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Volume 13 Issue 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SMPD GETS CASH TO MAKE STREETS SAFER
SEE PAGE 3

THE FINISHING EARLY ISSUE

COMMUNITY PROFILES | AMNON KABATCHNIK



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

PAID BY THE WORD: Author and Santa Monica resident Amnon Kabatchnik reads from his book, 'Blood on the Stage.'

Santa Monica noir

A resident expert on mysteries written for the stage

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN In beginning to tell his life story Amnon Kabatchnik even speaks like one of the thousands of mystery texts that he's devoured and mastered: "The whole thing started many years ago. Not the book itself, but the trigger to the book."

Kabatchnik, at 84 years old, has directed a handful of hit plays, collected more than 75,000 mystery novels — most in storage but many in his Downtown apartment — and more recently combined his two loves into a series of award-winning books (totaling more than 2,500 pages and counting) dissecting and exploring mystery plays.

The whole thing started when American and British paperbacks with exciting, colorful covers, began to arrive in Israel, where Kabatchnik was born. With the aid of American films, the novels helped him learn English and he began to collect suspense fiction.

"It became a mania for me, collecting them," he said. "Most people collect something. For me it became detective fiction, mysteries, anthologies in the drama, true crime, and so forth. At some point, I made the transformation from just collecting paperbacks of certain authors, into hardcovers, into first editions, into first editions in fine condition, into first editions in fine condition only with dust jackets."

SEE PROFILE PAGE 10

PCB levels at Malibu High trigger EPA involvement

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Caulk tested for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at Malibu High School showed levels high enough to get the federal government involved, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Sandra Lyon said Thursday.

On Wednesday, the school district verbally informed the Environmental Protection Agency that PCB levels were found to be greater than the regulatory limit of 50 parts per million. The EPA, which had previously been involved at an advisory level, will now

SEE TESTS PAGE 10

Analysis: To GOP, all roads lead to 'Obamacare'

BY DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON All roads lead to "Obamacare" for Republicans.

So much so that they acted like they had barely hit a small speed bump when Democrats voted unilaterally on Thursday to weaken century-old Senate filibuster rules and make it harder for the GOP to block confirmation of President Barack Obama's nominees.

Republican leader Mitch McConnell, with his eyes on the political road ahead and a GOP-damaging partial government shutdown in the rearview mirror, chalked the Senate shift up to "broken promises, double standards and raw power — the same playbook that got us Obamacare."

SEE GOP PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013

Dude, let's go shred
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave., 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Papers and documents will be commercially shredded by trained, licensed and bonded document destruction specialists. Admission: Free. For more information, call (310)393-4848.

Remembering the ol' Canteen
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Authors Lisa Mitchell and Bruce Torrence present a nostalgic look back at the crown jewel of World War II Hollywood: The Hollywood Canteen. A book sale and signing will follow their presentation. Admission: Free. For more information, call (310)458-8600.

SMC photo opp
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Opening reception for the SMC Student Portfolio Exhibition, which will showcase outstanding works by students in the SMC Photography Department's portfolio classes. The reception
will be held at the SMC Photography Gallery which is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall on the SMC main campus. For more information, call (310)434-4289.

Picking up the pieces
Pico Youth & Family Center
715 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The PYFC returns with its second hip-hop show of 2013 with some live music featuring some of your favorite local artists. Any profits will go to the PYFC to help run services for the youth and all food, water, and clothing donations will go toward victims of the Philippines typhoon. Admission: $5 or three canned foods plus $2. For more information, call (310)396-7101.

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013

Old stuff
Santa Monica Airport
3100 Airport Ave., 8 a.m.
Antiques, collectibles and crafts market. All ages welcome. Admission: $5. For more information call (323) 933-2511 or visit www.santamonicaairportantiquemarket.com

A run to help
Beach Park 1
2600 Bernard Way., 9 a.m.
Join the PUMA Run/Walk to support Apl.de.ap International Foundation and the Philippine Red Cross. For more information visit www.reliefrun4philippines.org or call (310)467-3659.

Five plus five equals ...
Santa Monica College
Theatre Arts Studio Stage
1900 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m.
"And Then There Were Ten," featuring 10 fingers on piano keys, 10 performers, and numbers from 10 Broadway shows, will be presented by the Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop. Advance tickets are $10, plus a service charge, and can be purchased by going to www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or by calling (310) 434-4319. Tickets are $3 higher at the door. Parking is free on Friday evenings and weekends. No late seating!

Night of laughs
Westside Comedy Theater
1323 Third St., 7 p.m.
Free live taping of Owen Smith's new comedy special will be hosted by Chet Wild and featuring Prashanth Venkataramanujam. Admission: Free. For more information, call (310) 451-0850 or visit westsidecomedy.com.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Police get $185K to make streets safer

The Santa Monica Police Department was awarded two grants totaling $185,000 to help make the roadways safer through DUI checkpoints and special enforcement actions, including targeting reckless motorcyclists and drivers texting or talking on cellphones.

A $140,000 grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety for a year-long program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on the roadways through special enforcement and public awareness efforts, according to a news release.

While traffic deaths from all causes declined by nearly 39 percent between 2006 and 2010 in California, they rose by 2.6 percent in 2011. State and federal officials anticipate that figures will show another rise for 2012, law enforcement officials said.

DUI deaths remain the largest sector, at nearly 30 percent of traffic fatalities. Recent trends show increases in two new categories – distracted driving and drug-impaired driving, officials said.

Activities that the grant will fund include:

• Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as standardized field sobriety testing, advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement, and drug recognition evaluator;

• DUI saturation patrols;

• Motorcycle safety enforcement operations;

• Distracted driving enforcement operations.

Another $45,000 grant will help fund DUI checkpoints.

In 2011, 774 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California, officials said.

Crashes involving alcohol have been shown to drop by up to 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of $6 for every $1 spent and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers, police said.

