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Volume 11 Issue 9



VERLANDER WINS MVP
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE GETTING READY TO GRUB ISSUE

Computer systems upgrade top priority at City Hall

Staff asks City Council to spend $1.3M on new software, upgrades

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL Contracts for outdated software constitutes almost 90 percent of the expenditures on the consent agenda for tonight's City Council meeting.

The software systems, either updates or completely new packages, will cost $1,326,611 over the next six years.

The most expensive will be the replacement for the Big Blue Bus' FleetFocus M4, a work order tracking and asset management

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8

Officials break ground on JAMS construction

Project one of several funded by Measure BB

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

JAMS John Adams Middle School and other community officials marked the beginning of a $12.45 million campus modernization project last week, the most recent construction under the Measure BB bond program.

Armed with shovels and smiles, JAMS Principal Eva Mayoral, Director of Facility Improvement Projects Stuart Sam, Board of Education member Ralph Mechur and others dug into the dirt to symbolically open the project, which has actually been ongoing since August.

The project will include a new attendance office, and an art classroom will be built into the old attendance office.

Nine seventh grade classroom in the 80s wing of the campus will be replaced with new classrooms, and workers will also install a new parking lot and lunch shelter.

A stage and seating area will be installed in the school's Commons Space. Two tennis courts will also be installed.

New construction will reflect sustainable design features like buildings that take advantage of natural daylight and ventilation, water efficiency, clean stormwater and maximize energy efficiency.

Construction began in August 2011 and is expected to continue until fall 2012.

"As a JAMS alumnus and director of

SEE CONSTRUCTION PAGE 9



photo courtesy Paul Alvarez Jr.

FORMATION: **The Samohi marching band is having a stellar season despite obstacles. Members will compete for a championship in December.**

Samohi band has excellent season despite hardships

BY COLIN NEWTON
Special to the Daily Press

Samohi When Mackenzie Moody first saw the Santa Monica High's new artificial turf field, the feeling was a mixture of joy and relief.

"I was excited for the band to have something that was reliable to work on," she said.

Moody, a senior at Samohi is a drum major in the school marching band, which has been experiencing a stellar season.

The band came in first place in a field show tournament at Moorpark High School organized by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) last weekend.

Additionally, Samohi is in second place in the rankings of bands of its size in Southern California, and will compete in the SCSBOA Championship on Dec. 3.

Samohi's victory at Moorpark last weekend was the fifth tournament the band competed in this year, and the fifth time that the band came in first place, said Michael Corrigan, the director of bands at Samohi.

But when practice began in mid-August for the marching band, conditions looked less than ideal.

The practice field was undergoing renovations to replace the grass turf with artifi-

SEE MARCHING PAGE 3


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011

Turkey day for the little gobblers
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
3:45 p.m. — 5:45 p.m.
This special Thanksgiving program at the library offers holiday themed arts, crafts and story time. Cost: free. For ages 3 and up. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

Gluten-free Thanksgiving
Gourmandise at The Market
395 Santa Monica Place,
6:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year to share with family and friends, but if you can't eat gluten, it makes things tough! Pastry Chef Hadley Hughes, who has developed her own gluten-free mixes, will teach you not only how to create your own wheat-free bases, but how to bake everyday sweets with ease and pleasure. Cost: $75. Register at www.thegourmandiseschool.com.

City Council meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
Get involved and attend this regularly-scheduled City Council meeting where elected officials will discuss Santa Monica's Bike Action Plan, new fees for developers and the management and promotion of the historic Santa Monica Pier. The agenda can be found at www.smgov.net/departments/council/

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011

Pie me to the moon
Gourmandise at The Market
395 Santa Monica Place, 1 p.m.
No Thanksgiving is complete without a little pie. At this pie making workshop, you'll learn to make a crust and filling from scratch. Make your own pecan, apple and pumpkin pies to take home for Thanksgiving. Cost: $75. Register at www.thegourmandiseschool.com.

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011

Happy Thanksgiving!

Early bird dinner
Back on Broadway
2024 Broadway, 11:30 a.m.
Fred Deni's Back on Broadway restaurant and the Senior Center are hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for adults 50 years of age and older. Tickets are $2.50 each and will be available during the Healthy Lunches Program or at the Senior Center until supplies run out. Maximum two tickets per person. There are two seatings: 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Attendees must have their own transportation. BBB lines 1, 5 and Rapid 10 go within 1 block of the lunch location.

Giving to those in need
Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Since 1982, thousands of meals have been served and tons of clothing and blankets have been distributed to those who are less fortunate. Come down to volunteer or grab a bite to eat. There will be basic medical evaluations, haircuts, entertainment for the kids and free clothes. If you can't make it, donate. For more information, go to www.westsidethanksgiving.org/

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



MARCHING
FROM PAGE 1

cial turf, and the initial completion date was the end of September, Corrigan said.

In the meantime, the marching band was practicing on the school's baseball field to practice drills, formation movements, and the visual and kinetic aspects of a field show.

But by the end of September, the artificial turf field was still not completed, and the band was sharing the baseball field with the Samohi baseball, softball and football teams.

The result was a practice field that was torn up, and lacked elements crucial to the band, like football field markings and yard lines.

"Those are the basic things that we use to help the kids guide for alignment so that the forms make sense for the audience," Corrigan said. "But we made do."

The band was able to come in first place at the first field show tournament on Oct. 1, based on its high music score.

That was all thanks to Corrigan's experience as a band director, said Jessica Swift, assistant band director.

"That's a testament to his teaching, because the music score was really holding them up until the visual edge came in there as well," she said.

But things took a turn for the worse when Corrigan had a minor stroke after the first tournament, said Swift.

His condition was not critical, but Swift was tasked with commanding the band for two and a half weeks.

"With all that happening in such a short span of time, it was really necessary that they put someone in that position, while Mike was ill, who already knew the ropes," Swift said.

Corrigan's shoes were big shoes to fill, Swift said, but the band was able to continue.

By the end of October, Corrigan was back, and the artificial turf field was finally completed. The band was able to increase its practice time, and its scores.

"When we were able to get onto this turf, the scores the kids were getting went up dramatically," Swift said.

"It was great; it was like, now we can play the game," Corrigan said.

The band will continue to drill and practice new formations in preparation for the championship, Corrigan said.

The band is second place in the overall SCSBOA tournament scoring, with a score of 242 points. Samohi is behind Azuza High School, with 254 points, and ahead of Riverside County's Patriot High School, with 240 points.

Ultimately, just being in the championship is a great honor, Corrigan said.

"We were in the championships last year, and we placed seventh, so [we're] much higher this year," Corrigan said.

The band has lost some students since the previous year, and has moved from the larger sized 4A division, which has 90 to 120 musicians, to the 3A division, which has 60 to 90 musicians.

However, the smaller number of kids represents the students who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to the band, said Swift.

"The students really want it, and so that's why they didn't let obstacles get in the way," she said.

Many of the students have also taken leadership roles within the band, helping out newer students and finding time to practice together at lunch and outside of school, Swift said.

"They're an outstanding group of talent, and it's a pleasure to work with them," she said.

news@smdp.com



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Wearing authentic 'Arthur Christmas' elf hats, kids of all ages use a multitude of pens in coloring their free canvas bags on the Third Street Promenade Monday. Each afternoon from Monday through Wednesday kids and their parents will be able to find free arts and crafts on the 1300 block of the promenade presented by the 'Arthur Christmas' movie and Downtown Santa Monica Inc.

Grammy Hall of Fame announces '12 inductees

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

EASTSIDE Gloria Gaynor's timeless single "I Will Survive" and Bruce Springsteen's signature album "Born in the U.S.A." were among 25 albums and songs named Monday as inductees into The Recording Academy's Grammy Hall of Fame.

The Rolling Stones' "Exile on Main St.," Paul Simon's "Graceland" and Bill Cosby's comedy recording "I Started Out as a Child" were among the other albums inducted. Other notable singles on the list include "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)" by Doris Day and "What's Love Got to Do With It" by Tina Turner.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech also made the list for a spoken-word track.

