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TUESDAY
11.24.15
Volume 15 Issue 10

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Ex-SMMUSD employee enters plea for grand theft

Maintenance worker stole \$40,000 in district tech equipment

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu school district officials were given a measure of closure Thursday following the arraignment of a former employee who stole about \$40,000 worth of district technology equipment.

Jorge Lopez Paredes, 27, pleaded no contest to grand theft during a hearing in Los Angeles Superior Court's Airport Courthouse.

He was sentenced to 8 days in jail, 60 days of community service and 5 years probation, according to Sarah Ardalani, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The presiding judge awarded the district \$40,734, according to SMMUSD spokeswoman Gail Pinsker. The district has

received a check for \$13,300, and it is also expecting a \$7,900 check from the Santa Monica Police Department for money that Paredes collected through sales of the stolen equipment, Pinsker said.

Paredes will have to serve 3 years in prison if he does not pay back the outstanding balance within 5 years, according to Pinsker. In addition, Pinsker said, his community service requirement will triple for any breach of his probation.

"The district is satisfied with the restitution plan regarding repayment and probation ordered by the judge," Pinsker said in a statement to the Daily Press.

Progress in the case comes as new equipment is being installed across the district with funding from voter-backed bond measures to upgrade school facilities and classrooms.

Santa Monica police arrested Paredes in

April after security video showed him taking valuable electronics from SMMUSD headquarters in the 1600 block of 16th Street, officials said. At the time, Paredes was employed by the district as a maintenance worker who specialized in heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Police detectives searched Paredes' residence in Los Angeles on April 29 and found evidence that linked him to the crime, Sgt. Rudy Camarena previously told the Daily Press. They also found additional items that were later identified as belonging to the school district.

Paredes, who did not have direct contact with students, was terminated by the district.

"We are able to monitor and protect our assets through our system of asset management at each site and the district office, as well as additional security measures,"

Pinsker said. "In this case, these measures provided proof of this misconduct.

"We hold our employees to a high standard and expect everyone employed with SMMUSD to uphold terms of their employment, and follow all laws and education code."

In June, the local Board of Education voted to amend a district contract for wireless technology infrastructure to replace the stolen equipment. The extra \$40,734 allocated to vendors Meridian IT and Promark Technology was part of a roughly \$3-million contract for technological improvements funded through Measure ES, which voters approved three years ago.

District staff ordered the equipment before board approval to expedite the installation of the new equipment.

JEFF@smdp.com



FASHION FUNDRAISER

LA fashion designer and show producer Cheryl Koo merged dance and fashion at her recent Santa Monica show. The "Le Meridien Chic Walk The Runway" Charity Fashion Event at the Le Meridien Delfina Hotel benefitted the Clare Foundation. Koo was one of the designers featured and her models, who were all dancers, dressed in all black with silver masks.

Courtesy photo

Volleyball: Samohi enters CIF state tournament

Vikings advance despite falling in section title match

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica High girls volleyball team came within one set of a section title. And that's where it stayed.

After building an early lead in the CIF Southern Section Division 3AA championship game, the Vikings stumbled in crunch time against Valley View in a demoralizing 3-2 (21-25, 26-28, 25-21, 25-23, 15-13) loss Friday night at Cerritos College.

But a runner-up finish means the season isn't yet over for Samohi, which will host Templeton in the first round of the CIF state tournament Tuesday at 7 p.m. The winner will play Saturday, Nov. 28, against either

Chula Vista-Olympian or Chatsworth.

The state tournament appearance will be bittersweet for the Vikings (16-6), who appeared on the precipice of a section title after storming through Ocean League play.

Thanks in part to the offensive firepower of Brooke Earkman, they used a 12-3 surge to win the first set against Valley View and earned a commanding 2-0 lead with a narrow victory in the second frame.

But then Samohi collapsed. It dropped the third set by four points and yielded an 8-1 run to Valley View in a close fourth stanza, setting up a decisive fifth set.

The Vikings fell behind 6-1 in the abbreviated frame on several hitting errors. And although they

SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 9

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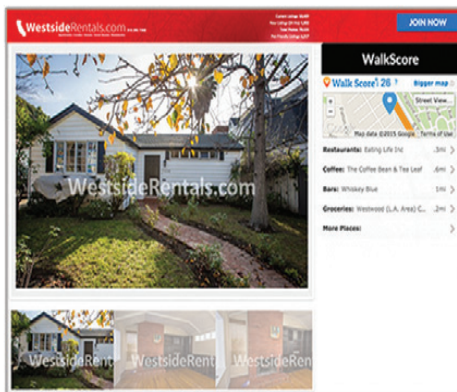
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Baby Time

Story series for babies ages 0 to 17 months. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, the morning of the program, at the Youth Reference Desk. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10:15 - 10:35 a.m.

Legos and Games

Come and enjoy Legos and board games. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Snapchat Teen Club

Love to Snapchat? Come with your mobile device or smartphone to create some fast and fun creative photos/videos. Refreshments will be provided. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 4 - 5 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica City Council. City Hall, 1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.

Food Truck Bazaar at California Heritage Museum

Gourmet Food Trucks, sit-down eating accommodations and facilities. Free parking in the Museum parking lot. Metered parking in the adjacent lots. Free bicycle valet! Proceeds benefit the Museum. 2612 Main St., 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (Downtown - Wednesday)

Widely recognized as one of the largest and most diverse grower-only CFM's in the nation. Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal

rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. Third Street Promenade, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Preschool Story Time at Main

Story series for 3 to 5 year olds. A ticket is required to attend each session. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, the morning of the program, at the Youth Reference Desk. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Family Story Time at Pico Branch

Stories and songs for the whole family. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 3:50 p.m.

Community Dinners at RAWvolution

RAWvolution hosts a weekly dinner series with live music. The multi-course raw/vegan menu includes cheese & crackers plate, choice of two soups and a large Radiance salad. You can also order a la carte. 2301 Main St., 7 p.m.

Chris Vincent - One Man Band @ The Craftsman Bar & Kitchen

Chris Vincent is a Seattle born guitarist & singer. His One Man Band show consists of stripped down acoustic blues versions of classic rock and contemporary favorites. 21+ Event, No Cover. 119 Broadway, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26

Library Closed

All library locations are closed today.

Annenberg Community Beach House Closed

Site will be closed today and will reopen Friday at 8:30 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

California Ave.

St. Monica Catholic Community hosts 36th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner & Clothing Boutique

On Wednesday, November 25, St. Monica Catholic Community will host its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for those who may be facing particular financial hardships this season or who may find themselves alone this holiday. The dinner is free of charge and will be served from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Auditorium. All are welcome.

A 36-year tradition in the city of Santa Monica, this Thanksgiving meal is prepared and served in a comfortable family-style atmosphere and feeds approximately 1,000 people. After dinner, guests will receive free toiletries and are invited to browse the “clothing boutique” for free, new and used, cold weather clothing and supplies.

