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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 16

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

POT CAN RUIN RELATIONSHIPS
SEE PAGE 4

THE GET READY FOR MORE TRAFFIC, CONSTRUCTION ISSUE



File photo

DONE DEAL: **Residents of the Village Trailer Park staged a hastily organized protest late last year to rail against the demolition of trailers at the park, which they see as the last truly affordable housing in Santa Monica. On Tuesday the City Council gave the park owner approval to redevelop the site.**

Council approves trailer park development

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CITY HALL The City Council voted Tuesday to give final approval to an ordinance allowing a modest trailer park to be replaced with hundreds of high-end condos and apartments, possibly ending a six-year battle over the future of some of this beachfront city's last inexpensive housing.

Or it may not be. The council was also scheduled to meet behind closed doors later Tuesday to discuss the possibility of a lawsuit, which some residents have threatened to bring if the razing of the 1950s-era Village Trailer Park is approved.

"That's a possibility because it's a breach of our Fourth Amendment rights," said 30-year resident Ralph Meyer, citing the constitutional right of people to be secure in their homes.

After months of debate before various municipal agencies, the City Council voted to adopt an ordinance allowing the park, which sits on 3.8 acres, to be replaced with 377 condos and apartments and thousands of square feet of office and retail space.

Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis voted against the development. Councilman Kevin McKeown initially voted against the development, but changed his vote so he could have greater input in future discussions.

One of McKeown's talking points Tuesday night focused on the amount of affordable housing included in the project. Santa Monica's Affordable Housing Production Program requires additional affordable housing be included in projects or paid for with an in-lieu fee for areas zoned for multi-family use.

The mobile home designation carried by the Village Trailer Park property had such zoning, McKeown said, and therefore there was not enough affordable housing included in the project or dealt with through an in-lieu fee.

Staff disagreed, saying that the land under the Village Trailer Park had been zoned for an industrial use before the new mobile home designation was created and that the decision was consistent with how other affordable housing decisions had been made in the past.

McKeown's yes vote, although contrary to any position he took that night, preserves his ability to bring back issues with the project, including the discussion of affordable housing.

Village Trailer Park was the last of two small, rent-controlled trailer parks remaining in this upscale city of 90,000, and is a

SEE VILLAGE PAGE 6

How close is too close?

Apartments proposed 19 feet from freeway

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council voted 6 to 0 Tuesday to study further a 260-unit apartment complex planned for the eastern end of Santa Monica despite the fact that the developer proposes to build it 19 feet from a freeway.

The developer will have to do additional environmental work to determine whether or not the small distance from the freeway will have a health impact on potential residents or employees at the development, and will also study separate plans with different

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 5

Bloom declares a victory in Assembly race

Santa Monica mayor leads opponent by 1,246 votes

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

NORWALK, Calif. Mayor Richard Bloom declared a qualified victory against Assemblywoman Betsy Butler Wednesday in their fight for the 50th State Assembly District after what promises to be one of the last updates for the 2012 general election.

Bloom and Butler have been neck and neck for the entire race, but a 79-vote difference expanded to a 1,246 lead in the last week, according to reports from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Office.

Although the candidates are still separated by less than 1 percent of the 181,750 votes counted, it's still the largest lead Bloom has

SEE ELECTION PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 "Hysteria," a romantic comedy wrapped around the surprising story of the first electro-mechanical 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.

Skate date
ICE at Santa Monica
1324 Fifth St., open daily
Skate the day away at Santa Monica's outdoor ice skating rink courtesy of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. Admission and skate rental is $12, locker rentals $5. Concessions and souvenirs available. For more information, call (310) 461-8333.

Friday, Nov. 30, 2012

Playing Santa
UCLA Family Commons
1221 Second St., 10 a.m.
The UCLA Family Commons is giving back to those in the community who could use support. In conjunction with Sojourn — A project of the OPCC, they will be hosting a two-month long gift drive to benefit local women and children who have been victims of domestic abuse. For every person who signs up for one of the commons' programs, workshops or classes, the group will donate a new game, toy or book to families of Sojourn. For more information, call (310) 395-5650.

TAG, you're it
TAG Gallery
2525 Michigan Ave., D-3,
11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
In her latest exhibition, "Family Trees," artist Lorraine Bubar continues to explore papercut techniques by representing family tree motifs, including various associations with the words "family" and "trees." Layering delicately cut paper, Bubar reveals bold color contrasts and lacey textural patterns reflecting the contrast between fragility and strength found in paper itself. Admission: free. For more information call (310) 829-9556.

Get behind the wheel
The Santa Monica Little Theater
12420 Santa Monica Blvd., 8 p.m.
Santa Monica Rep presents "How I Learned to Drive." This 1998 Pulitzer Prize winner is a wildly funny, surprising, and devastating tale of survival as seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man. This is the story of a woman who learns the rules of the road and life from behind the wheel. Admission: $20, $15 for students/seniors. For more information call (213) 268-1454 or visit www.santamonicarep.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





FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica Fire Chief Scott Ferguson and Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks playfully fight over the trophy for the 17th Annual Santa Monica Bowl-A-Thon which is scheduled Feb. 1. Money raised benefits the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition.

Former campaign treasurer gets eight years

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO The popular campaign treasurer convicted of stealing millions from her Democratic clients will serve up to eight years and one month in prison, a U.S. District Court judge ruled Wednesday.

Kinde Durkee, 59, will spend at least 85 percent of that time behind bars and will serve another three years in supervised release for what attorneys believe to be the largest embezzlement case involving a campaign committee treasurer ever prosecuted at over $10 million.

Judge Kimberly J. Mueller also ordered a $10.5 million restitution for the more than 70 victims impacted by Durkee's criminal acts, which include at least two Santa Monica-based groups.

"What she did had an impact on the political and electoral processes on which our democracy is based," Mueller said at the sentencing, according to the Associated Press.

Durkee will turn over her $90,000 retirement account and her office building in Burbank will be put up for auction, said Lauren Horwood, the public information officer of the U.S. Attorney's Office in California's eastern district.

"Durkee's greed manifested as blatant disregard and record-setting losses for the victim organizations. We will never truly know how such actions impacted the quality of life in the organizations' respective communities," said Herbert M. Brown, special agent in charge of the Sacramento Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Durkee read a brief statement and apologized in court to "those who trusted me and I betrayed."

"I take full and complete responsibility for what I've done," she said, the AP reported.



DURKEE

Durkee plead guilty in March 2012 to five charges of mail fraud in connection with the thefts.

Prosecutors accused her of taking money from accounts she controlled for various candidates for elected office.

When one realized money was missing, she would take money from another to fill the hole, which caused U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner to describe her as "the Bernie Madoff of campaign treasurers," referring to the infamous New York financial manager.

The scheme came to light when investigators from the California Fair Political

SEE **SENTENCE** PAGE 7

Strike idles busiest Port of L.A. pier

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Striking workers shut down the largest terminal at the Port of Los Angeles for a second day on Wednesday, ignoring an arbitrator's order to return to work and raising the possibility of a larger job action that could paralyze the nation's busiest port complex.

About 70 clerical workers struck the APM Terminals operations on Pier 400 on Tuesday, raising the ante in a 2 1/2-year-old contract battle over union claims that management has been outsourcing well-paid jobs out of state and overseas.

Only a handful of workers were picketing early Wednesday but dockworkers were honoring the walkout and the terminal remained closed, although only two cargo ships were affected, port spokesman Phillip Sanfield said.

"It's not crippling the port by any means. We've got eight other container terminals up and running," he said.

The port is not operating at its peak because shipment of Christmas goods ended several weeks ago.

"The holiday goods are either already in the stores or in warehouses," Sanfield said.

Los Angeles and Long Beach together have the nation's busiest port complex. The twin harbors handled $273 billion worth of cargo last year.

The strikers are from the Office Clerical Unit of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union's Local 63. Their contracts with 14 companies who operate most of the terminals at the twin ports expired in June 2010.

Years of contract renewal negotiations ended with talks breaking off on Monday, leading to the walkout.

An arbitrator ruled Tuesday night that the union was negotiating in bad faith with shippers and the strike was invalid. However, the order was ignored pending a planned Wednesday meeting between the union and shippers. A second arbitrator also was expected to rule within two days on whether to uphold that order.

Clerical workers held brief strikes in 2010 and 2011 that also ended after arbitrators

SEE **STRIKE** PAGE 6

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What were you thinking?

