, that is additional to what's in the budget and will be addressed (at the mid-year review)," LePrevost said.

A big prize of the equation is the combination football-soccer field at Santa Monica High School, which is part of a $57 million rennovation that City Hall funded through its Redevelopment Agency.

It's also caused some scrambling between the two agencies, which are working out the kinks in their communications, said Carey Upton, director of theater operations and facility permits with the district.

"We are open, we are moving, it's going well," Upton said. "But there have been some hiccups."

Workers finished replacing the new synthetic turf in mid-October, approximately a week before the official ribbon cutting that took place with fanfare on Oct. 27.

The next day, an adult soccer team became the first community group to exercise their new rights on the field.

The biggest issue so far could be considered a good problem to have — with its win over Culver City on Nov. 4, the Samohi Vikings became champions of the Ocean League and clinched a berth in the CIF-Southern Section Western Division Playoffs in football.

That means they'll be hosting Channel Islands on Friday at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field, and have a chance to play again the day after Thanksgiving, Upton said.

On top of that, the Viking Marching Band has been blowing out its competition. It's number one in its field, and will compete on Nov. 19 and 26 and for the Dec. 3 championships.

Both the band and the football team will need time to practice for their big events, preferably on the field that they now have to share with community teams.

The team and band will see relatively little impact, said Daniel Escalera, Santa Monica High School's athletic director.

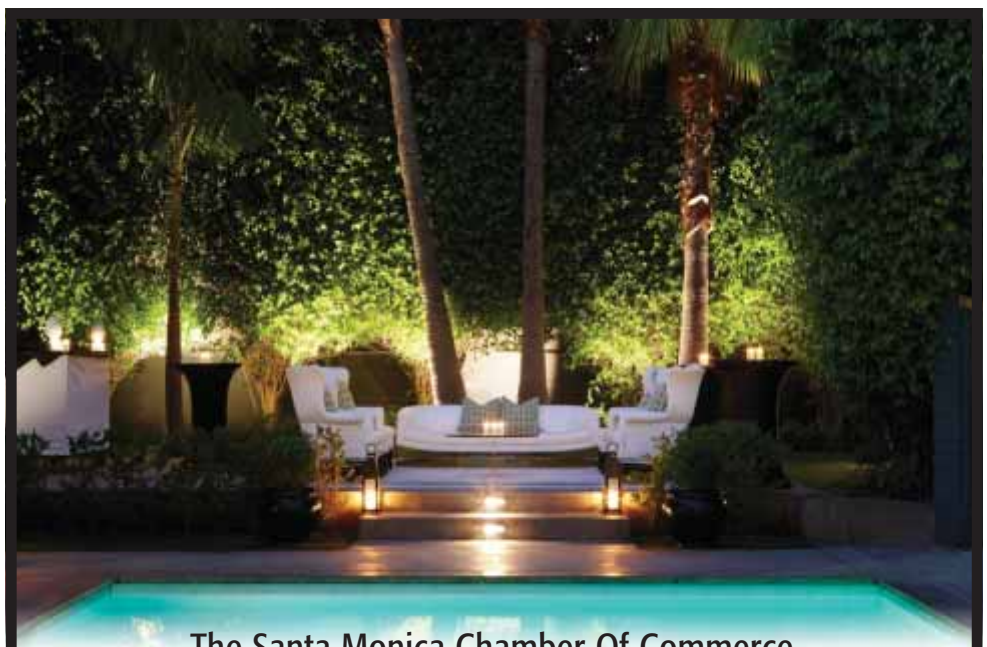
For now, just one football practice has to move should the Vikings advance to the second round of the playoffs, Escalera said. That practice would be held at SMC on Wednesday.

"We've been working closely with the district," LePrevost said. "We've needed to do a little bit of shuffling."

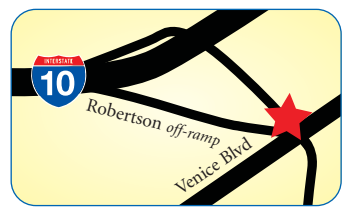
It's nothing new, she said. City Hall has been using the facilities at John Adams Middle School for several years through a separate joint-use agreement.

As the two agencies get more comfortable in their roles, they will reassess what's working and what isn't.

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GAS
FROM PAGE 3

Los Angeles, accounting for more than 38 million wasted gallons of gasoline and diesel in 2010, researchers found.

Environmentalists say California lawmakers and regulators have taken steps to reduce the state's notorious congestion, but urban sprawl and an increase in freight being transported through the state have countered the efforts.

"The issue in Los Angeles is you've got so much traffic congestion, the things that they're doing are having an effect, but it's such a big problem that it's difficult to fix," said Tim Lomax, a research engineer for the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University. "It's having a beneficial effect, just not having enough effect."

The top offender, a 27-mile southbound stretch of U.S. 101, accounted for 485,000 hours of delay-per-mile and more than 6 million wasted gallons of fuel last year.