St. Monica Catholic Community is located at 725 California Avenue, one block north of Wilshire. The entrance to the Auditorium is located on 7th Street between California Avenue and Washington Avenue.

Donations of food, cold weather clothing, and blankets are welcome. Details can be

found at www.stmonica.net/thanksgiving.

Founded in 1886, St. Monica Catholic Community includes St. Monica Catholic Church, St. Monica Catholic Elementary School and St. Monica Catholic High School. Their mission is “To make loving disciples to transform the world.”

- SUBMITTED BY DAWNA HOUSTON

Ocean Ave.

Shore Hotel hosts community blood drive

Shore Hotel (1515 Ocean Ave.) will be hosting a community blood drive in partnership with Cedar-Sinai’s blood donor services from noon to 6 p.m. on Monday, November 30. All donors age 17 and older are welcome to participate. Pre-sign ups are encouraged, and walk-ins are always welcome. All donors will receive a voucher for a free pint of Baskin Robbins ice cream.

“Having worked as a flight paramedic in Arizona, I understand the serious need for blood donations,” says Shore Hotel’s COO Steve Farzam. “It is estimated that 40% of the population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10% do, so we encourage our neighbors, employees and hotel guests to give blood, which is giving life to someone in need.”

Donors must meet qualifications that include: be at least 17 years old (no upper limit), healthy, feel well on day of donation,

weigh at least 110 pounds, no dental surgery within 72 hours prior to donation, not currently taking antibiotics for an infection (acne treatment is OK), not taking the medications Accutane, Proscar, Propecia, Absorica, Claravis, Myorisan, Sotret, or Zenatane in the past 30 days, not taking the medications Avodart or Jalyn in the past 6 months, Soriatane in the past 3 years, or ever taken Tegison, no travel to a malaria area in the past 12 months, no tattoos or permanent make-up within the past 12 months, ear and body piercing is OK if done with sterile, single-use needles (12-month deferral if other methods used), cancer-free during the last year (OK if treated for localized skin cancer), never used intravenous or IV drugs, no history of hepatitis after the age of 11, No close contact in the past 12 months with someone who has hepatitis and no history of HIV (AIDS).

You cannot donate if you have spent a combined total of three months or more in the United Kingdom from 1980 -1996, spent a combined total of 5 years or more in Europe from 1980 -the present (including time spent in the UK from 1980-1996), resided on a US military base in Europe for 6 months or more from 1980-1996. Male donors must not have had sex with another male (even once) since 1977.

- SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY E. RODGERS

Virginia Ave

Landlord Tenant forum

The Consumer Protection Division of the Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office and the City’s Rent Control Agency will host a free forum on landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities. The event will be held December 1, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Thelma Terry Center in Virginia Avenue Park, located at 2200 Virginia Avenue in Santa Monica. The forum is part of the City’s ongoing effort to increase public awareness in Santa Monica of how local and state laws impact landlords and tenants

Along with a general overview of the Rent Control Law, issues to be discussed include:

- New developments in local law
- What happens when a new owner takes over
- Repairs and maintenance
- Disability issues and claims of “hoarding”

All Santa Monica tenants, property owners, property managers, and advocates are invited to attend. A continental breakfast will be served and some parking is available at the park.

Registration is required by November 26, 2014. Please register early as space is limited: smconsumer.org or 310-458-8691.

- SUBMITTED BY ADAM RADINSKY

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What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A review of the ArcLight

IT'S OFFICIAL - WE HAVE AN ARCLIGHT

Cinema - I know because I was there on opening day. Friday I got a call from a friend. She was desperate to avoid the boredom that is Santa Monica and wanted to escape to another world. I was ready to step away from the world of family law and angry divorce attorneys, and I thought the opening would be interesting to write about, so we went to see what she said was a "sure Oscar contender."

We arrived at the Santa Monica Place mall and found easy parking, it was a 12:15 p.m. showing after all, so traffic was light and attendance was low. The sunny day and ocean breeze made the top deck of the mall delightful, and I'd have been happy to grab a Johnny Rockets burger and a chocolate shake (except for this diet I'm on, but that's another column) but we proceeded to the lobby of the theater.

The ArcLight lobby is no Warner Grand, it is however quite tasteful. There's a large reception area with the obligatory boards for theater and show listings, and as you enter there are the self-service computers right up front for credit cards or picking up your tickets purchased online. But if you go old school and use that funny green paper stuff - you have to deal with a live human being. They are located up a short set of stairs and are part of the concession stands.

Concessions at the ArcLight are more varied than at most theaters, sure there's the usual lineup of sodas, candies and popcorn, but this chain has three types of popcorn, traditional, healthy and caramel. Well they're supposed to. On opening day they only had the traditionally made popcorn, not the healthy alternative they advertised on the board, so I passed and went popcorn-less. I've heard tales of people who drive to these ArcLight just to get the caramel popcorn, but that too wasn't available. I'll give them a break on this, since it was day one, hour one.

Ticketing was easy, although the \$15.75 a ticket was a bit of "Wow!" moment. We proceeded to the nice new "Black Box" theater, which is a marketing phrase that ArcLight uses, and found our seats. There were less than a dozen of us in the theater for this showing of "Secret In Their Eyes" which was not surprising given the time of day. The movie is based on a book, and the story is a crime/thriller/mystery. There may be a secret in someone's eyes, but in this movie the only secret is why it was made.

Usually having an Oscar winning actress in a film is a good indicator that the movie is a well crafted, professionally produced film.

In this case, not so much. Though Julia Roberts is unsurprisingly credible in her role, the script, story and plot devices do not live up to her. The movie is set in present day Los Angeles and bounces back and forth to post 9/11. The film lacked any consistent indicators as to when we were "in the past" or "in the present" which took me out of the movie too often. The writing was lackluster, and the plot itself had holes that you could land a 787 in. Some scenes were literally laugh out loud bad; as in I laughed out loud and was quickly the recipient of an elbow in the ribs.

When I compare "Secret" with what I saw on Sunday at the Hughes Center Cinemark, it is a night and day experience. The Cinemark is a typical modern movie theater, lobby cards, an interactive display of the new motion seating, a giant board of showings, and escalators that you almost trip into. I was there to see "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo." My first Bollywood experience. I've always wanted to see one, and with the bitter taste of "Secret" still in my mouth I decided this was to be the movie. The trailer looked visually gorgeous, the lead actors are stunning and exceedingly handsome. Of course the movie is in Hindi, of which I speak not a word, but the subtitles are in English. I read so quickly that in 3 minutes I stop realizing that I'm reading and I just immerse myself in the story. And this movie had a story. A wonderfully written, mostly well acted, love and redemption story. For 166 minutes I was transported to India and following a tale that's been told a thousand times, and I absolutely loved it.