Editor:

Dear City Council,

Le Corbusier, the renown architect, said "the fates of cities are decided in the Town Hall." In your rush to approve the East Village project, you virtually ignored the design of this behemoth with all its very serious flaws ("Council approves trailer park development," Nov. 28).

The community trusts that you take the time to understand what you are approving besides the eviction of 36 families from their homes. And the few concerns you did address were conveniently shuffled off to the Architectural Review Board, which historically doesn't grapple with anything substantive other than colors, plant materials and proportions.

In your zeal, you ignored some very serious neighborhood and project issues, such as:

1) The 377-unit, 799-car, 341,290 square-foot project exceeds the maximum 2.5 floor area ratio allowed in a maximum Tier 3 project.

2) The traffic impacts of 2,200 daily car trips, which cannot be mitigated, will likely lead to a loss in property values for the hundreds of residential homes in the immediate neighborhood, offsetting much, if not all, of the increased property taxes this project will generate. And since when are tax revenues worth architectural and environmental mediocrity?

3) Pennsylvania Avenue will likely become a signalized thoroughfare.

4) At a density of 100 units per acre, this project will be considerably more crowded than the infamous "projects" of South Los Angeles.

5) There will be two-plus years of construction impacts.

6) Who will operate the 10-unit mobile home park when the sustainability and operation of the park has no amenities (office, meeting room, public outdoor space or pool) and will obviously lose money with a whole litany of operating expenses?

7) The complexity of a 799-car subterranean garage with driving aisles in various directions including five dead-end aisles.

8) Along with 20 percent of the spaces being tandem parking.

And then when you further realize that in exchange for handing the developer a $20 to $25 million profit in increased zoning and development rights, the city is only getting in return $2.2 million in fees, two new dedicated streets which will catastrophically impact the adjacent residential areas, and expanded on-site sidewalks, pathways and courtyards which will be open to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but will be in shadow from the five-story tall buildings much of the day. No amount of community benefits can make a poor project a good project, and especially in this case where the community benefits appear to benefit the developer more than the community.

And although suggested by the Planning Commission, staff never requested of the developer an alternative design, possibly a 20 percent less dense Tier 2 project, which seems far more appropriate for this site and would have been more consistent with the initial findings of the Bergamot Area Plan. It's all a very sad process.

The one thing you did with great efficiency was coming to a swift, if not judicious decision. For the sake of our community, hopefully the courts will accomplish what you so miserably failed to do and rectify your rush to judgment.

What were you thinking, or not thinking? Is this the character and density you envision for the future of Santa Monica? Is quantity more important than quality? Since when are greed and density synonymous with quality of life? Are tax revenues worth architectural and environmental mediocrity? Is the birth of this new neighborhood more beautiful than the one it is replacing? You should realize that one who ignores a crisis is the same one who causes a crisis.

Ron Goldman
Santa Monica



Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fiancée not 420 friendly

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I am very much in love with my girlfriend, who I have actually asked to marry me. I want to spend my life with her but she is adamant that I no longer smoke pot or she will not marry me. I guess our engagement is on hold.

I need pot for stress and back pain. I do not feel I should just give in and allow her to control me and I really feel I need to have my pot, at least occasionally. But I do not want to lose her either.

Please help with any suggestions you may have. I am really in a contrary position.

Signed,
Contrary

DEAR CONTRARY,

I have to say what I will probably end up repeating, and that is healthy and happy relationships require "room for two!" If you are truly in love with each other you will have to come to some sort of compromise. Being able to understand the other and reasons that they may feel the way that they do is critical to a good relationship or marriage.

Empathy and aggression, or in this case anger (aggressive feelings), are inversely related. As one goes up the other goes down. Let me be clear though, that empathy is not sympathy. Many people think that it is one and the same. It often leads to sympathy and compassion, but it is not one in the same. Empathy is the ability to be truly attuned to the other, to vicariously share in their subjective experience. In other words, you need to really be able to put yourself in each other's shoes.

So before you dig your heels in, try to find out and understand why she is feeling the way that she is. Also, maybe you need to think about why pot is so important to you or is it just that you don't want to be told what to do?

In terms of pot, there truly are other ways to get stress release and also to manage back pain. Is this really the issue or do you just like getting high?

Strive to be honest with yourself and then try talking with your girlfriend.

Also, it sounds like you may smoke frequently if not daily.

To put it in perspective and to understand some possible reasons she may feel the way that she does, please understand that pot does put you in a different state of consciousness and if she does not smoke as well, then she may not feel the same connection with you that she would like to feel. That is actually a compliment to you.

Smoking pot is also a carcinogen; perhaps she does not want you to get cancer.

Also, if you have children, the second-hand smoke can and would affect them.

Finally, she may see something that pot is doing to you that you cannot see in yourself.

Now, on the other hand, I would guess you have been together for awhile if you have asked her to marry you. Isn't this something she has known about you or did she just discover it?

If she has known all along then I would wonder about her co-dependency and whether she has had an agenda to change you.

I AM A BIG BELIEVER IN PREMARITAL COUNSELING ... . IT REALLY DOES HELP YOU TO BE CLEAR ABOUT EACH OTHER'S EXPECTATIONS AND FANTASIES ABOUT WHAT THE MARRIAGE WILL BE.

Obviously, you do need to talk about this dilemma you are having.

I am a big believer in premarital counseling, which can be obtained with just the two of you, or in a group setting with other couples considering marriage.

It really does help you to be clear about each others' expectations and fantasies about what the marriage will be.

Marriage can be difficult and we have seen many deciding not to marry and of those who do, about half end in divorce.

It really sounds like you need this kind of help and I hope she would agree to it, before you get married.

If you give up smoking pot just because she demands it, you will probably resent her. Not a good place to start in a marriage.

As I said in the beginning, there needs to be room for two. There has to be room for both of you and communication and compromise is critical.

It really sounds like you are at a standoff and that is not indicative of love.

I would recommend that you have her read this or that you go to her and tell her that you love her and want to work this out but probably need a little help to do it.

The help is confidential, supportive and kind. Hopefully, you can resolve this. Good luck!

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or send your anonymous inquires and replies to newshrink@gmail.com. Got something on your mind? Let us help you with your life matters, because it does!

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2012. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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DEVELOPMENT
FROM PAGE 1

levels of commercial and residential use, the council said.

Councilwoman Pam O'Connor was not present for the vote.

The development, put forward by Trammell Crow Co., would replace an old complex at 3402 Pico Blvd. that used to house the offices of the company that puts on the Grammys with a four-building mixed-use complex.

The project would include 2,999 square feet of ground floor commercial area and 505 parking spaces inside a two-level subterranean parking garage.

The developer removed 40 residential units and almost 2,000 square feet of commercial space in response to comments put forward by the Planning Commission at one of its early meetings on the development, and has a mix of units to accommodate single people and small families.

Over 40 community members lined up to speak against the project, citing concerns about pollution and the traffic impact of the potential development.

Health advocates say that the project is poorly placed, and that almost anyone with lungs will feel the impact of living so close to the bustling Interstate 10.

The California Air Resources Board recommends that people live no closer than 500 feet from a freeway.

Children who live near freeways suffer from asthma and other respiratory problems, and expecting mothers tend to have premature babies or babies with low birthrate when they're near freeways, said Andrea Hricko, a professor of preventative medicine at USC and an Ocean Park resident.

Hricko is working with a team of scientists who found a relationship between air pollution and autism if children are exposed early in life.

"I would urge the city to deny any proposal for anything in the city that has this kind of proximity to a freeway," Hricko said. "I am quite surprised that this enlightened City Council in an environmentally-conscious city hasn't grappled with this issue in the past."

Traffic also raised a red flag for many residents.

Two more developments with almost 900 additional housing units between them are planned within 2 miles east down Pico Boulevard from the proposed building, and residents fear that an already-crowded road will become impassable.


THE SITE

"The cumulative effects of all of them will be much greater than any of the pieces," said Nancy Morse, a Santa Monica resident.

Gregory Ames, who spoke for the developer, stressed that council's "yes" vote would not approve the project, simply allow the developer to go forward with environmental studies to determine how many extra cars the project would produce.

"We're only technically seeking approval to begin the environmental review process to actually study the (impacts) of the proposal," Ames said.

He also pointed out that the developer had a right to build 45,000 square feet of office space and 67 units on the property as is, with no community input or benefits.

That changed the question from one of traffic prevention or reduction to the lesser of two evils: The housing complex reached through a development agreement or the office complex, which could be built without special permissions and community benefits.