– KEVIN HERRERA

CITYWIDE

Extra bed for the relatives

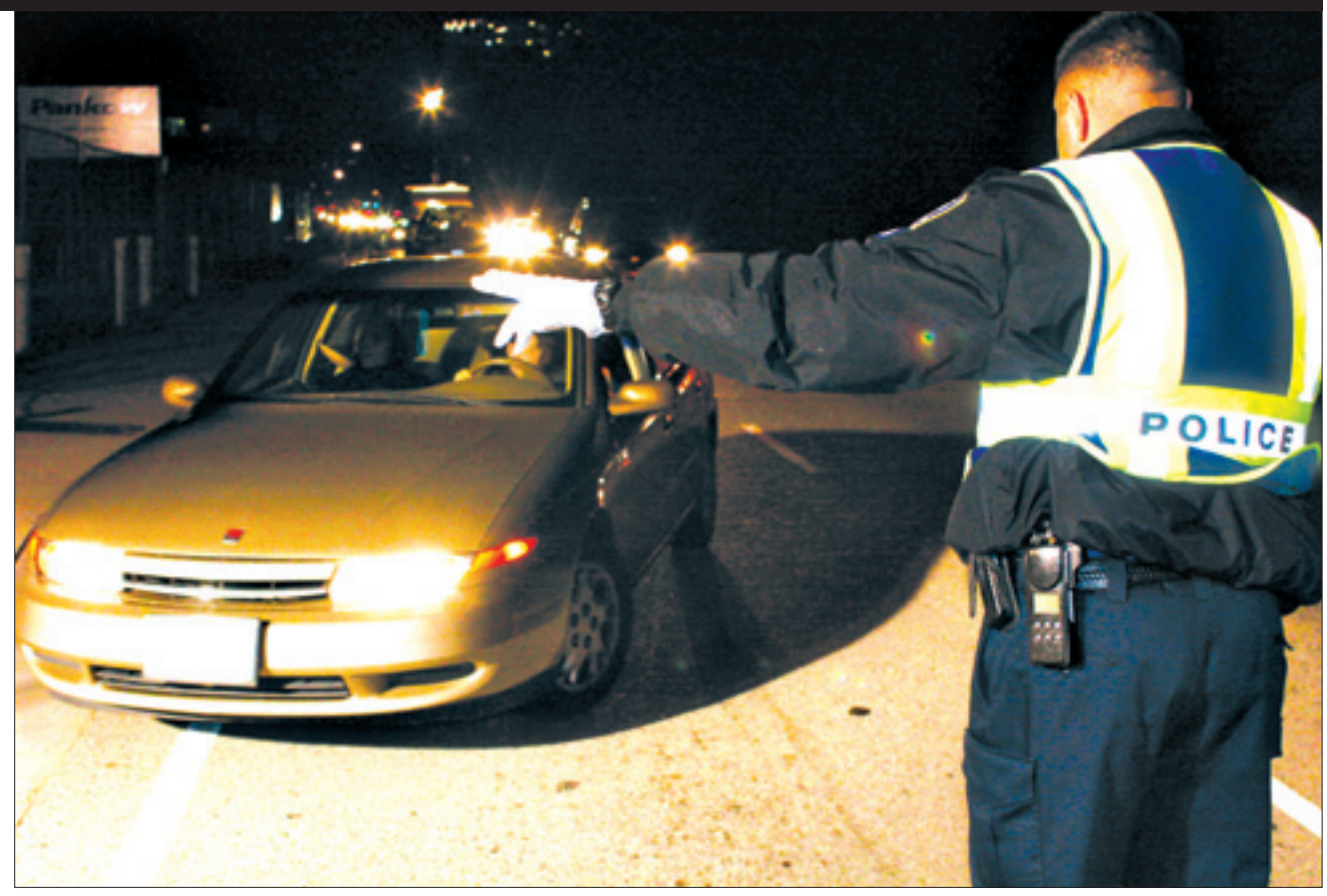
The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau announced this week that its annual Extra Bedroom Program is offered now through Jan. 25.

The initiative offers residents and their guests discounted hotel rates and special offers from participating Santa Monica hotels simply by showing proof of residency (California ID or driver's license) at check-in.

"Our hospitality community is delighted to extend this opportunity and give back to residents during the holiday season," said Misti Kerns, bureau president and CEO. "We hope locals will take advantage of these fantastic offers to keep their friends and family close-by during the holiday season to experience first-hand everything that makes Santa Monica the world-class destination that it is today."

For a full list of Extra Bedroom Program offers and participants, visit www.santamonica.com/extrabedroom.

– KH



File photo

PULL OVER: **A Santa Monica police officer directs traffic during a DUI checkpoint along Pacific Coast Highway.**

Climate talks drag on without clarity on targets

BY KARL RITTER
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland U.N. climate talks ran into overtime Friday with more than 190 countries arguing over the building blocks for a new pact to slow global warming.

A draft text presented on the last scheduled day of the two-week conference in Warsaw gave only vague direction on when countries should present their targets for restricting carbon emissions. That's a key element of the deal that's supposed to be adopted in Paris in 2015.

Despite a push by the European Union and the U.S. for a clear timeline for announcing targets, the draft text said only that commitments should be presented "well in advance" of the Paris summit.

U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern called for "stronger language" to drive the work forward.

The EU wants to present its target in 2014 and the U.S. is aiming for early 2015 to leave time for a review process before the Paris conference. But some countries, including China, the world's biggest carbon polluter, have been reluctant to set a deadline.

"We should talk, and we should deliver and announce during the process of negotiations," Chinese delegate Liu Zhenmin told reporters. "I don't know when. I cannot say a timeframe."

He suggested that China shouldn't be expected to make emissions cuts on the same level as industrialized countries, which built their economies with fossil fuels. The EU and the U.S. want to get rid of the rich-poor division that has guided the talks in the past, saying China's rapid economic growth means it no longer can compare itself with poorer developing countries.

"This is not the time to go backward and reinstall walls we have been trying to tear down," European Union Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard told reporters.

Venezuelan negotiator Claudia Salerno, a spokeswoman for a group of "like-minded" developing countries, including China and India, accused Hedegaard of starting a "blame game" through the media.

"We are shocked by the brazen attack against our group by Connie Hedegaard of the European Commission. It is incredible that she has chosen to accuse our group" of blocking the process, Salerno said in a statement.

The U.N. climate talks were launched in 1992 after scientists warned that humans were warming the planet by pumping CO2 and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, primarily through the burning of fossil fuels. Though governments agree global emissions need to come down, they've been unable to agree on how to divide those

SEE **CLIMATE** PAGE 11



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The power lies with you

Editor:

Why does the city find itself in such a mess? Is City Hall run by Mr. Rizzo's thin twin, along with a handful of outside developers taking advantage of Land Use & Circulation Element (LUCE) loopholes while specific plans and zoning ordinances are being processed (slowly) four years later?

Who's the boss? In tandem with our city manager, the majority City Council is beholden to developer contributions and the need to increase tax revenue to cover high staff salaries and bloated pensions. Meanwhile, Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board (ARB) kick the can to each other while deciding what constitutes good design or if it even matters. And the planning staff are puppets, producing voluminous staff reports while overlooking basic issues.

LUCE "provides for a reduction in building height" but existing density and height are being increased, traffic reaching gridlock, infrastructure ignored, and local merchants priced out. What a sad reality!

City Hall's consultant presented design proposals in response to the onslaught of mediocre architecture consuming Santa Monica like a plague. Like the fox in the hen house, it was comical seeing the Planning Commission taking lengthy counsel from three architects whose time undoubtedly was reimbursed by their developer clients.

One opined that massive facadomy taking over our streets is "better than architecture in other cities." A former Planning Commission chair, who now pays homage to developer clients instead of thoughtful community design, dazzled the commission with numbers instead of suggestions. It was embarrassing to hear these architects admitting they were pawns of greedy clients. I guess it's too much expecting the entire profession be held to a higher standard. This community deserves better than ex-chairpersons advocating more height, density and mediocre design. I thought the architecture profession stood for better environment.

Then there's the Planning Commission and ARB who consistently endorse these bloated projects. Can they distinguish two from eight on a 10 scale? Two years ago I made a suggestion to our planning director that models would help their education. I thought, mistakenly, that "exceptional architecture" was a requirement for approval.

Planning Commission and City Council just approved two hotels, (designed by yet another former chair of the Planning Commission), one looking like a throwback to a 1960's department store wrapped in a new chemise, doing nothing to create a meaningful gateway from Expo into Downtown. Is this your taste level, two on a 10 scale? You have the ability to say "no, come back with exceptional design, with a gateway that conveys our unique beach town culture." There are simple solutions! Wake up city manager, planning director, consultants – you're being paid handsomely for so-called expertise.

Every city needs a *raison d'etre*, a spirit why people want to go there, stay there. What is Santa Monica's; vertical six- to eight-story buildings throughout Downtown blocking sun and sky, generating monumental traffic and infrastructure problems? Is this the community's *raison d'etre* or the city manager's? Who's more interested in job advancement than listening to the community? You can keep Downtown iconic while still providing for growth and economic health. Why would you want your legacy being the destruction of Santa Monica?

Is this mess due to Rizzo's twin, the council, Planning Commission, ARB, planning staff, LUCE, the Chamber of Commerce, tourist bureau, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights? Unfortunately all of the above. If the community is to be guided by LUCE, it will take our pension-minded city manager to re-direct how to carry it out. Otherwise, "Rise & Fall of Santa Monica" will make interesting reading by future planners and politicians. What a mess. What a shame.

Ron Goldman
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dogged journalism is a blessing, not a curse

LET'S START WITH THE OBVIOUS: A democracy needs intelligence agencies. It needs to know what's happening in the world — and understand the plans of allies and enemies — to keep the nation prepared and secure.

