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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 15

Santa Monica Daily Press

MUSHROOMS THAT KILL
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE SORRY OLD FOLKS ISSUE

File photo

NOT CLEARED FOR LANDING: **Some residents of Santa Monica and West L.A. are not pleased with City Hall's visioning process for the future of the Santa Monica Airport, saying that city officials are not looking at all the options, including complete closure of SMO after 2015.**

First look at airport study falls flat

Residents find fault with 'vision,' demand reduction in flights

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Residents attacked city officials at the Airport Commission meeting Monday night for being tone deaf to community desires in their examination of the future of Santa Monica Airport, calling for a closer look at closure and additional public input.

The panned presentation made by senior Public Works staff and a land-use consultant focused on changes at the airport to improve circulation and traffic woes, make the airport business-friendly and cut down on pollution and noise that plague the surrounding community.

What it did not do was focus on the audience's preferred topics: Aggressive curtailment of flight schools and other operations at the airport or outright closure.

That was a problem for residents of West Los Angeles, Mar Vista and Santa Monica who came out Monday night, as well as the commissioners themselves.

The proposal, which mainly tackled non-aviation land issues and some aviation-related mitigation efforts, seemed to preserve the status quo rather than push to reduce operations, said Vice Chair Peter Donald.

"This sets us up for accommodating the airport in the long run," Donald said. "It seems like we're making a decision on how to get along with this airport through hell and high water."

The sentiment was broadly shared by speakers, who demanded that staff look into nuclear options, like shortening the runway so that large planes would not be able to take off or land, kicking out flight schools that constitute a large percentage of the flights from the airport or capping emissions at the airport to protect residents who live immediately adjacent to SMO.

"Public health! Public health! Public health!" trumpeted Martin Rubin, a West L.A. anti-airport activist.

Those more aggressive plans were completely absent from staff's scope of work, and could even attract unwanted legal attention from pro-aviation forces like the

SEE SMO PAGE 9

Emeritus loses winter classes

Elderly will have other options, SMC officials say

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Education proponents cheered last week when Santa Monica College officials made the sudden decision to ride the optimistic wave created by the passage of a statewide school funding measure and bring back much-needed winter classes.

That cry took on a sour note when the winter schedule, which was released Tuesday, showed that the restoration did not include classes at SMC's Emeritus College, a program that offers non-credit courses to the community's elderly.

The regular winter session and that of the Emeritus College are not funded separately, said Randal Lawson, executive vice president with SMC, and when the decision was made to offer a limited winter — only 250 classes compared to 400 offered last year — non-credit courses did not make the cut.

"This is really a very small session, which is basically focused on the priority areas of credit students who need to complete their goals," Lawson said.

That killed the roughly 20 courses offered at Emeritus College last year.

Physical education classes, citizenship courses for those looking to naturalize, performing arts classes and associated productions will also go to make room for bread-and-butter academic fare, like biological sciences, English and math.

"Basically, we're offering nothing in the non-credit area," Lawson said.

That's critical to funding because SMC has exceeded the number of non-credit courses it gets paid to run by the state, meaning it's already offering too much by some standards, Lawson said.

The dead winter period will preserve funding for a normally-sized spring semester of roughly 150 classes at Emeritus College, he said.

It's still bad news for Brenda Koplin, who has been taking creative writing, theater and current events classes at the college since 2004.

SEE CLASSES PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012

Can you afford it?
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd.,
Noon — 2 p.m.
Westside Family Health Center (WFHC) will host a Lunch & Learn on the Affordable Care Act featuring guest speaker Dr. Paul Y. Song. The seminar will present the latest information on healthcare reform and its effects on families, businesses and community health centers. For more information call (310) 450-4773, ext. 253.

Whiskey and leftovers
Upper West
3321 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Come out for a night of Irish whiskey and Thanksgiving leftovers. A five-course tasting dinner awaits. Cost: $60. For more information, call (310) 586-1111.

Within these pages
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
Harrowing yet compulsively readable, David Von Drehle's "Triangle" is both a chronicle of a 1911 fire at an NYC garment factory and a vibrant portrait of an entire age. Discuss the book and the events it covers. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Activist Support Circle
Friends Meeting Hall
1440 Harvard St., 6:30 p.m.
Mike Bonin will be the featured guest speaker. He is a community leader and grassroots activist with a track record of fighting for Westside neighborhoods for nearly two decades. As chief deputy to L.A. City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, Mike has worked since 2005 to promote public safety, relieve traffic congestion, protect the environment, and make government more efficient and accountable to local residents. For more information, call (310) 399-1000.

Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012

Sounds of the season
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.
It's the return of the Lyric Chorus of SMC's Emeritus College. The 20-plus member chorus will put you in a winter mood with their performance of songs of the season and Broadway tunes. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. This is an event of The Living Room, a place for adults program series. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org.

Don't be a prude
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Hugh Dancy and Maggie Gyllenhaal star in this romantic comedy wrapped around the surprising story of the first electromechanical vibrator, invented when the very peak of Victorian prudishness coincided with the dawn of the electrical age. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Don't be a victim of burglary

With residential burglaries on the rise, police want to remind people to be on the lookout for anything suspicious, especially strangers randomly knocking on doors.

The Santa Monica Police Department circulated an e-mail Tuesday warning people about the rise in "door-knock" or "solicitor" burglary, which is occurring in many neighborhoods. In these crimes, the burglars are posing as service people or salespeople. They are canvassing an area by knocking on doors, looking for unoccupied homes.

When there is no reply to their knock, they check the perimeter of the home or apartment for unsecured doors or windows which are out of sight from the street. They are entering through unlocked doors and windows, and are also forcing their way in.

Prevent becoming a victim by following these tips provided by the SMPD:

• Let people think you are home by leaving lights on.

• Lock all your doors and windows when you leave (even if for only a few minutes).

• Every layer of security helps; deterrents like dogs, alarms and neighborhood watch signs are recommended.

• Be aware; alert neighbors are responsible for the majority of arrests made in residential burglaries.

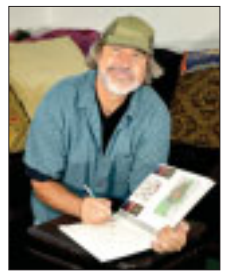
• If you see a crime in progress, or anything that appears to be suspicious in your neighborhood, call the SMPD immediately using 911 for emergencies and crimes in progress, and (310) 458-8491 for non-emergencies.

– DAILY PRESS

ANNENBERG BEACH HOUSE

New writer in the house

Author Charles Hood has been selected as the fourth writer-in-residence at the Annenberg Community Beach House, city officials said last week.



HOOD

Hood will work through February on a series of fictional biographies, currently titled "Back Stories," based around the "orphaned portraits" of painter Don Bachardy, a longtime Santa Monica resident who was the life partner of author Christopher Isherwood.

Among the portraits Bachardy made of the known and beautiful, including Tom Ford, Ginger Rogers and Henry Fonda, he also painted sitters whose identities are now lost.