"Traffic will get worse whether we approve the project or not," said Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis.

The City Council asked that the developer look at the traffic impacts of the by-right development, and for an additional facet focused on health impacts of pollution.

Although the studies would show whether or not the project would create an untenable traffic situation at the busy area near the freeway on and offramps, it would not answer the health concerns regarding pollution because the reports examine the impact of a project on the environment, not vice versa, said David Martin, Planning Director at City Hall.

"I have serious concerns about the air quality and health of the residents who would live in the project," said Councilmember Terry O'Day.

ashley@smdp.com

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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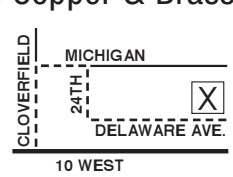
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VILLAGE
FROM PAGE 1

throwback to Santa Monica's more modest days.

As much of the rest of the city was redeveloping during the past 30 years, the park, 2 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, went largely unnoticed. Rents for mobile home spaces range from about $370 to $410 a month in a city where the tiniest apartments routinely fetch five times that much.

For the past six years, developer Marc Luzzatto has been attempting to close the park and remove its old-fashioned trailers, many no bigger than modern-day SUVs. He said last July that it is no longer economically feasible to operate.

As longtime residents have died or moved out in recent years, their trailers have been removed and spaces left vacant. Only 47 homes now remain in a park built to hold 109.

Luzzatto has offered residents as much as $20,000 to relocate, as well as the opportunity to move into one of the new apartments, saying he'll match the rent they currently pay for between four and seven-and-a-half years depending on their income level.

After the vote, resident David Latham called the results criminal and said the options he and others have been offered are far inferior to their current lifestyle.

"What we had here is not replaceable, especially for people at our income level," he said.

Latham said residents have little choice but to hire lawyers and continue the fight to keep their homes. He said the matter will now go to the Rent Control Board.

Luzzatto has also said he'll buy new mobile homes for those who want and place them in the city's one remaining trailer park.

Meyer is skeptical of that offer, saying he recently visited the other mobile home park.

"The manager there told me there are no vacancies, and there's a waiting list," he said.

news@smdp.com

Daily Press Staff Writer **ASHLEY ARCHIBALD** contributed to this report.

STRIKE
FROM PAGE 3

ruled them improper.

For now, however, "they're on strike and picket lines are being respected," said Craig Merrilees, an ILWU spokesman in San Francisco.

The union risks a "dangerous escalation" if they continue to ignore the order, said Stephen Berry, lead negotiator for the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Employers Association, which represented the 14 terminal operators in contract talks.

"It could lead to a spread of the job actions beyond just one terminal" and that, in turn, could prompt shippers to lock out employees, Berry said.

Still, it was unlikely that either side would want a repeat of a bitter 10-day lockout at a number of West Coast ports in 2002 that caused an estimated $15 billion in losses.

At issue is the union's contention that terminal operators have outsourced jobs to lower-paid paperwork pushers in the U.S. and places such as Costa Rica, India and Taiwan. A union release contended that 51 clerical jobs have been lost in the past five years.

Thanks to computer technology, shippers can easily "push buttons and maybe even get tax breaks" by moving work to other regions, Merrilees said.

Companies have refused to acknowledge there is an outsourcing issue, Merrilees said.

The negotiating group for the shippers denied that any local union clerical jobs were outsourced and said in a statement that the 51 workers had quit, died or retired with full benefits in the past three years.

Their positions weren't filled because there was no "business need," said a statement from the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Employers Association.

In addition, the companies have offered to guarantee current union clerical workers their jobs for life, Berry said.

He claimed that the union wants contract language to permit "featherbedding" — the practice of requiring employers to call in temporary employees and hire new permanent employees even when there is no work to perform.

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ELECTION
FROM PAGE 1

held since ballots began to be counted on Nov. 6.

In an e-mail to supporters, Bloom said that should be enough to push him through to victory.

"Robbie and I are elated and grateful for this opportunity given to me by the voters of the 50th District," Bloom wrote. "I want to thank all my supporters, contributors, staff, volunteers and my family for their unwavering support."

The next count update will be held Friday, and the swearing in of new Assembly members takes place Monday, Dec. 3. It's unclear how many ballots are left to be counted.

Bloom's colleagues on the City Council wished him and Councilmember Bobby Shriver a fond farewell at their last official council meeting Tuesday night.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed and hope you will be sworn in on Monday as Assemblymember Bloom representing Santa Monica," said Councilmember Pam O'Connor.

Neither Shriver nor Bloom chose to run for their seats, leaving two seats with no incumbents in what turned out to be a competitive council race.

Shriver took his leave from the City Council to spend more time with his young daughter, while Bloom had his eyes set on the state Assembly.

If the count continues as it has thus far, Bloom will take the seat, despite the fact that his opponent and her supporters spent nearly twice as much money as he did throughout the race.

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SENTENCED
FROM PAGE 3

Practices Commission noticed discrepancies in the filings for Assemblyman Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana), according to the AP.

The biggest loser appears to be Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who reportedly lost $4.5 million.

Locally, Durkee was the treasurer for Councilmember Terry O'Day, the Committee to Protect Community and Schools, former Rent Control Board member Chris Braun and developer-backed Santa Monicans for Quality Government.

Of those, O'Day and the Committee to Protect Community and Schools, which had been organized to support the half-cent sales tax measure in 2010, lost the most money.

Although he's content with the sentence, Tom Larmore, who took a lead role in the schools committee, said he didn't hold out much hope for getting more than 15 percent of the lost money back.

"Fortunately, our campaign was over before all this surfaced, so we didn't have any outstanding bills to pay," Larmore said.

Durkee's attorney, Daniel Nixon, did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but in a response to the pre-sentence report released Tuesday, he tried to put a different spin on his client's crimes.

Nixon described Durkee as a generally law-abiding citizen who got caught up in the stresses of trying to run her campaign consultant business.

She used the money to keep the flagging business afloat, avoid firing workers and pay for her American Express bill and her mother's assisted living center.

At the same time, Durkee was supporting her husband, who hadn't worked in 15 years, according to the response.

This was not the case of a woman trying to defraud people to live a lavish lifestyle, Nixon asserted.

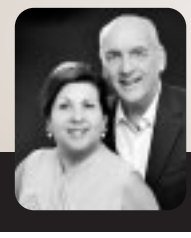
"Unfortunately, it spiraled out of control, she lost track of the amount of the shortfall and it ultimately reached a level that she will be unable to repay in her lifetime," Nixon wrote.

Nixon nor Durkee disputed the sentence proposed in the Probation Office's report.

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Go Metro To See The Space Shuttle
Go Metro and rocket past traffic to see the Space Shuttle Endeavour, now on display at the California Science Center. The California Science Center is located adjacent to Metro's Expo Line; exit at Expo Park/USC Station. For exhibit details, visit *californiasciencecenter.org*.

Westside Subway Extension Work Begins
Underground telecommunication lines are being relocated in the Mid-Wilshire District, marking the first phase of construction for the Westside Subway Extension. The subway extension will run between the Metro Purple Line Wilshire/Western Station and the Westwood/VA Hospital. For more information visit *metro.net/westside*.

New Metro Bus Schedules December 16
Starting December 16, Metro is making changes in its bus service to improve efficiency and effectiveness through better use of resources. For complete details, look for revised timetables on *metro.net* or on buses during December.

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The not so silent nights

TINO MCGOLDRIG'S WORLD HAS SHRUNK to the size of his cranium. But oh, how much goes on inside the borders of that skull.

"Silent," the newest theatrical performance piece from Irish actor/playwright Pat Kinevane, is making its West Coast debut at The Odyssey Theatre.

This award-winning dramatic interpretation of a homeless man's life on the streets of Dublin is not a sappy goody-two-shoes view. It's a stream of consciousness scream that demands understanding for and a second look at those we otherwise might look down upon.

The stage is dark, mostly bare, except for a few items: small signs leaning against the back wall with words like "wonderful," "night," and "all;" a small plastic dish, a water bottle, a wine bottle and a silvery sack. Each will serve a purpose throughout the performance.

With a smoke machine providing the nighttime fog, we feel an immediate chill. The opening is dramatic, including music that could double as a silent film score. Is that a mound of soil we see with feet and hands sticking out as if hastily buried? Or is it a rough blanket under which we see someone sleeping?

Covered by the blanket, Kinevane crawls about and arches his body, moving his hands as expressively as a Hawaiian hula dancer, and finally comes out from beneath it, giving us a hint that while his life is bleak it's not without some personal magic: shaking out the blanket, it spills a shower of glitter.