If intelligence work is going to be effective, much of it has to be done in secret. "National security" is not merely an excuse for keeping intelligence activity under wraps: Often, the only way to protect our collective well-being is to pursue many national security activities, including intelligence-gathering, in the dark.

But that's if they're legitimately in the national interest. All too often governments use secrecy to protect themselves politically or to shroud activities that, seen in the cold light of day, their citizens would reject. This is why secrecy in government can be dangerous, and should be subject to the checks and balances of our constitutional system.

However legitimate secrecy may be, though, there is a limit to how much a democracy can stand. As ordinary citizens, we need information about what our government is up to in order to make informed and discriminating choices about politicians and policies. Journalists and their media outlets are indispensable conveyors of this information. The work of the journalist, who often presses for a more open, accountable government, creates tensions with a government set upon guarding state secrets. But it's a healthy, much-needed tension.

Which brings us to Edward Snowden's revelations to the press about the National Security Agency and its vast efforts to monitor communications. Around Washington, Snowden is routinely excoriated, and he's none too popular in the country at large, either. But whether he's a hero or a criminal in your book, there's no question that because of him we know far more about the surveillance our government has been carrying out. The expansion of government power that the leaks reveal is without precedent in the modern era. Technology, along with the surveillance and monitoring it enables, has clearly outrun the policies to deal with it.

Although many commentators have raised questions about Snowden's leaks, the journalists who have dug into the NSA files he provided are doing the job that democracy depends on them to do: Getting information that details government actions and prompting a badly needed debate. It's one of the most important ways to hold government accountable for the use of its power. Our ability to judge whether it acted appropriately or abusively and to act as responsible citizens is buttressed by journalists who are skilled at finding and keeping confidential sources, who know how to dig through copious records or amounts of data, who have learned how to build a story from a tip or a leak, and who are accurate, honest, rigorous and fair-minded.

Now, I don't want to whitewash what's happening in the media right now. There are plenty of worrisome trends. As a whole, media outlets are less interested than they used to be in accuracy, objectivity, and solid coverage, and more interested in advocacy, persuasion, and entertainment. Even at the largest papers, cutbacks have reined in their ability to cover the world and to launch expensive investigative work. The recent rise of alternatives — such as the non-profit ProPublica and the investigative reporting venture just announced by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar — may go some distance toward recovering what's been lost, but they're also an acknowledgment that we have lost ground.

AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS, WE HAVE TO DEPEND MORE THAN EVER ON THE CURIOSITY, SKILL AND DETERMINATION OF GOOD REPORTERS TO SPUR THE KIND OF DEBATE WE SHOULD BE HAVING AS OUR SOCIETY TRIES TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND FREEDOM.

And we've done so precisely at a time when we face a real challenge in constraining the reach of government into our lives. Its powers of monitoring and surveillance are astonishing and are being used aggressively. It is classifying secret information wholesale, it is vigorously seeking to prosecute leaks, and it is trying to intimidate journalists: All of these are signs of a national security state that is determined to bulk up.

Congress is only now beginning to stir; until recently it has been a passive and willing participant in secrecy. At a moment like this, we have to depend more than ever on the curiosity, skill and determination of good reporters to spur the kind of debate we should be having as our society tries to strike the right balance between security and freedom.

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

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The Q Line

Paying a living wage

There's been a lot of talk lately about raising the minimum wage and paying low-skilled workers more, including folks who clean hotel rooms and make Big Macs. In Santa Monica, a developer of two hotels agreed to pay its employees $15.37 an hour. Fast-food employees were also fighting for $15 an hour. City Hall has a mandate of $14.08 per hour. Advocates say raising pay is the only way people can survive these days given the rising cost of goods and services.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What wage is appropriate for low-skilled workers? Is $15 an hour too high or not good enough?

Here are your responses:

"IF MINIMUM WAGE IS $15 PER HOUR, at seven hours per day, when lunch hour is excluded, and 35 hours per week is $525 per week and $2,100 per month in gross income. I find that it would be fair wage if the monthly gross income would cover the average monthly rental amount for single-person housing, with enough left over to cover the average monthly costs for food, miscellaneous small necessities and $5 to $10 savings per month for each individual. Also, I would like to add to that subject that at that pay rate for minimum wage, a poor child could work at simple, undemanding employment for a four-hour day, one day a week. That would pay for his weekly food cost at $9 per day or $57 per week. If one child could work four hours one day a week, at simple undemanding employment, that amount at minimum wage of $15 per hour, if it's two days a week, would pay for another family. One child, even at a very young age, could support themselves and another family member by working just four hours for a total of two days for both or one day for his own needs. Let's pray we can come up with a way to ensure healthy nutrition for families using that method if that would be wholesome for them."

"I THINK $15 AN HOUR IS A GOOD living wage. It's a good starting point. Everything is going up: Rent, food, medical care. These people need to have a decent life, and not only that, but if they're getting a little higher pay, maybe there's less chance they will need assistance like food stamps or anything else that's costing the government money. So in the long run, the higher pay they get, the better for the state. The state and federal government will be getting more money in income taxes and paying less out in assistance. I think it's a wonderful idea."

"FIFTEEN DOLLARS AN HOUR IS JUST TOO high for low-wage earners. They should just make the regular minimum wage. When I started working I got 50 cents an hour and I was glad to get it."

"IF I COULD FIND A PLACE WHERE low-income people could rent cheaper because they had low-paying jobs, then I could work for $10 an hour. The only place in Santa Monica that's less than $1,000 a month, you figure it out."

"YES, IT'S APPROPRIATE TO PAY $15 AN hour. If CEOs and top-drawer managers, can receive salary hundreds or thousands of times the amount of the workers, indeed they can afford $15 an hour. It's the workers that keep the place together."

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"IF SANTA MONICANS FOR RENTERS' Rights is successful in requiring the hotels to pay their employees $15 an hour, their next step will be imposing a $15 an hour minimum wage on homeowners and renters who employ domestic workers, gardeners, nannies, etc."

"I CLEANED A HOUSE FOR A $1.80 an hour. Fifteen bucks is a good wage. I think it's a bit high. Why not make it $13?"

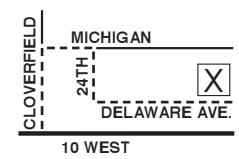
"WHEN YOU HAVE COMPANIES LIKE Wal-Mart having food drives for their own employees because they can't afford to have a proper Thanksgiving dinner, you know something is wrong with this country. At a time when the bankers and CEOs are raking in large salaries and bonuses, but yet the working man struggles to put food on the table, something needs to be done. The minimum wage has remained stagnant for far too long. It hardly covers the basics. We need to start worrying less about increasing profits and focus more on helping those who make those profits possible. As long as you are making a fair return on your investment, then pay people a decent wage so they don't have to rely on us taxpayers for food stamps, subsidized healthcare and other services. That's the real issue here. Pay workers more so taxpayers pay less."

"TEN DOLLARS AN HOUR IS FAR MORE than sufficient for any unskilled worker. Unfortunately, for myself and a lot of other people, Santa Monica is way overpriced. It is ludicrous the amount of pay that Santa Monica gives its people, our police chief, workers at City Hall. I mean, really? It's ridiculous the kinds of money Santa Monica is paying out to the government workers and the prices that it is charging. I can't even talk about it, it's so upsetting."

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Energy loses $139M on loan to electric car maker

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Energy Department says it will lose $139 million on a loan to struggling electric car maker Fisker Automotive Inc.

The government sold the loan for $25 million Friday to Hybrid Technology LLC, a holding company that plans to keep the California carmaker operating.

The $139 million loss is the largest in the Obama administration's green energy loan program since the 2011 failure of solar panel maker Solyndra. The government lost $528 million in the Solyndra collapse, triggering sharp Republican criticism.