Among the top 10 fuel-wasting corridors, those in Los Angeles accounted for 72 percent of the wasted gallons, according to the report. Researchers calculated the amount of fuel wasted in congestion by determining the fuel that would be consumed in free-flow traffic, fuel efficiency data, average speeds and travel times.

"We don't have enough good public transportation," said Dan Jacobson of the environmental advocacy group Environment California, explaining why California roads are so congested. He advocates for high-speed rail and local bus service.

"In places where we've been diligent about improving our public transit, we see ridership goes up and that's a good thing," he said.

Roadways in Washington, New York and Chicago also made the list.

The study did have some good news for California drivers. Sort of.

It seems California drivers rarely need to guess how long their daily commutes will be. That's because traffic is reliably bad. Only one California roadway made the top 10 in a list of "Reliably Unreliable" corridors. That was a six-mile stretch of Interstate 15 in Riverside.

"It's kind of surprising that the places that are really horribly congested are not necessarily the ones that have horrible reliability problems," Lomax said. "Suburban corridors seem to be the most unreliable ones. That's partly because ... some days you can make it through that corridor without too much problem."

Atlanta and New York claimed the top most unreliable traffic spots.

To conduct the study, TTI researchers used traffic volume information from the states with speed data to compute performance measures.

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IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 23 IN 3D

Police crackdowns at Occupy sites stir debate

SHARON COHEN
AP National Writer

The eviction of Occupy Wall Street demonstrators in Manhattan was a dramatic turn in a nearly two-month standoff, inspiring howls of protest from the protesters and their supporters. But New York and other cities that have cracked down appear to have the law — and history — on their side.

A judge upheld New York's decision to clear Zuccotti Park. And even some experts known as supporters of First Amendment rights said the judge had it right.

"The short legal answer to these situations in New York City and other places today is that there are broad rights to protests, to march, to demonstrate and to be heard," said Floyd Abrams, a prominent First Amendment lawyer. "There is no right to occupy a public area on a full-time basis, including housing facilities and sleeping there."

Abrams said the protesters, by successfully bringing public attention to their message of corporate greed and economic inequality, have exercised their First Amendment rights. "What they can't do is go over the line in what is essentially a seizure by them of public property .... with no limitations."

Not everyone agrees. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed lawsuits — and in some instances, won temporary restraining orders — on behalf of Occupy activists in such places as Nashville, Oakland, Calif., and Trenton, N.J.

"There is no such thing as a beginning, middle and end to free speech rights," said ACLU executive director Anthony Romero. "The right ... doesn't toll after a certain time period."

Romero also said it's hypocritical to try to limit the duration of protests "when we celebrate the occupation of Tahrir Square (the site of anti-government protests in Cairo). Certainly no one was citing the Egyptians for their overnight, multi-day protests. We ought not to criticize the Occupy movement for demonstrating their points of view with similar zeal."

The judge's decision Tuesday was the latest development in a growing national drama that began when a community of bed rolls and tents sprang to life in a park near Wall Street nearly two months ago. The movement has spread across the country, and taken with it a tangle of legal, constitutional and public relations problems for city officials.

In his ruling, New York state Supreme Court Justice Michael Stallman said protesters "have not demonstrated that they have a First Amendment right" to remain in the park, with their sleeping gear "to the exclusion of the owner's reasonable rights ... or to the rights to public access of others who might wish to use the space safely."

On Tuesday night, protesters were allowed to return — but without tents or sleeping bags.

New York was not the first city to crack down on the protests. On Monday in Oakland — the site of previous violence — police armed with tear gas emptied out that city's site. And authorities in Portland, Ore., have roused protesters, shut down a camp there and made more than 50 arrests amid complaints of drug use and sanitation problems.

The Occupy movement is the latest in a long series of protests that have played out in the public arena and tested constitutional limits, says Timothy Zick, a professor of law at William & Mary Law School and author of "Speech Out of Doors: Preserving First Amendment Liberties in Public Places." "What the occupiers are doing is quite firmly rooted in our history and our culture," he said.

But Zick said it wasn't until the 1960s — the era of civil rights demonstrations — that the courts "began to recognize the power of public protests to create breathing space," such as parks and other public places to exercise First Amendments rights. "That's what the occupiers are taking advantage of."

Though the Constitution provides some protections for protesters, they're not absolute, added Zick. He said, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that authorities can prohibit overnight campaigning at the National Mall and Lafayette Park in Washington.

Other restrictions are common, such as limits on when protests may occur.

"That keeps someone from protesting at 2 a.m. outside your bedroom window for something they can say at noon," said Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center, a nonprofit educational center in Nashville.

There also are restrictions in many places, such as requiring permits to march, assemble and speak, Zick said.