"The Recording Academy is dedicated to celebrating a wide variety of great music and sound through the decades," said Neil Portnow, president/CEO of Santa Monica-based The Recording Academy. "We are especially honored to welcome this year's selection of some of the most influential recordings of the last century. Marked by both cultural and historical significance, these works truly have influenced and inspired audiences for generations, and we are thrilled to induct them into our growing catalog of outstanding recordings."

With the 25 latest inductees, the Grammy Hall of Fame now includes 906 recordings. The recordings must be at least 25 years old to qualify.

Through a tradition established nearly 40 years ago, recordings are reviewed annually by a special member committee comprising professionals from all branches of the recording arts, with final approval by The Recording Academy's National Board of Trustees.

For a complete list of inductees, go to www.grammy.org/recording-academy/awards/hall-of-fame

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To the rescue

Editor:

On Sunday by 12:30 p.m. the corner of Seventh Street and California Avenue was a raging river, and my car was across the street, and I could not get to it without walking into ankle-high water.

I tried many times to stop and ask for help, or find a cab that could drive me across the street, but after wading ankle deep, no one would stop to help.

After about 20 minutes a young couple stopped, popped me in their truck, drove across the raging river, and the guy literally laid across his truck to my car, and drove it up the curb, to let me in. A young, beautiful couple that I wondered if I should offer a prayer, and knowing that everyone isn't ready for a prayer, I thanked them over and over again, and wished "that they win the lottery."

A very thankful woman.

Sara Binder
Santa Monica

It doesn't hurt to try

Editor:

The state Department of Parks and Recreation is still refusing to consider allowing the public and City Hall, which is standing up for the public, to create a limited pilot dog beach on a beach which is vastly unused in the morning, on weekdays, in the winter, and in various areas.

We are not asking to bring our dogs to the beach on the Fourth of July. We are only asking for a modest pilot program which could be set up at those times and places when no one is on the beach. Those of us who live near the beach can see that there are plenty of times like that.

We are already exploring legislative outlets to correct this problem. It is a matter of tweaking a regulation in State Parks which gives the staff total say so about beach use, irregardless of public and city demand.

Recreation with dogs is a mainstream form of recreation which needs to be acknowledged at the state level. Dog guardians are at least 44 percent of households. There are more dogs than children. We are the public and taxpayers, and we have a right to a share of public resources.

All the arguments against dog beaches can be refuted with the state's own research project which shows that more than 60 other dog beaches in California do not have the problems which are always brought up as major concerns.

We are only proposing a pilot program to find out and test the feasibility of a dog beach in Santa Monica. At the end of the pilot, if our beach is the one in 60 that fails the test, then we will not get it.

The California Research Bureau Report is downloadable on www.unleashthebeach.org.

Georja Umano
Unleash the Beach
Santa Monica



Your column here

Rev. James L. Snyder — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Give us this day our turkey … again

THANKSGIVING IS MY KIND OF HOLIDAY. Apart from the "thanks" part, the primary purpose of this celebration is eating. That is the one thing I do quite well.

Thanksgiving is the beginning of a feasting frenzy that would make Richard Simmons sweat to the goodies. Any thoughts of dieting at this time of the year are merely blowing in the wind. Hopefully, not in my direction.

Our Pilgrim Fathers came up with the idea of a Thanksgiving feast. The Pilgrim Mothers were too busy doing the wash and caring for the children to think of any more work.

The Pilgrim Fathers were sitting around waiting for someone to invent television so they could all watch a football game when someone had an idea. Most ideas are born in the midst of great boredom. That is why so many of them are … well … stupid.

"There's nothing to do," one bored Pilgrim Father said. "Let's get together and have a feast." Because nothing else was happening, the other Pilgrim Fathers got excited about this idea. The Pilgrim Mothers, however, had some different thoughts about this crazy feast idea.

After all, they would have to do all the work and Oprah Winfrey had not been born yet to lead them in a chorus of whining and complaining and getting in touch with their real feelings.

The Pilgrim Mothers wanted a Tupperware party, but since it was not yet a two-party system, they could only do one party. The Pilgrim Fathers won this one.

However, like the good Puritan wives they were, they humored their husbands and began preparations for the first Thanksgiving feast. Because this was the first Thanksgiving, it was a simple affair compared with the ones to follow.

At the first one nobody said, "We've always done it this way." Because it was never done before. However, the second Thanksgiving was beset with this sort of thing. A tradition, someone wisely pointed out, is something done at least once.

What the Pilgrim Mothers did not count on was company for dinner. After all, they were thousands of miles from their nearest relatives with a big pond between them. They assumed, and rightly so, that they were safe from the intrusion of company on what would be the heaviest workday for the kitchen crew.

Have you ever noticed that when you are planning a feast of some kind, relatives who never bother you the rest of the year (something to be thankful for) seem to gravitate to your gravy bowl?

There is nothing like unexpected company to put pizzazz in a Thanksgiving celebration. Who wants pizza for Thanksgiving when there is so much turkey?

Imagine the Pilgrim Mother's surprise when the Pilgrim Fathers told them (probably on Thanksgiving morning) that they had invited guests for the feast. I can imagine some ears were stinging that first Thanksgiving Day. The Pilgrim Fathers braved through the stinging rebukes from their wives … for months.

Perhaps the biggest anomaly of Thanksgiving is the mountain of leftovers the next day and for weeks to follow. No matter how much turkey is gobbled up or how many people are around that Thanksgiving table, the leftovers are enormous.

There is more turkey on Friday than on Thanksgiving.

I cannot prove this, but I highly suspect the turkeys we have today keep growing even after we cook them. Maybe when placed in a cold refrigerator over night, they expand.

I really do not know what takes place, but something happens to that turkey when left overnight in a refrigerator. The big challenge is how to prepare leftover turkey so it does not look or taste like turkey.

Thanksgiving is a marvelous time for family and friends to get together to celebrate the goodness of the Lord. Each family has its own special tradition that seems to bring it together. This year, especially, we have so much to be thankful.

For some it starts with a Thanksgiving Eve service. Gathering as a congregation to express to God thanks for another year of bounty and blessing is important for Christians.

Personally, I like a Thanksgiving eve service over a Thanksgiving morning service. In the evening service, you do not have to rush through the celebration to get home in time for the big feast. Giving thanks to God should be a leisurely thing, not something rushed through while thinking of something else.

At Thanksgiving, we should bring a bouquet of blessing that fills the room with a sweet fragrance of praise that lingers all year long.

Some of the best and most fragrant bouquets are the small ones. Remembering the big blessings is easy. The smaller blessings are much harder to keep in mind. Some of them we even take for granted.

This Thanksgiving I am going to make a point to look over some blessing I have been overlooking. It is those small blessing that truly sustains us throughout the year.

The Bible reminds us why we are to give thanks, not only at Thanksgiving time, but also all year long. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV).

There is so much to thank God for; one day is not near enough. Let us thank God every day for His goodness. Even for leftover blessings.

The **REV. JAMES L. SNYDER** is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores, Fla. E-mail him at jamessnyder2@att.net.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
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Email to: editor@smdp.com or fax to (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

NEWS INTERNS
Colin Newton, Kelly Zhou, Sophia Zhorne
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Brittney Seeliger
brittneys@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Steven Stuart
stevens@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913
smdp.com

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Simon says time is money

YOU HEAR THE PHRASE "TIME IS MONEY" everywhere, but it's not entirely true: money can be lost and regained (and then lost again, as a trip to Las Vegas can teach you). But unless you have a time-traveling Delorean (e.i. "Back To The Future") at your disposal, once time is gone you can never get it back. The more accurate phrase would be "time is expensive" and nowhere is that more true than in real estate.

Time is truly the most precious commodity in the real estate business: more so than an ocean view, school district zoning, hardwood floors and side-by-side parking combined. I've seen it happen all too often. A new property comes on to the market, and as with anything new, there is a lot of initial interest, both from agents and the public alike. Every property that becomes active has a ripple effect on the market for the entire area in terms of price and inventory, so naturally the phone starts ringing, showings are scheduled and open houses are abuzz with activity. Sellers are wondering how this newly listed home stacks up against their property. Buyers are hoping that this could finally be the home they have been searching for.