He wraps the blanket around his head and body until, with his exaggeratedly dramatic makeup, he resembles silent film superstar Rudolph Valentino as The Sheik. He lets us know that Tino's name was inspired by Valentino, because his father and grandmother so loved Valentino's movies and the music of those films.

It's a black and white world. Tino tells us about his beautiful brother, "Pierce the faggot, the gorgeous version of me," whose life was a misery because he was gay, and who after multiple (and horrifyingly funny) attempts at suicide, finally succeeds.

Little by little we piece together the story of Tino's life and how Pierce's death undoes him. Their father died young and their mother is holy terror, abusive, selfish and vain. Life with her is a misery. For every attempt at suicide, she beats Pierce down even further, compounding the taunts and brutal barbs of the neighbors in their community where homosexuality is not accepted.

Tino's blanket is later brought vividly to life as his wife Judy, with whom he dances a beautiful waltz, while reminiscing about how his drinking eventually breaks up their marriage and sends him to the streets.

His mental state is deteriorating, and

SEE CULTURE PAGE 9



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Hollywood


CULTURE

FROM PAGE 8

with an ironically humorous ongoing bit about calling the mental health services ("if you are obsessive compulsive, press 1 repeatedly" or "if you have multiple personality disorder, hit 5, 3, 2, 4 and 6"), he points out the inadequacy of the system.

Part of the message that where the homeless are concerned, "attention must be paid" (to quote Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman") involves the audience. A hint to those who sit in the first row: please interact! Tino will reach out to you with questions, asking your name or how you feel about something he's said — answer him!

During the performance I attended, Tino goes into something of a trance state, losing his train of thought while bent over and calling out "Georgette, are you there?" so frequently that another member of the audience finally hollered "yes" so the action could continue.

This is a performance worth your time and will linger in your imagination for a long time to come.

"Silent" by Pat Kinevane for the remarkable Fishamble Company of Ireland, runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Dec. 16. Go to www.OdysseyTheatre.com or call the box office at (310) 477-2055.

HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH AN EDGE

Start your season on a (legal!) high. Chock full of special guests, including humorist Sandra Tsing Loh and the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, Jacaranda: Music at the Edge has a joyous concert planned this weekend.

"Winter Dreams" includes the music of Bach, Britten, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Ives, Johnston, Lang and Glass, and it's billed as a journey offering both festive and contemplative music from the Baroque and late Romantic periods to living American composers.

It takes place, as all their concerts do, at the architecturally stunning First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica. Find out more at www.jacarandamusic.org or call (213) 483-0216.

THE GREATEST GATSBY

I'm thrilled that on Saturday I'll be at one of the most talked-about theatrical experiences of the past few years.

"Gatz" by Elevator Repair Service at REDCAT, the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre at Disney Hall Downtown, is a full seven-hour "enactment" of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, "The Great Gatsby." I'll report more next week, but find out why the New York Times calls it, "The most remarkable achievement in theater not only of this year but also of this decade," by visiting www.redcat.org/

I'll also tell you more next week about "A Coney Island Christmas," at The Geffen Playhouse in Westwood and "Second City's A Christmas Carol Twist Your Dickens," opening Nov. 29 at The Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City.

"A Coney Island Christmas" written by Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright Donald Margulies is based on one of the single most hilarious stories ever written by Grace Paley, "The Loudest Voice." A Jewish girl is cast as Jesus in her school's Christmas pageant; years later she tells that tale to her great granddaughter. Visit http://geffenplayhouse.com/ or call (310) 208-5454.

"Second City's A Christmas Carol Twist Your Dickens" will be laugh out loud funny because it features the absurdly hysterical shenanigans of the lauded Second City humor troupe (think "SCTV" and "Mad TV"), and includes Dan Castellaneta (the voice of Homer Simpson) and Larry Joe Campbell ("According to Jim") among many other cast members and amazing guest stars. More info at www.centertheatregroup.org/ or contact (213) 628-2772.



Maria Falconer *news@smdp.com*

TAKE TWO: **Irish writer/performer Pat Kinevane's performs with his security blanket in the West Coast premier of 'Silent' at the Odyssey Theatre.**

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.







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SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco gun laws upheld

A federal judge has rejected an effort by the National Rifle Association to block enforcement of local gun laws in San Francisco.

U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg ruled Monday that the laws don't appear to violate standards set by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 2008 ruling that declared a constitutional right to possess firearms at home for self-defense, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The NRA sought an injunction on behalf of gun owners.

A 2007 ordinance requires San Francisco handgun owners to keep weapons locked up or use trigger locks when stored at home. A 1994 law bans bullets that can expand or splinter on contact, causing more damage to a human body than convention bullets.

Seeborg said the restriction does not prohibit San Franciscans from possessing guns at home or using them for self-defense, the rights specified by the Supreme Court.

The judge also said that constitutional standards on gun rights are in flux. He added that higher courts may issue new criteria for evaluating state and local regulations before the case is concluded.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said he agreed with the judge's decision.

"This is a thoughtful and persuasive ruling that affirms our position that San Francisco's gun laws protect public safety in a manner that's reasonable and constitutional," Herrera said in a written statement. "I'm proud of the efforts we've made to beat back these legal challenges, and preserve local laws that can save lives."

C.D. Michel, a lawyer for the gun owners, told the newspaper the ruling would be appealed to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is preparing to hear separate challenges next week to California's licensing requirements for carrying handguns in public.

Michel said San Francisco's gun-storage ordinance "requires you to sleep with your gun in a holster if you want to have it ready for self-defense in the middle of the night. We respectfully disagree that it's a minimal burden."

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO, Calif.

Salmon release is step in Calif river restoration

Biologists are hoping that two Chinook salmon released into the San Joaquin River will make their way to historic spawning areas near the Friant Dam.

The release on Wednesday is part of an $800 million San Joaquin River Restoration project to restore the river's flows and, ultimately, salmon to their southernmost habitat.

California's second-longest river once teemed with salmon that swam from the San Francisco Bay to spawn near Fresno. But 62 years ago, the Friant Dam diverted the river's water to serve agriculture needs.

In 2006, environmental groups settled a lawsuit with the federal government to restore enough water to the 320-mile river for it to reach the bay.

Since then state biologists have been working on a path for the salmon to migrate.

– AP

MORAGA, Calif.

Bay area school district facing abuse claims

A San Francisco Bay area school district is facing claims from three women and a lawsuit by a fourth alleging abuse by a former middle school science teacher.

The Contra Costa Times reported the third claim against the district on Tuesday. The woman who filed that claim, now 29, says she was sexually abused repeatedly by Daniel Witters when she was a 13-year-old eighth-grader. She is seeking $10 million

The two other claims and the one lawsuit against the district also allege abuse by Witters.

Witters was never charged. The Times reported that he killed himself after several girls came forward with abuse allegations in 1996 and he was placed on administrative leave.

District Superintendent Bruce Burns said the district will begin mediation with all four women in early 2013.

– AP

RIVERSIDE, Calif.