Hood's goal is to weave a fictional history for these faces, welcoming them back to the common narrative, city officials said.

An L.A. native, Hood has been a dishwasher, a factory worker, a ski instructor and a nature guide in Africa. He attended Glendale College, Cal State Northridge, U.C. Irvine and the University of Utah. He also did Fulbright work in New Guinea, translating tribal poetry.

Hood's tenure began Monday.

All are welcome to drop in and say hello. His office hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on most Saturdays beginning Dec. 1. Check out his blog for updates: beachhouse-air.blogspot.com.

– DP

Photo by Jojo Whilden

RECOGNIZED: **(L-R) Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper star in 'Silver Linings Playbook,' which is nominated for 5 Spirit Awards.**

'Moonrise,' 'Silver Linings' lead Spirit Awards noms

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

SM BEACH The oddball romances "Moonrise Kingdom" and "Silver Linings Playbook" picked up five nominations each Tuesday to lead the Spirit Awards honoring independent film.

Both films are competing for the best-picture prize at the Spirit Awards, one of Hollywood's first big announcements on the long road to the Oscars.

Also competing for best picture are the father-daughter tale "Beasts of the Southern Wild"; the black comedy "Bernie"; and the gay drama "Keep the Lights On."

Presented by the cinema group Film Independent, the Spirit Awards will be handed out at an afternoon ceremony along the beach in Santa Monica on Feb. 23, the day before the Oscars. The Spirit Awards show will air that night on IFC.

"Silver Linings Playbook," a comic drama centered on a man just released from a mental hospital and a troubled young widow, earned lead-acting nominations for Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. "Moonrise Kingdom," a first-love story between a precocious boy and girl who run away together, received a supporting-actor nomination for Bruce Willis.

The films each have directing and screenplay slots for "Moonrise Kingdom" filmmaker Wes Anderson, who co-wrote the script with Roman Coppola, and "Silver Linings Playbook" filmmaker David O. Russell. "Moonrise Kingdom" also was nominated for cinematography.

Matthew McConaughey received two nominations, for best actor in "Killer Joe" and supporting actor in "Magic Mike." Past Academy Award winner Helen Hunt has a supporting-actress nomination for "The Sessions." Child star Quvenzhane Wallis, who had never acted before, has a best-actress nomination for "Beasts of the Southern Wild."

Among other acting nominees are Jack Black (best actor for "Bernie"); John Hawkes (best actor for "The Sessions"); Rosemarie DeWitt (supporting actress for "Your Sister's Sister"); Michael Pena (supporting actor for "End of Watch"); Sam Rockwell (supporting actor for "Seven Psychopaths"); and Mary Elizabeth Winstead (best actress

SEE **AWARDS** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Be thankful

Editor:

Will the Christians never stop whining about the loss of their illegal nativity displays? They operated them for 57 years on public property, which was and is a violation of our constitutional separation of church and state. But do they express gratitude to the city of Santa Monica and their residents for allowing these proselytizing Christian displays? Oh no, not at all. They whine and wail at the City Council, accusing them of being "wimps," "anti-Christian," "scrooges" and more.

Never once have I read a letter of gratitude. Instead they sue Santa Monica, and we the taxpayers have to pay for the City Council's legal fees to defend against this lawsuit. Their lawyer is working pro bono, and all the churches suing the city pay no taxes.

They have beautiful lawns to display their myths, yet they rant and rail because finally their religious proselytizing will no longer be allowed on public property.

I am waiting for them to express true Christianity, like turning the other cheek, professing love and support and equality for all. It appears they cannot. They just rant and rail and whine and demand the right to spread their religious beliefs everywhere, and slam everyone, especially atheists, that do not agree with them.

I am heartily glad they will not be allowed to display their crusading religion on public property. I just wish they would stop crusading. Stop the lawsuit. Thank the city, and spread love.

I'm sick of hypocritical, crusading and proselytizing Christians

Kathryn Kosmeya-Dodge
Santa Monica

Just say no

Editor:

Dear City Council,

All the development in the last couple of years in Santa Monica is killing us in Sunset Park. In the afternoon our streets are literally paralyzed with traffic.

I strongly oppose the development agreement for 3402 Pico Blvd. The traffic on Pico is choked in the afternoon. This property is one block from Trader Joe's, which already generates a huge amount of traffic at an intersection which is poorly designed to accommodate the current amount of traffic. Adding this oversized development will only make a bad situation worse. The consequence is drivers seek out other routes to get around the gridlock and that means coming through our neighborhood streets.

Please do not approve this project.

Cathy Larson
Santa Monica

Master builder blues

Editor:

Dear City Council,

To think that you could approve the behemoth East Village Project as currently proposed is heartbreaking to me. I beseech you to do all that you can to approve a scaled-down version. To do otherwise is grievously cynical.

This is forever. The proposal as it stands reminds me of Robert Moses' projects in the 1960s. History does not look well upon him. Please help to maintain the livability of Santa Monica and its character. Please vote for a smaller version of this project.

Tanna Moontaro
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

Santa Monica Daily Press

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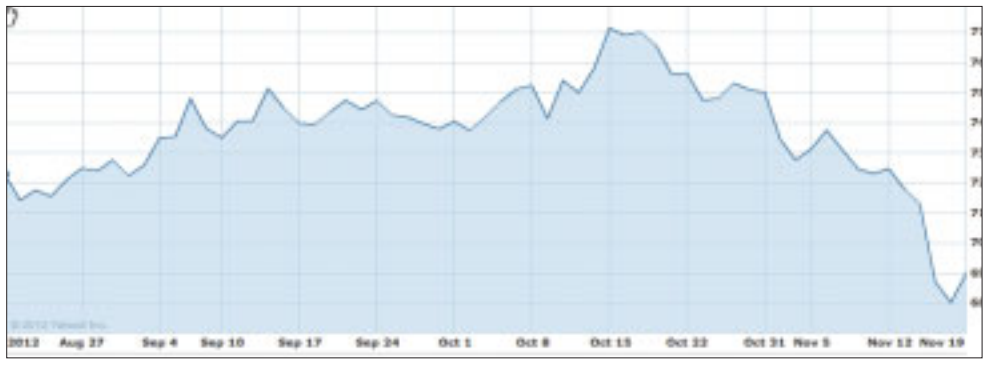
• **editor@smdp.com**

After the Bell

Merv Hecht — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**



A GOOD BUY OR GOOD-BYE?

A skillet isn't just for cooking

HERE ARE A FEW OBSERVATIONS. BY THE time you read this, of course, it will be completely out of date:

1. Apple stock seems to have hit bottom, at around 520, and now seems on the way back up. A friend of mine that follows it closely says it should be back to the mid 600s by mid-January. I believe it, but of course it depends on holiday sales. Even though it has come up 7 percent in just one day, to 565, I still consider it a "buy." We have a new iPad Mini and we love it.