The Energy Department awarded Fisker a half-billion loan guarantee in 2009, but suspended it in 2011, after Fisker failed to meet a series of federal benchmarks. Fisker had received $192 million before the loan was frozen.

The Energy Department says it had recouped about $28 million before Friday's sale.

FCC chairman says he even opposes in-flight calls

BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK A day after setting off an uproar among travelers opposed to the idea of in-flight phone calls, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Chairman backtracked, saying he personally isn't in favor of calls on planes.

"We understand that many passengers would prefer that voice calls not be made on airplanes. I feel that way myself," chairman Tom Wheeler said in a Friday statement.

The role of the FCC, he added, is to advise if there is a safety issue with using phones on planes. Amending the agency's rules "will be only a technical advisory." The decision to allow calls will ultimately rest with the airlines, Wheeler emphasized.

Just three weeks into his job, Wheeler struck a nerve with travelers Thursday when he said it was time for the agency to review "our outdated and restrictive rules" about mobile services on airplanes. The rules have been in place for 22 years. A tentative agenda for the FCC's Dec. 12 meeting, posted Thursday, listed the proposed revision. It was the first the public heard of the change.

Wheeler seemingly underestimated the public outrage and media attention that such a move would generate.

"It struck a nerve ... their phones have been ringing," said Craig Aaron, president of Free Press, a consumer advocacy group. "It's a lot of attention for an agency that usually doesn't get that much attention."

By Friday afternoon, Wheeler's language was much more subdued. The new message: "The job of the FCC with respect to this issue is limited to issues related to communications technology."

Wheeler emphasized that "our proposal does not impose any requirement that airlines should provide voice connectivity." And to hammer home the point, the word "not" was underlined.

"We believe that airlines are best positioned to make such decisions," he said in a statement. Requests for an interview were declined by his spokesman.

Most airlines have said they would study the issue and survey their customers. Delta Air Lines was the only carrier to outright reject voice calls, regardless of what the FCC decides.

A petition opposing the FCC's move posted on the White House website attracted nearly 1,250 signatures by Friday afternoon.

Posted by a self-described frequent flier from Richmond, Va., it said: "Forcing (passengers) to listen to the inane, loud, private, personal conversations of a stranger is perhaps the worst idea the FCC has come up with to date ... I think the administration needs to nip this in the bud."

With reports from Chris Rugaber in Washington D.C.

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CIVIL RIVALRY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Fire Chief Scott Ferguson and Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks practice Wednesday in preparation for the SuperBowl-a-Thon challenge at Bay Shore Lanes. The 18th annual SuperBow-a-Thon, to be held Jan. 31, helps raise funds for the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition. Traditionally, the fire and police chiefs face off, with the winner taking home a trophy; the loser gets a bottle of ketchup. More than 650 bowlers, representing local businesses, social service agencies and local government are expected bowl for the coalition. For more information and to register visit www.facebook.com/SuperBowlAThon

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Never say never when it comes to dumplings

A FEW WEEKS AGO, AFTER READING Jonathan Gold's massive restaurant guide in which he listed 100 of the best eateries in the Los Angeles area, I wrote that it wasn't very helpful to me because I had no intention of driving to Arcadia (wherever that is) for Chinese dumplings, and probably would never go there.

A few days later my friend Sammy Hoi, the president of Otis College of Art and Design, called to say "Merv, I'm going out to Arcadia tomorrow morning for dumplings, will you and Bonnie come with me?"

I could hardly turn down that invitation, so on a clear, beautiful California Sunday morning off we went to the east with Sammy driving. Our destination — the famous Din Tai Fung Dumpling House. We passed a lot of towns, most of which seemed to end in an "a" and drove for about an hour, ending up in a non-descript shopping center. The most conspicuous element in the center was a long line of people standing in front of an open doorway. Sammy said, "We're too late."

Sammy dropped us off and talked to the hostess. She predicted a 40 to 50 minute wait. "They have an even larger annex around the corner, let's check that out," Sammy said.

So we walked around the corner to a restaurant with the exact same name, the only difference — an even longer line. This turned out to be an hour or more wait, so back we went to the first place, carefully holding onto our precious number which, luckily, we had not discarded.

While waiting in line I struck up a few conversations with others. One gentleman was in the horse racing business, and had just flown in from New York for a big race in Del Mar. "Whenever I get to the Los Angeles area I always stop here for some dumplings," he said. A beautiful young Chinese girl with a group of friends from USC told me they go there every weekend. Some local people said that the restaurant was almost always busy, even on weekdays.

"What's the secret?" I asked. "It's the dumplings," all replied.

Almost an hour later we were seated. Sammy ordered three kinds of dumplings and a couple of other dishes. Tea and ice water came quickly. Almost as quickly, the food arrived; all four dishes at the same time. The two dumpling orders were served in metal-covered containers. The waiter tried to take away the covers, but my nimble wife stopped him and kept them to keep the food warm. The waiter then brought several little sauces to dribble onto the dumplings.

One container had about 10 small dumplings shaped like a Hershey's chocolate kiss, but a bit bigger. These were the famous juicy pork dumplings almost everyone orders. Sammy explained that the skin is made from a secret family recipe, which no one else seems to be able to duplicate. The family owns restaurants featuring these dumplings around the world, and the two side-by-side Arcadia restaurants are so busy that they are opening up another site in Glendale soon.

A second container contained about six larger dumplings with a slightly different skin. These were specials of the day, with shrimp and melon inside. There was a dish of vegetables with something delicious I can't identify, and some chicken noodle soup. Another dish contained glass noodles. At the end we had the third set of dumplings with sweet red bean paste inside.

Was it worth the trip? Well, spending some time with Sammy is always worth it.

SEE **DUMPLINGS** PAGE 9

If you go

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Photos by Merv Hecht *editor@smdp.com*

TAKING CENTER STAGE: **The shrimp and melon dumplings, a special of the day at Din Tai Fung.**

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WORTH THE WAIT: Be prepared for long lines at Din Tai Fung. The Arcadia, Calif. restaurant and its dumplings draw people from all over the country. Don't be shocked if you have to wait more than an hour to get a table.

DUMPLINGS

FROM PAGE 8

And yes, the pork dumplings were better than the dim sum on the Westside of Los Angeles, especially because of the smaller size, although my friend Jay Weston suggests that the dumplings at ROC (2049 Sawtelle Blvd., two blocks south of Olympic Boulevard) are competitive. The chicken soup was good, but no better than at Fromin's in Santa Monica. One negative is that the press of customers is so great that the food is all served at the same time, and some gets cold before it can be finished. It's not "fine dining."

For me, the most interesting feature of this restaurant is not the food, but it's the restaurant's phenomenal success. I guess if you can make a better dumpling, the world will indeed beat a path to your door.

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

Startup makes restaurants charitable

BY BRIAN ADIGWU
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Pigging out at a restaurant has never felt so good.

Entrepreneur and CEO Kenneth Hepburn and Lee Hanson announced the launch of Livngiv.com to give food lovers the luxury of dining at a restaurant while giving to charity at the same time.

Customers can go to the website and create an account. Next, customers can choose a charity, a restaurant and the amount of money they are going to spend while eating out. When the waiter gives a customer the bill, 20 percent will go to the charity.

Hepburn came up with the concept last year and brought in a team of engineers and computer programmers to help him create the website, which was launched on Nov. 12.

"This is the first time people have been able to contribute money to causes for no cost out of pocket, just by living their lives and going out to eat," Hepburn said. "People like to spend their money with companies that like to give back."

Livngiv has already partnered with various restaurants on the Westside, including Sonoma Wine Garden, Farmshop and Hostaria del Piccolo, which are located in Santa Monica. Hepburn expects that more restaurants will partner up with Livngiv.

"We'll probably add another 20 or 30 more on the Westside," He said.