3 indicted in terror plot case

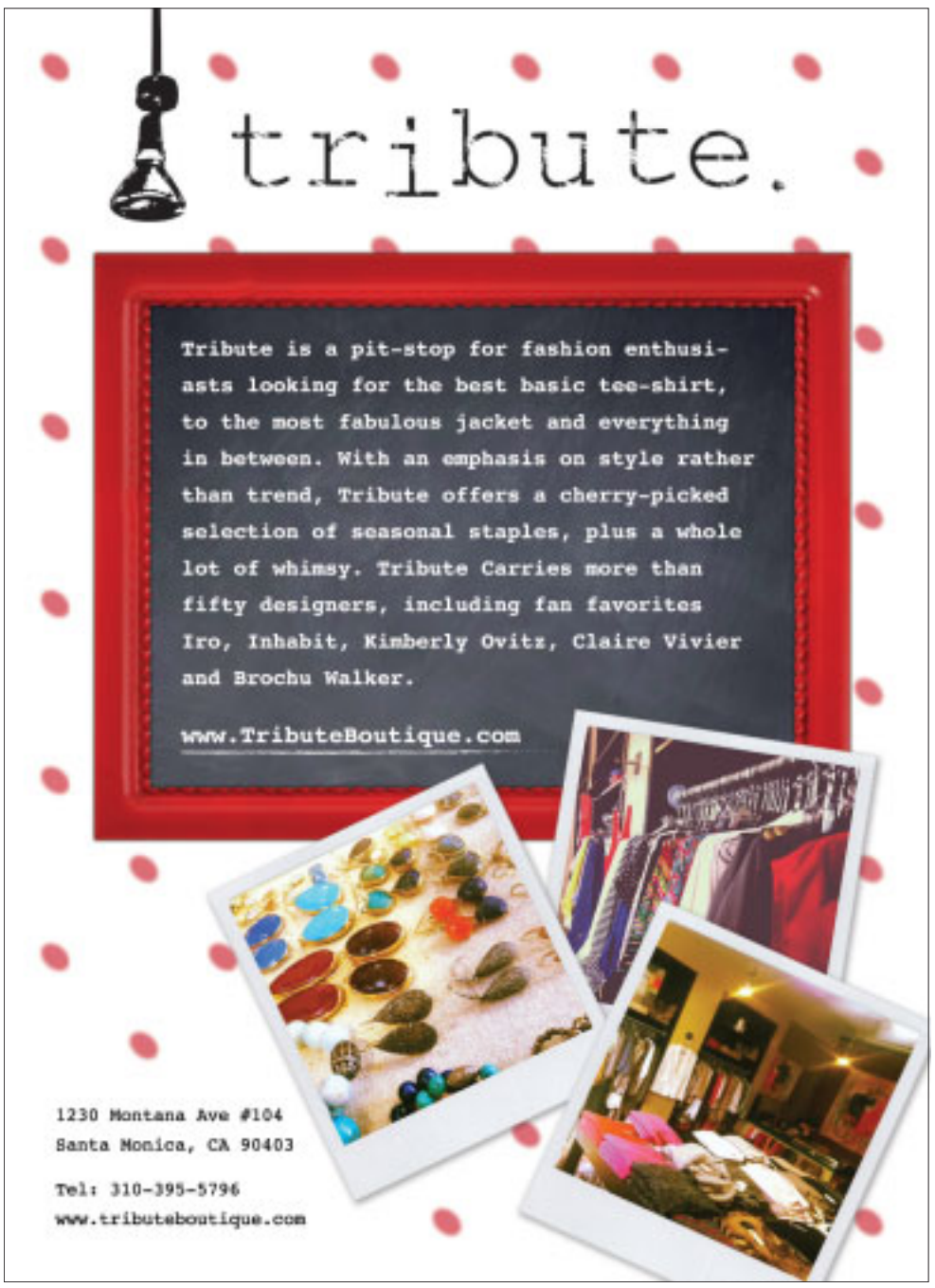
Three California men have been indicted on terrorism-related charges for allegedly plotting to kill Americans overseas.

An indictment filed Wednesday charges Ralph Deleon, Miguel Alejandro Santana Vidriales and Arifeen David Gojali with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists. If convicted, they each could face up to 15 years in prison.

The three men were arrested earlier this month. Federal authorities say they planned to board a plane headed for Istanbul and eventually make their way to Afghanistan. Authorities allege the men were to meet up with a ringleader, 34-year-old American Sohiel Omar Kabir, who also is facing terrorism-related charges.

In a 77-page affidavit, which includes references to the group's online video conversations and audio recordings, federal officials say the men planned attacks on military bases overseas.

– AP



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Obama says he'll do what it takes to avoid fiscal cliff

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON The White House and a key congressional Democrat hinted at fresh concessions on taxes and cuts to Medicare and other government benefit programs Wednesday as bargaining with Republicans lurched ahead to avoid the year-end "fiscal cliff" that threatens to send the economy into a tailspin.

Increasing numbers of rank-and-file Republicans also said they were ready to give ground, a boost for House Speaker John Boehner and other party leaders who say they will agree to higher tax revenues as part of a deal if it also curbs benefit programs as a way to rein in federal deficits.

"I'll go anywhere and I'll do whatever it takes to get this done," President Barack Obama said as he sought to build pressure on Republicans to accept his terms — a swift renewal of expiring tax cuts for all but the highest income earners. "It's too important for Washington to screw this up," he declared.

For all the talk, there was no sign of tangible progress on an issue that marks a first test for divided government since elections that assured Obama a second term in the White House while renewing Republican control in the House.

"It's time for the president and Democrats to get serious about the spending problem that our country has," Boehner said at a news conference in the Capitol. He, like Obama, expressed optimism that a deal could be reached.

At the same time, he publicly disagreed with one GOP lawmaker, Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, who said he was ready to go along with Obama's plan to renew most but not all of the expiring income tax cuts. "It'll hurt the economy" to raise rates for anyone, said Boehner.

Separately, at a closed-door meeting with the rank and file, the speaker told fellow Republicans they are on solid political ground in refusing to let tax rates rise. He circulated polling data showing the public favors closing loopholes to raise revenue far more than it supports raising rates on incomes over $250,000.

There were no face-to-face talks between the administration and lawmakers during the day, although the White House is dispatching Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and top legislative aide Rob Nabors to a series of sessions with congressional leaders on Thursday.

On Wednesday, a group of corporate CEOs pushing for a deal met separately with top Democratic and Republican leaders in the House, joined by Erskine Bowles, who was co-chairman of a deficit commission Obama appointed earlier in his term.

Speaking to reporters before a session with business leaders, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said the bargaining ought to begin where deficit talks between Obama and Boehner broke down 18 months ago "and go from there to reach an agreement."

She didn't say so, but at the time, the two men were exchanging offers that called for at least $250 billion in cuts from Medicare over a decade, and another $100 billion from Medicaid and other federal health programs. Among the changes under discussion — with Obama's approval — was a gradual increase in the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67, as well as higher fees for beneficiaries.

Also on the table at the time was a plan to curtail future cost-of-living increases for Social Security and other benefit programs.

Those negotiations faltered in a hail of recriminations after the president upped his demand for additional tax revenue and conservatives balked. At the same time liberals were objecting to savings from Medicare and Social Security.

Now, more than a year and one election later, Obama has said repeatedly he is open to alternatives to his current proposal to raise additional tax revenue. But he also says he will refuse to sign legislation that extends the current top rates on incomes over $200,000 for individuals and $250,000 for couples.

Instead, he is pushing Congress to renew expiring tax cuts for all income below those levels as an interim measure — an offer Boehner and Republicans generally say is unacceptable because it would mean higher taxes on small business owners.

Bowles said during the day that Obama might be willing to back off his demand that the top rate revert all the way from 35 percent to 39.6 percent, where it was a decade ago before tax cuts sought by then-President George W. Bush took effect.

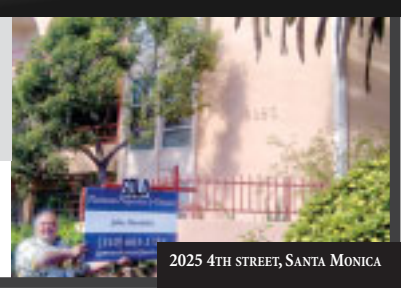
At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney sidestepped questions. "If I told you how much flexibility the president had, it would eliminate his flexibility," he said.