"Governments have the authority and the power to regulate things for public safety, traffic flow, sanitation," Zick added. "None of these things have anything to do directly with freedom of speech. They regulate time of day, place and manner. You can limit the size of a protest ... you can't protest in the middle of Times Square whenever you like. There are a lot officials can do and a lot they do to regulate public protests."

He also said there are legitimate concerns about violence breaking out in protests such as the anti-Wall Street demonstrations, such as those that occurred in Oakland.

"It's a delicate balance," he said. "It's a difficult question that has to be decided locality by locality. But I think the calculus in some places has been 'enough is enough.'"

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SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

Applications and letters of interest are invited to fill one unscheduled vacancy on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board for a partial term ending November 2012. The person appointed will serve until the next general election in November 2012.

All persons are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Applicants must be residents and registered voters in the City of Santa Monica.

All interested parties please send letters, resumes, and/or applications to:

Glenda Jacobs, Board Secretary
City Hall
1685 Main Street, Room 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Applications are due in the Rent Control Board office by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2011.

Applicants will be invited to make a presentation of up to 5-minutes to the Rent Control Board at a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012. The Rent Control Board will appoint a new commissioner that evening.

The State Political Reform Act requires board and commission members 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.

Applications and information on Board duties are available from the Rent Control Board Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, by phone at (310) 458-8751 or online at **www.smgov.net/rentcontrol**.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8751.

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Consumers hit retail stores to give economy boost

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Consumers are giving a modest lift to the economy.

They spent more on trucks, electronics and building supplies in October to boost retail sales for the fifth straight month.

The gains provide an encouraging start for the October-December quarter. They come just as separate reports show that wholesale prices are flattening and U.S. shoppers are spending more at Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer.

Still, consumers might not be able to sustain their spending growth if unemployment remains high and pay raises scant. And Europe may be on the brink of a recession that could further slow U.S. growth next year.

"The consumer has to come through this holiday season if we are going to get back to more decent growth rates, and the early readings are those households have hit the stores quite strongly," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent from September to October, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Healthy auto sales helped. Even without autos, sales rose by the most since March.

And excluding autos and sales at gasoline stations, sales rose 0.7 percent, also the biggest increase since March.

A rebound in consumer spending was the key reason why the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the July-September quarter. It was the best quarterly performance in a year.

Economists said the October retail sales data suggest that the economy is growing at roughly the same pace in the final three months of the year. Consumer spending fuels about 70 percent of economic activity.

Stronger growth has helped calm fears that the U.S. economy might be at risk of another recession.

Still, economists worry that the spending can't continue at the same pace. Over the summer, consumers spent more while earning less. Many had to dip into their savings to make up the difference.

"Overall, the economy appears to be growing at a decent clip," said Paul Dales, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Still, Dales added, "Consumption cannot grow at a faster rate than incomes indefinitely."

Many fear Europe's debt crisis is on the verge of triggering a recession in the region. The eurozone economy barely grew in the July-September quarter, according to the European Union statistics office. It was the second straight quarter of paltry growth.

Most economists say growth won't improve in the months ahead. Consumers and governments in Europe are expected to spend less because of the debt crisis.

One positive sign for the U.S. economy: Inflation pressures are starting to ease, largely because energy costs have declined.

U.S. companies paid less for wholesale goods last month for the first time since June. And excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called "core" wholesale prices were unchanged.

Lower prices mean consumers will have more buying power, potentially boosting consumer spending. A jump in gas and food prices earlier this year had slowed consumption over other goods.

October retail sales were 7.2 percent higher than the same month last year. Internet and catalog sales have risen more than 11 percent since then. Consumers also spent more on sporting goods and at hobby and book stores.

Auto sales have also rebounded since the Japan earthquake and tsunami. The 0.4 percent rise in October from September followed a 4.2 percent surge in the previous month. Sales have increased 7 percent from the same month last year.

In the Miami area, auto sales were decent in October and picked up in the first half of November, said Ed Williamson, part owner of two Buick-Cadillac-GMC dealerships.

People are particular about prices and want incentives, such as low-cost leases, Williamson said. Still, he's optimistic that the slow auto sales recovery in South Florida will continue into next year.

"I think things started to get better down here in the summer," Williamson said. "But at the moment we're seeing the most showroom traffic that we've seen all year in the first two weeks of November."

People are also buying more electronics and appliances. Sales at those stores surged 3.7 percent in October, the biggest monthly gain for that group in nearly two years.

Chris G. Christopher, senior economist at IHS Global Insight, said the launch of the Apple iPhone 4S helped drive those sales.

"People are splurging a little bit here and there," Christopher said, who cautioned that weak income growth will remain a drag on spending next year.

Megan Dunn, a grad student from Philadelphia, said she's limited herself to buying clothes on clearance. But she still goes out for dinner sometimes because she enjoys the time with friends and doesn't mind spending on small treats.

"Eating out is always going to be expensive," Dunn said. "But it's a social experience."