But after a few weeks, the phone basically stops ringing, the showings are few and far between and open houses become an excuse for the neighbors to catch some shade while out for a walk. Sellers are watching their carrying costs stack up and agents are watching their advertising bills come in and the only thing they both hear is the ticking of the clock. The honeymoon is now over.

So what happened? In my years of experience in real estate, you can trace the answer to that question all the way back to the initial listing presentation. There are two types of listing presentations: one that is designed to secure the listing and one that is designed to sell the listing. Oftentimes a seller has ascribed a certain value to a home based not on empirical evidence, but rather on an emotional connection or what they need to get. This is their home where a child took his first steps, where the family hosted Thanksgiving every year and where the seller put in that new patio by hand.

You can't put a price on those memories … but other people can. Any reputable agent will carefully look at the market to see what similar properties have recently sold for and make a presentation that includes a realistic price recommendation considering current market conditions. This is how the sale will provide maximum return for the client. Sometimes an agent will overshoot their expectations and sometimes they will purposefully mislead a seller towards a higher price. This may get the agent the listing, but eventually the price will need to be reduced.

The problem with the latter approach comes down to three little letters, D O M, which stand for "Days On Market." While a property is just sitting there, racking up carrying costs for the seller and advertising expenses for the agent, it is inherently becoming less attractive along the way. The longer a property is on the market, the more doubt there is in a potential buyer's mind as to the quality of the property and the less leverage a seller has to negotiate. The fresh-faced new kid in school has suddenly become the last kid to be picked for dodgeball.

YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON THOSE MEMORIES … BUT OTHER PEOPLE CAN.

In Santa Monica, current average DOM for single-family homes is 140 days. Back in May of 2011, single-family homes were at 157 DOM and have been steadily declining ever since. Condominiums are selling even faster at 130 days, down from 155 days back in March of this year. Simply put, properties in Santa Monica are selling significantly faster now than earlier in the year. While many factors can be attributed to this, it's also important to note than inventory in Santa Monica for condos is down 27 percent from a year ago and there are 23 percent less single-family homes for sale as well. So while less inventory in an area as desirable as Santa Monica certainly is a contributing factor, in the end the market decides what the value of a property is, not the seller and not the agent.

Of course, there are some factors that are outside of everyone's control, such as a new property popping up on the market which is similar to yours and priced 10 to 20 percent less (which is far from a coincidence). In that case, even the most well intentioned of agents and most realistic of sellers need to be flexible on price. That deafening sound of silence you hear after your property has been on the market longer than four or five months is the sound of the market speaking to you. The question is, will you listen?

SIMON SALLOOM is a realtor partner at Partners Trust Real Estate Brokerage in Brentwood. He lives in Santa Monica with his wife and two sons.

The Q Line

Talking stops

City officials are currently working with the Exposition Light Rail Authority to shape the look of Santa Monica's future train stops.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What would you like to see the local Expo stops include and how much should City Hall chip into the effort?

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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People often ask me what to do if a landlord does not make repairs to a rental unit. Let me start with something a tenant should not do.

DO NOT WITHHOLD RENT

Under certain limited circumstances, a tenant may withhold rent. But, it is never a good idea to withhold rent. If a tenant does not pay the full rent, when due, the landlord would most likely serve the tenant with a three day notice to pay or quit. Once a three day notice to pay or quit expires, the landlord does not have to accept the money even if the tenant offers the full amount. The landlord can refuse the payment and proceed with an unlawful detainer action (eviction case).

An unlawful detainer action is very stressful. Also, the tenant would have the expense of litigation costs and probably attorney fees. A tenant does not have to retain an attorney to defend an unlawful detainer action, but it would be very wise to do so.

If a tenant loses an unlawful detainer case, the tenant would be evicted and owe all of the back rent and possibly the landlord's attorney fees and litigation costs. Further, the unlawful detainer judgment would probably appear on the tenant's credit reports as well as reports kept by landlord agencies which could make it difficult to rent a new home in the future.

For all of the above reasons, a tenant should never withhold any rent.

GIVE LANDLORD A LIST IN WRITING

The first thing a tenant should do is give the landlord a list in writing of items which need to be repaired. The list should be hand-delivered or mailed to the landlord. The tenant must keep a copy of that list and keep track of when and how the list was delivered to the landlord (the specific date when the list was mailed or hand-delivered).

A tenant must give the landlord a reasonable period to make repairs. What is a "reasonable period" is defined on a case by case basis. Usually, a tenant should give the landlord 30 days to make repairs. But, if the condition is serious (i.e.: no electricity, no hot water, hole in the roof), a reasonable time would be much shorter.

A tenant should list all items which need repair, in detail. Failure to notify the landlord of a specific problem may prevent a tenant from being compensated later for the defective condition.

CONTACT GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS

If the landlord does not make the repairs within a reasonable period, the tenant should contact appropriate government inspectors.

In Santa Monica, the first office to be contacted should be the Santa Monica Code Compliance Department: (310) 458-4984. The Code Compliance Department will not come to a rental unit to perform a general inspection. The tenant must have a specific list of items which need repair.

In addition to the Code Compliance Department, a tenant should call the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services. To arrange for an inspection, a Santa Monica tenant would call: (310) 665-8484.

The advantage of government inspectors is that the government agency may order the landlord to make repairs. Also, if the tenant is in trial with the landlord (or a hearing with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board), the government inspectors' reports may be admissible as evidence.

PETITION FOR RENT DECREASE

If the landlord does not make the required repairs, a tenant may file a petition for rent decrease. The petition is filed with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, located in Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401; (310) 458-8751. The petition for rent decrease may be filed 30 to 180 days after service of the written notice to the landlord of items which need repair.

If the petition is granted, the rent will be reduced. But, the rent reduction is prospective (from that point forward). The Rent Control Board does not have the authority to award any money to compensate the tenant for past conditions or reduced services.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

If a tenant wishes to be compensated for the defective conditions or reduced services in the past, the tenant would have to file a lawsuit. A suit could be filed in superior court. Although an attorney is not required for superior court, it is likely that the landlord would retain an attorney. When one party has an attorney and the other does not, it is a big advantage. If the tenant retains an attorney, the expenses might make such a suit in superior court impractical.

Usually, the most economical way to proceed is to file a lawsuit in small claims court. A person can sue in small claims court for up to $7,500.00. And, there are no attorneys in small claims court. Thus, the expenses are greatly reduced.

CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY

Even if the tenant is not going to retain an attorney on a fulltime basis, it is usually a good idea to at least have a consultation with a tenants' rights attorney, especially before filing suit in small claims court or filing a petition for rent decrease.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY MARK PALMER, A SANTA MONICA TENANTS' RIGHTS ATTORNEY.

HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
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4:00-5:00pm	(1st and 3rd Tuesday/Month): Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, fraud, personal injury and employment law.
WEDNESDAY	
5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields at the Novel Café located at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica, 90405.
THURSDAY	
12:00-2:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment Only)
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4:00–5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Thursday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
4:00–5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman
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Retreat focuses on young men's 'failure to launch'

BY MARTHA IRVINE
AP National Writer

GOLD LAKE, Colo. They don't have to get up.

"Get out of bed, don't get out of bed," they're told. "But if you don't, you don't progress. It's up to you."

In fact, by 8:30 a.m. breakfast, most of these young men's beds are made, sort of, and they've either been to a yoga session, or for a walk around the lake in this remote mountain retreat.

The aim here starts out that simple: Get up. Clean your room. Hold meaningful conversations. Resolve your differences.

Eventually, it moves on to setting some goals: Staying in school, getting a job, or both. Moving out of their parents' homes when they leave this place is a hope for many.

They are the most basic of goals, a rite of passage for any young adult. But experts say more young people today — especially young men like the ones who come here — lack the will, or perhaps even the know-how, to achieve them.

They are the modern-day lost boys, who suffer from "failure to launch," a term made popular by a movie of the same name. While at least one critic deemed that film "completely unbelievable" at the time, five years later real life is imitating fiction.