This Indian film has the hallmarks of modern Indian design, slightly off lighting, some overacting, a bit of goofiness, a lack of Hollywood polish, and all of it is forgivable because the story was so well told. The Busby Berkeley scenes that Indian movie directors love to use in explosive color were visually engaging and stimulating. As soon as I walked out of the theater, I wanted to sit through it again. It was that enjoyable. I laughed. I cried. I was moved. This is what a movie is supposed to be and do.

In the end a great theater with a bad movie makes for a so-so experience but a great movie makes a memory.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpizarra

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Preserving the past while looking to the future

THE STRETCH OF SAN VICENTE Boulevard between 7th Street and 1st Court is the city's premier collection of courtyard apartments.

These homes are from a period in Santa Monica's history when, faced with a growing demand to live in Santa Monica as local businesses and factories hired more and more people, multi-family housing was being built to accommodate workers in the city.

Today, these buildings - many of them rent-controlled - represent an important piece of our housing stock and, as such, must be preserved. Santa Monica Forward supports the establishment of the San Vicente Boulevard Courtyard Apartment Historic District (SVHD) and urges the City Council to take the actions necessary for its establishment at its December 15 meeting.

Santa Monica's population skyrocketed during and after World War II. The Douglas Aircraft manufacturing plant, located in the Sunset Park neighborhood, employed thousands of local residents starting in the 1930s and continuing into the postwar years. After the war, the RAND Corporation added hundreds more to the city's workforce.

Santa Monica's postwar population boom prompted city officials to rewrite its planning and zoning laws to accommodate this increasing workforce population. In fact, San Vicente Boulevard was once zoned for the highest residential density allowable (R4) west of 4th Street and the second highest density (R3) between 4th and 7th.

Single-family homes and small commercial buildings were replaced with the courtyard apartment complexes we see now on the boulevard to meet the demand for housing.

San Vicente is now zoned R2, but most of the existing buildings were built at a time when high density was the norm on the boulevard.

San Vicente had the added advantage of being served by Pacific Electric streetcars, which ran along the median until about 1950. The streetcars were then replaced with motor coaches.

The proposed historic district includes 40 buildings, of which twenty-six are preliminarily considered District "contributors" because of their construction during the "period of significance" for development of the street and their sharing of common characteristics that distinguish the District.

Built between the 1930s and the 1950s, these buildings represent a variety of architectural styles. Their common characteristic is landscaped courtyards that are visible to passers-by and enjoyed by building residents as spaces for social interaction.

During the community participation process leading up to the Landmarks

Commission's November action to nominate the District and send it on to Council, dozens of San Vicente tenants, condominium owners, and property owners expressed support for establishment of their neighborhood as a historic district.

There are many bungalow courts and courtyard apartments scattered throughout Santa Monica, all of which were built at a time when the city's workforce was expanding and workers needed housing.

Courtyard housing is unique in its allowing for social interaction among residents and its affordability since most if not all of these housing units are subject to rent control.

This housing also adds to the ambiance of our residential streets with their landscaped open space that is viewable by all who walk, bike, or drive through the neighborhoods.

A meaningful new tool for preserving courtyard housing in Santa Monica is the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District program (NCOD).

NCODs were created by the Zoning Code Update and can be thought of as Historic District Light in that the thresholds for their designation are much lower than Historic Districts and the protections for existing properties is less. However, NCODs will have design and development standards adopted to protect the ambiance of the District, including courtyards. The program encourages proactive neighborhood initiatives to form NCODs.

Santa Monica Forward has and continues to support efforts to preserve our residential neighborhoods as the 2010 LUCE (before it was amended earlier this year) did by setting forth policies that directed new development away from these areas to our commercial boulevards, the Downtown, and the formerly-industrial Bergamot Area, allowing new neighborhoods to sprout where none currently exist.

Our multi-family neighborhoods house the majority of Santa Monica residents and offer the protections of rent control to the tenants among us.

But we must also do more than simply preserve the past; we must learn from it to help inform our decisions going forward.

San Vicente Boulevard and the courtyard apartments that line it to this day stand as a testament to smart planning. During the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s city leaders understood the need to provide housing for Santa Monica's workers. And they planned accordingly.

Cynthia Rose, Judy Abdo, Jason Islas, Frederick Zimmerman, Sharon Klein Hart, John Hart, Hank Koning, Michael Folonis, and Jerry Rubin for Santa Monica Forward. Read previous columns at santamonicaforward.org.

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Local

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why skip the turkey on Thanksgiving?

Editor:

While President Obama is pardoning two turkeys for Thanksgiving, every one of us can exercise that same presidential power by choosing a nonviolent Thanksgiving observance that spares a turkey's life.

And here are some good reasons:

- 1) You can brag about pardoning a turkey - like Obama.
- 2) You truly are what you eat. Who wants to be a "butterball"?
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- 5) You won't spend a sleepless night wondering how the turkey lived and died.
- 6) Your body will appreciate a holiday from saturated fat, cholesterol and hormones.
- 7) You won't have to call Poultry Hotline to keep your family out of the emergency room.

Seriously, this Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our good fortune, health, and happiness with a life-affirming, cruelty-free feast of vegetables, fruits, and grains.

Our own dinner will feature soy or wheat-based roast, mashed potatoes, stuffed squash, candied yams, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. An internet search on "vegetarian Thanksgiving" is getting us more recipes and other useful information than we could possibly use.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles to host Navy Fleet Week starting next year

Los Angeles will begin hosting U.S. Navy vessels in an annual Fleet Week starting next year.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Navy officials announced the plan Monday aboard the USS Iowa, a retired World War II-era battleship that is now on display in the Port of Los Angeles.

Officials will make LA Fleet Week an end-of-summer tradition featuring active military ships in the days leading up to and through each Labor Day.

Los Angeles is making efforts to promote its waterfront as a visitor destination.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Disneyland PeopleMover car sells at auction for \$471,500

A car from Disneyland's long-running PeopleMover has sold at a Los Angeles auction for \$471,500.

The PeopleMover was an elevated tram that took visitors on a slow moving ride through the Tomorrowland attraction. It carried its first passengers in 1967 and ran until 1995.

The buyer was not identified.

Van Eaton Galleries says the auction over the weekend included hundreds of items of Disneyland memorabilia.

Other items offered included the marquee sign for the Golden Horseshoe Revue, which sold for \$48,875, and an original poster for the Rocket to the Moon attraction, which fetched \$28,175.

Bids came from around the world.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

LA Clippers dance squad to get reality series

The Los Angeles Clippers' dance squad is getting its own reality series.

E! Entertainment said Monday the series that is scheduled to debut early next year will show what it's like to be a member of the squad on and off the court. Eight one-hour episodes of "L.A. Clippers Dance Squad" are scheduled to air on the cable network.