David Hauck said sales at the children's store he owns with his wife in Boston have been up almost every month this year. In October, they rose 8 percent.

He suspects many people want to keep spending on their children, no matter how bad the economy gets.

Hauck and his wife have adjusted their inventory to focus on what people need. More baby supplies, fewer toys.

"Maybe they're cutting back in other ways," he said. "But they know they're going to have a crib or stroller for many years."

General merchandise stores, which include Wal-Mart and Target, reported flat sales in October after a modest increase in September.

But Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, reported its first quarterly revenue gain in more than two years at its branded U.S. stores. The retail giant says it did so by focusing on low pricing and by stocking popular brands and products.

The gain is a good sign for the retail industry and the U.S. economy as a whole. Wal-Mart's core low-income shoppers have been particularly hard hit by unemployment, which has been near 9 percent for more than two years.



NCAA FOOTBALL

Pac-12 South wide open

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

PHOENIX The UCLA Bruins had a frustrating flight back from Utah, believing their hold on the Pac-12's South Division was gone after a lopsided loss to the Utes.

Once they arrived at the airport, their outlook had changed.

On the TV screen was the score of Arizona State's game against Washington State. The Cougars had beaten the Sun Devils and UCLA's lead in the South, earned with its victory over Arizona State the week before, was still intact.

"The realization that we were still alive came as a little bit of a what-can-be type of moment," UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel said Tuesday. "Hopefully, it will cause us to have the best week of practice all year, and that's what we need."

The Pac-12 North has been two frontrunners and a bunch of chasers all season. No. 4 Oregon, barring an unforeseen slipup, all but wrapped up the division title with its impressive win over No. 8 Stanford in the Bay Area on Saturday night.

The race for the South has featured a jumble of teams knocking each other off each week, leaving no clear-cut favorite and the possibility that one team could back into the inaugural Pac-12 championship game on Dec. 2.

Had Southern California been eligible for the postseason, none of this likely would have mattered. The 18th-ranked Trojans lead the division at 5-2 and 8-2, overall, but another year of NCAA sanctions is keeping them out of the Pac-12 title game, no matter their record.

That leaves the rest of the division to fight it out for a second-place finish that will open the door to the title game.

"It's just one of those years where there's a lot of competition down there, everything's jumbled up," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said. "Of course, SC, who's having a pretty good year, isn't eligible and that would change the perception of how that is coming out of that division."

UCLA (5-5, 4-3) is in control of the South, at least for now.

All but written off after a blowout loss to an Arizona team that had just fired its coach, the Bruins grabbed the South Division lead by beating Arizona State 29-28 on Nov. 5.

Tied with the Sun Devils and with the tiebreaker in hand, UCLA couldn't keep the momentum going and was run off the field by Utah's John White in what appeared to be a debilitating 31-6 loss on Saturday.

It wasn't quite so bad when the Bruins learned what had happened to Arizona State.

The Sun Devils (6-4, 4-3) appeared to be in control of the South after rolling over Colorado on Oct. 29. Their momentum quickly ran out with the loss to UCLA, a game they could have won had Alex Garoutte made a 46-yard field goal at the final buzzer.

Given another chance with UCLA's loss to Utah, Arizona State foundered again, allowing Washington State's backup quarterback, freshman Connor Halliday, to throw for 494 yards and four touchdowns.

"Obviously, we were playing well early and have stumbled the last couple of weeks," Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson said. "There's a lot of equality and people knocking each other off, more than anything."

It all comes down to the final two weeks.

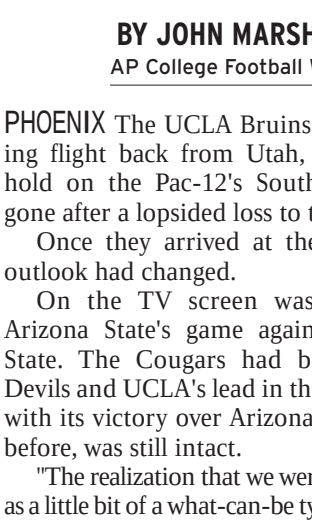
UCLA can take the South by winning its final two games, against Colorado and USC. Problem is, the Buffaloes appear to be getting better — they beat Arizona last week — and the Trojans have been the best team in the division most of the season.

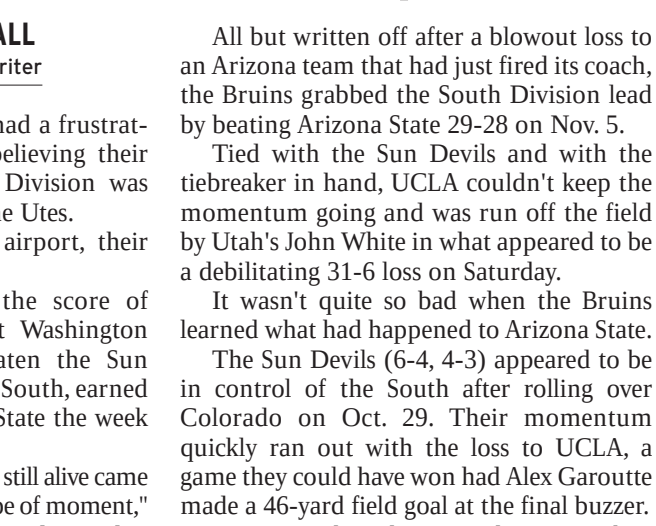
Arizona State finishes the season with games against rival Arizona this weekend and against California in its finale. Neither one will be easy unless the Sun Devils improve dramatically. And they'll still need help from the Bruins.