The CEO explained the benefits that restaurants have when partnering with Livngiv, one of which involves eliminating a restaurant's labor costs associated with being charitable.



HEPBURN

"We make it effortless for restaurants to give back into the community and to get more great customers," Hepburn said.

In addition to forming partnerships with restaurants, Livngiv has also reached out to local charities such as No Kid Hungry, Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross and many others. Hepburn said that there are more partnerships in the works.

"There are probably lots of charities, but we want to feature ones that are in the Westside," he said.

The CEO said Livngiv's most notable partnership is with No Kill LA, a coalition of animal welfare organizations in Los Angeles that is dedicated to preventing the killing of animals in shelters.

"We have already sent $1,000 to No Kill LA," Hepburn said. "We are very stoked about that."

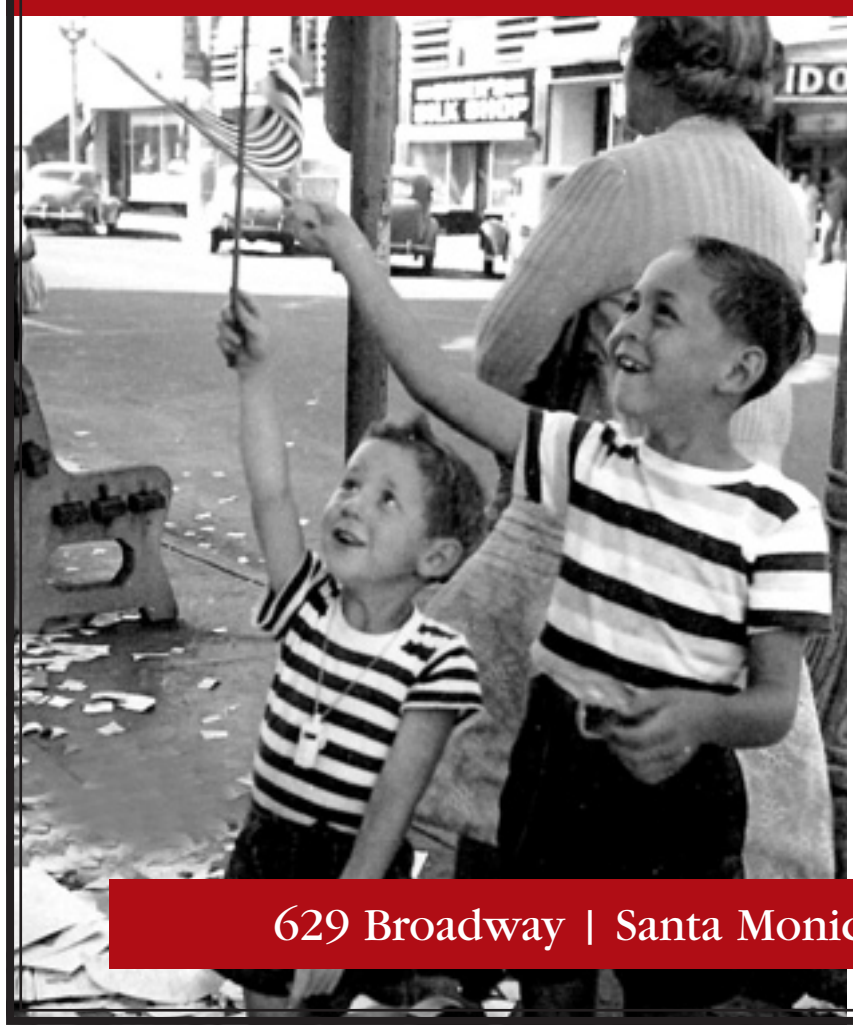
While Livngiv is in its infancy, Hepburn is planning on expanding his fundraising site beyond the Westside. He mentioned that he was in Chicago on a business trip and that former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley invested in Livngiv for the Chicago market.

In addition to being on the web, Livngiv can also be downloaded as an app on the iPhone when callers text "living" at 313131.

Several thousand people have created accounts on the website, Hepburn said.

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

LOCAL LIBRARY: Kabatchnik shows off his epic book collection at his Downtown apartment.

PROFILE

FROM PAGE 1

Five or six years ago, when he moved from Manhattan to his apartment on the edge of the Third Street Promenade, his priority was not the parking situation or the property taxes.

"Of course, my first consideration was how much books space is there for bookcases," he said. "Always this is my first consideration."

Books line his shelves and his work is everywhere else. The only spot not covered with stacks of scripts or research papers is the seat from which he writes.

"It started on one table," he said. "It moved to another table in the living room, then the kitchen. Now, I'm at a table in my bedroom, actually, with the television off and on. My apartment is all papers."

He's old school, writing in longhand on yellow notepads and transferring it all to a computer later. Until recently he would type up the hand-written notes on a 1950s electric typewriter.

Kabatchnik writes often. In 2008 he dropped "Blood on the Stage, 1900-1925" (432 pages) and "Sherlock Holmes on the Stage" (216 pages). The "Blood on the Stage" series, now in its fourth volume spanning up to the year 2000, looks at important, compelling, or offbeat detective plays through the years.

Having knocked out a century of plays in less than five years, Kabatchnik is headed back to 480 B.C. and working his way up to the year 1600 in his next book. It starts with the "Oedipus," who Kabatchnik calls the first detective, and ends with Shakespeare's bloody "Titus Andronicus."

After that, he'll fill the gap between 1600 and 1900, where his first book began.

Santa Monica has a cameo in the 1975-2000 volume, published this year. Raymond Chandler's "The Little Sister" was turned into a play in 1978 and Bay City, the author's stand-in for seedy noir Santa Monica, is the site of a grisly ice pick-to-the-neck murder.

Kabatchnik is a friendly, gentle man so the real mystery, his daughter Adi Greenberg said, is why he's drawn to these gruesome plays.

"It's so interesting, because he's soft," she said. "Maybe it's just his huge imagination where he's always trying to figure it out in his head."

Having directed classic detective plays, like "The Mousetrap" and "Dial M for Murder," having written thousands of pages on stage thrillers, and being the owner of one of the largest private collections of mystery novels, Kabatchnik is a certified expert in his field.

Still, his favorite outcome is when he's wrong.

"Usually I think I can deduce early where the thing is leading on to and in most cases I find I am right," he said. "But, if I find something that surprises me, I'm elated."

dave@smdp.com

TESTS

FROM PAGE 1

oversee the district in a required cleanup plan.

PCBs have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects.

PCB concerns arose last month when several Malibu High School teachers expressed fear that the diagnosis of three teachers with thyroid cancer could be related to contaminants on campus.

The district has not released the precise results of the test, saying only that the levels are "slightly above" 50 parts per million. At Thursday's Board of Education meeting, one member of the Malibu Schools Environmental Task Force said that they would not release the results until they were peer-reviewed.

A small but vocal group of residents criticized the district during the public portion of the meeting for not making the results available. The group of about a dozen shouted at the boardmembers, claiming that there had been a cover-up.

Ingrid Peterson, a district employee who worked on the Malibu High School campus for several years, refused to leave the podium. She said that she may have thyroid cancer. After 10 minutes, the district cut her microphone and, when she refused to leave, they took a break.

Earlier this week, Lyon announced that the results of an air-sampling came back well below EPA trigger levels.

Parent Cassandra Wiseman said that testing needs to be performed on the soil.

"You did a task force to test the air," she said. "No one was worried about the air. It's always been about the soil. I don't think you people should be near my children or anybody else's."

The district performed a PCB cleanup of the area in 2009 and 2010.

The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), acting as an advisor to the district, did a cursory reading of the documents associated with the soil remediation

SEE **SOIL** PAGE 12

GOP
FROM PAGE 1

The calculation seems to be that there will be time for Republicans to retaliate for the Democratic maneuver that swept away generations of precedent in the tradition-bound Senate. The change didn't eliminate filibusters, and a spirit of revenge actually may give the GOP an incentive to launch them in greater numbers.