The show will take viewers through summer auditions to choose the squad and the dancers' emotions and ambitions.

Among the producers of the series is Cash Warren, husband of actress Jessica Alba and whose father Mike Warren starred at UCLA under basketball coach John Wooden. The show is produced by Mandalay Sports Media, whose co-founder is Peter Guber, a part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Part of Los Angeles commuter train derails after hitting car

The front end of a commuter light rail train derailed after crashing into a car and injuring the driver Monday during morning rush hour in Los Angeles, authorities said.

Preliminary reports suggested the motorist drove around the crossing gates into the path of the oncoming Metro Blue Line train, said Ramon Montenegro, spokesman for the sheriff's transit bureau.

The gates were working properly when the crash happened shortly after 7:30 a.m. about 10 miles south of downtown LA, according to Metro.

The driver of the car was hospitalized in stable condition, Montenegro said.

Blue Line service was suspended in both directions on that stretch of track, and buses were sent to pick up passengers. Delays of several hours were expected on northbound and southbound lines, Montenegro said.

"It's going to take a while for them to get the train back on the tracks," he said.

Damage occurred to the train, a track switch box and the support system for the overhead wires that deliver electricity to trains, Metro said.

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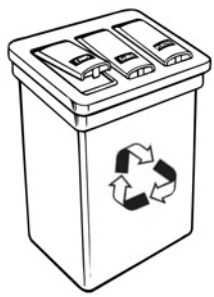
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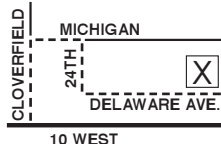
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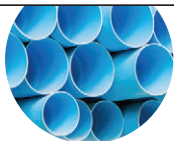
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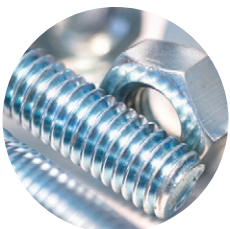
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Everyone loves same-day delivery, until they have to pay

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

Everyone likes the idea of same-day delivery. But who wants to pay for it?

That's the problem merchants face as the busy holiday shopping season approaches. They want to offer customers the near-instant gratification that usually only comes with shopping in stores or via apps like Uber and Seamless. But the logistics and costs of same-day delivery - the fuel, labor, infrastructure and other costs - has been a difficult challenge to surmount.

This year, Amazon has been making an aggressive push to offer same-day delivery to people who've paid its \$99 fee for Prime loyalty club membership. That service is now available in 23 metro areas. And where Amazon goes, other retailers must follow.

"Over the past 18 to 24 months Amazon has been pushing the bar" for fast and cheap delivery, said Daphne Carmeli, CEO of Deliv, a startup that works with retailers to provide same-day delivery. "If you're in retail, you have to step up to the new bar."

Amazon, of course, doesn't have to pay for the cost of store upkeep, not counting its new bookstore in Seattle. And it makes money from other non-retail areas, such as its cloud computing arm, so it can afford to offer delivery services others can't.

"Retailers trying to compete with Amazon on the road Amazon created will always be at a disadvantage," said shipping industry expert Satish Jindel. "There's only so long they can absorb the cost, it's a huge challenge for retailers."

Providing hassle-free, same-day delivery has been a quixotic quest for retailers for more than a decade. During the first Internet boom, startups like Kozmo.com became ubiquitous in New York as employees with purple messenger bags fanned out to deliver snacks and household goods. But it didn't make money, went bust, and became a cautionary tale for the future.

"I remember using Kozmo.com a decade ago," said C.J. Dugan, 37, a TV producer in Chicago. "One night we ordered a tub of ice cream and the movie 'Pitch Black.' They showed up in about 30 minutes ... It was before its time, I guess."

Fifteen years later, things are definitely different. Driver routes are easier to track with smartphone GPS technology, more brick-and-mortar retailers are speeding delivery by using their stores as de facto warehouses, and more people are willing to work in an "on-demand" fashion popularized by Uber and service apps like Taskrabbit.

So more retailers are taking on the chal-

lenge of same day. Start-up delivery service Deliv is working with Macy's, Kohl's, Express, Williams-Sonoma and other brick-and-mortar retailers to expand same-day delivery options. Macy's offers same-day delivery in 17 cities; Kohl's this month expanded same day deliveries from six to nine cities.

Craft-selling site Etsy is working with Postmates for a holiday season pilot that will let some shoppers in New York City have items delivered to their door within hours for a flat fee of \$15. Apple is also working with Postmates on same-day deliveries in New York and San Francisco.

Uber is jumping into the same-day delivery game too. In October it launched an UberRush service in New York, San Francisco and Chicago that lets small businesses offer same-day delivery. Any small business within a certain geographic range in those areas can sign up for free and offer their online customers same-day delivery for a fee. In New York, UberRush will cost users \$3 to start, then \$2.5 per mile with a minimum of \$5. Rates vary slightly in Chicago and San Francisco.

The holiday season will be a test for the new services. Not all businesses have found it's what their customers want.

Last July, eBay shut down its eBay Now service, which it started in San Francisco in 2013 and expanded to four cities. The company said it's now testing options that are "more relevant" to its sellers.

Rob Howard, who runs same-day delivery provider Grand Junction Inc., said eBay Now's business model, which paid drivers to enter retail stores, buy an item and deliver it, was "very high cost and unsustainable." Deliv, by contrast, works with retailers to have packages ready to go for drivers when they arrive.

And the cost remains a sticking point. Amazon offers some same-day deliveries for free, subsidized by revenue streams elsewhere. But others charge between \$5 and \$20 dollars, a cost that deters some users.

"It's nice to have, if you can get it for free," said Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru, who tracks the e-commerce industry, describing the mindset for many.

Speedy delivery could help drive customer loyalty in some cases. Dugan, the former Kozmo.com user, doesn't use one-day delivery a lot. But he recently ordered a mat for his standing work desk from Amazon Prime Now.

"From the time I placed the order to when it arrived at our reception was just over an hour - it was pretty awesome," he said. "I can't say I'll use the service all the time, but this was about the perfect experience when I really, really needed something."

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VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE 1

pulled to within 9-8 thanks to standout play from the service line, they were unable to overcome their early deficit as Valley View finished off a dramatic comeback.

The loss put an end to a phenomenal section tournament for Samohi, which cruised past Lancaster in the first round and edged Irvine-North in the second round before defeating Twin Peaks-Rim of the World in the quarterfinals and sweeping San Juan Capistrano-St. Margaret's Episcopal in the semifinals.

The Vikings now turn their attention to Templeton (28-8), a strong program hailing from San Luis Obispo County. Templeton went undefeated in the Los Padres League and reached the Division 3A section finals before falling 3-2 to San Juan Capistrano-Saddleback Valley Christian.