Utah, at 3-4 and 6-4 overall, still has a shot despite losing its first four Pac-12 games. The way the season has gone in the South, don't be surprised if that's how it turns out.

"In the South, nobody wants to grab it, take it," Erickson said.

Whether they grab it or back in, someone's going to win the South. The reward? Oregon in the conference title game.









SURF CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 61°

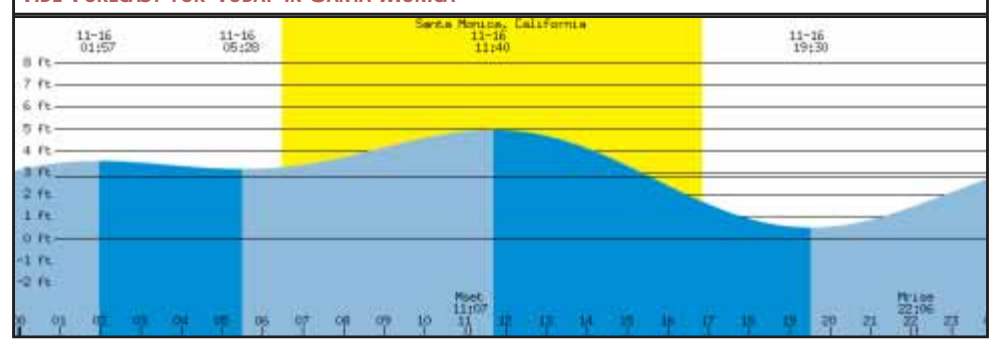
SWELL FORECAST

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

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW IS EXPECTED TO BACK OFF A BIT, MORE ALONG THE LINES OF CHEST TO AT TIMES HEAD HIGH FOR WEST FACING BREAKS.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 8, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	D
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	C	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	C	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	F	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisa creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	B	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Malibu Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (trouch location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Pena Creek at Los Turnos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

We Have a Pope (Habemus Papam) (NR) 1hr 40min
7:30pm

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

Anonymous (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Tower Heist (PG-13) 1hr 44min
2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Like Crazy (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

Big Fix (NR) 1hr 52min
12:00pm, 2:30pm

Immortals 3D (R) 1hr 50min
2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

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

Jack and Jill (PG) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Tower Heist (PG-13) 1hr 44min
10:50am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Puss in Boots (PG) 1hr 30min
11:15am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:45pm, 9:00pm

Puss in Boots 3D (PG) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:00pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

Immortals 3D (R) 1hr 50min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

J. Edgar (R) 2hrs 17min
11:00am, 1:15pm, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

Pete Smalls Is Dead (NR) 1hr 22min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Margin Call (R) 1hr 49min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Women on the 6th Floor (Les femmes du 6eme etage) (NR) 1hr 44min
1:55pm

Skin I Live In (La piel que habito) (R) 2hrs 00min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Revenge of the Electric Car (NR) 1hr 30min
5:00pm

Royal Opera House's: Tosca Encore (NR)
7:30pm

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

Rum Diary (R) 2hrs 00min
11:55am, 2:50pm

Jack and Jill (PG) 1hr 31min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

In Time (PG-13) 1hr 49min
10:50am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Martha Marcy May Marlene (R) 2hrs 00min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:35pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Ides of March (R) 1hr 42min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (R) 1hr 29min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 5:30pm, 7:15pm, 7:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:10pm