But not now, when the health care law is seen ever less favorably by the public, and has dragged the president's approval ratings to the lowest levels of his time in the White House.

Each time McConnell mentions the shift in Senate procedure, he's tugged back to health care.

"It's basically the same debate," he said Thursday, adding that Democrats are trying to shift the public's attention away from the president's health care overhaul.

He singled out Sen. Jeff Merkley. "If I were a senator from Oregon, which hasn't enrolled a single person yet for its 'Obamacare' exchange, I would probably want to shift the focus, too," McConnell said.

Merkley is one of several Democrats seeking re-election next year who are so dismayed by the administration's performance on health care that they support legislation to weaken a core concept of the program. Asked about McConnell's remarks, he concentrated on GOP filibusters: "Let's focus on the reality — the American people want this institution to function."

The health care bill he supports, filed by Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, would require insurance companies to continue selling coverage permanently that is deemed substandard under the health care law.

The short-term effect would be to reverse millions of cancellations that insurance companies have sent out to consumers in recent weeks. Also, to permit the bill's backers to claim political credit for easing any pain on constituents.

The longer-term consequence would likely be higher costs for millions of consumers seeking coverage that meets Obamacare standards, because those customers on average are older, sicker, and more expensive to insure than the group that would stay on cheaper, less comprehensive plans.

Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado, also seeking a new term next year, favors a two-year requirement for insurance companies to renew existing individual coverage.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, another Democrat whose name will be on the ballot in 2014, favors a two-month delay in the law's requirement for individuals to purchase insurance or face a penalty. The extension could be longer if the healthcare.gov website isn't "fully functional" by Dec. 1, she said in a statement.

Nor is the health care overhaul front and center on Shaheen's official Senate website. The site features a rolling series of images that tout her work to pass bipartisan energy legislation, attack deficits, overhaul the nation's budget process, stamp out sexual assaults in the military and celebrate the opening of a new bridge linking New Hampshire with Maine.

Republican senators appear with Shaheen in three of the images, Obama in none.

In the House, Republicans forced a vote a week ago on legislation to open substandard individual plans to all comers. They drew support from 39 Democrats, and lawmakers in both parties said the number would have been higher had Obama not announced a plan to ease the cancellation problem a day before.

In the Senate, it is unclear if Democratic leaders can keep their restless rank and file from demanding a vote to change the health care law in December.

According to several lawmakers and aides, that will depend in part on the speed of the recovery of the poorly performing website, which suffered from a three-hour lapse in service on Wednesday. It will hinge also on a political calculation, whether Democrats seeking new terms believe they must be seen voting on something — almost anything — to fix the problem.

This is not what Democrats had in mind in 2010 when they passed Obamacare over unanimous Republican opposition.

But it is what Republicans warned would happen, in general if not in specifics. And the polls explain why they would rather keep the focus on health care and not on changes in Senate filibuster procedures that date back a century or more.

Obama's approval ratings, 37 percent in a CBS poll earlier in the week, are at their low point for his presidency, barely a year after he was re-elected with 51 percent of the vote. In the same survey, the health care law was seen favorably by 31 percent of those polled, unfavorably by 61 percent.

Almost exactly 10 months into his second term, immigration legislation is mired in the House, his call for a minimum wage increase has yet to come to a vote, Democrats are divided over negotiations with Iran and the rest of the president's agenda is pinned down in the usual divided-government crossfire.

A change in filibuster procedures that affects only nominations won't turn that in a new direction.

Republicans hope that fallout from the health care law will, and in a path to their liking.

CLIMATE
FROM PAGE 3

cuts.

In Warsaw, negotiators were trying to lay the foundation of a 2015 deal that would take effect five years later, but were bogged down by recurring disputes over who needs to do what, when and how.

Deputy Environment Minister Beata Jaczewska of host nation Poland, predicted a "sleepless night" ahead. "But we are still hoping to close the meeting as soon as possible," she said.

Countries made progress on advancing a program to reduce deforestation in developing countries, an important source of emissions because trees absorb carbon dioxide.

Disputes persisted on climate financing. Rich countries have promised to help developing nations make their economies greener and to adapt to rising sea levels, desertification and other climate impacts.

Island nations that fear being submerged as the seas rise also demanded a new "loss and damage mechanism" to deal with weather disasters made worse by climate change.

Developed countries resisted that proposal, fearing they would be held liable for damage caused by extreme weather events.

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WHITTIER Elks Lodge #1258 13620 Whittier Blvd. Wed., Dec. 4th ~ 3:30 to 4:45 pm	**YORBA LINDA** Community Center 4501 Casa Loma Ave. Wed., Dec. 4th ~ 6:30 to 7:45 pm	**CLAREMONT** Library 208 N. Harvard Ave. Thurs., Dec.5th ~ 10 to 11:15 am
CHINO HILLS Hotel Chino Hills 15433 Fairfield Ranch Road Thurs., Dec. 5th ~ 1 to 2:15 pm	**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** Coco's 18380 Brookhurst Street Thurs., Dec. 5th ~ 4 to 5:15 pm	**TORRANCE** Marriott Courtyard-Southbay 1925 W 190th Street Thurs., Dec. 5th ~ 6:30 to 7:45 pm

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SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
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SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small SW swell; trace NW energy

MONDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Small SSW pulse continues

TUESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Possible WNW swell; stay tuned...storm dependent; small SSW pulse

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 1
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 18 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	B	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	C	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	B	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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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SOIL

FROM PAGE 10

project.

"The cleanup activities that were performed by (the company) seemed to be well-documented and followed a work plan," said Tom Cota of the DTSC. "My understanding is that there was no regulatory oversight for this work plan, that it was self-directed. We looked at the cleanup numbers that were used and, in general, they used the California health hazards screening levels as cleanup goal. They're very conservative. From that perspective, it looked good."

It was a very preliminary reading, Cota said, and the documents need to be reviewed further. More soil testing, he said, is not out of the question.

DTSC is one of three government agencies working with the school district. The EPA is another and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is the third.

The health department distributed a health questionnaire to students and staff in the district. The questionnaires have been returned but the department has yet to compile the information into a report.

"We don't see any overt emergency right now, anything that would tell us as a health department to say, 'everybody out,'" said Cyrus Rangan, a health department official. "There's nothing like that going on."

The tested buildings remain closed to students, Lyon said. She asked for the support of the board, saying that the district doesn't have the capacity to do all of the work and that the work would take a long time. She could not say, precisely, how long it would take.

Several boardmembers praised Lyon's work throughout the contamination.

Lyon also suggested the district should procure a communications consultant to keep parents from feeling left out of the process.

"In hindsight, obviously around the soils testing we could have communicated better," she said. "And we want to have a plan for solid communication going forward. It is hard to run a school district and keep everyone informed on everything that is going on all the time. We try, and I know we fall short often, so having some assistance there will be helpful."

A two hour information session about the contamination is expected to be held at the next district meeting on Dec. 12.

dave@smdp.com



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Ken Edwards Center Energy Upgrade Project, a CDBG (Federally) Funded Project SP2305

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

RECOMMENDED PRE-BID JOB WALK:
December 3, 2013 at 1:30 PM
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $80,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 60 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500.00 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids. The Contractor is required to have a **C-10** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Bidders should be aware that the project is funded with grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Therefore, the City shall require the successful bidder to comply with all applicable Federal Law and regulations, including, without limitation, the Federal Requirements, Federal Labor Standards and Federal Wage Determinations attached to the Bid Documents and incorporated as part of the Construction Contract. You are urged to review copies of these laws and regulations prior to submitting a bid.

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Nov. 23
How Strange to Be Named Federico (Che Strano Chiamarsi Federico) (NR) 1hr 30min
Sweet Life (La Dolce Vita) (NR) 2hrs 58min
5:30pm
Purchase a ticket to the 5:30 p.m. Fellini documentary "How Strange to Be Named Federico," and receive free entry to "Sweet Life."