2. Wal-Mart stock is starting to look pretty good. It seems to be going up every year, and as it fixes its website it seems to be a better competitor for Amazon. And, as I see it, Internet shopping with quick delivery is where it's at now. The new smart phone feature, to help you find stuff in the stores, seems like a good idea. With a 2.3 percent dividend and a 14 PE, at anything under $70 it seems like a good buy. Check out the graph above to see how it's looked over the last few months.

3. A friend sent me a detailed report on the world economy, and especially on problems with debt structure around the world. A lot of the article talked about Japan, which it selected as the country that is in the most financial trouble of all — even more than Greece and Portugal and the EU in general. Germany was not spared. The article was so scary it's enough to make you want to go short on all of the country ETFs. But the bottom line for my friend was that he shorted the Japanese yen.

Shorting the currency of a major economic power, even if it is in trouble, takes internal fortitude. I never do it. I think of it as the weather forecasters: do you notice that they cannot always get the weather forecasts right because there are so many variables. A little breeze comes in from here or there and the forecast proves to be wrong. And so it is with currencies. There are so many variables it seems to me to be hard to forecast. Standard economic factors are only some of the variables.

If I were going to short any country, it would be France. Under the current leadership this has to be a country about to fail. But with the currency tied to the Euro one can't short the currency. How do you short a country?

4. I read a lot of reports from economic and investment advisors. One recently wrote that it makes no sense to invest in bonds right now, when good quality stocks at low PE ratios are paying dividends that are higher than bank interest or safe bonds. I tend to agree. In this period of really low interest rates, the usual reason to invest in bonds — safety — no longer applies. It's never safe to invest in something that returns less than the expected rate of inflation. That's investing in a guaranteed loss.

5. By the time you read this Green Mountain Coffee should have reported third quarter earnings. Just before the report I note that the stock has moved up. Do some in the investment community know something the public doesn't know? In any event I expect the earnings to be pretty good, and to get even better during the holiday season. This is the kind of stock I like for naked put writing. Taking in premiums anywhere around a $20 strike price seems almost like a gift.

6. And, finally, have you ever heard of the "skillet?" Probably not. It's an invention by my friend Harvey, who writes the complex computer research tools for my website DoubleYourYield.com. Since he started working on my website he became interested in options, and now has made an average of $6,000 a month over the past six months with very little investment (but a stock portfolio to support margin requirements). I don't recommend what he does, because it's a strategy that requires you to watch it every day, and I never like those. And I never invest in a way that doesn't have a guaranteed limit, by hedging, on the potential loss.

Nevertheless, the skillet is an interesting investment strategy. Harvey buys a put and a call, or several of each, at the current market price. That gives him a profit if there is enough movement in either direction over the following 30 days. At the same time he sells a large number of puts below the current price, and a large number of calls above the current price. He titrates the sales so that the proceeds from the sales exceed the cost of the straddle by $1,000.

That means that if there is no significant movement in the stock price over the 30-day period he makes a $1,000 profit. But usually there is movement. And if there is enough movement the profit goes way up. Unless it's too much movement, beyond the strike prices of the puts and calls. Then there is a very large loss potential. So he watches it closely every day, and if the stock moves anywhere close to the potential loss points, he closes it out and takes his profit.

It's a terrific strategy for the right kind of investor. If you graph it out, which some of the tools on the website do, it looks like an upside-down skillet, with a flat surface in the middle and steep drops on the ends (the losses). It seems like a great strategy for someone confined to his home who can watch the market every day. But that would be a big detriment to my golf game, which is already suffering!

For information about MERV HECHT and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra,
Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth,
Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz,
Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht,
Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan,
JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

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

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Nathalyd Meza

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

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

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can legislators handle the truth?

IN THE STIRRING COURTROOM SCENE from "A Few Good Men," Jack Nicholson's character responds to a pointed question with, "You can't handle the truth!"

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has just released its annual Legislative Report Card and now we are going to find out if our elected representatives can handle the truth. Seventy-nine out of 120 members of the Legislature received grades of "F" for failing to use their votes to defend the interests of California taxpayers.

The Report Card ignores what most "Sacramento insiders" find important: Special interest legislation promoted by well-paid lobbyists. HJTA doesn't care about political party affiliation, campaign war chests, or how long a member has served in the Legislature. We do care about the interests of taxpayers, and so, ask a very fundamental question: Did legislators protect homeowners, allow hard working Californians to keep more money in their wallets, and protect their right to engage in their democracy through the initiative process? These are the truths that matter.

For the first time in a number of years, legitimate two-thirds vote tax hikes were taken up by both houses of the Legislature. These included: AB 1500, a tax hike on business; AB 1492, which placed a 1 percent sales tax hike on the purchase of lumber products at Home Depot and Lowe's; and SB 1455, a bill that increased a number of different vehicle taxes. While only one passed the Legislature and was signed into law, the bills received dozens of votes. In response, we deducted 15 points for each favorable tax vote, guaranteeing an F vote if a legislator voted for all three. Taken cumulatively, the taxes would have resulted in a $3.4 billion hit to businesses and homeowners, not insignificant when residents, already pressured by high taxes, are continuing to flee the tarnished Golden State in droves each year.

Another major factor in determining the final score for members of the Assembly was Assembly Constitutional Amendment 18, a bill that undermined Proposition 13 by establishing a majority vote — instead of the current two-thirds — for property parcel taxes approved at the local level. It is extremely rare that Constitutional Amendments attacking Proposition 13 get full votes on the Assembly floor because legislators realize how popular Proposition 13 is. ACA 18 only received 43 votes, 11 short of the amount needed for approval.

In 2012 a record 79 lawmakers flunked, despite the fact that, as has been our practice, we have given half-credit for all vote abstentions on bills. We recognize that legislators are constantly buffeted by special interests and their own leadership, and we want to ensure that those who don't vote for bills that increase the burden on taxpayers are rewarded accordingly.

Twenty carefully selected legislative bills were used to judge whether a legislator was a friend or foe to citizen taxpayers. Scores were generally negative across the board. Even though up to a third of HJTA members are democrats, those legislators with a "D" behind their name mostly scored low. Regrettably, independent Nathan Fletcher and Republican Cameron Smyth also received failing grades. But Republicans had a few stars. Twenty five received "A" grades this year, with nine receiving perfect scores. These are:

- **STATE SEN. JOEL ANDERSON**
- **ASSEMBLYMAN TIM DONNELLY**

(SECOND CONSECUTIVE PERFECT SCORE)

- **ASSEMBLYWOMAN BETH GAINES**
- **STATE SEN. TED GAINES**
- **ASSEMBLYMAN MARTIN GARRICK**
- **ASSEMBLYWOMAN SHANNON GROVE**

(SECOND CONSECUTIVE PERFECT SCORE)

- **STATE SENATE-ELECT, STEVE KNIGHT**
- **ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE MORRELL**

(SECOND CONSECUTIVE PERFECT SCORE)

- **STATE SEN. MIMI WALTERS**

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley and State Sen. Fran Pavley, who represent Santa Monica in Sacramento, both received failing grades.