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

Be spontaneous tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be more enthusiastic, but it might seem like a big effort at first. Your innate spontaneity will come out. You have a lot to smile about. Extremes mark your plans, yet if you stop and notice, you feel like your old self by the end of the day. Tonight: Midweek break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If you can call in, please do. You would like to work from home if possible. Recognize where a change might be necessary in your schedule and routine. Stop and consider your options; much will come up. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Keep a conversation moving. You might feel as if you cannot get past a problem, and for the moment, that opinion might be true. A friend's enthusiasm energizes you midday. The importance of support and mutual brainstorming cannot be underestimated. Tonight: Meet a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be more direct. Honor what you feel in a discussion. Sometimes you don't see yourself clearly. Others' feedback or attitudes might indicate that your perspective is distorted. You have a strong sense of direction and are in sync with realistic possibilities. Tonight: Stop and buy a token gift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You clearly are in your element. Even someone's mood or seriousness washes over you like water. Unexpected information turns into a very exciting situation. Be careful about making more of an investment than you are comfortable with. Tonight: All grins.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Know when to get to the bottom of a situation. You don't need to be right, but you do need to follow your instincts. Someone with a better perspective gives you feedback. Listen well. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Go for what you want. Sometimes you might make a situation more difficult, as you can be negative at the juncture of action. Find a way of turning around negativity and stress. Tonight: Where people are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Be willing to take a stand even though you think you know the outcome. Just make sure you aren't setting yourself up or creating it. A little more spontaneity can add to the quality of excitement in your life. What is holding you back? Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out for a distant associate. You might not like all the news that heads in your direction. If you detach, you will understand more of what is going on here. A child or new friend acts in the most unpredictable manner. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Deal directly with one other person. You might be questioning which direction is right for you. A boss or a similar authority figure doesn't seem to have the answers, because they lie within. Let your creativity flow. Try a little less self-discipline. Tonight: One-on-one relating.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Defer to others. You need to observe more and react less. Still, the sign associated with spontaneity cannot stop himself. You certainly listen to your inner voice. You also might need to rethink a judgment that could be impacting you. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Stay level and even with your dealings. Communication soars if you can remain open. An offer that seams too good to be true is exactly that. Be careful with your funds, whether counting change or making a major decision. Tonight: Play it easy.

Happy birthday

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

This year doors will open if you claim your power. Your instincts point to the correct direction. Take stock of your professional or community status. Others look up to you. If you are single, you could meet someone when out or at work. Don't make more of this bond than exists. Be a skeptic. If you are attached, the two of you might become more visible as you work toward a common goal. LEO pushes you into the limelight. They like your style.

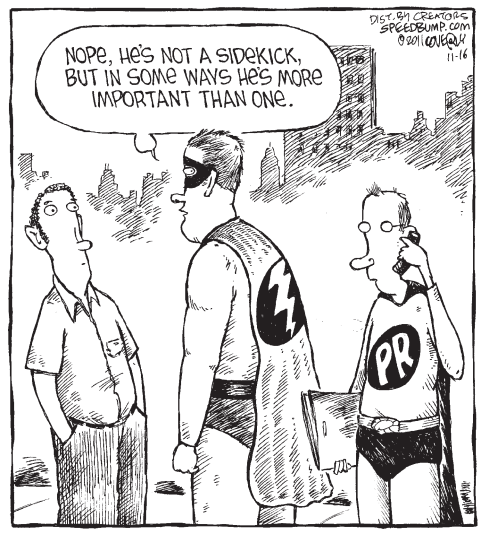


MYSTERY PHOTO

Morgan Genser *news@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.

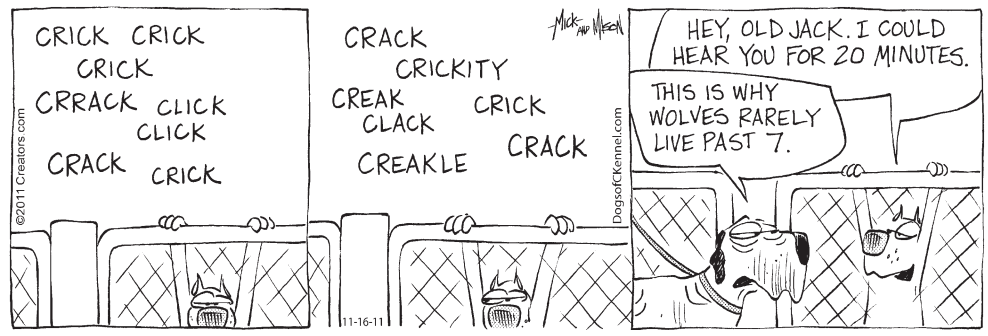
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



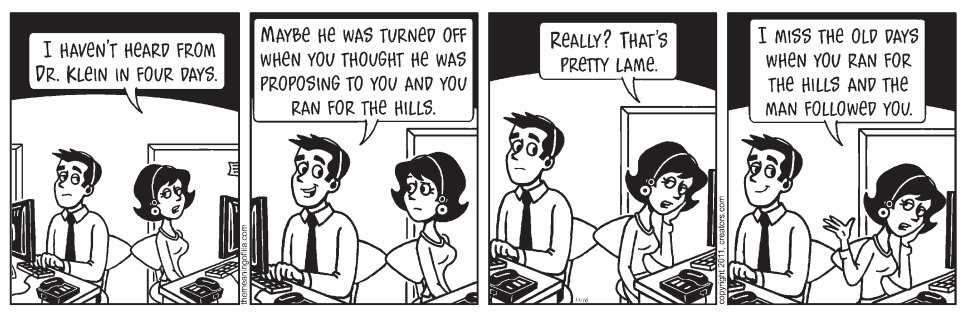
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Boring tool
6 Some babies
10 TV's O'Donnell
11 Fable finish
12 In the thick of
13 Aerie builder
14 Bulb unit
15 Dojo activity
16 First número
17 Quirk
18 Siesta
19 Appeared unexpectedly
22 Bride's wear
23 Washer unit
26 Got more energetic
29 Cloth scrap
32 Casserole bit
33 Crooner Tormé
34 Warring woman
36 Pitcher Blue
37 Pan, for one
38 Showed over
39 Like neon
40 Furious
41 Extinct bird
42 Hay units