Templeton is led by seniors Emily Burns (255 kills, 51 aces and 18 blocks) and Lauren Ralston (251 kills and 51 aces) and junior Carra Kruse (159 assists).

The Pacifica Christian girls cross-country team earned a bid to the state finals for the first time in school history with a runner-up performance at the CIF Southern Section championships Nov. 21 at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut.

The Seawolves tallied 123 points in Division 5 of the section finals, finishing behind only Flintridge Prep.

Standout junior Christie Caruana led Pacifica by taking second place in 18 minutes 49.3 seconds in a race won by San Pedro-Rolling Hills Prep freshman Mazzy Genovese (18:16.9).

Also finishing in the top 40 for Pacifica were senior Joanie Howe (23rd, 20:28.9) and sophomores Rodonna Flowers (35th, 21:03.3) and Lily Reasner (36th, 21:04.1).

Meanwhile, St. Monica Catholic's girls wrapped up their season after taking 16th place in Division 5 of the section finals. The Mariners were led by freshman Bella Fernandez (72nd, 22:59.7).

Running as an individual, Santa Monica senior Kasia Krzyzanowski placed 59th in the Division 1 race with a time of 19:49.3.

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Stuck waiting: ground delays at US airports on the rise

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

On a recent morning, Delta Air Lines Flight 435 pushed back early from the gate at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Passengers watched the safety video and settled in for a six-hour trip.

Then they waited. And waited. Still within sight of the gate, their jet sat motionless due to airport congestion. It wasn't until 30 minutes after passengers buckled in that they were finally in the sky.

It's a scene playing out across the country. According to an Associated Press analysis, airplanes spent 23 minutes and 32 seconds, on average, taxiing between gates and runways during the first nine months of the year. That's the longest it has been since the Bureau of Transportation Statistics started tracking taxi times in 1995 and a 50-second increase over last year's average.

For passengers, the rising delays add to the frustrations of travel. A plane might land early but then sit waiting for a gate to open up. Flights are still arriving "on time" but only because airlines have increased scheduled flying times to account for the added taxi times. The Delta flight made it to the gate in San Francisco 10 minutes ahead of schedule despite the takeoff delays.

The creep in taxi times is attributed to a series of changes: massive runway construction projects at some of the nation's busiest airports; schedule changes that increase the number of flights at peak hours; and new, distant runways that relieve congestion but require more time to reach.

"It's death by a thousand cuts," says Vikram Krishnan, a partner in the aviation practice of consultancy Oliver Wyman.

The problems on the ground are costing airlines dearly.

"Two, three, four, five minutes in a fleet of 500 planes a day is significant amounts of money," says aviation consultant Mike Boyd.

That translates into hundreds of millions of dollars extra in operating costs so far this year, according to AP calculations factoring in average operating costs including pilot and flight attendant salaries.

Airlines say the longer taxi times are baked into schedules, so planes generally still arrive on time. So far this year, 79 percent of flights have been at the gate within 15 minutes of their scheduled time, the best performance since 2012.

Passengers might be spending more time on planes, but airlines are better managing their expectations by increasing scheduled times. That masks some of the problems, like taxi delays.

For instance, ten years ago the average scheduled time from gate to gate between Chicago and San Francisco was 4 hours and 32 minutes. Today, flights are scheduled for an extra 11 minutes, according to PlaneStats.com - even though airports in the two cities are the same 1,846 miles apart.

All it takes are a few problems at some of

the country's busiest airports to drive up the national taxi time average.

The top offender in the past year was Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Of all the additional taxi time minutes in the nation, one of out of five extra minutes can be traced back to delays at O'Hare.

Planes in Chicago this year spent an average of 1 minute and 18 seconds extra navigating the taxiways. And taxi times are up 3 minutes and 24 seconds from five years ago, a 15 percent increase. Those delays add up considering that O'Hare had 227,358 flights during the first nine months of this year.

Most of the problems at O'Hare stem from a construction project that is reconfiguring taxiways and runways. The long-term goal is to reduce congestion but delays racked up during the construction. A new runway did just open, but further away from the airport's terminals. Longer trips from that runway are not yet reflected in government data.

In an email to the AP, O'Hare officials note that taxi times "will fluctuate as construction phases are started or finished" and that the work is helping to reduce delays in the sky around the airport.

Delays have also been climbing at the two main airports in Dallas, but for different reasons.

At Dallas Love Field, taxi times are up two minutes, or 13-percent, so far this year. That's the highest percent gain of any major airport. Home to Southwest Airlines, Love Field saw the number of scheduled flights during the first nine months of this year spike 41 percent to 47,438 after the repeal of a federal law restricting most long-distance flights from that airport.

Terry L. Mitchell, the airport's assistant director for operations, says the increase in flights, construction projects and the use of a further runway to reduce noise concerns of neighbors all led to the run up in taxi times. Now that construction is complete and the airport at capacity, he expects no further growth in taxi times.

Across town at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, taxi times climbed two and a half minutes, or 11.7 percent. In this case, the increase was due to new scheduling procedures by American Airlines, which carries 82 percent of the passengers at the airport.

American groups together large numbers of flights in Dallas - and its other hubs - to allow passengers easy connections. In March, the airline reconfigured its schedule so more flights arrive and depart in a narrower band of time. That meant shorter layovers in the airport, more connection options for passengers and more revenue opportunities for the airline. However, the adjustments also extended taxi times. American accounted for those increases in its schedule.

"When they try to cram as many flights as possible into their hubbing complexes," says airline consultant Paul Sterbenz, "they create logjams."

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THURSDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
WNW swell due to ease. Minor SSW swell.

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LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	F
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks.			Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	B
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F	Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	D
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	D	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	F	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	F	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	F	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	ns	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	ns	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	B	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	F	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	F
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	B	A+			

LEGEND

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



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

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

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON NOVEMBER 13, AT ABOUT 3:51 P.M.