Federal statistics show that young men are, for instance, nearly twice as likely to live at home with their parents than young women their age. They're also less likely to finish college, or to have a job. The struggling economy has only made things worse.

"We see more failure to launch because there's less to launch into," says Joshua Coleman, a psychologist who is the co-chairman of the Council on Contemporary Families, a nonprofit organization that tracks trends in American families.

These days, even young men from families with means who get into good schools — like those who come to this residential program in the mountains northwest of Boulder — are having a hard time getting a foothold.

"They are depressed, anxious, overwhelmed and underprepared," says Joseph DeNucci, one of the founders of this program, called Insight Intensive at Gold Lake.

He calls it "an epidemic."

With his broad Brooklyn accent, DeNucci stands out in a place like this, a former retreat for the wealthy on a private lake. He developed swanky spas in Arizona and elsewhere. But he had always longed to do something for young men who struggled to find their way, as he had in his teen years. He sold his spa in Arizona and, with other investors, bought the land and buildings to create this different kind of retreat.

"For years, we've been sending people to 12-step programs. But this 18- or 19-year-old who's smoking pot, playing World of Warcraft and sitting on the couch in his parents' home — is he an addict? No. He might be working on being an addict," DeNucci says.

But there's something more going on, he says.

These young men also might have issues with depression and anxiety, though the program does not accept those who have severe psychiatric problems or who've used hard drugs or abused prescription painkillers. Nor can they have a history of violence or a criminal record.

For these guys, the key issues are an absence of motivation, and the lack of what DeNucci and his staff call "an early adult life plan."

The Insight program, which has space for no more than 25 young men, ages 18 to 23, involves a stay of three to four months at a cost of $350 a day. That's usually paid by parents who are at their wits' end — but who also may unwittingly be part of what is surely a multi-layered problem.

At breakfast in the main lodge, a tall, scruffy-haired young man sits quietly, looking a little dazed. His time at Insight is about to come to an end and, in the afternoon, one of his mentors will be driving him to Boulder, an hour away, to look for an apartment.

The 22-year-old wants to get a job, maybe at a coffee house — and to teach guitar lessons. He's going to try to go back to school.

"I'm nervous about going off into the world," he says, speaking — as all the young men did — on the condition that names not be used to maintain the therapeutic program's strict code of confidentiality.

Before he came here, he was living in Virginia in an apartment that his dad paid for. He'd dropped out of university and didn't make it at community college, either.

"I'd start off really strong. Then one bad thing would happen — I'd miss class or wouldn't turn in an assignment," he says. So he'd stop going because he couldn't face his teachers.

"I didn't want to disappoint anybody."

For him, marijuana and alcohol were part of the problem. He says he also always had a hard time living up to the expectations of his father, who sells insurance and who is divorced from his mother, a musician like her son is. Even before college, he says he "had to fail out" of an all-boys' prep school that his father wanted him to attend. He hated it that much. It wasn't "him."

It is a common sentiment: A few of the guys talk about wanting the chance to break free to be themselves. And yet they seem afraid to take the leap from the cocoon their parents have provided.

In essence, they say, adulthood just doesn't look that appealing. Some call it downright hopeless.

One 21-year-old New Yorker who's been at Insight for a few weeks puts it this way: "If I don't try, I can't fail."

Therapists who've been dealing with "failure to launch" more and more in the last five to 10 years name any number of factors that have contributed to the phenomenon.

"I could go on and on about kids in third grade with four tutors — or parents doing the homework for them. At every turn, the parents are there trying to put some kind of helmet on their kid, metaphorical or otherwise," says Michael Simon, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Oakland, Calif.

These parents are well-meaning, he says — but they end up short-changing their children because they don't know how to fail, or to bounce back from failure.

Certainly this affects both young people of both genders, but experts say there are other factors that further hinder boys' ability to transition to adulthood.

In his book, "Boys Adrift," Dr. Leonard Sax blames everything from an educational system that he believes is geared more toward girls' style of learning to video games and online porn that are overtaking the lives of too many boys.

"For many of them, the virtual world has become more enticing than the real world,"

SEE **RETREAT** PAGE 7

RETREAT

FROM PAGE 6

says Sax, who's seeing more young male patients who tell him they prefer online porn to dating women in real life.

Tracy Markle, the clinical director at Insight, says she and the rest of the staff certainly see more young men dealing with issues related to Internet games, porn and online gambling. But she doesn't necessarily agree that they prefer it to the real world.

"Clients say, 'I really want real-life friends,'" she says. "I hear that more and more."

So that is one of many things the young men work on at Insight — learning how to balance their online and offline worlds.

At lunch, DeNucci sits down with the guys — some of whom have been working on academics and fitness in the morning while others have been in group therapy.

They have been eased into this routine. At first, the goal is to get them to go to sleep when the clock still says "p.m." and to rise when it says "a.m." — something most of them weren't doing at home.

They also get used to sharing their living quarters — three-bedroom cabins housing six — and pulling their weight, by doing tasks such as their own laundry.

As they show they can be responsible, they work their way up in levels within the system. Eventually, they write a life plan, then take basic steps toward achieving it — putting together a resume' and applying for a job or an apartment with the help of a life skills coach.

"This is practice. This is training," David Krayeski, Insight's program director, says, comparing it to preparing for a race. "These are guys who've been paralyzed, for lack of a better term. So we have to get them moving."

Many of the young men also work — as kitchen or ranch hands, or on the housekeeping staff.

"You'd be surprised at how many choose housekeeping," DeNucci says, recalling one client from a wealthy family who confessed, "I have to learn how to clean."

Not everyone likes being in this place, DeNucci recognizes. "But I think they all know, at some level, that something has to change," he says.

"I don't want to be here," says another 21-year-old New Yorker. "But my dad said, 'Either you go, or you're cut off.'"

He had dropped out of school and lost a job in real estate. Eventually, he says he was caught writing himself checks out of his father's checkbook.

It would be difficult for many people to look at this setup — rustic, but comfortable with its wood-paneled walls, stone fireplace, sauna and massage rooms and outdoor hot tubs — and not think these guys are being coddled.

Several have "education consultants," paid for by their parents. A couple have come to this program from therapeutic wilderness programs in exotic locations like Hawaii.

These are the guys that society would say have no reason not to thrive. As Coleman from the Council on Contemporary Families notes, disadvantaged youth are failing to launch in much greater numbers — and have far less opportunity.

The staff doesn't see it as coddling, though. The days here are long and the personal issues the residents deal with are intense and real, they say.

"It's about getting them an identity that is separate from their parents," says Markle, the clinical director.

And, DeNucci adds, to help them define what it means, for them, to be a man.

It starts with little things.

One shy young man who came to the program recently tells how he's started taking guitar lessons. As he talks, he hardly makes eye contact. But it is a big deal that he's even having the conversation.

DeNucci recalls meeting him for the first time with his father over breakfast in Boulder.

"The kid's sharp as a tack, but the dad's answering all the questions for him," DeNucci says. "I had to say, 'I'm sorry. Can you let your son answer? I'd like to hear what he has to say.'"

When feasible, the young men have weekly therapy sessions with their parents, by telephone or online video conference — one of the most difficult requirements for most of the young clients.

Sometimes, problems are tied to the parents' divorce or to a young man being adopted. The conversations often have to do with control and expectations.

"For a lot of these families, success is power," Markle says. "If you don't have it, you're nobody. That's the message."

Mary Kral, a San Francisco Bay area woman whose son attended Insight last year, said a lot of the issues the two of them discussed had to do with her absence as a working, single mom. The conversations caused her to think about what she would have done differently.

"I'm disappointed that I couldn't be there more," she says. "I also would have instilled more structure. My boys would have had chores."

Since leaving Insight late last year, her son, now 22, moved to Boulder and got a studio apartment. Keeping a job has been a struggle, but he's continuing to work with his therapist and mentor from Insight, as all the young men do after they leave.

"I do see a lot of positive, long-lasting change," she says. "I have hope.