Sunday, Nov. 24
The AckerMonster Chronicles (NR) 1hr 30min
5:00pm
Discussion following the film.

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

Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:05pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Ender's Game (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:15am, 4:30pm, 10:15pm

Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
11:00pm

About Time (R) 2hrs 04min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm

Best Man Holiday (R) 2hrs 02min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Free Birds (PG) 1hr 30min
10:45am

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) 1hr 33min
2:10pm, 7:30pm

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

Gravity 3D (PG-13) 1hr 31min
2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:05pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
7:45pm

Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
10:15am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 3:05pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:50pm, 10:30pm, 11:30pm

Last Vegas (R) 1hr 30min
10:35am, 1:25pm, 4:15pm, 7:10pm

Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:40pm

Delivery Man (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

All Is Lost (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:50pm, 7:20pm

Book Thief (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Blue Is The Warmest Color (La Vie d'AdÃ¨le) (NC-17) 2hrs 59min
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm

Brave Miss World (NR) 1hr 32min
11:15am

Enough Said (PG-13) 1hr 33min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

JFK: A President Betrayed (NR) 1hr 30min
11:00am

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

GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT, PISCES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Your presence at a party allows others to relax, because they know it will be a success. Your attendance affects many situations. You are the factor that makes everything flow today! Others feel the difference you make. Tonight: Time to let your hair down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Listen to news within your immediate circle and decide just how far you want to go with a personal matter. You might decide that you'd be happiest letting sleeping dogs lie for now. Tonight: Invite friends over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might not realize how inquisitive you are. Sometimes observing and listening might be more effective. People will relax and speak more freely. Stop by and catch up on a friend's news. You could be overwhelmed by everything you hear. Tonight: Hang out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to have a discussion that is way overdue, but the other party could shy away. Handle a money matter directly. A parent or older friend could do the unexpected. Check in on this person. Tonight: Having fun does not mean breaking the bank.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your spontaneity attracts many people. Make plans to get away from the immediate issues in your life. Go to a movie or a museum, or meet an out-of-town friend halfway. Confusion could surround meeting places and times. Tonight: Whatever you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Sometimes taking a day off feels right. You have handled a lot of responsibilities in the past few weeks, and you deserve a break. Kick back and hold off on taking any action for now. You might be overserious and need to lighten up. Tonight: Work on being a couch potato.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could see a personal matter differently after a surprising conversation. An interaction about money could be very intense and might end up in confusion over some minor detail. Tonight: Find your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You have surprising energy. A conversation could clear the air, or it could cause a problem. Confusion seems to filter through the air right now. Unless you are sure you can establish a strong, clear connection, postpone this talk. Tonight: The spotlight is on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You will remain even-tempered, even with a loved one acting erratically. You might wonder what to do in face of this person's behavior. Tonight: Be as clear as possible in order to avoid a misunderstanding. Listen well, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to examine what is happening with a loved one and his or her finances. You also might be looking at your own spending habits. A surprise could cost you. Tonight: Let someone else pick up the tab.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be full of energy, especially after you touch base with a favorite person. Listen to someone's concerns with extra care. You might want to echo what you have heard, as misunderstandings could emerge today. Tonight: Sort through invitations, then decide.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Get into the holiday spirit, whether it be decorating, raking or sharing with a story about Thanksgiving. Others will respond to your enthusiasm. You inadvertently could help someone past some sad feelings with your spirit. Tonight: Take a brisk walk with the dog after dinner.

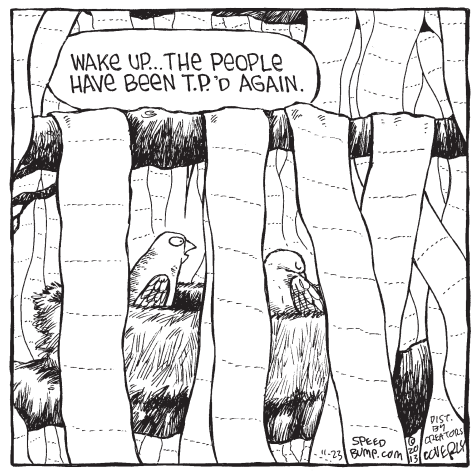
Weekend Edition, November 23-24, 2013

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

This year you appear more willing to take risks and step into new territory. You will choose experiences that broaden your mind. You also will let go of a rigid mindset. If you are single, you could meet someone from a different culture. By interacting with this person, you will see a new style of living. If you are attached, the two of you might opt for a special vacation together. You will want more one-on-one time as a couple away from your obligations. The two of you also might consider taking a class or learning a new hobby together. Count on LEO as a friend.

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

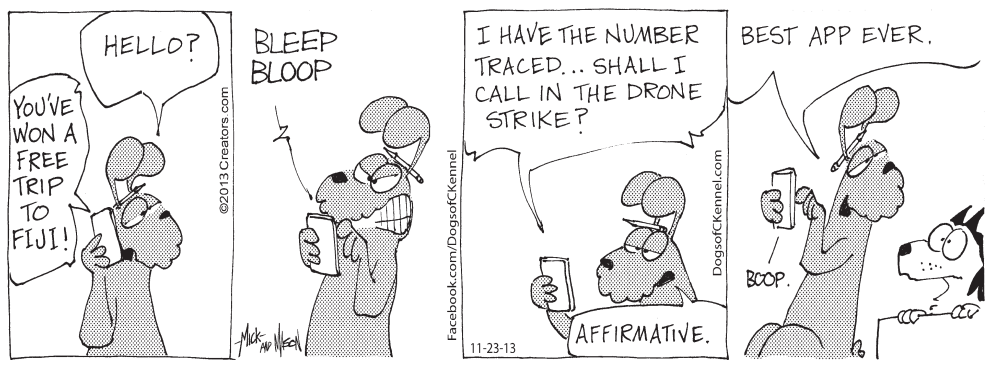
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



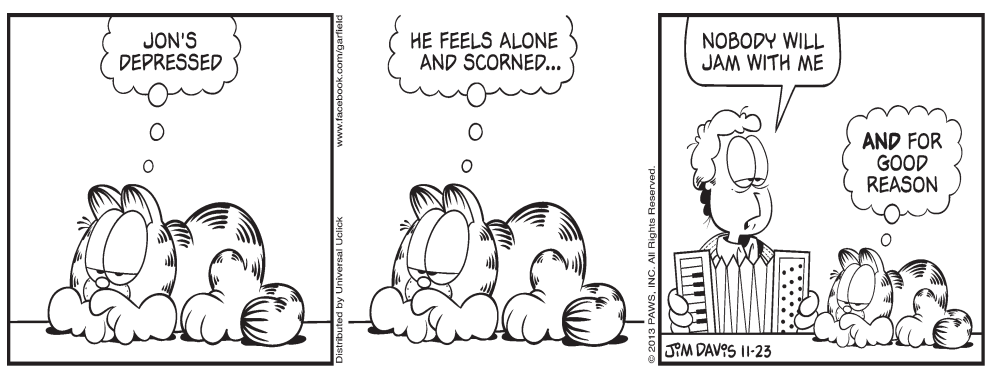
Strange Brew
By John Deering



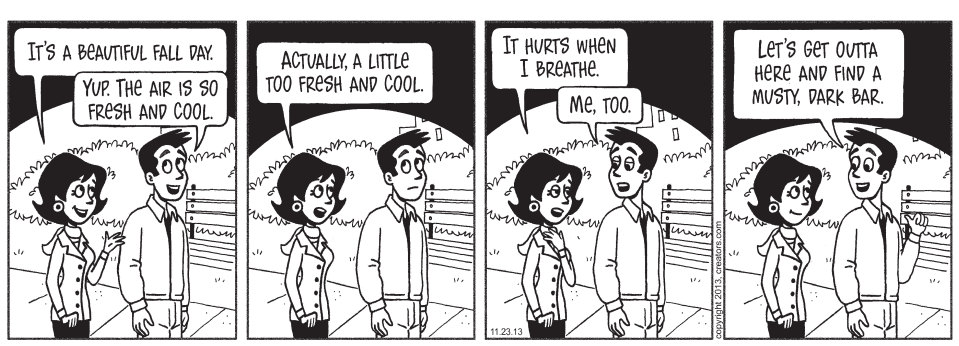
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Indistinct images
6 Flower part
11 Accumulated
12 "Thereby hangs —"
13 Come up
14 Perhaps
15 Checked out
17 Nasty dog
18 Poem type
19 The Brooklyn Dodgers, affectionately
22 Lawn makeup
23 Freshwater varieties
24 Businessman's crime
25 Chunnel city
27 Drill part
30 Multiply by ten
31 Lennon's love
32 Pendulum path
33 Layers
35 Track events
38 Solemn ceremonies
39 Mission man
40 Deal maker
41 Winter weather
42 Bash