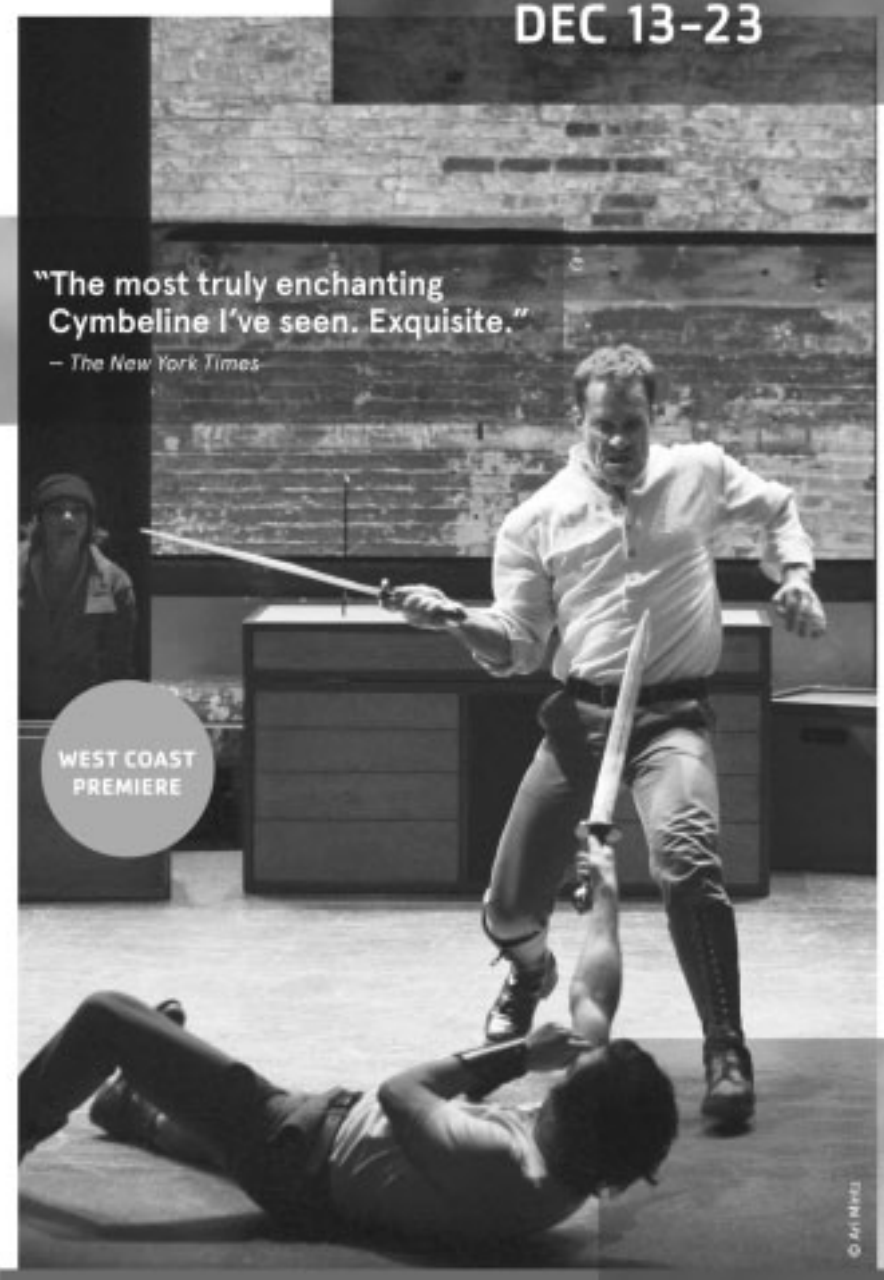
He noted that Obama has said he will listen to alternatives, but the spokesman said, "The most basic, simplest, most efficient way to achieve that revenue target is by returning the rates for top earners back to those that were in place in the Clinton era," when the top rate on personal income was the 39.6 percent.

The goal of the talks is to produce a long-term deficit-cutting deal that will allow the cancellation of tax increases and spending cuts scheduled for the end of the year that numerous economists say threaten a new recession.

While the obstacles are numerous, there are other political imperatives pushing the two sides toward an agreement.

Unemployment benefits expire for some of the long-term jobless at the end of the year. Additionally the government is expected to need an increase in borrowing authority early next year or face the possibility of a default. Any agreement on that is expected to raise the current $16.4 trillion level.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **4-5 ft** shoulder to head high occ. 6 ft
West swell peaks during the day; Larger sets in the far western part of the county; 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 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

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-4 ft** knee to shoulder high
West-WNW swell fades; keeping an eye on 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.

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 1
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 3
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 24
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Oller -- von Furstenberg Family Foundation; Grousbeck Family Foundation; simplehuman; LAcurGUY; SBBA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa 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 21672 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach 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 19548 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+

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

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

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NCAA

Center Smith leaves UCLA

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Center Joshua Smith is quitting UCLA's basketball team and the school gave him his immediate release.

He's the second player to leave the program recently. Junior guard Tyler Lamb said last weekend that he would transfer to another school to pursue more playing time.

Smith says he's leaving the Bruins for "personal reasons," although he says he enjoyed his two-plus seasons with the program.

The junior averaged 5.2 points and 4.2 rebounds while playing 13.5 minutes a game in UCLA's six games this season.

Coach Ben Howland called Smith "a fine young man who has meant a lot to this program."

Smith started 24 of 65 games during his first two seasons, which were marked by struggles with weight and conditioning.

NBA

Lakers assign rookie Sacre to D-League

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. The Los Angeles Lakers have assigned rookie center Robert Sacre to the D-League's Los Angeles D-Fenders.

The Lakers made the move Wednesday, shortly before the D-Fenders' season opener.

Sacre appeared in eight games for the Lakers, recording two points and two rebounds in 19 minutes of play. He also has gained popularity among Lakers fans for his vociferous cheerleading on the Lakers' bench.

Sacre was the 60th and final pick in the NBA draft last June. The Canadian 7-footer was a collegiate standout at Gonzaga, averaging 11.6 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.4 blocks as a senior.

Darius Johnson-Odom, the Lakers' other second-round draft pick last summer, already is on the D-Fenders.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Days of Heaven (PG) 1hr 35min
Breathless (R) 1hr 37min
7:30pm

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

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
9:50pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join your friends tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You know exactly how to get someone's attention, and you put your energy where it counts. You could be surprised at how a little provocation goes a long way with a higher-up. Tonight: How about dinner for two?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be quite tied to a situation that could involve some travel. Whether the person who attracts your interest is a loved one, a friend or a professional associate, it makes no difference. You will put forth your best efforts when dealing with him or her. Tonight: Time for treats.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Listen to the drumbeats. You need to be more responsive to someone who could be a bit touchy at times. If you have a problem doing this, you might want to consider changing the nature of the relationship. Tonight: Visit with some friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Make an effort to contact someone who is alone often. This person appreciates your compassion more than you realize. Listen to what he or she has to share. Your creativity is stimulated by interacting with others. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Throw yourself 100 percent into whatever you need to do. Your energy is high, and your mind is keen. With this combination, you can accomplish nearly anything. Tonight: Join your friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Choose your words carefully when dealing with a child or a loved one. No matter what age you are, you will want to relate to the opposite sex on a friendly basis. Be aware that someone is observing you. Take care of your responsibilities. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information. You tend to see much more than others because you are detached and can weigh the pros and cons. Read between the lines with a loved one who might be putting him- or herself at a distance. Tonight: Act out a daydream.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level with others, and you could be amazed by what occurs. People will open up more, and you'll be able to resolve problems far more quickly. If you are attached, you might want to make a caring gesture toward your significant other. Tonight: Keep it light.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others come forward and express a need to share more. Use care if their ideas involve you spending a lot of money. It could be far more costly than what is being presented. Tonight: Get errands out of the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You get a lot done quickly. A friendship comes through in a meeting. You always knew that this person supported your ideas, and now you are aware that there is more than just friendship between you. Tonight: Play it relaxed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your mischievous side emerges, perhaps because you sense some fun on the horizon. Your creativity opens up a situation with a boss or an older friend. Relax. Tonight: You cannot help but be naughty!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Focus on a matter involving real estate and your long-term goals. For some of you, this might involve a domestic situation; for others, a professional issue. Express only the goals that are relative to the present situation. Others will support them. Tonight: Head home first.

Happy birthday

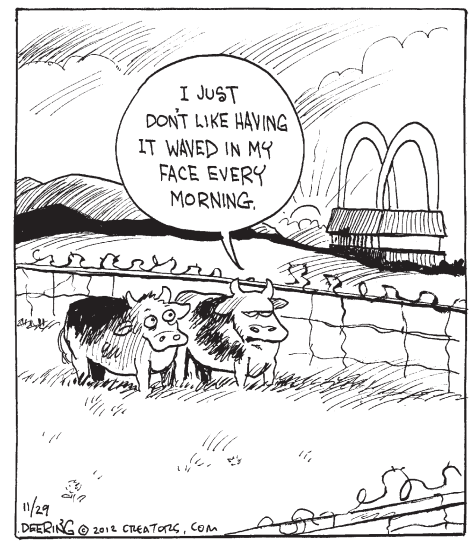
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you often feel challenged by others. As a result, you are unusually verbal and frequently get into heated discussions. Use any criticism you receive to strengthen your ideas. If you are single, you could meet your next sweetie, so be sure to check out people with care. Make plenty of time for social activities as well. If you are attached, the two of you will experience an easier year than in the recent past. You will revitalize your bond through sharing more. GEMINI is even more verbal than you are!