The coming year promises many challenges. Democrats have gained a two-thirds vote in both legislative houses, making it much easier to raise taxes if they choose to do so. However, we remain encouraged by how difficult it is to get taxes through the legislature and, on a bipartisan basis, support for Proposition 13 remains strong. And that is a truth we all can handle.

To see HJTA's 2012 Report Card, go to www.hjta.org/legislative/report-cards/

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Showing support

A federal judge's ruling has confirmed City Hall's ban on the Palisades Park unattended nativity scenes. That hasn't stopped a group of churches from planning an alternative display that will be done in two-hour shifts with live participants.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you support these new, alternative scenes or do you think that kind of display should be kept from a public forum?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.

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Gov. opposes pay raise for UC Berkeley leader

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Gov. Jerry Brown and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom voted Tuesday against giving the new chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley a $50,000 pay raise over what his predecessor earns, saying salary increases for public officials are inappropriate given the state's bleak financial condition.

The two politicians said during a meeting of the University of California's governing board that they fully supported the selection of Columbia University Dean Nicholas Dirks as Berkeley's 10th chancellor, and they joined the rest of the board in approving his appointment.

But both said they could not endorse his $486,800 base salary even though the bump in pay is expected to be covered through private donations. It passed without their backing with an 11-3 vote.

"I believe a $50,000 increase from the incumbent — even though the incumbent did not get a pay increase for several years — does not fit within the spirit of servant leadership that I think will be required over the next several years," Brown said. "We can all agree this issue is much bigger than anyone's salary, but I want to put my marker down."

The governor added that he made a commitment to voters who approved Proposition 30, which raises the statewide sales tax and boosts income taxes on the wealthy, that he would spend the state's money wisely. The University of California as a whole needs to be restructured as part of that process, he said.

Dirks, Columbia's executive vice president and dean of the faculty for arts and sciences, is set to replace outgoing Berkeley chancellor Robert Birgeneau on June 1. Birgeneau's base salary is $436,800.

One other regent, Charlene Zettel, an appointee of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, joined Brown and Newsom in voting for the appointment of Dirks but against his compensation package, which also includes an annual car allowance of $8,916 and a house on the Berkeley campus.

Several of the 11 regents who endorsed Dirks' salary noted that the pay raise would be funded by private donations to UC Berkeley's foundation, and that even with the $50,000 increase, Dirks would be making less than his counterparts at most other major public universities.

"On this particular compensation, I would just point out that we are dealing with the No. 1 public university in the world," Regent George Kieffer said. "The compensation for this chancellor is below that of all the major universities in the country it competes with and many of the universities it does not compete with."

Meeting by teleconference, the regents also approved the appointment of Jane Close Conoley, dean of the UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, as acting chancellor of UC Riverside.

Board members, including Brown and Newsom, unanimously approved paying Conoley $245,600.

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Addiction counselor charged with murder in DUI

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. A substance abuse counselor was charged with murder and drunken-driving Tuesday after authorities said she struck a pedestrian and drove for more than two miles with the dying victim embedded in the windshield of her car.

Sherri Wilkins, 51, was also charged with gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident, the district attorney's office said in a statement.

The victim, 31-year-old Phillip Moreno, was struck late Saturday while crossing a street. Witnesses surrounded the car about two miles later and detained Wilkins. Moreno died at a hospital.

Wilkins later told police she panicked after the accident and kept driving.

Wilkins is being held on $2.25 million bail. She was expected to be arraigned later Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court in suburban Torrance.

If convicted, she could face life in prison.

Wilkins is a former addict who seemingly had turned her life around and was a respected drug and alcohol counselor, said her boss David Lisonbee.

Despite her spotty background, including a previous hit-and-run arrest, Wilkins always earned high marks with her patients and didn't show any signs of a relapse at work, said Lisonbee, CEO of Twin Tower Treatment.

Describing the new grandmother as "an incredibly sweet person," he said it wasn't unusual for drug and alcohol counselors to have addiction in their own past, as well as trouble with the law. Those circumstances help them connect with patients, he said.

"This absolutely came out of the blue. If I were to rank someone for risk of relapse, she would be pretty low on the list," he said.

Lisonbee said he didn't know what Wilkins had been addicted to.

Wilkins's previous hit-and-run arrest in Torrance came on May 30, 2010. Charges were not pursued because she had no alcohol in her system and was not found to be under the influence of other substances, according to Assistant City Attorney Patrick Sullivan.

An agreement was reached between Wilkins and owners of the other vehicles, and the hit-and-run case was dismissed, he said.

In 1994, she was convicted with a co-defendant on one count of burglary and sentenced to nine years in prison.

4th person dies of mushroom poisoning

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOOMIS, Calif. A fourth person has died from eating a soup made with poisonous mushrooms earlier this month at senior care facility in Northern California, authorities said Tuesday.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department said it had been notified by a mortuary of the death, but did not yet know the identity of the victim.

Three others at the six-bed Gold Age Villa care facility in Loomis died from eating the mushrooms in what sheriff's investigators have previously characterized as an accident.

All of the victims were sickened on Nov. 8, including the caretaker who made it.

The other people who have died were identified as 86-year-old Barbara Lopes; 73-year-old Teresa Olesniewicz and 90-year-old Frank Warren Blodgett.

California's Department of Social Services is investigating the incident, though sheriff's investigators have said the caretaker who made the soup did not know that the mushrooms were poisonous.

Mushroom poisoning can often lead to liver failure.

Fall begins the season for highly sought-after wild chanterelle mushrooms in Northern California, and for the amanita species of mushroom that include what are known as "death cap" and "death angel" varieties.

Mushroom experts said that young poisonous North American amanitas found in the San Francisco Bay Area can often look like an edible version of a wild mushroom popular in Asia.

California recorded 1,700 cases of mushroom-related illnesses from 2009 to 2010, including two deaths.

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CLASSES
FROM PAGE 1

"This will definitely be an impact," Koplin said. "I don't know where we could possibly find similar classes."

Marsha Stout, another Emeritus College student, said that she understands the financial constraints facing SMC, but laments the loss of a "world class program" in the winter months.

"If the money isn't there, that's the way it is," Stout said.

Exactly how much money it takes to run the program is up in the air.

SMC will be paying to keep the buildings open and staff employed, meaning the only money saved will be on instructional costs. Angry students claim it's only $160,000, and that they give that much in annual donations.

"They have no hesitancy asking us for donations, for support for bond issues, for voter approval on Proposition 30. They have no hesitation in asking Emeritus College to support them, and yet we don't get support in return," said Harriet Epstein, a student at Emeritus.

Emeritus students raise roughly $100,000 a year, all of which goes to operational costs, Lawson said.

The trick with Proposition 30, a ballot measure that raised income taxes on California's wealthiest and sales tax on residents across the board, is that it does not give schools new money, it just prevented cuts.