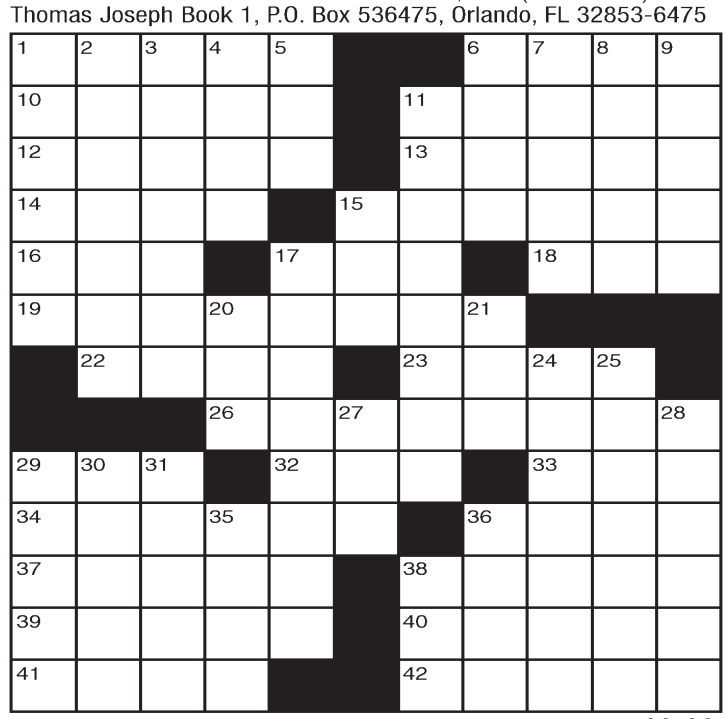
DOWN

1 Devise
2 Nicholas II's dynasty
3 Uranium 235, for one
4 Pocket fuzz
5 Table part
6 Sow's mate
7 Church fixture
8 Conference site of 1945
9 Doze
11 Guilty admission
15 Youngster
17 Travel sci-fi style
20 Card spot
21 "The Raven" writer
24 Fleet leader
25 Library stamp
27 Signing need
28 Runway sights
29 Swift
30 Acid type
31 Was wide-open
35 Goose egg
36 Designer Wang
38 Chest protector

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

Yesterday's answer

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11-16

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

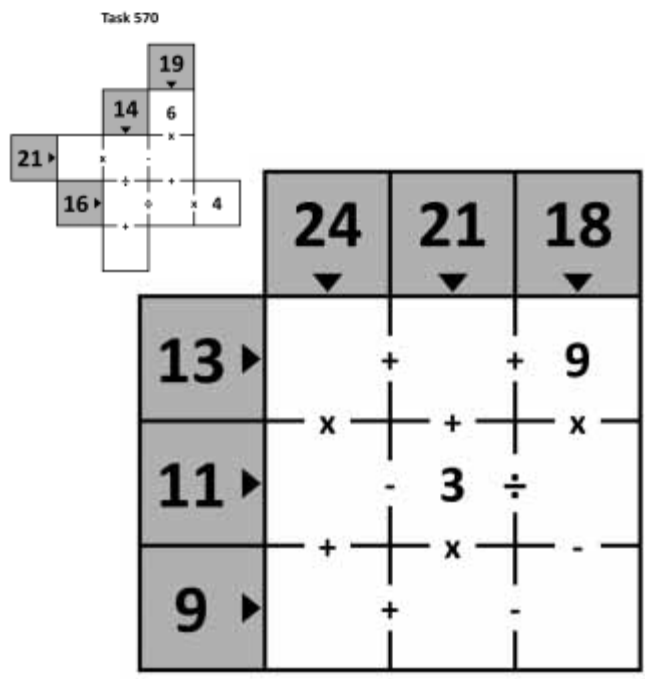
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

1, 3, 3, 6, 9, 12, 12

Task 570



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DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 8 9 EVENING: 5 7 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 06 Whirl Win 2nd: 10 Solid Gold 3rd: 11 Money Bags RACE TIME: 1:41.73

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "I don't get it. I just don't get it. And you're not going to get me to get it," warned Marine squadron commander Lt. Col. Jerry Turner (to a Wall Street Journal Afghanistan reporter writing in October), when learning that a few of his troops were sporting artistically shaped eyebrows sculpted by a barber in the town of Shinwar. "Stylist" Gulam Farooq can't practice on Muslims (forbidden) but said "one or two" Marines come by every day (in between calling in artillery barrages) for tapering. -- The Military Times news service, reporting from Afghanistan in August, disclosed a U.S. Marines command directive ordering troops to restrain their audible flatus because, apparently, Afghan soldiers and civilians complained of being offended. The reporter doubted the directive could be effective, in that passing gas by front-line troops is "practically a sport."