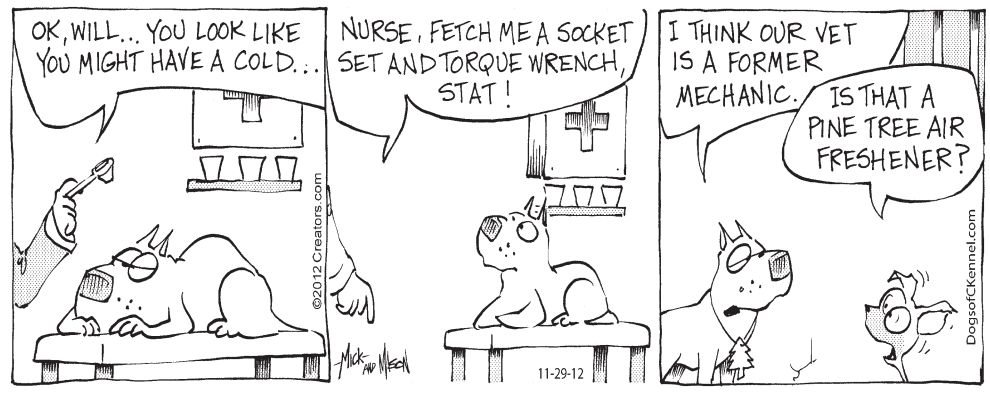
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



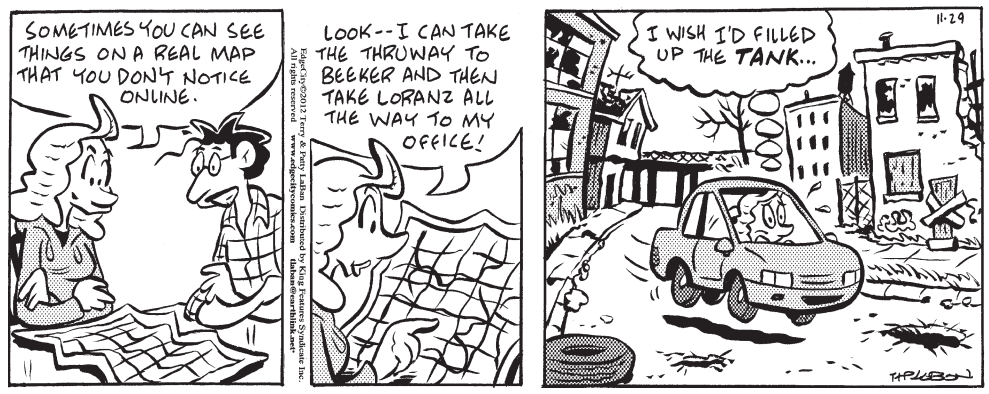
Strange Brew
By John Deering



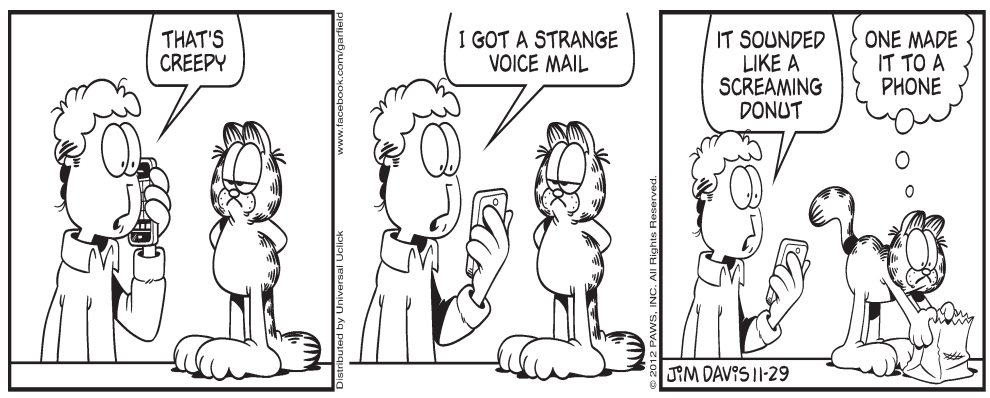
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



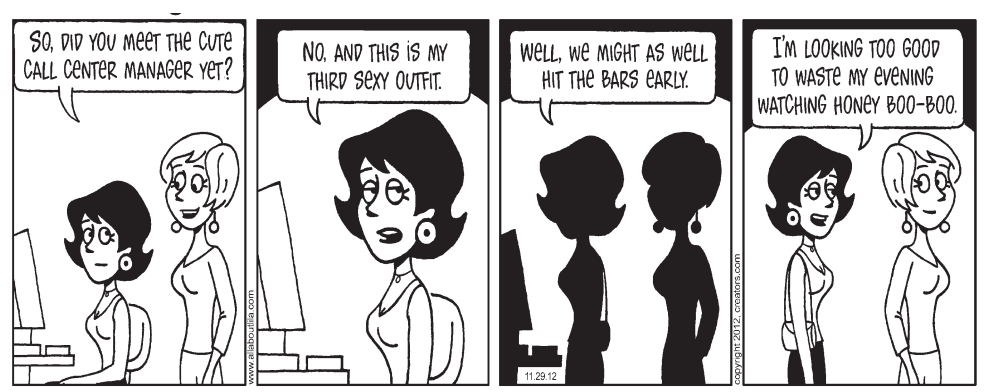
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★

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

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.

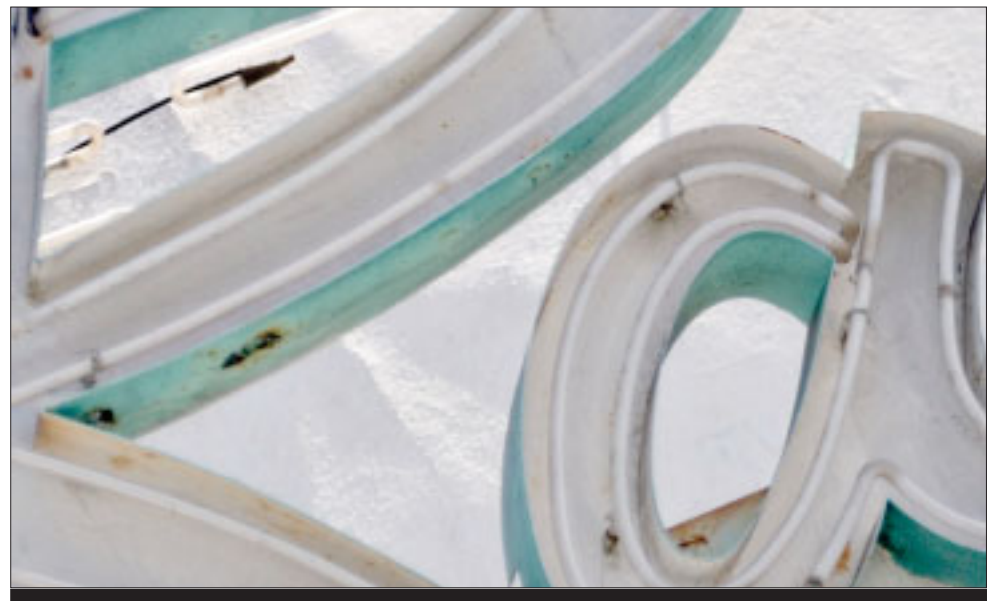
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

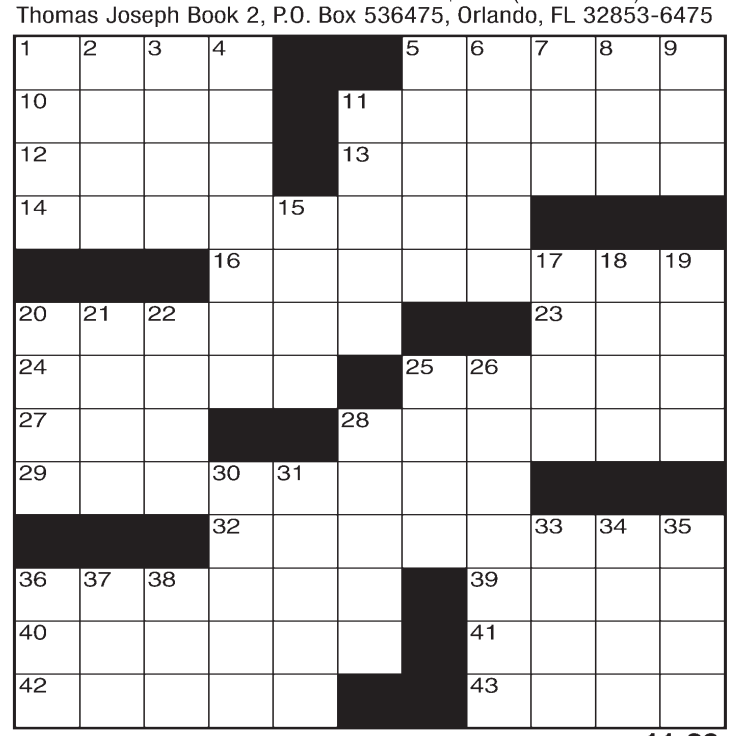
ACROSS
1 Concert blasters
5 Understand
10 Sledding site
11 Singer Franklin
12 Lotion add-in
13 Stagger
14 Bath fixture
16 Cabaret's cousin
20 Old movie
23 Memorable time
24 Find charming
25 Dyeing technique
27 Hair goop
28 Gamer's place
29 All-you-can-eat venue
32 Sweet treat
36 Shrewd
39 Michigan, for one
40 One determined to lose
41 Sacred bird of Egypt
42 Velocity
43 Minimal change