To shoulder the cost of the winter session, SMC will spend $1.5 million it had not budgeted for the purpose. The Associated Students, the student organizing body on campus, pitched in $200,000 out of its reserves to help with the effort, and there will still be only 60 percent of the classes offered last year, Lawson said.

The money in question is a small amount next to the cost on students, Epstein said, who rely on exercise and educational classes to power their bodies and minds.

According to a paper published in the Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services entitled "Exploring Interventions to Reduce Cognitive Decline in Aging," authors Kristine Williams and Susan Kemper establish that both mental and physical engagement play roles in supporting elderly people.

Education helps the memory and physical activity increases blood flow to the brain, which keeps the organ healthy, according to the paper.

Although Emeritus classes will not be offered, officials at SMC have lined up other activities for the students, including music recitals, visits to local museums, guest lectures by retired professors and iPad and Kindle workshops, amongst others.

Those options had been lined up before the decision was made to cut the winter session.

The college is also exploring the possibility of using classrooms in the Emeritus College for Santa Monica's Parks and Recreation Department, which would use them to offer its own fee-based class, according to a memo released by college officials.

Those who rely on the college hope it will be enough to engage the 3,400 students that take advantage of its services throughout the year.

"As we've been saying, there will be a lot of seniors loose on the streets," Koplin said.

ashley@smdp.com

SMO
FROM PAGE 1

Federal Aviation Administration, which has prevailed in several court battles with Santa Monica over operations at SMO, city officials suggested.

"Are you deaf because the airport noise is making you deaf?" asked Cathy Larson, a Sunset Park resident.

The trouble boils down to a now-familiar point of contention between the two sides that Public Works Director Martin Pastucha summed up in a sentence.

"Staff does not work for the commission," Pastucha said. "The commission is advisory to the council."

And if the City Council does not direct city staff to look into specific issues and come up with a course of action, staff will not "take it upon ourselves" to do so, Pastucha said.

That puts residents and the commission into what some perceive as a catch-22. The commission relies on staff to present its recommendations to the City Council, who then votes and directs staff to follow a specific course of inquiry.

If those thoughts don't end up in a staff report, there's little opportunity for the City Council to vote on them.

Chair David Goddard asserted that the commission's recommendations never make it to the City Council, and that the main areas identified in the most recent phase of the visioning process are the brainchildren of the pilot, pro-SMO community.

"I think we have a little bit of a disagreement on who makes the policy," Goddard said.

As for the pilot community, it remains committed to making SMO the "safest, cleanest and most environmentally-friendly in the nation," said Robby Rowbotham, president of Friends of Santa Monica Airport, or FOSMO.

"FOSMO has long said that SMO can be a better, safer, quieter airport, and we have made various suggestions as to how this can be achieved," Rowbotham said.

Residents also signaled a general distaste for the remainder of the visioning process, which has been an ongoing saga since it began in 2010.

Community members have complained since the beginning that staff had not looked at closure and that consultants over-estimated the value of the airport, which has traditionally had to borrow money from the General Fund to pay its bills.

Communication and the belief that staff's recommendations and conclusions align with public sentiment have also been lacking.

The third phase was no different.

David Chow, a director with consultant IBI Group, focused his presentation on improving ways to get in and out of the airport, and make it both more community and environmentally friendly.

One point he stressed was the ability to set up a small business incubator site on the property, possibly one focused on environmental technologies.

A fleshed-out version and other ideas will come back before the Airport Commission in February before going to the City Council in March 2013.

That timeline is too short, residents said, and means the City Council will only hear fully-formed ideas from the consultants rather than allowing the consultant to explore ways to realize community-driven concepts.

"I think we need to have another workshop meeting that's a real workshop where we see information from the consultants," said Armen Melkonians, a civil and environmental engineer.

Staff also documented ongoing actions to make SMO a "better neighbor," including efforts to enhance walls that shield nearby homes, pursue alternatives to leaded aviation fuels and replace ground power units that could cut down on jet emissions by reducing their idling time.

Educational efforts like seminars, collaboration on lead emission studies and a comparison of operations at SMO and 43 other general aviation airports have also been undertaken, said Susan Cline, assistant director of Public Works.

City officials even sent interns out into the field to manually count planes in order to get more information on operations beyond what control towers collect.

Ways to reduce flight traffic, like a plan to send flights to nearby general aviation airports, have already been killed in the court of public opinion.

ashley@smdp.com

AWARDS
FROM PAGE 3

for "Smashed").

Joining Anderson and Russell in the directing category are Julia Loktev for "The Loneliest Planet," Ira Sachs for "Keep the Lights On" and Benh Zeitlin for "Beasts of the Southern Wild," which won the top prize at last January's Sundance Film Festival.

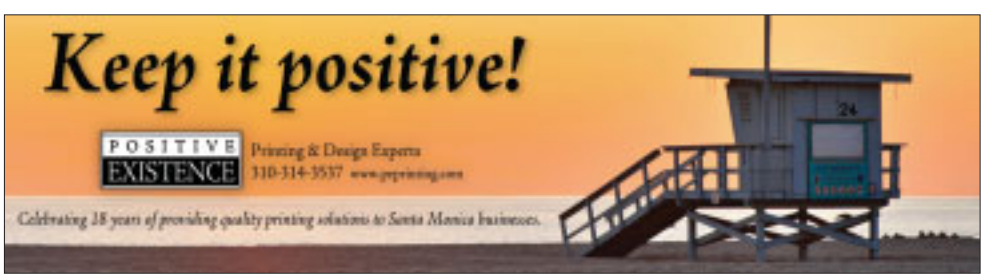
Though the Spirit Awards honor lower-budgeted film outside the Hollywood mainstream, the nominations often overlap heavily with Oscar contenders. Last season's big Oscar winner, "The Artist," also won the top prize at the Spirit Awards, while films such as "The Descendants," "Beginners" and "My Week with Marilyn" had wins or nominations at both shows.

The overlap may be lighter this season, with big-budget studio films such as "Les Miserables," "Lincoln" and "Argo" shaping as early favorites to dominate the Oscars, whose nominations come out Jan. 10.

But "Silver Linings Playbook," "Moonrise Kingdom," "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "The Sessions" and other smaller films have solid prospects in some Oscar categories.

Nominees are chosen by panels of film professionals, which gauge contenders on such criteria as uniqueness of vision; original, provocative subject matter; how economically they were produced; and percentage of financing from independent, non-Hollywood sources. Eligible films typically range from tiny-budgeted movies shot for $500,000 or less to productions that cost as much as $20 million.

Members of Film Independent, who include filmmakers and movie fans, are eligible to vote on the winners.



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Rice concession on Libya fails to mollify 3 in GOP

BY DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice told lawmakers Tuesday that her initial explanation of the deadly Sept. 11 raid in Libya was wrong, but her concession failed to mollify three Republican senators who signaled they would oppose her possible nomination to be secretary of state.