A traffic services officer was canvassing Lot 5 South, located at 2600 Barnard Way, for parking violations when he observed a male acting suspiciously as he loitered near a bike rack. As he got closer to the male suspect, later identified as Eric Joseph Bryant, the TSO could see Bryant was trying to sever a bike lock with a pair of bright yellow bolt cutters. When Bryant realized he was being watched, he stepped away from the lock, threw the bolt cutters behind the driver seat of a silver Chrysler Town Car parked nearby, hopped in and drove away. The TSO alerted police officers to the nature of the crime, the vehicle's license plate, and Bryant's direction of travel. The officers located Bryant east-bound on Ocean Park Boulevard and pulled him over. Without any questioning, Bryant spontaneously told the officers he was not trying to steal any bicycles. He claimed he was doing a “community service” by removing what he referred to as a “deadlock” on the bike rack. The officers located the bolt cutters in the back of the vehicle. The TSO identified Bryant as the subject attempting to steal the bicycle at the beach, and officers took him into custody. Before he was transported to the jail, an assisting officer located the bicycle rack and the mangled bicycle lock. Despite the suspect's arguments to the contrary, the partially cut lock was securing a red mountain bike to the rack (not a deadlock like the suspect claimed). Bryant, 40, of Santa Monica was booked for attempted petty theft and had bail set at \$1,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 349 calls for service on Nov. 22

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Loud music 1800 block of 11th 12:24 a.m.
Party complaint Ocean/Adelaide 1:15 a.m.
Family disturbance 1000 block of 3rd 1:36 a.m.
Rape 23rd/Santa Monica 2:06 a.m.
Family disturbance 800 block of Broadway 2:17 a.m.
Fight 1400 block of Ocean 2:51 a.m.
Battery 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk 3:19 a.m.
Lewd activity 2600 block of Main 5:36 a.m.
Suspicious person 400 block of Broadway 5:39 a.m.
Person down 2200 block of Pico 7:29 a.m.
Arson 1700 block of Olympic 7:47 a.m.
Hit and run 300 block of California 8:29 a.m.
Assault 1200 block of 15th 8:31 a.m.
Sexual assault 600 block of Montana 9:30 a.m.
Battery 500 block of Olympic W 10:50 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 500 block of Colorado 10:57 a.m.
Battery 2000 block of Colorado 11:16 a.m.
Disturbance of the peace 500 block of 18th 11:24 a.m.
Lewd activity Barnard/Ocean Park 12:06 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 39 calls for service on Nov. 22.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Request fire 3rd Street Prom/Santa Monica 12:54 a.m.
EMS 900 block of 21st 1:20 a.m.
EMS 2100 block of Arizona 2:33 a.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block of Broadway 4:01 a.m.
EMS 3100 block of Neilson 4:16 a.m.
EMS 1700 block of Michigan 4:30 a.m.
EMS 2600 block of Ocean Front Walk 4:37 a.m.
EMS 2800 block of Ocean Front Walk

Person down 14th/Wilshire 12:21 p.m.
Battery 1000 block of 11th 1:02 p.m.
Critical missing person 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 2:31 p.m.
Traffic accident Olympic/Centinela 2:35 p.m.
Threats 1200 block of 22nd 2:45 p.m.
Burglary 2700 block of 6th 2:47 p.m.
Burglary 1100 block of Lincoln 2:48 p.m.
Disturbance of the peace 200 block of Pier 3:12 p.m.
Hit and run 2300 block of Centinela 4:31 p.m.
Traffic accident 11th/Olympic E 4:56 p.m.
Hit and run 800 block of Montana 5:08 p.m.
Fight Lincoln/Pearl 5:34 p.m.
Sexual assault Lincoln/Strand 5:36 p.m.
Hit and run 1100 block of 7th 5:42 p.m.
Hit and run 2000 block of Ocean Park 5:54 p.m.
Suspicious person 1400 block of Pacific Coast Hwy 6:14 p.m.
Loud music 1300 block of 3rd Street Prom 6:14 p.m.
Hit and run 17th/Ocean Park 6:45 p.m.
Family disturbance 1400 block of 4th 6:46 p.m.
Traffic accident 2nd/Idaho 6:58 p.m.
Traffic Accident 4th/Olympic E 7:59 p.m.
Burglary 2700 block of 6th 8:01 p.m.
Family disturbance 1800 block of Ocean 9:12 p.m.
Report of shots fired 300 block of Montana 9:13 p.m.
Traffic accident 2800 block of Arizona 10:00 p.m.

4:47 a.m.
EMS 2200 block of Pico 7:41 a.m.
Public assist 1400 block of 14th 10:37 a.m.
Automatic alarm 500 block of Colorado 10:47 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 4th 10:49 a.m.
EMS 1100 block of Pico 10:50 a.m.
EMS 500 block of Colorado 11:03 a.m.
EMS 500 block of Santa Monica 11:46 a.m.
EMS 2700 block of Ocean Front Walk 12:10 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Wilshire 12:32 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 11th 12:53 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 5th 12:55 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of 17th 1:46 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 7th 2:09 p.m.
EMS 2nd/Broadway 2:12 p.m.
EMS Olympic/Centinela 2:35 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of Ocean Front Walk 3:03 p.m.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 “Shoo!”

7 Hold tightly

11 Middle East language

12 Bulldog’s school

13 Sociable diner

15 Computer symbols

16 Canary’s home

18 Ride the waves

21 Jot down

22 Autobiography

24 Commotion

25 Touch lightly

26 Brewed beverage

27 Re-pressed, as rage

29 Succotash half

30 Glade grazer

31 Indiana city

32 Get smart

34 Rec room game

40 Land unit

41 “Becket” actor

42 Still life fruit

43 Baseball’s Mickey
- DOWN
- 1 Night flier

2 Important time

3 Yak it up

4 Compel

5 Brother’s daughter

6 Cave sound

7 Drywall mineral

8 Kanye’s music

9 — de France

10 For each

14 Beginning

16 Like secret messages

17 Make amends

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

Yesterday’s answer

- 19 Copter part

20 Blazing

21 Snooze

22 Guide-book

23 Sprinted

25 Blender button

28 Bank worker

29 Civil War weapon
- 31 Filmdom’s Garbo

33 Physics bit

34 Spigot

35 Tennis feat

36 Lingerie item

37 Negating word

38 Under the weather

39 Glimpse

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/ m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

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				

11-24

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall matt@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.



Wednesday’s at Warszawa!
Bring in a friend who’s never been to Warszawa and receive a free appetizer!

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1414 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica CA 90401
Hours: Tue - Sat: 5PM-11PM, Sun: 5PM - 10PM, CLOSED Monday



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 ★★

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

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 11/21
37 47 50 52 57
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 90M

Draw Date: 11/20
9 12 29 37 67
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 25M

Draw Date: 11/21
7 15 19 38 47
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 18M

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

WORD UP!

splendiferous
1. splendid; magnificent; fine.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1922- Nine Irish Republican Army members are executed by an Irish Free State firing squad. Among them is author Robert Erskine Childers, who had been arrested for illegally carrying a revolver.
- 1932- In Washington, D.C., the FBI Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (better known as the FBI Crime Lab) officially opens.
- 1935- The Senegalese Socialist Party holds its second congress.
- 1940- World War II: The First Slovak Republic becomes a signatory to the Tripartite Pact, officially joining the Axis powers.