"I have to."

It remains to be seen whether a program like this — a rarity for its specific focus on "failure to launch" — will have long-term success.

Sax, the author of "Boys Adrift," is skeptical. He thinks the true solution is to catch these young men when they are boys — to find them schools with programs that engage them and to limit their access to video games, for instance.

Others fear things won't truly improve for these struggling young men until the economy rebounds.

DeNucci says that gives him all the more reason to push the three-word mantra he wrote when he opened this place last year: "Competence, Confidence, Clarity."

It is a message that keeps a steady stream of young men filing in and out of this mountain hideaway — and that gets them out of bed in the morning while here.

It's a start, if nothing else.





COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LINCOLN BOULEVARD

Helping make the holidays bright

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica is seeking donations for its Family Assistance Fund, which is used to buy gifts for needy families during the holiday season.

Family Assistance Fund also provides clothing, groceries for Thanksgiving and holiday meals, school supplies, appliances, furniture and other home essentials.

To make it happen, the Boys & Girls Club is asking the community for in-kind donations, discount offers from retailers and cash contributions.

The organization will receive matching funds up to $10,000.

All money will go directly to families in need, and some will help pay for the club's Thanksgiving dinner, and the holiday dinner on Dec. 22.

Approximately 350 children fill the Main Branch gym for the Thanksgiving meal each year.

The Boys & Girls Club has served young people and families in Santa Monica for 67 years. The Family Assistance Fund supports approximately 500 families throughout the campaign.

To donate, visit the Boys & Girls Club website at www.smbgc.org or contact Jennifer Vides at jvides@smbgc.org or (310) 361-8520.

DAILY PRESS

CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

system that is no longer supported by its vendor, Trapeze. BBB has been using the FleetFocus system since 1999.

City staff recommends a new Trapeze system, AssetWorks 6.4, for its seamless integration with existing BBB systems.

The new system would allow the BBB better communication on performance and cost accounting with City Hall and other agencies, like the Metropolitan Transit Authority, as well as make it easier to access detailed work order, parts and billing history information.

The full contract amount will not exceed $685,179 over the next six years, with over half of that — $357,389 — set to be spent immediately on implementation, data migration and training.

The new software constitute almost half of the $1,476,171 consent calendar.

PERMIT SYSTEM

The BBB system isn't the only outdated software City Hall has been struggling with.

The council is expected to give the OK for a new permit tracking system that will cost taxpayers over half a million dollars.

The new system, called Accela Automation, provides web-based features like mobile inspections, applets and integration with the city's Geographic Information System, which allows staff to plot information on maps.

Accela Automation was developed in 2000, and is used by government agencies across the United States.

The previous system, Permits Plus, was also developed by the Accela company. City Hall has used it since 1989, but Accela no longer supports the product.

The new software system will cost $546,672 over the next five years, which includes training, data migration and the first year of maintenance.

HOMELESS SYSTEM UPDATE

In yet another round of upgrades, the City Council is expected to approve $95,000 in system support, on-site training and upgrade costs for its Homeless Management Information System.

City Hall has used the ServicePoint system since 2009 after the Urban Institute conducted an evaluation of Santa Monica's homeless Continuum of Care and recommended it buy a system that met the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data standards.

Since then, the number of programs and individuals using ServicePoint has expanded to 155 users in 180 programs across eight homeless service providers. City Hall needs all of those providers putting their information in the same place to keep track of all the services being provided within city limits.

That includes who is accessing the services, where they come from and how Santa Monica is integrated into the larger regional system of care.

The cost is expected to be $94,760 for a total of $308,790.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

City staff is recommending HDR Engineering, Inc. for a $149,560 contract to review City Hall's current policies on refuse and prepare "zero waste guidelines," an operations plan and trash hauling rate structure analysis.

The plan will help City Hall strengthen and refine its current waste diversion operations and help toward the stated goal of a 70 percent recycling rate.

The City Council first directed staff to create a Zero Waste Strategic Plan in June 2009, and assigned the Zero Waste Planning Committee the task of designing and putting into action a zero waste program.

That resulted in a pilot green food waste program, expansion of commercial food waste program, as well as audits of landfills to determine diversion rates.

It was determined, however, that a long-term zero waste strategic plan would be needed to include operational programs, producer responsibility, product stewardship, client responsibility and future council ordinances and resolutions.

And, since those new requirements could change the costs of waste disposal, such a plan would need to identify the impacts of all programs on future integrated waste processing and disposal rates.

HDR Engineering has completed such plans for 10 other communities and has extensive knowledge of equipment and operations costs nationwide, according to the staff report.

The company came in the highest of all bidders at $149,560, and was asked to scale back its community outreach component.

ashley@smdp.com

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Photo courtesy Janie Buelou Hale *news@smdp.com*

DIG IT: **School district officials broke ground last week on a construction project at JAMS.**

CONSTRUCTION
FROM PAGE 1

Facility Improvement Projects, it was exciting to see the project move forward," Sam said. "The improvements will include a new welcoming entry, which will celebrate the entrance into middle school for students. The additional improvements to the lunch area and new classrooms will help improve the common spaces and provide an example of sustainable architecture."

Work began before the school year because officials felt it would be less disruptive than beginning work in the middle of classes, according to the district.

To mitigate construction impacts, workers built sound barriers between the construction and classrooms and will spray down the dust daily.

All construction workers have been finger printed, drug tested and background checked to ensure student safety.

The money for the project comes out of the $268 million facilities bond measure passed by voters in 2006 to fund construction and improvement projects in the district.

That money will fund projects on all of the campuses, including a new science and technology building for Santa Monica High School and additional labs, a new library and classrooms at Malibu High.

New facilities at JAMS, Lincoln Middle School and Edison Language Academy are all scheduled to be completed by 2014.

Lincoln will see 10 new classrooms, four science labs, two shared preparation rooms, restrooms, a chorus room and a new storage facility.

Measure BB will pay for a new campus at the Edison Language Academy, including 27 classrooms for kindergarten through fifth grades, two pre-school classrooms, a new library and a new cafeteria.

That construction is set to begin Nov. 30.

Even as construction begins on SMMUSD campuses, the school district is considering the possibility of putting another bond measure on the ballot in coming years.

That $268 million will begin the construction work needed to renovate campuses and keep current on modern technologies, but capital projects in the district have long gone ignored.

At a meeting in May, the Board of Education reconvened a citizen-led committee to look at the possibility of a future parcel tax and bond measure.

While the passage of the Y and YY sales tax and advisory measure left the schools with approximately $5.7 million in new revenue this year, the committee was always supposed to come back together to consider new bond money to continue improving aging facilities.

"It was always supposed to come back together to address capital needs in the district that have not been addressed by BB," Laurie Lieberman, a school board member, said in May.

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When: November 29, 2011 Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Who: Both members and prospective members welcome
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Judge voices support for big California water pact

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A state appeals judge on Monday strongly defended a landmark agreement on how Southern California gets its water, casting aside arguments that the pact should be scrapped because the state essentially wrote a blank check to save a dying lake.

Justice Ronald Robie noted that the agreement addressed disputes that have long defied easy answers.

"It's a question of finding a proper solution to a problem that has existed for a long time, and that requires ingenuity," he said during a hearing.

A three-judge panel of the 3rd Appellate District is considering whether to overturn the pact, which created the nation's largest farm-to-city water transfer and set new rules for dividing the state's share of the Colorado River. Farmers and environmentalists are challenging the pact, while California water agencies say it is critical to keeping an uneasy peace regarding the river.

The court is expected to rule within three months.

If a lower court ruling stands, consequences could ripple to six other western states and Mexico, which also rely on the 1,450-mile river that flows from the Rocky Mountains to the Sea of Cortez. The agreement remains in effect while the case is under appeal.

The accord between California's warring water agencies keeps the state to a limit established 80 years earlier of 4.4 million acre-feet of water a year — enough to supply about 9 million homes. The centerpiece called for California's Imperial Valley — a farming region of 175,000 residents that gets nearly 20 percent of the entire water supply — to sell water to San Diego.