In a closed-door meeting that Rice requested, the ambassador answered questions from Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Kelly Ayotte about her much-maligned explanations about the cause of the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. She was joined by acting CIA Director Michael Morell.

"The talking points provided by the intelligence community, and the initial assessment upon which they were based, were incorrect in a key respect: There was no protest or demonstration in Benghazi," Rice said in a statement after the meeting. "While we certainly wish that we had had perfect information just days after the terrorist attack, as is often the case the intelligence assessment has evolved."

Rice's unusual visit to Capitol Hill — typically only nominees meet privately with lawmakers — reflects the Obama administration's campaign for the current front-runner to replace Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton against some strenuous GOP opposition.

"We are significantly troubled by many of the answers that we got and some that we didn't get concerning evidence that was leading up to the attack on the consulate," McCain told reporters after emerging from the hour-plus session that he described as candid.

Said Graham: "Bottom line I'm more disturbed now than I was before that 16 September explanation." He said in a later interview that Rice went "far beyond the flawed talking points" and should be held accountable.

"I'm more troubled today," said Ayotte, who argued that it was clear in the days after the attack that it was terrorism and not a spontaneous demonstration prompted by an anti-Muslim video.

The White House remained defiant in its support for Rice, arguing that she was relying on an assessment from the intelligence community and had no responsibility in compiling the information on the cause of the attack. It dismissed what it characterized as a fixation on her national television appearances five days after the raid.

"The focus on, some might say, obsession on comments made on Sunday shows seems to me and to many, to be misplaced," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters at a White House briefing.

House Democrats, including female members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have suggested that the GOP opposition to Rice is sexist and racist. Senate Democrats, who will increase their advantage to 55-45 in the next Congress, said Rice could win confirmation if Republicans recognize the unfairness of penalizing her for the intelligence community's talking points.

"It is so unfair to hold her responsible for something that she didn't produce and which the intelligence community has specifically stood by," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., who met separately with Rice and Morell, said the ambassador told him that she based her Sunday show appearance on material from the intelligence community and the White House neither provided briefings nor additional talking points.

A recurring issue is whether changes were made to the intelligence material at the request of the White House or for political reasons. Lieberman said Morell told him that was not the case.

"The acting director of the CIA said

SEE **RICE** PAGE 11

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RICE
FROM PAGE 10

whatever changes were made in the original talking points before they were given in unclassified form to the House Intelligence Committee and to Ambassador Rice were made within the intelligence community," Lieberman said.

Despite lingering questions over her public comments after the Benghazi attack, Rice has emerged as the top candidate on a short list of possible successors to Clinton, with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., seen as her closest alternative.

The strong statements from the three senators clouded Rice's prospects only two days after Republican opposition seem to be softening. Rice planned meetings on Wednesday with Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who is in line to become the top Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Corker said Tuesday that he had concerns with a possible nomination.

"When I hear Susan talk she seems to me like she'd be a great chairman of the Democratic National Committee," Corker said. "There is nobody who is more staff supportive of what the administration does. That concerns me in a secretary of state."

A senior Senate aide said the administration was sounding out moderate members of the Foreign Relations Committee, such as Corker and Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga. Assessing the prospects for Rice before Obama makes any announcement would avoid the embarrassment of a protracted fight with the Senate early in the president's second term and the possible failure of the nominee.

On talk shows the weekend following the attack, which took place on the 11th anniversary of 9/11, Rice was given talking points that described the attack as a spontaneous protest of the film, even though the Obama administration had known for days that it was a militant assault.

Republicans called her nomination doomed, leading to a vigorous defense of her by Obama in his first postelection news conference. Since then, GOP lawmakers have appeared to soften their views. McCain, who said earlier this month that would he do everything in his power to scuttle a Rice nomination, had said Sunday that he was willing to hear Rice out before making a decision.

Rice, who at 48 is relatively young, has been known to covet the job for years, but was passed over for Clinton in 2009.

Several diplomats currently serving with Rice said that what she lacked in Clinton's star power, she could make up with a blunter approach that demands attention and has marked her tenure thus far at the United Nations.

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minor NW swell traces; New West swell starts to rise up in the afternoon with 2-3'+ surf late

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
New shorter-period West swell builds further and peaks during the day; Larger sets in the far western part of the county to 5'+; winds/weather looking a little dicey

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Reinforcing West-WNW groundswell builds in over top of shorter-period West swell; Larger sets for standout spots in far western part of county late

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
West-WNW swell holds early, then fades; Larger sets possible for standout spots in far western part of county; keeping an eye on the winds/weather

Tides

Tide swings are fairly extreme this week. Deep morning high tides of 5.7'+ will slow the more tide sensitive breaks down before draining out to negative afternoon low tides. Keep it in mind when planning when/where to surf.

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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **November 19, 2012**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 3
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 24
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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LOCATION	DRY	WET
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Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (bmach location)- daily.	A	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
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+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
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 CBAW jetty).	B	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

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

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

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

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

NHL

US federal mediators to join NHL labor talks

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Federal mediators are entering the stalled NHL labor talks, with the season's first 2 1/2 months already lost because of the lockout.

George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said Monday the parties had agreed to use the agency. He assigned three mediators to assist negotiations — deputy director Scot Beckenbaugh, director of mediation services John Sweeney and Commissioner Guy Serota — who was removed later in the day because of a Twitter account that may have been tampered with.

The sides are to meet separately with the mediators Wednesday.

"While we have no particular level of expectation going into this process, we welcome a new approach in trying to reach a resolution of the ongoing labor dispute at the earliest possible date," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said.

Cohen has worked with the players' associations for Major League Baseball, helping end the 1994-95 strike as an outside counsel, and the NBA. He was an adviser to the NHL players' union before joining FMCS three years ago.

"We look forward to their involvement as we continue working to reach an equitable agreement for both the players and the owners," said Donald Fehr, executive director of the NHL Players' Association.

Cohen mediated during the 2010 negotiations in Major League Soccer and 2011 talks in the NFL and NBA, along with this year's dispute between the NFL and its on-field officials.

Cohen said Serota was removed because "within one hour after I issued a press release ... it has been called to my attention that there are issues involving an allegedly hacked Twitter account associated with Commissioner Guy Serota." He said Serota was removed "to immediately dispel any cloud on the mediation process, and without regard to the merits of the allegations."

Hockey players and management have not negotiated since last Wednesday. The NHL has canceled more than one-third of its regular season, including all games through Dec. 14, the New Year's Day outdoor Winter Classic and the All-Star weekend scheduled for Jan. 26-27 at Columbus, Ohio.

"I have had separate, informal discussions with the key representatives of the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players' Association during the course of their negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement," Cohen said in a statement.

"Due to the extreme sensitivity of these negotiations and consistent with the FMCS's longstanding practice, the agency will refrain from any public comment concerning the future schedule and/or the status of the negotiations until further notice."

Beckenbaugh was a mediator during the 2004-05 lockout, a stoppage that caused cancellation of the entire season.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Kon-Tiki (NR) 1hr 52min
7:30pm
Discussion following with co-directors Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg.