- 1941- World War II: The United States grants Lend-Lease to the Free French Forces.
- 1943- World War II: The USS Liscome Bay is torpedoed near Tarawa and sinks, killing 650 men.
- 1944- World War II: Bombing of Tokyo: The first bombing raid against the Japanese capital from the east and by land is carried out by 88 American aircraft.
- 1962- The West Berlin branch of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany forms a separate party, the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

- Professional patients now help train would-be doctors, especially in the most delicate and dreaded of exams (gynecological and prostate), where a becalming technique improves outcomes. One “teaching associate” of Eastern Virginia Medical School told The Washington Post in September that the helpers act as “enthusiastic surgical dummies” to 65 medical colleges, guiding rookie fingers through the trainer’s own private parts. The prostate associate might helpfully caution, “No need for speed here,” especially since he will be bending over for as many as nine probings a day. A gynecological teaching associate, mentoring the nervous speculum-wielder, might wittily congratulate pupils on having a front-row sight line the “GTA” will never witness: an up-close view of her own cervix.
- At a ceremony in Kabul in November, prominent Afghan developer Khalilullah Frozi signed a \$95 million contract to build an 8,800-unit township and was, according to a New York Times dispatch, toasted for his role in the country’s economic rebirth. However, at nightfall, Frozi headed back to prison to resume his 15-year sentence for defrauding Kabul Bank of nearly \$1 billion in depositors’ money. Because he remains one of Afghanistan’s elite, arrangements were made for him to work days but spend his nights in prison (in comfortable quarters). Said one Western official, laconically, “(I)f you have stolen enough money, you can get away with it.”



Activism • Animals • Arts • Community • Education • Environment • Health

Take a chill pill (and love yourself)

by Megan Tambio

Weirdly, a lot of dietary supplements aren't even approved by the FDA, so that magic weight loss pill does not actually have to help you lose weight, or be magical. While some supplements are helpful tools, others can kill you.

Finally, the Department of Justice, in a joint effort with the FDA and IRS, are taking two major magic pill peddlers – US Plabs and SK Laboratories – to court over their hazardous products. The two companies claim to sell all natural supplements, but in this case “all-nat-

ural” means “banned manufactured chemicals”.

The chemical in question is DMAA, which is illegal because it's linked to strokes and heart failure, and sudden death – the worst trifecta of side effects ever.

It seems natural that these companies should be held accountable for putting toxic chemicals in products and labeling it as “geranium flower powder”, but the case isn't open and shut. The FDA can't examine the claims of these supplements until AFTER serious health problems are reported. When they tried to



change this back in the '90s, supplement companies called on Mel Gibson to combat them with a ridiculous, over- budgeted PSA.

While plenty of supplements are effective, or at least harmless, a lot of the manufacturers can have pretty nefarious business practices. Let's fight back by lobbying to give more

power to the FDA and do our own research before buying a product that promises magic.

Protect the Health of your community. Search the Causes directory at giive.org and volunteer for a nonprofit that advocates for everyone's well-being.

GET THE WHOLE STORY@ GIIVE.ORG/BLOG/

Avoid complications, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Someone might be critical of your actions, but if you take his or her words with humor and understanding, you won't be offended. Use your instincts with your finances. Lady Luck will show up when dealing with a routine matter, and you'll be all smiles. Tonight: Indulge a little.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You could feel pressured by someone at a distance. As a result, you might become unresponsive for a while. Try not to be so serious with this person right now. Reach out to others who are feeling the same pressure -- you'll be glad you did. Tonight: Do your own thing!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might need to heed your own counsel and play it low-key, despite a need to act on a creative idea. You can take action, but you don't need to make a public announcement. Avoid having a heavy discussion. Think through a decision. Tonight: Follow your sixth sense.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Zero in on what you want from a loved one. You might be witnessing this person's transformation, and want to let him or her know how you feel. Remain upbeat, no matter what occurs. Your words could change a situation for the better. Tonight: Hang with your pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Assume the role of leader. You might want to approach a work-related situation quite differently from how many others have. This originality makes you highly desirable in projects, as it tends to add to your success. Tonight: Tap into someone else's imaginative ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Look at the big picture before making any decisions. You might change your opinion as a result of having more insight. It wouldn't hurt to confirm what you think you are seeing with a friend in order to get some feedback. Tonight: A serious one-on-one talk pays off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be in a position where you want to change course in a financial matter. Give this idea some hard thought. Recognize that what originally was a good idea might not work for you now. Be graceful in a discussion. Tonight: Connecting with others might be difficult.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You'll want to make a close friend or associate feel valued. Understand that this person might be surprised by your actions and could have difficulty responding gracefully. Try not to take his or her response personally. Tonight: Accept an offer without making any comments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be saturated with options that you are not comfortable with. A boss is likely to congratulate you on pursuing your present course. You could be in line for a pay raise or promotion. You seem to have difficulty relaxing. Tonight: Listen to your intuition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Relate to an authority figure directly. You might want to express an idea that you believe is helpful, even if you feel less than confident about it. A child or loved one appears to be somewhat difficult and touchy. Tonight: Let go of stress. Be more childlike.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

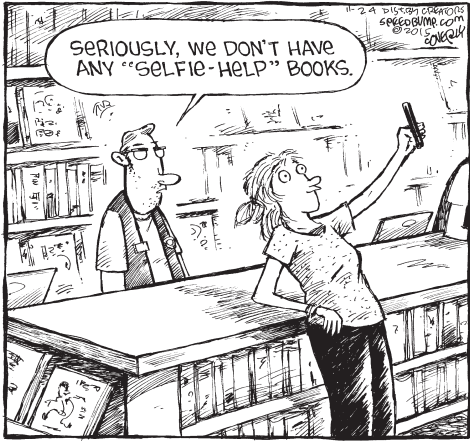
★★★★ You could be in a position where you have to stay close to home or deal with a family member directly. Plans might need to be adjusted accordingly. Reach out to a trusted friend or loved one. You will gain a better perspective as a result. Tonight: Avoid complications.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Don't hesitate to speak your mind. How you deal with others defines who you are. Be ready to head in a new direction, even if you don't want to. Ultimately, you will see the wisdom of letting go of what doesn't work. Tonight: At a favorite place with favorite people.