DOWN
1 At the drop of —
2 "The Phantom Tollbooth" boy
3 Tilling need
4 Surprise hit
5 Pained sound
6 Stylishly quaint
7 Lawyer: Abbr.
8 That woman
9 Golf goal
11 Up
15 Script unit
17 Second letter
18 Parched
19 Yard tool
20 Hangs low
21 Creative germ
22 Lounge about
25 Pitt of "Troy"
26 Type of paint
28 Dogpatch boy
30 Biting
31 Out of style
33 Movie pig
34 Related
35 Take a breather
36 TV spots
37 Try the tea
38 Kickoff aid

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

Yesterday's answer

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



11-29

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/27
5 12 26 42 49
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 11/24
2 11 12 26 42
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: $15M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/27
6 8 13 24 32

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 11/27
MIDDAY: 3 2 0
EVENING: 6 1 1

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 11/27
1st: 02 Lucky Start
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:40.00

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Colleen Lachowicz won her contest for a Maine state senate seat in November despite ridicule by opponents for her admitted devotion to the online game World of Warcraft. "Certainly," said an opposing-party official, "the fact that she spends so much time on a video game says something about her work ethic and ... immaturity." Her WoW character is Santiaga, an "orc (Level 85) assassination rogue" with green skin, fangs, a Mohawk and pointy ears.

■ In several high-profile races across the country in November, voters rejected candidates who had been accused of wrongdoing and corruption, but Brian Banks survived. He was elected as a Michigan state representative from Detroit, with 68 percent of the vote, even though his rap sheet includes eight felony convictions for bad checks and credit card fraud. (Campaign slogan: "You Can Bank on Banks.") Also, Michigan's 11th Congressional District elected reindeer farmer Kerry Bentivolio, whose brother had described him as "mentally unbalanced."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1952 - Korean War: U.S. President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower fulfills a campaign promise by traveling to Korea to find out what can be done to end the conflict.

1961 - Project Mercury: Mercury-Atlas 5 Mission – Enos, a chimpanzee, is launched into space. The spacecraft orbited the Earth twice and splashed-down off the coast of Puerto Rico.

1963 - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson establishes the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

1965 - The Canadian Space Agency launches the satellite Alouette 2.

WORD UP!

svelte
\ SFELT \ , adjective;
1. Slender, especially gracefully slender in figure.
2. Suave; blandly urbane.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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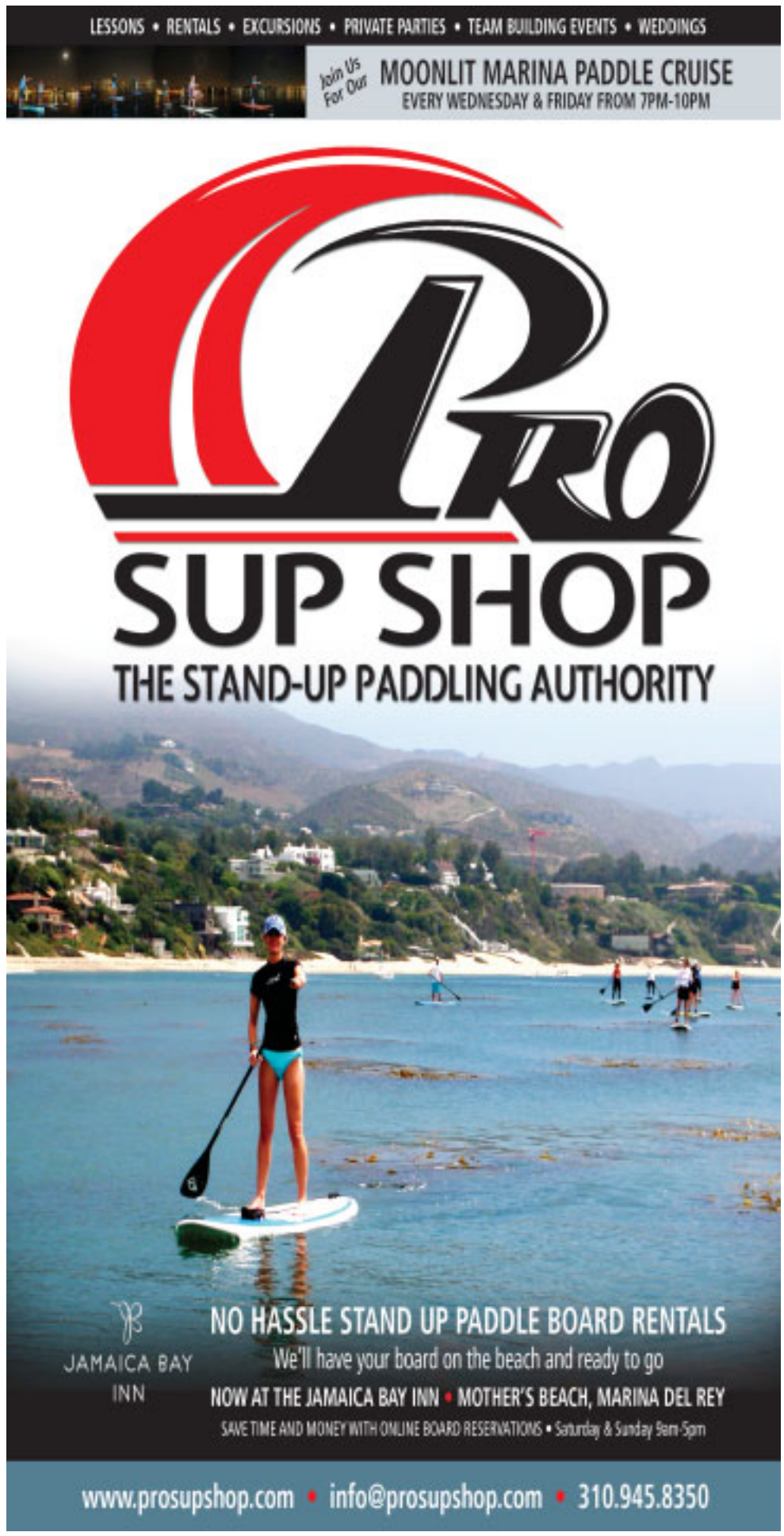
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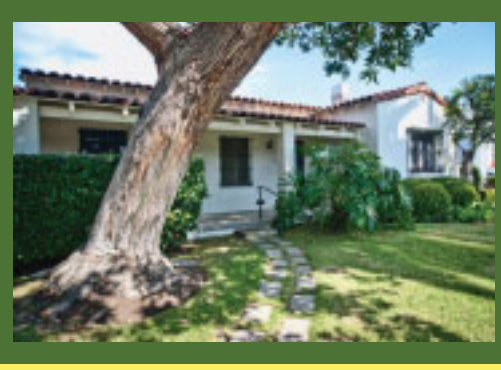
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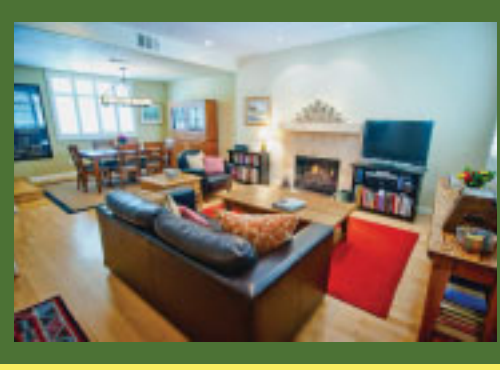


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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of Late November 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	- 0 -
North of Montana	=	$4,173,313
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,486,625
South of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