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm

Life of Pi (PG) 2hrs 06min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
7:00pm

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
4:30pm

Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:30pm, 10:00pm

Wreck-It Ralph in 3D (PG) 1hr 48min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
12:30pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:30am, 2:15pm

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 1hr 37min
12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

Metropolitan Opera: The Tempest Encore () 3hrs 10min
6:30pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:20am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Royal Affair (En kongelig affaere) (R) 2hrs 13min
1:30pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 1hr 25min
1:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Holy Motors (NR) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Cloud Atlas (R) 2hrs 44min
4:00pm

Late Quartet (R) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

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

Red Dawn (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:25pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Get some exercise, Cappy

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The unexpected occurs, like it or not. You might feel as if you can't make a situation conform to your expectations -- or anyone else's, for that matter. Stop attempting to handle this issue, and just let it flow naturally. Tonight: Make calls before deciding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If ever there was a time not to make a money commitment, it is today. Use care, even when counting your change. If you feel as though you are fiscally careless in some area, decide to change that pattern -- if not immediately, then in the very near future. Tonight: A lucky turn of events.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening right now; however, know that you might be the linchpin in this case. Tonight: Enjoy the roller-coaster ride.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Full Moons greatly affect you, as your planetary ruler is the Moon. This particular Full Moon is an eclipse, which promises changes in the next few months with a child or a relationship. Tonight: Listen well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Something that you want might fall into your lap in a most secretive manner ... perhaps not today, but in the near future. A friend could complicate your life. It is up to you whether you will make a fuss about it or just let it go. Tonight: Celebrate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Decide to loosen up rather than fight city hall. A boss could be demanding, which might cause a conflict for you with someone who has other plans. At the moment, you are seeing the situation as black and white. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ The unexpected marks a situation. You might be trying to hold on to something that really isn't doable at the moment. Let it go. News from a distance might impress you, or at least make you smile. Tonight: Act on an idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be seeing a lot of back-and-forth in several of your more substantial friendships. Know that there is very little you can do to change this. Remain true to yourself, yet be willing to discuss a financial matter with a key person. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Having to juggle mixed energy, incoming requests and some irrational behavior could throw anyone off. Remain focused on what's most important, and you will weather the storm. Stay on top of these hassles and allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Pace yourself, and you'll accomplish a lot more than you thought possible. Understand that you might need to cut someone off or ignore a situation altogether in order to do this. Tonight: Get some exercise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You see a situation differently from others. You often come up with some far-fetched ideas, and this is yet another example. Your drive and energy help you turn an important idea into reality. Tonight: Spend time with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Stay anchored, know what is happening and make choices accordingly. You could be a little off-kilter because of what someone does. Understand that you do not need to put yourself in the line of fire. Tonight: Happiest at home.

Happy birthday

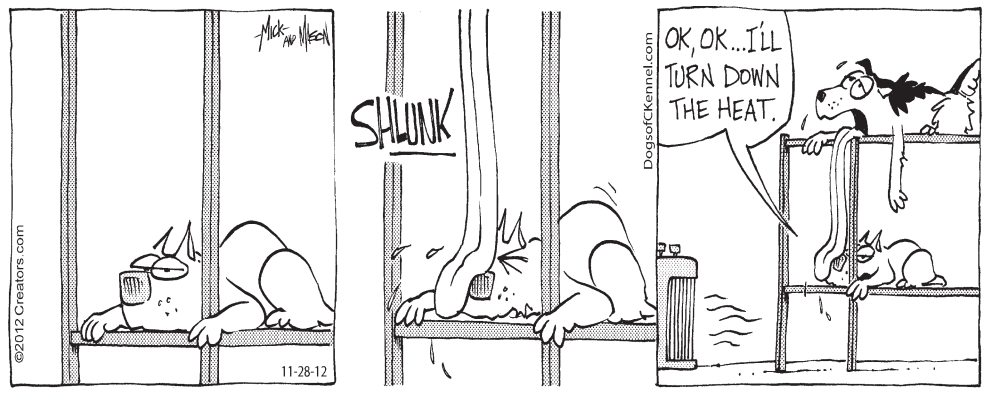
This year you often will switch from one outlook to the next. You even might feel like a human seesaw of sorts. For some of you, a person in your inner circle could try to reflect the opposite opinion of what you choose. Instead of using black-and-white thinking, try to see that both viewpoints could work, and strive to find some middle ground. If you are single, you could meet someone significant to your life history, but you could have difficulty with the differences between you. If you are attached, resist the urge to fight with the one you love. GEMINI can challenge you.

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

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly

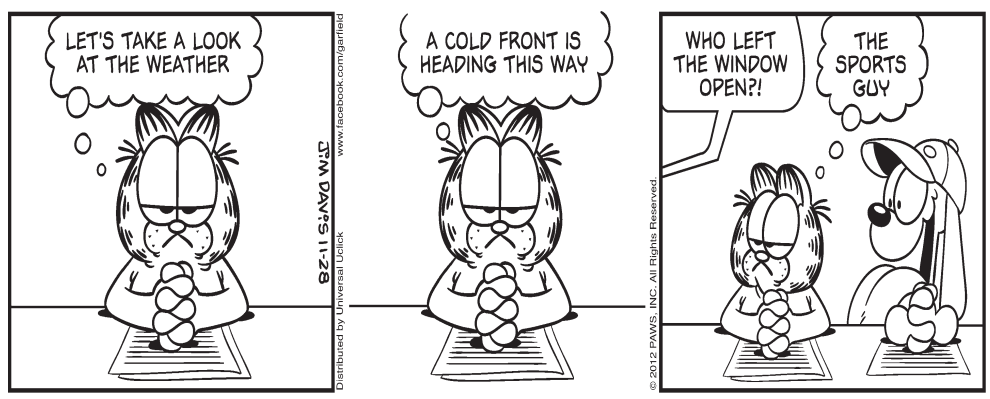
Strange Brew By John Deering

Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni

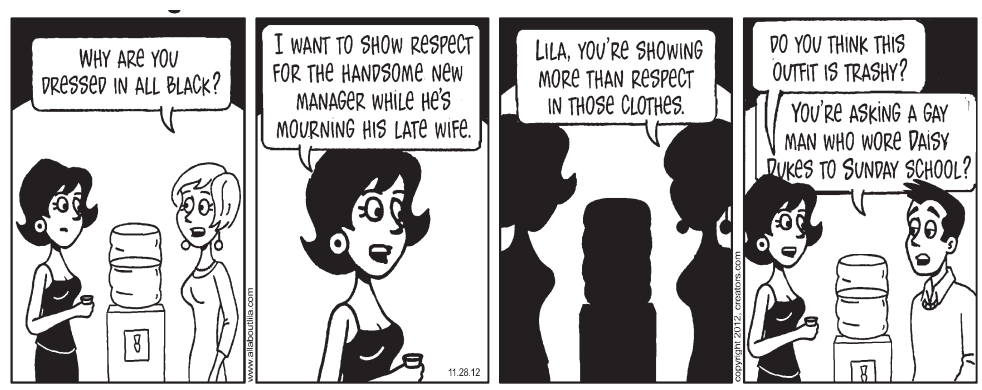


Edge City By Terry & Patty LaBan

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY REVEALED!