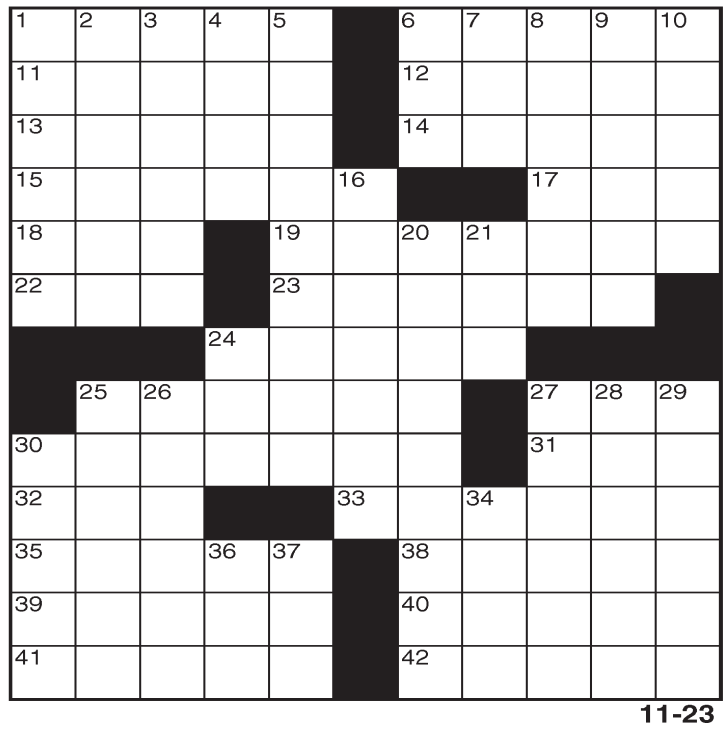
DOWN

1 Opera cheers
2 City on the Rio Grande
3 One way to stand
4 Reddish brown
5 Place to get tickets
6 Rick's pianist
7 Seventh letter
8 Union concession
9 Band output
10 Lusty looks
16 Halts the progress of
20 Cheese setting
21 Vase item
24 Winter bug
25 Breakfast choice
26 Give in
27 Straw hat
28 Meaning
29 Comfortably warm
30 Muffles
34 Latvia's capital
36 Uno plus due
37 Clique

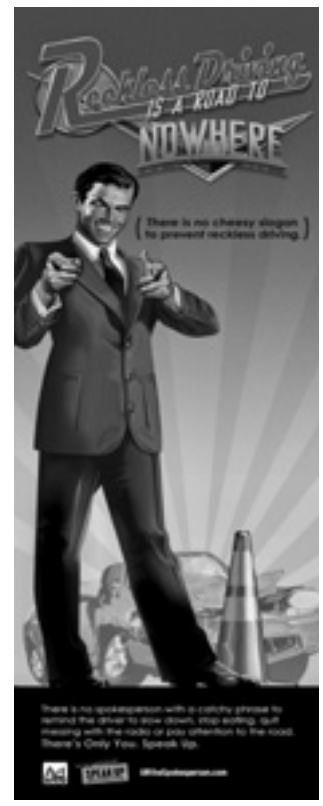
O	R	A	T	E	■	W	E	A	V	E
D	O	L	E	D	■	A	L	L	E	N
D	Y	L	A	N	■	R	I	L	E	D
■	■	F	R	A	T	■	T	O	P	S
B	B	O	Y	■	A	S	I	F	■	■
O	U	R	■	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
M	O	T	H	S	■	O	T	H	E	R
B	Y	H	E	A	R	T	■	E	A	R
■	■	E	X	P	O	■	M	A	P	S
A	B	B	A	■	B	L	O	B	■	■
D	I	E	G	O	■	A	T	O	L	L
O	L	S	O	N	■	M	O	V	I	E
G	E	T	N	O	■	B	R	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



11-23



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In July, several foreign news sites publicized the current Guinness Book record held by Jemal Tkeshelashvili of the Republic of Georgia, who blew up ordinary drugstore hot water bottles to the point where they would explode -- using only air from his nose. His record was three within one minute, but perhaps equally impressive, he subsequently dazzled Discovery Channel viewers by reportedly partially nose-inflating a hot water bottle being held down by a small car.)

■ (1) Researchers from Georgia Tech, working at the Atlanta Zoo recording various mammals' urination habits (rats, dogs, goats, cows and elephants), have concluded that, regardless of size, each takes about 21 seconds to empty a full bladder. (Technically, reported New Scientist, the evacuation time is proportional to the animal's mass, raised to the power of one-sixth.) (2) Her family wanted U.S. Army Sgt. Kimberly Walker (who was killed in a suspected domestic violence incident in February) to have a burial reflecting her delight at SpongeBob SquarePants and installed a 4-foot-high marker on her grave in the character's likeness (at a cost of $13,000). However, the Spring Grove Cemetery in the family's hometown of Cincinnati ordered it removed in October as inappropriate, and despite family and community pressure, is unyielding.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 - The BBC broadcasts the first episode of Doctor Who (starring William Hartnell) which is now the world's longest running science fiction drama.

1972 - The Soviet Union makes its final attempt at successfully launching N-1 Rocket.

WORD UP!

protoplast \ PROH-tuh-plast \ , noun; 1. Biology . a. the contents of a cell within the cell membrane, considered as a fundamental entity. b. the primordial living unit or cell.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

Employment Wanted

Technology Research Analyst. 4 yr exp; or BA & 2 yr exp reqd. Redondo Beach, CA job. Send resume to 7th Sense Research, 30700 Telegraph Rd, #2420, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 or opportunities@7thsr.com.

Help Wanted

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RUSH Legal Notices

RUSH Legal Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR ABANDONED PROPERTY Los Angeles County Superior Court Case Number: 13R07571 Plaintiff: Oken Defendants: Super Value Express Markets, Inc. and Coast Egg Ranch Corp. Location: 6744 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, Ca. 91606 Defendants were locked out on October 23, 2013 by the Sheriff's Department Los Angeles County after losing an unlawful detainter judgement on September 19, 2013. The legal waiting period of fifteen days has passed whereby the defendants have abandoned the following property: shelving, sinks, food warmer, micro oven, expired food products, dish washing equipment, steel tables. Auction will be held at the following site on Wednesday December 4, 2013 at 1:00 P. M.: 6744 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, Ca. 91606. Published Nov. 21,22,23, 2013.

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Santa Monica Daily Press **HOURS** MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401



Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Late November 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	= $	2,243,500
North of Montana	= $	4,352,118
Between Wilshire & Montana	= $	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	= $	882,833
Sunset Park	= $	1,912,600
Ocean Park	= $	2,447,250
Statistics updated every Friday		



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