In January 2010, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Roland Candee gutted the pact in a decision that said the state violated its constitution with an open-ended commitment to restoring the Imperial Valley's Salton Sea, where receding shores are layered with dead fish. California's largest lake is more than 200 feet below sea level and relies on water that seeps down from nearby farms. The sale of water to San Diego further threatens the lake's future.

Candee ruled that a state law committing California to save the lake no matter the cost set an unacceptable precedent for the government to pledge money to other projects it couldn't afford. The administration of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger pegged the cost of saving the Salton Sea at a whopping $9 billion.

Robie, the presiding judge, repeatedly challenged attorneys who were supporting Candee's opinion during Monday's hearing as the two other judges were silent. He said it was too early to say that the state violated its pledge to save the lake.

"I can't tell you if the Legislature will approve the money, but you can't tell me it won't," he told one attorney.

Malissa McKeith, an attorney representing Imperial Valley landowners, said after the hearing that she didn't want to predict the outcome but the state would be on the hook for the Salton Sea if the pact is upheld, "up to billions of dollars."

"It's a sad day for the sea," said McKeith, who was repeatedly interrupted by Robie during her arguments. "The court said we can cash the state's blank check when the time comes, even if it's going to bounce."

David Osias, an attorney for the Imperial Irrigation District, which is defending the agreement, said the appeals court had done its homework and was well-prepared. He declined to comment further after the hearing.

California long used more of the Colorado River than it was granted under agreements with Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Mexico. Its overindulgence was never a big problem until Sunbelt cities like Phoenix witnessed explosive growth and other states clamored for their full share. Drought only exacerbated tensions.

The 2003 agreement has already had a big impact in California. The water transfers have made the San Diego area less dependent on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a behemoth that serves nearly 19 million people and was virtually San Diego's only source of water in the early 1990s.

The pact remains controversial in the Imperial Valley, eight years after the Imperial Irrigation District board approved it in a 3-2 vote under heavy state and federal pressure. Critics say water sales to San Diego have failed to bring enough benefits to the region.

Critics also worry that the Salton Sea's receding shores will blow dust, worsening air quality. The lake — about one-third saltier than the ocean — continues to draw a tremendous variety of birds, but biologists say they will disappear without fish to prey upon.

Plea deal in Calif. gay classmate killing

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A Southern California teenager has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of a gay classmate in a deal that will send him to prison for 21 years.

Ventura County Chief Deputy District Attorney Mike Frawley says the plea deal was reached Monday in the case of 17-year-old Brandon McInerney, who gunned down 15-year-old Larry King at a school in Oxnard in February 2008. McInerney was 14 at the time.

The case had been expected to go to retrial following a September mistrial when jurors couldn't reach a unanimous decision on the degree of guilt.

Prosecutors contended that McInerney embraced a white supremacist philosophy that sees homosexuality as an abomination. Defense attorneys claimed he reached an emotional breaking point after King made repeated, unwanted sexual advances.

Email QLINE@SMDP.COM. WE'LL PRINT THE ANSWERS.
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

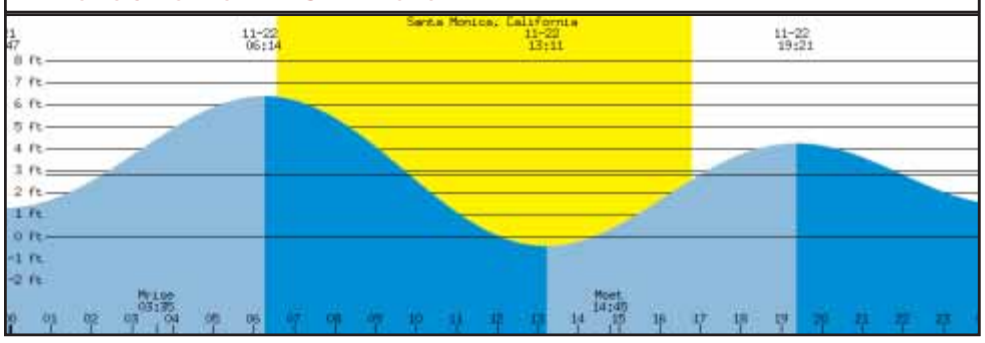
Swell Forecast

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 16, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 10
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 16 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	D	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	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).	A	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 Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	A
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fences.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	D	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A	A
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	B
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	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.	A	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	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's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

NBA

NBA players consolidating legal battle in Minnesota

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK After filing two separate antitrust lawsuits against the league in two different states, NBA players are consolidating their efforts and have turned to the courts in Minnesota as their chosen venue.

A group of named plaintiffs including Carmelo Anthony, Steve Nash, Kevin Durant and Chauncey Billups filed an amended federal lawsuit against the league in Minnesota on Monday, hoping the courts there will be as favorable to them as they have been to NFL players in the past.

The locked-out players filed class-action antitrust suits against the league last Tuesday in California and Minnesota. But the California complaint was withdrawn Monday. Players' lawyer David Boies said he believes the combined case will move more quickly in Minnesota.

"The docket is less congested and they have a good track record of handling cases like this," Boies said.

Federal court in Minnesota was the venue for all NFL labor disputes that reached the courts for the past two decades. The NFL players enjoyed several victories over the owners there, most recently when U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson issued a temporary injunction this summer that the lifted the NFL's owner-imposed lockout. That decision was stayed and eventually overturned on appeal by the 8th Circuit in St. Louis.

NBA owners locked out the players July 1 and the labor strife between the two sides has forced games to be canceled through Dec. 15.

"We assume that Mr. Boies was not happy with either the reassignment of the case from Oakland to San Francisco or the fact that the new judge scheduled the first conference for March 2012," said Rick Buchanan, NBA executive vice president and general counsel. "This is consistent with Mr Boies' inappropriate shopping for a forum that he can only hope will be friendlier to his baseless legal claims."

The players have offered nearly $3 billion in concessions by essentially agreeing to a 50-50 split of basketball-related income, but after being unable to reach an accord on certain system issues, the players disbanded the union last week. That set the stage for the increasingly bitter labor dispute to move from the negotiating table to the courtroom, which could jeopardize the entire 2011-12 season.

Disbanding the union allowed the players to file an antitrust lawsuit against the league, a move the NFL players used as well. Rajon Rondo, Caron Butler, Baron Davis, Ben Gordon, Kawhi Leonard, Leon Powe, Anthony Randolph, Sebastian Telfair, Anthony Tolliver and Derrick Williams are the other named plaintiffs in the Minnesota lawsuit.

"Although the NBPA made concession after concession, including concessions that would cost its members more than one billion dollars over a six-year period, the NBA essentially refused to negotiate its basic 2007 demands, refusing to back off its demand for large salary reductions and harsh player restraints," the lawsuit alleged.

Boies said consolidating the two lawsuits saves the players weeks of court time that would have otherwise been devoted to deciding a venue.

Verlander wins AL MVP, 1st starter in 25 years

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Justin Verlander figured time had run out on his chance to become the first starting pitcher in a quarter-century to be voted Most Valuable Player.

Last Tuesday, he found out about 12:40 p.m. that he was a unanimous winner of the AL Cy Young Award. It was closing in on 1 p.m. Monday, and he still hadn't gotten word on the MVP.

"I had told myself that it wasn't going to happen," he said. "I figured somebody else got the call."

Not to worry, there was just a slight delay because Verlander didn't give the Baseball Writers' Association of America his telephone number, forcing the BBWAA to relay the news through Brian Britten, the Detroit Tigers' director of media relations.

Britten telephoned Verlander at 12:56 p.m., about one hour before the announcement.

"It was just a weight off my shoulders," Verlander said, "and pure elation, really."

After winning the AL's pitching triple crown by going 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and 250 strikeouts, Verlander received 13 of 28 first-place votes and 280 points. He became the first pitcher voted MVP since Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in 1992 and the first starting pitcher since Boston's Roger Clemens in 1986.

"Obviously pitchers are not just written off all of a sudden because they're pitchers," Verlander said.

Boston center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury was second with four firsts and 242 points, followed by Toronto right fielder Jose Bautista with five firsts and 231 points, Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson with 215 and Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera with 193.