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



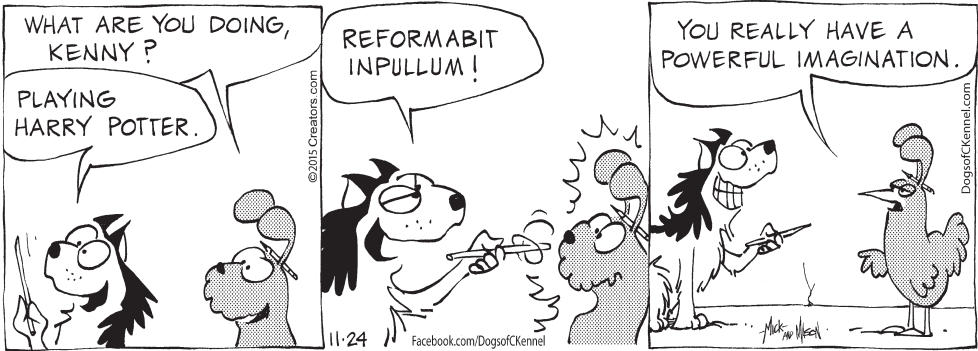
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



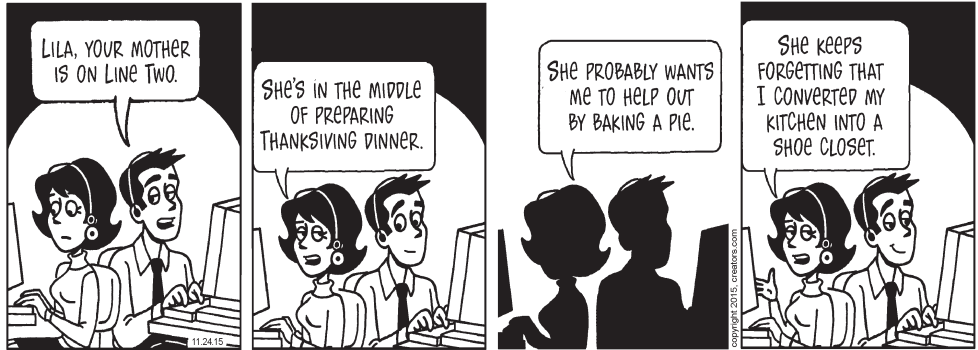
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Tuesday, November 24, 2015

This year you might be more methodical than you have been in a long time. You are able to organize, create and complete projects without a hitch. This determination is evident in nearly everything you do. If you are single, you will meet potential suitors in your daily travels. Question what you want from a dating situation before getting involved; you will make better choices that way. If you are attached, the two of you tend to work well together when involved in a mutual hobby. You enjoy taking your significant other out on the town. TAURUS can hold you back, but usually he or she has a rational reason for this behavior.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Real Estate
Commercial

SANTA MONICA OFFICE SUITES- For Lease in beautiful garden building. Approx. 600 square feet, Office suite. Utilities included. †30th Street near Ocean Park Boulevard. \$1,995.00 a month.†(310) 456-7031 ext.175.

West Side Rentals

Santa Monica CONDO 2-car Garage parking, Paid water & hot water & gas, Rent \$11,900.00, Deposit 23800, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1208789

Santa Monica CHARMING 2BED 2BATH HOUSE IN SANTA MONICA Street parking, Paid gardener, Rent \$3,800.00, Deposit 3800, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1224559

Santa Monica N.OF WILSHIRE, SPACIOUS, BRIGHT, HIGH CEILINGS; 33LOFT, West LA STUDIO FOR RENT CLOSE TO RANCHO PARK AND CENTURY CITY Street parking, Paid water & gas & electricity, Rent \$1,385.00, Deposit 1385, Available 121715. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1069598

Marina Del Rey \$199.00 DEPOSIT OAC! ONE BEDROOM AVAILABLE NOW! RENOVATED WITH WD! 1-car Covered parking, Paid pool service, Rent \$2,660.00 to and up!, Deposit 199.00, Available 111815. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1221838

Venice FOURPLEX APARTMENT 1-car Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent \$1,950.00 to per month, Deposit 1950, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=864908

Brentwood NEWLY REMODELED BRENTWOOD 2BR 2BA W 1ST MONTH FREE! 2 PARKING SPACES & 247 LAUNDRY 2-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gas & gardener, Rent \$2,695.00, Deposit 2695.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1209640

Santa Monica BEACH - GARDEN RETREAT 1-car Permit parking, Paid partial utilities & trash & gardener, Rent \$7,500.00, Deposit 7500, Available 1316. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1177926

Santa Monica LUXURY LIVING NEAR THE BEACH - 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS Garage parking, Paid utilities, Rent \$7,565.00, Deposit 1000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1230521

Venice WALK TO AB-BOT KINNEY! 2-car Carport parking, Paid trash & gardener, Rent \$4,995.00, Deposit 9990, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1223679

Brentwood WELCOME HOME! 1 BD IN BRENTWOOD \$2000 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & trash & gardener, Rent \$2,000.00, Deposit 1000, Available 121015. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1234655

Santa Monica OCEAN TOWERS 2-car Garage parking, Rent \$13,500.00, Deposit 27000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1158808

Brentwood 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT 1-car Parking included, Paid water & trash, Rent \$2,895.00, Deposit 2895, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1226495

West LA CHARMING 1BA1BD W ORIGINAL HARDWOOD FLOORS GRANITE COUNTERTOPS IN GREAT WEST LA LOCATION 1-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener, Rent \$1,995.00, Deposit 2000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233394

Santa Monica BEAUTIFUL CONDO IN SEA COLONY III 2-car Covered parking, Rent \$6,200.00, Deposit 12400, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1218917

Santa Monica 3 BED-ROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Rent \$11,000.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233050

Santa Monica APARTMENT 2 BLOCKS TO THE BEACH NORTH OF WILSHIRE! 1-car Garage parking, Paid water & trash & gardener, Rent \$2,400.00, Deposit 2500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=775184

Marina Del Rey 3 BED-ROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS UNIT WITH OVER 1642 SQFT OF LIVING SPACE! 2-car Covered parking, Rent \$5,600.00 to AND UP, Available 112715. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1028786

Santa Monica UPDATED 2 BEDROOM W. GREAT LOCATION!! 2-car Carport parking, Rent \$3,350.00, Deposit 4500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1209864

Santa Monica ONE BEDROOM ONE BATH FURNISHED CITY VIEW 1-car Valet parking, Paid water & trash, Rent \$6,500.00, Deposit 13000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1101744

Santa Monica NORTH OF WILSHIRE END-UNIT TOWNHOME IN SANTA MONICA! 2-car Private Garage, Paid trash & gardener & association fees, Rent \$5,200.00, Deposit 10800, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1217422

West LA TOP FLOOR REAR UNIT COMPLETELY REMODELED. Parking included, Paid water & trash, Rent \$2,995.00, Deposit 2995, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1231887

Brentwood 3 BEDROOM CONDO FOR LEASE IN BRENTWOOD 2-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash, Rent \$5,250.00, Deposit 5250, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1083817

Brentwood BEL AIR FRENCH COUNTRY COTTAGE W CANYON VIEWS 3-car Garage parking, Paid gardener, Rent \$6,500.00, Deposit 6500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=965858

Santa Monica SUNNY 2BD HOME IN SANTA MONICA! WD & SS APPLIANCES INCLUDED! PET FRIENDLY! 2-car Parking included, Rent \$4,995.00 to and up, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1156068

Marina Del Rey GORGEOUS 1 BED, 1 BATH APARTMENT Parking included, Paid gas, Rent \$2,435.00 to AND UP, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=342460
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this holiday season!*

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*Please bring nonperishable food items to contribute to the largest canned food drive
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