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Bob Cockrell correctly identified this photo of the sculpture located in front of UCLA Health System's Barbara Kort Women's Imaging Center on 15th Street at Arizona Avenue. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check Thursday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Terrible
5 Go on a spree
9 Sports venue
11 Cabaret fixture
12 Runway worker
13 Bring together
14 First número
15 Sentence using all 26 letters
17 Championship emblem
19 Two-out actions: Abbr.
20 Change, chemically
21 Fawn's mom
22 New Zealand native
24 Diner dessert
26 Approaches
29 Heir, at times
30 Boat aboard a ship
32 Like radishes
34 Cleveland player, for short
35 "— of Two Cities"
36 Acrobatic
38 Hamper
39 Red Square name
40 Perfect place
41 Vegan's no-no

DOWN
1 Block
2 Laundry worker
3 Made over
4 Hydrocarbon suffix
5 Warble
6 Salon creation
7 Like some books
8 Burns works
10 Llama's cousin
11 Fourth-down play
16 With 28-Down, a Supreme Court justice
18 Newborn's need
21 Gorilla studier Fossey
23 Tourist's car
24 Was sullen
25 Deep-seated
27 Wisconsin city
28 See 16-Down
29 Digging tool
30 Jury member
31 News subject
33 Secluded spot
37 Sparkler

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

Yesterday's answer

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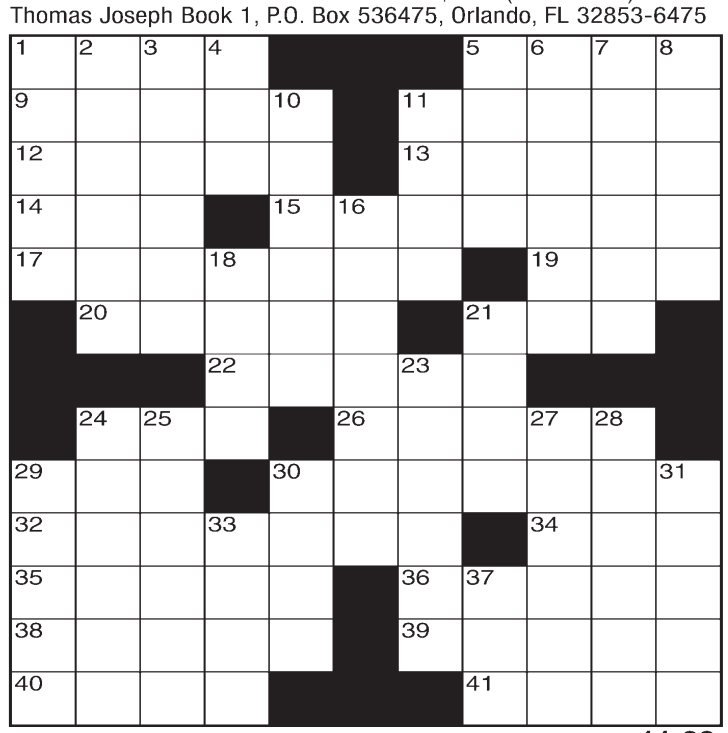

11-28

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Among the federally funded projects highlighted in the "2012 Waste Book" of U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn were a $325,000 grant to develop a "robosquirrel" (to help study the somehow-confusing interaction between squirrels and rattlesnakes) and a $700,000 grant by the National Science Foundation for a New York theater company to create a musical about climate change and biodiversity (which actually opened this year, in Kansas City, and included among its concepts, according to one critic, "flying monkey poop"). Abuses of the food stamp program were also detailed, such as by one exotic dancer who, while earning $85,000, drew food stamps in an amount roughly equivalent to the sum she spent on "cosmetic enhancements."

■ While the Department of Veterans Affairs remains under criticism for inadequate funding for personnel disabled in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, it spent in 2010 more than $5 million on training conferences just to teach bureaucrats how to administer parts of its latest collective-bargaining contract, according to an October report in the Washington Examiner. In fact, reported the Examiner, $34 million in payroll goes to department officials who work mainly on union-related activities.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1979 - Air New Zealand Flight 901, a DC-10 operated sightseeing flight over Antarctica, crashes into Mount Erebus, killing all 257 people on board.

1980 - Iran-Iraq War: Operation Morvarid – Over 70% of Iraqi Navy was destroyed by Iranian Navy in The Persian Gulf. The Iranian Navy's Day.

1981 - Our Lady of Kibeho: Schoolchildren in Kibeho, Rwanda, experience the first of a series of Marian apparitions.

WORD UP!

rime
\ RAHYM \ , noun;
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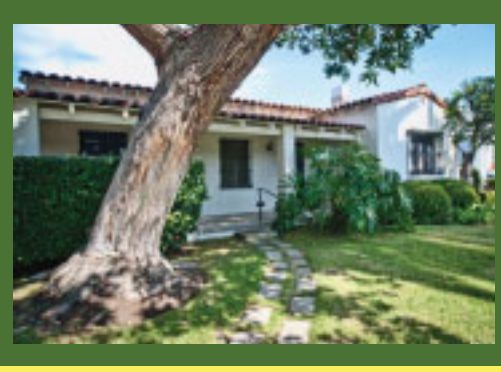

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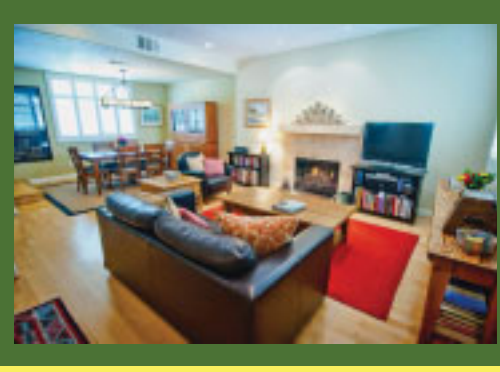

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* Newly Finished Beautiful Hardwood Floors
* Freshly Painted
* Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator & Stove included

1751 Appian Way
For Lease
$6,400 per month

* Prime Beach Location
* Single-Story Floor Plan
* Captivating Ocean Views
* New Construction
* Hampton's Style Appointed with Premium Finishes

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of Late November 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	- 0 -
North of Montana	=	$4,173,313
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,486,625
South of Wilshire	=	$ 921,333
Sunset Park	=	$1,274,560
Ocean Park	=	$1,842,800
Statistics updated every Friday		

Proud Sponsor of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE established 1950

Roosevelt Elementary School

Santa Monica GIRLS FASTPITCH

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

GREAT FUTURES START HERE. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA MONICA

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.