Recent history has been against pitchers. Since Eckersley's win, only once had a pitcher finished as high as second.

In 1999, Boston's Pedro Martinez was 13 points behind Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez after going 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA and 313 strikeouts. Martinez had eight first-place votes to seven for Rodriguez, but La Velle Neal of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and George King of the New York Post left Martinez off their ballots.

"Not even in my wildest dreams had I thought of this," Verlander said during a conference call from his home in Virginia. "I want to say this is a dream come true. I can't say that because my dream had already had come true ... to win a Cy Young. And the next dream is to win a World Series. This wasn't even on my radar until the talk started. And then all of a sudden it was a this-could-actually-happen type of thing."

Verlander had the most wins in the major leagues since Oakland's Bob Welch went 27-6 in 1990. Verlander pitched his second career no-hitter at Toronto on May 7. His season reopened debate over whether pitchers can be MVPs.

MOVIE TIMES

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(310) 260-1528

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1hr 48min
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Way (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:55pm

Like Crazy (PG-13) 1hr 29min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

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

Immortals 3D (R) 1hr 50min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Happy Feet Two in 3D (PG) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:30pm, 10:00pm

Muppets (PG) 2hrs 00min
12:01am

Jack and Jill (PG) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Puss in Boots 3D (PG) 1hr 30min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 6:45pm

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

J. Edgar (R) 2hrs 17min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:50pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
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Heir Apparent: Largo Winch (NR) 1hr 48min
1:00pm, 3:50pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

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

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

Into the Abyss (PG-13) 1hr 46min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1hr 48min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Jack and Jill (PG) 1hr 31min
1:00pm, 3:25pm, 5:50pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

Tower Heist (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (R) 1hr 29min
11:45am, 1:00pm, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, 4:40pm, 5:40pm, 7:15pm, 8:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

Happy Feet Two (PG) 1hr 45min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:55pm

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

All smiles tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You can keep a secret, and you will. Be wary of any sharing on your part. Somehow the information is not complete, with a strong indication of more information coming in. Someone who cares enormously, perhaps as a friend, touches base with you. Tonight: Let your imagination decide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Others dominate. You would like to do more of what you want. You can, but at what cost? You might keep pushing people away. Prioritize, and at that point you'll have answers. Try not to buck the trends. Tonight: Work as a duo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You must bend. You have a lot to do and get through, and you will succeed. Someone you deal with could be overly serious and more open. Keep special news to yourself. Know that you can respond without letting others know. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Tap into your creativity, yet honor the fact that you have had enough. How to juggle your needs with others' remains an issue. Let go of insecurity. You might have a chance to do something you haven't done in a while. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep conversations open. Share more of your feelings once you get past a moment of negativity. Your creativity emerges when sharing with others. Opportunities arrive out of the blue, perhaps within a partnership. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might need to pull back and understand. Sometimes new beginnings happen after a difficult situation. Increase your knowledge and bounce back with a stronger sense of well-being. Late today, your willingness to share emerges. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the daytime to the max. Do note that you take situations more seriously than necessary. Loosen up a little, and you'll draw a stronger response. Let your imagination lead. Look at what comes up. Tonight: Buy yourself a treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ You don't want to buy into negativity. You could be overwhelmed and feel powerless. Not so; it is simply a mood, which can change in several hours. Postpone important decisions until later today. Act then, too. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ The Sun moves into your sign today and energizes you. You feel like you can tackle any problems that you recently mulled over. A friend involved with a key project or goal proves to be disappointing. Let go and take some of the pressure off. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You are in the limelight and on top of your game. Others seem to go along with an idea you like. The sense of having an impact and agreement makes you very happy. Timing is working with you. Start putting out other ideas. You finally find support late today. Tonight: A discussion could lead to dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance who seems to close you off more often. Try not to take this person's behavior personally, and listen to what is being shared. Wonder what is happening with this person. Later today, good news follows you. Tonight: Celebrate at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Read Aquarius before coming to a decision. There is a lot going on behind the scenes and within a partnership. Let go of judgment, and empathize. Walk in this person's shoes. You'll gain understanding when you least expect it. Tonight: Try a movie.

Happy birthday

Just when you believe you've got it together, surprise! You keep adjusting, growing and changing. Therein lies stability. Count on change this year. If you are single, the person you meet today you might abhor in a few months. Don't commit. If you are attached, understand how very changeable you are and how your feelings will change, too. Don't judge your relationship; appreciate your sweetie for swinging with the ups and downs. SCORPIO understands you too well!

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Paul Alvarez Jr. *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



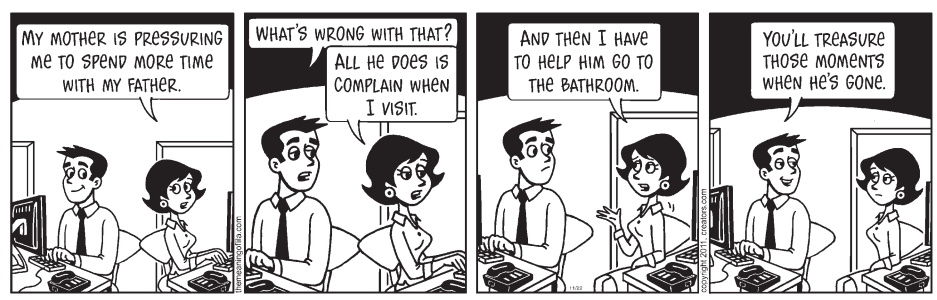
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Nuisance
5 Practices for a bout
10 Bye, in Baja
12 Wading bird
13 Thanks-giving veggie
15 Road goo
16 Cereal bit
17 Ruin
18 Straying
20 Solemn act
21 Mailroom stamp
22 Previously owned
23 Skater Boitano
25 Mrs. Dithers
28 Stellar hunter
31 Death notice, for short
32 Past, present and future
34 Orange seed
35 Plop down
36 Touch lightly
37 Candy flavor
40 Singer Tucker
41 Stagger-ing
42 Beginning
43 "Jane —"

DOWN

1 School art staple
2 Painter Hopper
3 — Nevadas
4 Foot part
5 Bar order
6 Parrot or puppy
7 Friend of Porthos
8 Turn
9 Was a noisy sleeper
11 High fellow
14 Flag-waving
19 Ready to swing
20 Alter-cation
24 Singer Franklin
25 Takes credit for
26 Luke's mentor
27 Turns red, perhaps
29 Fish hawk
30 Closer
33 Fashion
35 Sports figure
38 Pupil's place
39 Before, to Byron

C	R	O	P	■	P	A	C	E	R	■
L	E	D	A	■	I	M	A	G	E	S
I	G	O	R	■	T	I	N	O	R	E
M	A	R	Q	U	I	S	■	T	O	T
E	N	S	U	R	E	S	■	R	U	T
■	■	■	E	N	D	■	B	I	T	E
W	E	S	T	S	■	P	A	P	E	R
A	N	T	S	■	C	O	N	■	■	■
I	D	A	■	C	O	E	Q	U	A	L
S	U	M	■	R	O	T	U	N	D	A
T	R	I	B	A	L	■	E	T	O	N
S	E	N	A	T	E	■	T	I	R	E
■	D	A	T	E	R	■	S	E	E	S

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

1	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	9
10				11	■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
18			19			■	20			
■	21					■	22			
■	■	■	23			24		■	■	■
25	26	27		■	28			29	30	■
31				■	32					33
34			■	35			■	36		
37			38				39			
40					■	41				
42					■	■	43			