■ A vendor at a street market in Leipzig, Germany, was revealed in September to be shamelessly selling personally tailored coats and vests made with fur from house cats. A first report, in the sensationalist tabloid Bild, was doubted, but a follow-up by Germany's premier news source, Spiegel, confirmed the story. The vendor said he needed eight cats to make a vest (priced at the equivalent of $685) and 18 for a coat. However, such sales are illegal under German and European Union laws, and the vendor subsequently denied that he sold such things.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1988 The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic declares that Estonia is "sovereign" but stops short of declaring independence.

1988 In the first open election in more than a decade, voters in Pakistan elect populist candidate Benazir Bhutto to be Prime Minister of Pakistan.

1989 A death squad composed of El Salvadoran army troops kills six Jesuit priests and two others at Jose Simeon Canas University.

WORD UP!

apocrypha \uh-POK-ruh-fuh\ , noun; 1. Various religious writings of uncertain origin regarded by some as inspired, but rejected by most authorities.

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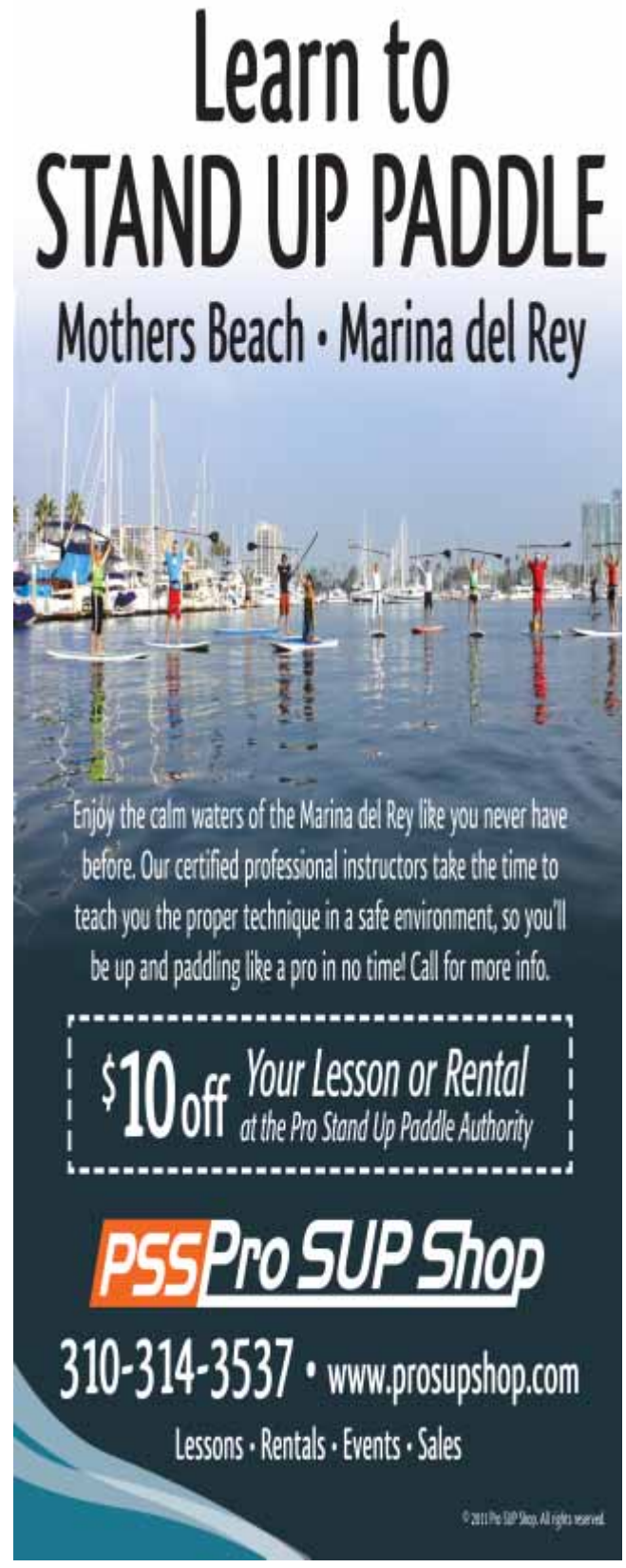
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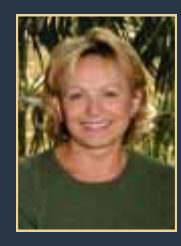
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