11-22

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

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

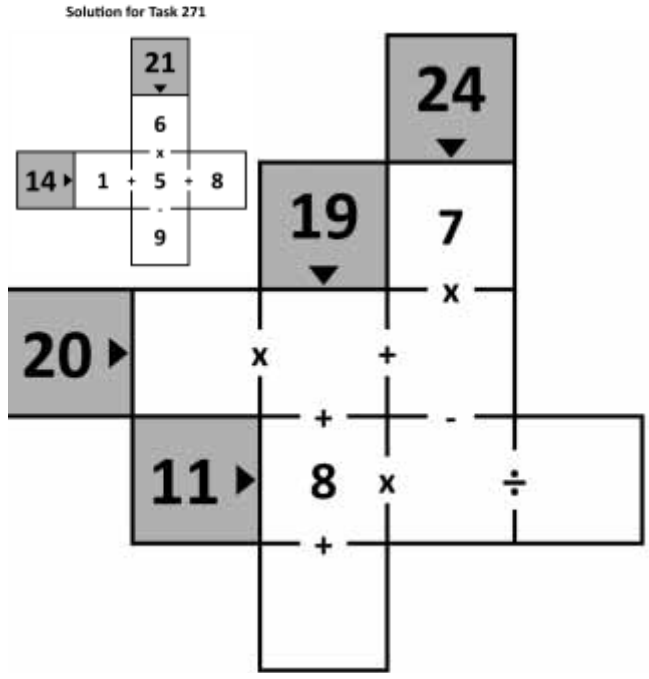
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

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

3, 5, 5, 8, 8, 11

Solution for Task 271



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 13 33 39 55 Meganumber: 3 Jackpot: $47M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 18 21 33 39 Meganumber: 7 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 23 25 29 32 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 0 5 EVENING: 0 9 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 01 Gold Rush 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:48.21

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A British manufacturer, BCB International, is flourishing, buoyed by sales of its Kevlar underwear, at $65 a pair, to U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, soldiers and Marines must buy them directly; the "Bomb Boxers" are not supplied by the Pentagon even though nearly 10 percent of battlefield explosive-device injuries result in sometimes-catastrophic genital and rectal damage. According to an October report in Talking Points Memo, the Pentagon's currently issued protection is inferior to BCB's but is less expensive. (Although the Pentagon fully funds post-injury prostheses and colostomies, it could purchase about 7,700 Bomb Boxers for the price of a single Tomahawk missile.)

■ In what a cement company executive said is "one of those bureaucratic things that doesn't make any sense," the city of Detroit recently built wheelchair ramps at 13 intersections along Grandy Street, despite knowing that those ramps are either not connected to sidewalks or connected to seldom-used, badly crumbling sidewalks. The ramps were required by a 2006 lawsuit settlement in which Detroit pledged to build ramps on any street that gets re-paved, as Grandy was. (No one in city government thought, apparently, to attempt a trade of these 13 intersections for paving 13 more-widely used ones in the city.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1908 The Congress of Monastir establishes the Albanian alphabet.

1928 The premier performance of Ravel's Boléro takes place in Paris.

1935 The China Clipper, the first transpacific mail and passenger service, takes off from Alameda, California for its first commercial flight. It reaches its destination, Manila, a week later.

1940 World War II: Following the initial Italian invasion, Greek troops counterattack into Italian-occupied Albania and capture Korytsa.

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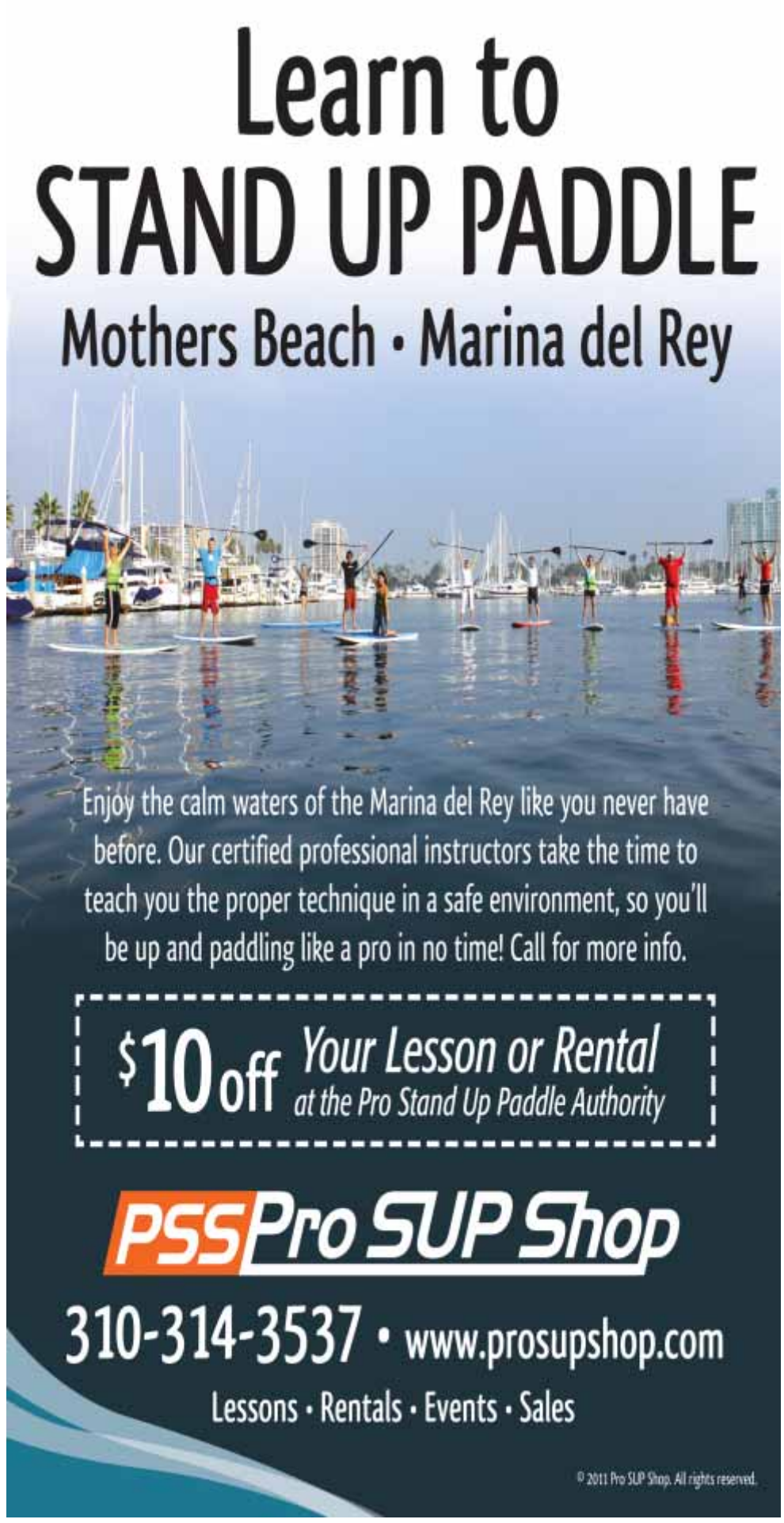
Notices

Publication of SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
Case number 2:11-cv-00636-RLH-GWF, filed with the United States District Court for the District of Nevada on April 26, 2011. Filed by Brian J. Robbins, Esq., #190264 Robbins Umeda LLP, 600 B St., Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101, Attorney for John Zaremba, Derivatively on Behalf of Las Vegas Sands Corp. Plaintiff.
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
Sheldon G. Adelson, Michael A. Leven, Irwin A. Siegel, Jeffrey H. Schwartz, Jason N. Ader, Charles D.
To: Wing T. Chao, 13600 Marina Pointe Dr. #181, marina Del Rey, CA 90292-9247
A lawsuit has been filed against you.
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it)- or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) - you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer of motion must be served on the plaintiff of plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:
Leverty & Associates Law, Chtd, Patrick Leverty, Esq., 832 Willow St., Reno, NV 89502.
Robbins & Umeda, LLP, Brian J. Ribbins, Esq., 600 B. St., Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.
The name of the court is United States District Court for the District of Nevada
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Brian J. Robbins, Esq., #190264 Robbins Umeda LLP, 600 B St., Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101; Dated April 26, 2011, Clerk, by Lance S. Wilson, Deputy.

Defendant(s) Respondent(s): Sheldon G. Adelson, et al.
Published, Santa Monica Daily Press: 11/8/11, 11/15/11, 11/22/11, 11/29/11.

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